

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	)	
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	
v.	)	Case No.
	)	
CANYON DEL BUEY LLC,	)	
CRAIG THIESSEN, AND	)	
LANCE THIESSEN, INDIVIDUALLY	)	
AND AS MANAGER OF CANYON	)	
DEL BUEY, LLC	)	
	)	
Defendants.	)	
_____	)	

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA’S COMPLAINT FOR TRESPASS, EJECTMENT,  
DAMAGES, DECLARATORY JUDGMENT AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**

The United States of America, on behalf of its agency, the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, for its complaint against Defendants<sup>1</sup> Canyon del Buey LLC, Craig Thiessen, and Lance Thiessen, individually and as Manager of Canyon del Buey, LLC, alleges as follows:

**INTRODUCTION**

1. This is a civil action for trespass, ejectment, damages, declaratory judgment and injunctive relief brought by the United States, on behalf of its agency, the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (“USFS”), to eject Defendants from National Forest System (“NFS”) lands located on the Gila National Forest in the State of New Mexico, to compel the immediate removal of Defendants’ livestock from NFS lands, to enjoin Defendants from using

<sup>1</sup> Unless stated otherwise, “Defendants” refers to Defendants Canyon del Buey, LLC, Craig Thiessen, and Lance Thiessen, collectively.

or occupying NFS lands without lawful authorization, and to recover damages arising from Defendants' unauthorized and unlawful use and occupancy of NFS lands.

2. On November 21, 2017, the USFS issued Term Grazing Permit No. 61493 to the Canyon del Buey, LLC, which authorized the grazing of 344 cow-calf pairs on the Canyon del Buey Allotment, located on the Quemado Ranger District of the Gila National Forest, New Mexico.

3. On November 29, 2018, USFS cancelled Term Grazing Permit No. 61493. On January 7, 2017, Canyon del Buey, LLC appealed the USFS cancellation of Term Grazing Permit No. 61493. On July 2, 2019, after two levels of administrative appeal, the decision to cancel Term Grazing Permit No. 61493 was upheld, and made final and effective on that date.

4. On July 2, 2019, the USFS instructed Defendants Lance Thiessen and Canyon del Buey, LLC to remove all livestock from NFS lands within 60 days, i.e., by August 31, 2019. On July 12, 2019, USFS reminded Defendants Lance Thiessen and Canyon del Buey, LLC, by letter to remove all livestock from NFS lands by August 31, 2019. In August 2019, in a phone call with the District Ranger, Lance Thiessen advised USFS that he intended to remove Canyon del Buey, LLC livestock from NFS lands by August 31, 2019. The District Ranger asked if he needed assistance from the USFS, and he declined.

5. The Canyon del Buey, LLC livestock were not removed by August 31, 2019.

6. On November 20, 2019, USFS again instructed Defendants Lance Thiessen and Canyon del Buey, LLC, by letter to immediately remove all livestock from NFS lands and advised that they would be charged unauthorized grazing fees beginning September 1, 2019, and extending into the future until all livestock were properly removed from the allotment.

7. On April 21, 2020, Defendants Craig Thiessen and Canyon del Buey, LLC filed a Complaint for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §2201; To Quiet Title Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §2409a, against the USFS, claiming that Defendants Craig and Lance Thiessen are owners of Canyon Del Buey, LLC, and that Craig Thiessen owns the livestock currently trespassing on NFS lands. *See Thiessen, and Canyon del Buey, LLC v. Irwin, et al.*, No. CIV 20-0364 (D.N.M. filed April 21, 2020).

8. To date, Defendants have not removed their livestock from NFS lands and continue to allow their livestock to graze on the Gila National Forest, without authorization.

### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

9. This action arises under common law trespass and ejectment, the National Forest Organic Administrative Act of 1897, 16 U.S.C. § 551, and regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture at 36 C.F.R. Part 222, 261, and 262.

