

# UNDERSTANDING THE VALUE OF GRAZING



## LIVESTOCK GRAZING IS AN ESSENTIAL LAND MANAGEMENT TOOL

Today, ranchers manage nearly **250 million acres** across the West. They are the front line defense against catastrophic wildfire, invasive species, and threats to America's vast rangelands.

They install **water troughs that benefit wildlife**, **maintain trails** used by hikers and bikers, and collect key data to monitor rangeland health. Ranchers are the primary protectors of the rich open spaces which all Americans enjoy.



Public lands grazing saves the taxpayer  
**\$150 per acre**  
in costs to reduce wildfire fuels.

### ENVIRONMENTAL CHAMPIONS

The U.S. loses thousands of acres of farm & ranchland every day. **Public lands grazing protects ranchers' associated private lands from loss or conversion** to developments or parking lots, while supporting public land health.

Rangelands store up to 30% of the world's total soil carbon, and **grazing increases carbon storage in grasslands and rangelands.**

**Grazing reduces the risk of wild-fire ignition by up to 50%** and decreases wildfire severity making fires smaller, less intense, and safer for firefighters and responders.

Grazing can stop the spread of invasive species, like cheatgrass by removing the dead grasses and rendering seeds inert through digestion.

### ECONOMIC DRIVERS

**More than 60% of the Western beef herd grazes on public lands.** Many of these animals move to other parts of the country to support the beef industry supply chain.

**More than 50% of breeding ewes in the West graze on public lands.** These ewes produce wool, meat lambs, and double or triple this figure after lambing.

DOI estimates grazing generates \$1.5 billion in direct economic impact to the West each year. **Grazing generates \$8.58 billion in ecosystem services annually.**

Loss of public lands grazing would decrease cattle sales by 60%, cause loss of 65% of Western farm labor, and impact more than 150,000 jobs.

### MULTIPLE-USE PROTECTORS

**Grazing keeps lands open, available, and healthy** to be used by hikers, bikers, hunters, fishermen, and all other multiple uses.

Grazing protects rangeland habitats for countless birds and threatened species.

**Grazed rangelands are home to 2 or 3 times more native pollinators** than ungrazed rangelands.

Water for livestock like ponds or troughs are crucial breeding and spawning habitat for aquatic species.

Grazing manages areas with limited available tools, like wilderness areas, to ensure these areas are suitable for recreation.



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