

# Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge



CMR National Wildlife Refuge  
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## Lodgepole Complex Fire – Grazing Relief

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The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is committed to working with producers, landowners, and partners to provide grazing relief during this natural fire disaster. CMR refuge has livestock grazing options for those producers that have been impacted by the ongoing Lodgepole Complex Fire. Guidelines for developing agreements with impacted producers are as follows:

1. Grazing relief is only being offered for those producers that have been impacted by the Lodgepole Complex Fire.
2. For grazing relief due to fire, CMR is not limiting stocking rate as it would under normal grazing circumstances.
3. Agreements and pasture assignments will need to be negotiated individually between CMR and the producer.
4. The producer will be required to fill out a permit application and obtain a permit from CMR, but the paperwork can be completed after the cows are moved per the negotiated individual agreement. A simple move slip indicating the number cattle and move-in date can be used to record the move into the assigned pasture.
5. The producer will be charged this year's grazing rate as determined by USDA, which is \$24 per AUM, for actual use. This is consistent with policy used to manage CMR's existing 60+ permittees that have permits to graze the refuge.
6. Producers will be expected to pull their cattle out of their assigned pasture on their normal planned shipment date, or November 1 at the latest.

There is a long history of grazing on CMR National Wildlife Refuge, and prescriptive livestock grazing is used as a habitat management tool to achieve goals for wildlife habitat. CMR National Wildlife Refuge is one of more than 560 national wildlife refuges in the National Wildlife Refuge System – a system of lands and waters set aside to conserve wildlife and habitat for the American people.

To learn more about Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge visit:  
[https://www.fws.gov/refuge/charles\\_m\\_russell/](https://www.fws.gov/refuge/charles_m_russell/)