10. This Court has jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and 28 U.S.C. § 1345.

11. Venue is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b), inasmuch as Defendants reside, are incorporated, or may be found within the District of New Mexico, and the actions by which the claims arise are occurring on real property located in the District of New Mexico.

### **PARTIES**

12. Plaintiff is the United States of America, acting through the USFS.

13. Plaintiff is the sovereign and holds legal title to all NFS lands, including the Gila National Forest. The USFS is charged by Federal law (e.g., 16 U.S.C. §§ 475, 551 *et. seq.*, and § 1609) to manage, administer, and protect the NFS lands in question. *See Diamond Bar Cattle Co. v. United States*, 168 F.3d 1209, 1211 (10th Cir. 1999); *United States v. Fennell*, 381 F. Supp. 2d 1300, 1310-1311 (D. N.M. 2005).

14. Defendant Canyon del Buey, LLC is a limited liability company organized under the laws of the State of New Mexico in January 2017, by Craig Thiessen, who was identified as a Member, Manager, and Registered Agent of the LLC through September 2017. On January 19, 2017, Craig Thiessen transferred his real property in Datil, NM, which property served as the base property for Term Grazing Permit No. 61493, to the LLC by Warranty Deed. On September 19, 2017, the Office of the Secretary of State of New Mexico issued a Certificate of Amendment for the Canyon del Buey, LLC, pursuant to Articles of Amendment filed by Craig Thiessen, naming Lance Thiessen as Registered Agent, Manager, and Member. A New Mexico Livestock Board Brand Registration card, expiring on July 1, 2020, reflecting “Canyon del Buey, LLC c/o Craig Thiessen” on the front, suggests that the LLC is the owner of the livestock currently trespassing on USFS land. Canyon del Buey, LLC held Term Grazing Permit No. 61493 from November 21, 2017, to July 2, 2019, and purports to be the current owner of the livestock occupying NFS lands without authorization.

15. Defendant Craig Thiessen is a resident of New Mexico. On August 31, 2017, Craig Thiessen submitted an application to graze cattle on the Canyon del Buey Allotment as the Manager of Canyon del Buey, LLC, along with an Ownership Statement for the LLC listing himself as Manager and his brother, Lance Thiessen, as a Member, but voided that application because “LLC ownership changed prior to finalization of permit.” Craig Thiessen claims to be the owner of livestock occupying NFS lands without authorization.

16. Defendant Lance Thiessen is currently listed as Registered Agent, Manager, and Member of the Canyon del Buey, LLC, with an address in Datil, NM. On September 18, 2017, Lance Thiessen filed an application for a term grazing permit on behalf of Canyon del Buey, LLC, and an Ownership Statement for the LLC listing himself as Manager and his brother, Craig

Thiessen, as a Member. On November 21, 2017, the USFS issued Term Grazing Permit No. 61493 to the Canyon del Buey, LLC, and Lance Thiessen signed as “Permittee or His Authorized Agent.”

### **CONSTITUTIONAL, STATUTORY, AND REGULATORY BACKGROUND**

17. Acting through its authority under the Property Clause, U.S. Const. art. IV, § 3, cl. 2, Congress provided for the reservation of certain federal lands for National Forest purposes, to improve and protect the forests, secure favorable conditions of water flow, and to furnish a continuous supply of timber. 16 U.S.C. §§ 471 (repealed), 475.

18. The United States retains and manages NFS lands, including the lands on which the trespass in this case occurred and is occurring, pursuant to its powers under the Constitution, primarily the Property Clause, which gives Congress the power “to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States.” U.S. Const. art. IV, § 3, Cl. 2.

19. USFS administers the National Forest System<sup>2</sup> under various statutes. The Organic Administration Act of 1897, 30 Stat. 34, 16 U.S.C. § 473 *et seq.*, provides that lands may be reserved as National Forests and, *inter alia*, authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to promulgate regulations governing occupancy and use of NFS lands and prohibits violation of the Secretary’s regulations. 16 U.S.C. § 551.

