

Lasso'n Lingo

acre: American unit for measuring land; one acre of land is 43,560 square feet or about the size of a football field, including the end zones

acre-foot: the volume of water it takes to cover one acre of land with one foot of water; 43,560 cubic feet or 325,851 gallons equals one acre-foot; one acre-foot is approximately the amount of water needed to supply a family of four with enough water for one year

biome: the major regional ecological community of plants and animals: desert, forest, swamp, etc.

BLM (Bureau of Land Management): federal agency established in 1964 to carry out a variety of programs for the management and conservation of land and minerals; BLM lands make up about 13 percent of the total land surface of the United States (www.blm.gov)

bovine: scientific term for cattle

calf: young male or female bovine

carrying capacity: the maximum number of animals a piece of land can support without degradation

cattle rustling: stealing of cattle

chuckwagon: wagon that carried food and supplies on trail drives

conservation: a. to protect a resource so that it can be used forever, being careful to avoid waste; b. the protection, management, and responsible use of valued natural resources such as soil, water, plants, and animals

cow: female bovine

ecosystem: the complete community of living organisms including plants, animals, and microorganisms; and nonliving elements including soil, rocks, and minerals, surrounding water sources, and the local atmosphere

economics: the social science that studies the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services

food web: an intertwining and overlapping of several food chains, where all species are represented as being connected to, and thus dependent on, the other species

forage: grasses and other plants that are eaten by livestock and wildlife

forbs: broad-leafed plants

hay: forage that is cut, dried, and stored for later use

heifer: a young female cow that has not had a calf

Homestead Act: US federal law passed in 1862 that gave one-quarter of a section of a township (160 acres) of undeveloped land in the American West to any family head or person who was at least 21 years of age, provided he lived on it for five years and built a house of a minimum of 12 by 14 feet

invasive: a plant or animal that establishes itself in an area other than its native habitat and succeeds in supplanting native species

leather: animal hide made soft and flexible by process called tanning

livestock: domestic animals raised for food and fabric

multiple use: part of a 1976 federal law mandate; defined as the "management of the public lands and their various resource values so that they are utilized in the combination that will best meet the present and future needs of the American people"



native: a plant or animal growing or living in the geographic area in which it originally evolved

open range: unfenced areas that can be grazed by livestock

oxen: bovine that were used to pull wagons and plows

public lands: lands managed by federal government

rangelands: open land vegetated mainly by native grasses, forbs, and shrubs used by grazing wildlife and livestock

ranching: managing grasses for raising livestock

raw products: products used to make other things

riparian areas: land areas adjacent to rivers, streams, springs, bogs, lakes, and ponds; they are ecosystems composed of plant and animal species highly dependent on water

ruminants: an herbivore, such as a cow or sheep, that has more than one stomach, including a rumen where microorganisms help digest plants

roundup: a gathering of cattle in one location

steer: neutered male bovine

stewardship: an attitude or dedication to doing the best we can for the soil, water, plants, and animals; being a good steward means practicing sustainability

supply and demand: more supply, the lower the price; the less supply, the higher the price

sustainability: meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs

watershed: the land above a given point on a waterway that contributes runoff water to the flow at that point; a drainage basin or a major subdivision of a drainage basin

weed: any plant unwanted and deemed a nuisance by humans

