

**Amendment offered by Mr. Vasquez of New Mexico**

**Amendment description**

The amendment would streamline approval of minor range improvements on Forest Service grazing allotments by allowing permittees to proceed after notification and requiring timely agency responses.

**AMENDMENT**

**OFFERED BY M**     . Vasquez    

At the end of subtitle E of title VIII, add the following:

1 **SEC. 8511. MINOR RANGE IMPROVEMENTS UNDER FOREST**

2 **SERVICE GRAZING PERMITS.**

3 (a) MINOR RANGE IMPROVEMENTS BY PERMIT-  
4 TEES.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enact-  
5 ment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue regulations al-  
6 lowing a permittee to carry out a minor range improve-  
7 ment on the lands with respect to which the permittee  
8 holds a grazing permit if—

9 (1) the permittee notifies the applicable Forest  
10 Service district ranger at least 30 days prior to car-  
11 rying out such minor range improvement; and

12 (2) such applicable district ranger—

13 (A) approves the minor range improve-  
14 ment; or

15 (B) does not respond to notification re-  
16 garding the minor range improvement.

17 (b) RANGE IMPROVEMENTS BY THE SECRETARY.—  
18 The Secretary, acting through the applicable District  
19 Ranger, shall—

1           (1) respond to a covered request not later than  
2           30 days after the date on which such request is sub-  
3           mitted; and

4           (2) if such response confirms that the Sec-  
5           retary, acting through the applicable District Rang-  
6           er, will carry out the range improvement re-  
7           quested—

8                   (A) notify the district office that serves the  
9                   area in which such range improvement will  
10                  occur; and

11                   (B) expedite the carrying out of such  
12                  range improvement using any available adminis-  
13                  trative tools or authorities, including categorical  
14                  exclusions.

15           (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

16                   (1) CFR TERMS.—The terms “grazing permit”,  
17                   “permittee”, and “range improvement” have the  
18                   meanings given those terms, respectively, in section  
19                   222.1 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (or  
20                   any successor regulations).

21                   (2) COVERED REQUEST.—The term “covered  
22                   request” means a request submitted by a permittee  
23                   to the Secretary requesting that the Secretary carry  
24                   out a range improvement.

1           (3) MINOR RANGE IMPROVEMENT.—The term  
2           “minor range improvement” includes improvements  
3           to existing fences and fence lines, wells, water pipe-  
4           lines, and stock tanks.