20. The Secretary of Agriculture promulgated regulations regarding the occupancy and use of NFS lands, including placement of livestock on those lands, pursuant to authority granted by the Organic Administration Act of 1897, 16 U.S.C. § 551; the Granger-Thye Act of

---

<sup>2</sup> “National Forest System” is defined at 16 U.S.C. § 1609(a) and includes, among other lands, all National Forest lands reserved or withdrawn from the public domain.

1950, 16 U.S.C. § 580l; and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, 43 U.S.C. §§ 1751-1752.

21. The Department of Agriculture’s regulations governing range management, including grazing on NFS lands, are codified at 36 C.F.R. Part 222.

22. The Department of Agriculture’s regulations prohibiting unauthorized livestock on NFS lands are codified at 36 C.F.R. Part 261, and the regulations governing the impoundment and removal of unauthorized livestock on NFS lands are codified at 36 C.F.R. Part 262.

23. Pursuant 36 C.F.R. § 222.1, the Forest Service Chief or designee “shall develop, administer and protect the range resources and permit and regulate the grazing use of all kinds and classes of livestock on all National Forest System lands.”

24. Pursuant to 36 C.F.R. § 222.3(a), all grazing and livestock use on NFS lands “must be authorized by a grazing or livestock use permit.” In fact, since 1906 the Secretary of Agriculture<sup>3</sup> has issued regulations requiring that persons desiring to graze stock in the National Forests first secure a permit to do so from the Forest Service. *See United States v. Grimaud*, 220 U.S. 506, 509 (1911); *Light v. United States*, 220 U.S. 523, 535-538 (1911).

25. The regulations caution that grazing and livestock use permits “convey no right, title, or interest held by the United States in any lands or resources.” 36 C.F.R. § 222.3(b).

26. Pursuant to 36 C.F.R. § 222.4(a), the Chief is authorized to cancel a grazing permit when “the permittee knowingly and willfully makes a false statement or representation in the grazing application or amendments thereto” or “the permit holder is convicted for failing to comply with Federal laws or regulations or State laws relating to protection of air, water, soil and

---

<sup>3</sup> Prior to transfer of the administration of the National Forests to the Department of Agriculture, the Department of the Interior had issued regulations governing grazing on NFS lands. *See Dastervignes v. United States*, 122 F.30, 31-32, 35 (9th Cir. 1903).

vegetation, fish and wildlife, and other environmental values when exercising the grazing use authorized by the permit.”

27. This language was incorporated into Term Grazing Permit No. 61493, which authorized livestock grazing on the Canyon del Buey Allotment from November 21, 2017, until cancellation of the permit was final and effective, on July 2, 2019.

28. Placing or allowing unauthorized livestock to enter or be on NFS lands is prohibited, and failing to remove unauthorized livestock from NFS lands when requested by the USFS is prohibited. 36 C.F.R. § 261.7.

29. Unauthorized livestock on NFS lands “may be impounded and disposed of by a forest officer as provided herein.” 36 C.F.R. § 262.10

30. Grazing without USFS authorization on NFS lands is subject to assessment of an “unauthorized grazing use” rate. 36 C.F.R. § 222.50(h)

31. Trespass is defined as any entry upon the real estate of another without the permission or invitation of the person lawfully entitled to possession. Restatement 2d of Torts, §§ 158-159.

32. One who, without right, enters the public lands of the United States is a trespasser. *United States v. Osterlund*, 505 F. Supp. 165 (D. Colo. 1981), *aff’d*, 671 F.2d 1267 (10th Cir. 1982).

33. The United States, like a private landholder, is entitled to protect its property against such trespassers. *See Camfield v. United States*, 167 U.S. 518, 524 (1897); *Utah Power and Light Co. v. United States*, 243 U.S. 389, 404 (1916).

