



## **The History of the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative**

The Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI) is a nationwide consortium of individuals and organizations working together to maintain and improve the management and the health of the Nation's grazing lands, mostly private but also public. The Initiative is driven by agricultural producer, conservation, scientific, watershed, erosion control, and other environmental organizations for the benefit of America's grazing lands resource. GLCI seeks to carry out its activities through local, state and national partnerships. It informs the public of the contributions well-managed grazing lands make to the quality of life of every citizen. GLCI is founded on the principles of voluntary action by those who own and manage grazing lands, and a respect for private property rights. GLCI emphasizes high quality, voluntary technical assistance, expanded grazing lands research and education, and a more knowledgeable and informed public.

The GLCI is led by a national steering committee dedicated to America's grazing lands resource and its sustainability. The GLCI Steering Committee strongly encourages and works to help establish local, state, and regional partnerships to foster grazing lands conservation and stewardship. The Steering Committee is made up of individuals representing the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD), National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), American Forage and Grassland Council (AFGC), American Sheep Industry (ASI), American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF), Society for Range Management (SRM), the Dairy Industry, the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS), and the National Farmers Union (NFU). In addition, they are supported by private organizations, the USDA, DOI, and federal agencies such as the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Agricultural Research Service, the Cooperative State Research, Extension, and Education Service, Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, American Society of Agronomy, Extension Committee on Policy, and the Experiment Station Committee on Policy.

GLCI was established at a meeting in Bozeman, Montana in June 1991. The meeting was called by representatives of state and national agricultural, conservation, wildlife, and scientific organizations. The organizations were concerned about the declining level of technical assistance being provided by NRCS to owners and managers of particularly non-federal grazing lands. Organizers of the meeting believed that NRCS resources had been diverted from grazing lands to conservation compliance and other programs established in the 1985 farm bill. Twenty-two states were represented at the meeting. At this organizational meeting, six national organizations agreed to sponsor GLCI. They were AFBF, AFGC, ASI, NACD, NCBA, and SRM. Organizations that support the GLCI appoint members to the National GLCI Steering Committee. These individuals are respected leaders, and in most cases producers, within those organizations.

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### **National GLCI Steering Committee**

American Farm Bureau Federation - American Forage and Grassland Council - American Sheep Industry - Dairy Industry -  
National Association of Conservation Districts - National Cattlemen's Beef Association - National Farmer's Union -  
Society for Range Management - Soil and Water Conservation Society

#### **Advisors**

Agriculture Research Service - Bureau of Land Management - Cooperative State Research Extension & Education Service -  
Forest Service - Land Grant Universities - Natural Resources Conservation Service

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