34. The United States may also impound and sell livestock found to be trespassing on national forests and other public lands. *McVay v. United States*, 481 F.2d 615 (5th Cir. 1973); *Jones v. Freeman*, 400 F.2d 383 (8th Cir. 1968).

35. This Court may remedy a trespass on public lands by directing removal of cattle from NFS lands, enjoining further unauthorized grazing, and assessing unauthorized use fees. *See Diamond Bar Cattle Co. v. United States*, 168 F.3d 1209, 1217 (10th Cir. 1999).

### **FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

36. This case flows from the failure and refusal of Defendants, who are without permit or other authorization to graze or place their livestock on NFS lands, to remove their livestock from lands within the Gila National Forest, despite the USFS' specific and repeated instructions that Defendants remove their trespassing livestock from NFS lands. By purposefully allowing their cattle to remain on NFS lands within the Gila National Forest without written authorization, Defendants are causing a continuing and substantial trespass on NFS lands.

37. In September 2011, Craig Thiessen, Lance Thiessen, and Kaylin R. Thiessen were jointly issued a term grazing permit for the Canyon del Buey Allotment on the Quemado Ranger District of the Gila National Forest. Shortly thereafter, the parties filed paperwork to waive that permit so that a new permit could be issued to Craig Thiessen individually.<sup>4</sup> A new permit was issued, and Craig Thiessen was listed as the sole permittee of record on the Canyon del Buey term grazing permit from May 21, 2012 to November 21, 2017.

---

<sup>4</sup> The Forest Service grazing regulations provide that “[n]ew term permits may be issued to the purchaser of a permittee’s permitted livestock and/or base property, provided the permittee waives his term permit to the United States and provided the purchase is otherwise eligible and qualified.” 36 C.F.R. § 222.3(c)(1)(iv).

38. In January 2017, Craig Thiessen contacted the USFS and asked to transfer his grazing permit from himself to his newly formed LLC “as he had been indicted by the [United States Fish and Wildlife Service] and they were coming after his permit.”

39. On May 24, 2018, Craig Thiessen pled guilty to knowingly taking threatened wildlife in violation of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1538(a)(1)(G), 1539(j)(2)(C), 1540(b)(1), and 50 C.F.R. §§ 17.21(c)(1), 17.31, and was convicted by the District Court for the District of New Mexico.

40. In January 2017, Craig Thiessen formed the Canyon del Buey, LLC, and from January 2017 until September 2017, was identified as Member, Manager, and Registered Agent for the Canyon del Buey, LLC.

41. On August 31, 2017, Craig Thiessen filed a waiver of his term grazing permit (waiving the permit back to the United States with preference to the Canyon del Buey, LLC), an application for a term grazing permit on behalf of the Canyon del Buey, LLC, and an Ownership Statement for the LLC listing himself as Manager and his brother, Lance Thiessen, as a Member.

42. On September 18, 2017, Lance Thiessen filed an application for a term grazing permit on behalf of Canyon del Buey, LLC, and an Ownership Statement for the LLC listing himself as Manager and his brother, Craig Thiessen, as a Member.

43. On September 19, 2017, the Office of the Secretary of State of New Mexico issued a Certificate of Amendment for the Canyon del Buey, LLC, pursuant to Articles of Amendment filed by Craig Thiessen, naming Lance Thiessen as registered agent, manager, and member.

44. A New Mexico Livestock Board Brand Registration card, expiring on July 1, 2020, reflecting “Canyon del Buey, LLC c/o Craig Thiessen” on the front, suggests that the LLC is the owner of the livestock currently trespassing on USFS land.

45. On November 21, 2017, the USFS issued Term Grazing Permit No. 61493 to the Canyon del Buey, LLC, which authorized the grazing of 344 cow-calf pairs on the Canyon del Buey Allotment, located on the Quemado Ranger District of the Gila National Forest, New Mexico; Lance Thiessen signed this permit as “Permittee or His Authorized Agent.”

46. On November 29, 2018, USFS cancelled Term Grazing Permit No. 61493 based on actions by Defendants Craig Thiessen and Lance Thiessen that violated the terms of the grazing permit and Secretary of Agriculture regulations at 36 C.F.R. § 222.4(a). The USFS cancellation letter cited two reasons for cancellation: (1) Craig Thiessen’s conviction, which specifically violated the terms of the grazing permit and Secretary of Agriculture regulations at 36 C.F.R. § 222.4(a)(6); and (2) misrepresentations that were made by Lance Thiessen and Craig Thiessen, which also violated the terms of the grazing permit and Secretary of Agriculture regulations. The letter provided instruction on how to file an appeal of the District Ranger’s decision to cancel the permit.

47. By letter dated November 29, 2018, the District Ranger for the Quemado Ranger District of the Gila National Forest advised Defendants Lance Thiessen and Canyon del Buey, LLC that Term Grazing Permit No. 61493 was cancelled, and that the decision was subject to administrative appeal pursuant to 36 C.F.R. Part 214.

48. On January 7, 2019, Defendant Canyon del Buey, LLC, represented by counsel, appealed the decision to cancel the permit. The written appeal and the written response to the District Ranger’s Responsive statement were both filed during the course of the appeal in accordance with the regulations at 36 C.F.R. Part 214. Defendants Lance Thiessen and Craig Thiessen attended and participated in the oral presentation to the Appeal Deciding Officer.

49. By letter dated June 10, 2019, the Forest Supervisor for the Gila National Forest, as Appeal Deciding Officer, advised Defendants Lance Thiessen and Canyon del Buey, LLC of his decision to affirm the District Ranger's decision to cancel Term Grazing Permit No. 61493 in full.

50. Pursuant to 36 C.F.R. § 214.19, the Regional Forester for the Southwestern Region of the USFS chose to conduct a second-level, discretionary review of the appeal.

51. By letter dated July 2, 2019, the Regional Forester advised Defendants Lance Thiessen and Canyon del Buey, LLC of his decision to uphold the decision to cancel Term Grazing Permit No. 61493, making the cancellation final and effective. Further, the Regional Forester directed Defendants Lance Thiessen and Canyon del Buey, LLC to remove all livestock from the Canyon del Buey Allotment within 60 days, i.e., by August 31, 2019.

52. By letter dated July 12, 2019, the District Ranger for the Quemado Ranger District reminded Defendants Lance Thiessen and Canyon del Buey, LLC to remove all livestock from the Allotment by August 31, 2019, and provided a draft Livestock Removal Plan.

53. In August 2019, in a phone call with the District Ranger, Lance Thiessen advised USFS that he intended to remove Canyon del Buey, LLC livestock from USFS land by August 31, 2019. The District Ranger asked if he needed assistance from the USFS, and he declined.

54. Defendants failed to remove their livestock from NFS lands by August 31, 2019, despite USFS instruction to do so.

55. By letter dated November 20, 2019, the USFS advised Defendants Lance Thiessen and Canyon del Buey, LLC that continued grazing was prohibited by 36 C.F.R. § 261.7 and 16 U.S.C. § 551, and that Canyon del Buey, LLC would be charged unauthorized use fees beginning

September 1, 2019, in accordance with 36 C.F.R. § 222.50(h), until all livestock are removed from NFS lands.

56. Since August 31, 2019, USFS staff has monitored the Canyon del Buey Allotment, noting that livestock bearing the Canyon del Buey, LLC brand remain on the Allotment, and that Defendant Craig Thiessen and/or his personal vehicle have been on the Allotment. USFS staff have observed livestock consuming and trampling grass and other plants on the Allotment. Due to this unauthorized use of the Allotment, the USFS is unable to use the Allotment consistent with its range program, including monitoring utilization of forage and issuance of a grazing permit to a lawful user.

57. To date, the USFS staff has not seen evidence that livestock are being gathered and/or removed from the Allotment. Due to the size and terrain of the Canyon del Buey Allotment, the USFS has not been able to obtain an accurate count of livestock. However, based upon the field site visits and the number of livestock that had been authorized to be present prior to August 31, 2019, the USFS believes there are approximately 200-300<sup>5</sup> cattle currently on the Allotment.

58. To date, Defendants have incurred unauthorized use fees.

59. To date, Canyon del Buey, LLC, Lance Thiessen, and Craig Thiessen, are openly, knowingly, and intentionally allowing their livestock to remain on the Canyon del Buey Allotment without authorization.

### **COUNT I – VIOLATION OF FEDERAL STATUTES AND REGULATIONS**

60. Plaintiff hereby re-alleges and incorporates all preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

---

<sup>5</sup> Defendants “seek preliminary injunctive relief preventing the removal of some 286 mother cows and 143 calves from the grazing allotment” in their Complaint filed in *Thiessen, and Canyon del Buey, LLC v. Irwin, et al.*, No. CIV 20-0364 (D.N.M. filed April 21, 2020).

61. Plaintiff seeks a declaratory judgment from this Court finding that Defendants are knowingly and intentionally allowing their livestock to be present without authorization on the Canyon del Buey Allotment of the Gila National Forest in violation of Federal laws and regulations.

62. Plaintiff is entitled to declaratory judgment finding Defendants are in violation of 36 C.F.R. § 222.3(a) (requiring that all grazing and livestock use on NFS lands be authorized by a grazing or livestock use permit), 36 C.F.R. § 261.7(a) (prohibiting placing or allowing unauthorized livestock to enter or be on NFS lands), and 36 C.F.R. § 261.7(b) (requiring removal of unauthorized livestock from NFS lands upon request by the USFS).

63. Plaintiff is entitled to judgment for damages consistent with 36 C.F.R. § 222.50(h) (grazing without USFS authorization on NFS lands is subject to assessment of an “unauthorized grazing use” rate).

64. Plaintiff is entitled to declaratory judgment that Defendants are required to comply with the Regional Forester’s order dated July 2, 2019, and the District Ranger’s order dated July 12, 2019, that Defendants were required to remove their livestock by August 31, 2019.

65. Plaintiff is entitled to declaratory judgment finding that the USFS may impound and dispose of Defendants’ livestock consistent with 36 C.F.R. § 262.10 (unauthorized livestock or livestock in excess of those authorized by a grazing permit on NFS lands, which are not removed within the periods prescribed by this regulation, may be impounded and disposed of by a forest officer).

## **COUNT II – TRESPASS**

66. Plaintiff hereby re-alleges and incorporates all preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

67. Defendants' continued use and occupancy of NFS lands, including allowing their livestock on NFS lands without authorization, constitutes a trespass on property of the United States.

68. Defendants are indebted to the United States for damages caused by Defendants' trespass, unauthorized use fees, and administrative costs. Further damages, fees, and costs will increase the debt Defendants owe to Plaintiff as Defendants' unlawful conduct continues and as further administrative expenses are incurred.

### **COUNT III – EJECTMENT**

69. Plaintiff hereby re-alleges and incorporates all preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

70. At all times material to this Complaint, Plaintiff has held and holds legal title to and is legally entitled to possession of the NFS lands comprising the Quemado Ranger District of the Gila National Forest.

71. Defendants unlawfully and without authority failed to remove their cattle from the Quemado Ranger District of the Gila National Forest, thereby damaging Plaintiff.

72. Plaintiff is entitled to an order of ejectment, removing Defendants and their property from NFS lands.

### **COUNT IV – INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**

73. Plaintiff hereby re-alleges and incorporates all preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

74. Defendants have consistently and continuously expressed their intention to defy the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture to administer NFS lands within Quemado Ranger District of the Gila National Forest.

75. Defendants have expressed their intention to place or allow livestock on NFS lands contrary to the expressed directives of USFS officers acting under the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture.

76. Plaintiff has no adequate remedy at law to address the continuous and persistent unlawful conduct of Defendants on NFS lands and consequential damages, and therefore seek a preliminary and permanent injunction prohibiting Defendants from placing or allowing unauthorized livestock on NFS lands.

WHEREFORE, the United States respectfully requests judgment against Defendants as follows:

1. For declaratory judgment that Defendants are in violation of 36 C.F.R. § 222.3(a) (requiring that all grazing and livestock use on NFS lands be authorized by a grazing or livestock use permit), 36 C.F.R. § 261.7(a) (prohibiting placing or allowing unauthorized livestock to enter or be on NFS lands), and 36 C.F.R. § 261.7(b) (requiring the removal of unauthorized livestock from NFS lands upon request by the USFS);

2. For declaratory judgment that Defendants are jointly and severally responsible for damages consistent with 36 C.F.R. § 222.50(h) (grazing without USFS authorization on NFS lands is subject to assessment of an “unauthorized grazing use” rate);

3. For declaratory judgment that Defendants are required to comply with the Regional Forester’s order dated July 2, 2019, and the District Ranger’s order dated July 12, 2019, that Defendants remove their livestock from NFS lands;

4. For declaratory judgment that USFS may impound and dispose of Defendants’ livestock consistent with 36 C.F.R. § 262.10 (unauthorized livestock or livestock in excess of

those authorized by a grazing permit on NFS lands, which are not removed within the periods prescribed by this regulation, may be impounded and disposed of by a forest officer);

5. For a writ of ejectment and such other appropriate writs and orders, enabling officers of the United States, including the U.S. Marshall and USFS law enforcement officials, to physically remove Defendants' livestock from NFS lands;

6. For preliminary and permanent injunctive relief ordering Defendants to vacate, including removing their livestock from NFS lands immediately; and ordering that if Defendants fail or refuse to comply with such injunctive relief within a reasonable time, the United States is authorized to impound Defendants' unauthorized livestock and to dispose of them without further order of the Court, notice, administrative action or accounting, in accordance with 36 C.F.R. § 262.10;

7. For injunctive relief prohibiting Defendants from placing or allowing their livestock on NFS lands except as authorized by the USFS pursuant to a valid grazing permit or other USFS authorization;

8. For an order enjoining Defendants from interfering with, obstructing or otherwise impeding the United States from removing Defendants' livestock;

9. For a judgment against Defendants jointly and severally for unauthorized grazing fees from September 1, 2019, through the date on which Defendants' livestock are removed from NFS lands, consistent with 36 C.F.R. § 222.50(h).<sup>6</sup>

10. For additional damages attributable to Defendants' unauthorized use and occupancy of NFS lands, including without limitation, any damages arising from the

---

<sup>6</sup> Unauthorized grazing fees established by USFS for the period September 1, 2019 through February 29, 2020 were \$2.58 per head month. For the period March 1, 2020 through the date of the filing of this Complaint, unauthorized grazing fees are \$1.77 per head month.

impoundment, care, transportation and sale or other disposal of Defendants' trespassing livestock, plus costs, and interest as allowed by law; and

11. For such further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

DATED this 21st day of July, 2020

Respectfully Submitted,

JOHN C. ANDERSON  
United States Attorney  
District of New Mexico

/s/ Cassandra Casaus Currie, 07-21-2020  
CASSANDRA CASAUS CURRIE  
Assistant U.S. Attorney  
United States Attorney's Office  
P.O. Box 607  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103  
Phone: (505) 346-7274  
[cassandra.currie@usdoj.gov](mailto:cassandra.currie@usdoj.gov)

/s/ Andrew A. Smith  
ANDREW A. SMITH  
Senior Trial Attorney  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Environment and Natural Resources Division  
Natural Resources Section  
c/o United States Attorney's Office  
P.O. Box 607  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103  
Phone: (505) 224-1468  
[andrew.smith@usdoj.gov](mailto:andrew.smith@usdoj.gov)