

PUBLIC LANDS GRAZING

FROM MY POINT OF VIEW...

#1 - A RANCHER IN FAVOR OF PUBLIC LANDS GRAZING

- Federal grazing permits are usually inexpensive and provide a more affordable option instead of purchasing or leasing private land.
 - *"Most Western ranchers need both their deeded property and their federal grazing allotments to make an operation economically viable."*¹
- Grazing sheep and cattle on federal land can help maintain and even improve the environments and resources of national rangelands and forests.
- Many generations of ranchers have grazed livestock on the same land as the original homesteaders during westward expansion.

Background Information:

Livestock grazing on federal land dates back to the homesteading era and westward expansion. In 1916, Congress passed the Stockraising Homestead Act to enable ranchers to acquire land for ranch headquarter sites. In 1934, Congress passed the Taylor Grazing Act to help promote the highest use of public land by improve conditions of the range, preventing soil deterioration, and providing stability to the livestock industry. Ranchers had been the primary users of the public lands and livestock grazing was the primary use from 1930 to 1960. Grazing Service and BLM management programs focused on livestock numbers and seasons of use, but public use began to change in the 1960s.

1. https://publicland.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/150359_Public_Lands_Document_web.pdf

2. <https://www.trcp.org/2019/06/05/public-land-grazing-important-american-west/>



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FROM MY POINT OF VIEW...

#2 - A RANCHER OPPOSED TO PUBLIC LANDS GRAZING

- The federal government should not be managing and maintaining local lands.
- There are concerns about the public having access to the same land as livestock, which may disrupt and/or kill livestock.
- Their land does not belong to the United States and was owned by ancestors before the government claimed ownership.



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FROM MY POINT OF VIEW...

3 - A LOCAL CIVILIAN OPPOSED TO PUBLIC LANDS GRAZING

- Some civilians are indifferent about grazing livestock on public lands.
- Grazing livestock on federal lands disrupts the wild horses and mustangs that live on public land.
- Natural predators and wildlife that threaten livestock on federal lands can be removed or killed.
- If ranchers do not follow the policies determined by federal agencies (herd size, grazing allotments, and season of use) the land can become overgrazed, causing soil deterioration and resource disruption.
- Ranchers do not pay enough in grazing fees.
- Public lands grazing should be discontinued to protect federal land.



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FROM MY POINT OF VIEW...

#4 - A LOCAL CIVILIAN IN FAVOR OF PUBLIC LANDS GRAZING

- Some civilians are indifferent about grazing livestock on public lands.
- The grazing fees from public lands grazing helps support local and rural communities.
- Grazing livestock on federal lands provides food and fiber for consumers.
- If managed correctly, grazing livestock on federal lands helps manage invasive plant species and noxious weeds.
- Cows and sheep eat flammable grasses which helps reduce the risk of severe wildfires and forest fires.
- Livestock ranchers on federal lands are responsible for conserving, restoring, and maintaining seven million acres of sage grouse habitat.



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#5 - THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

- Grazing livestock on public lands can be done while also protecting rangeland resources, improving watersheds, habitats, and endangered species, and cultural or historical objects.
- Before the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934, public lands were often overgrazed and unregulated.

Background Information:

During the era of homesteading and westward expansion, western public lands were often overgrazed and overused because of policies promoting settlement of the western United States. There was also a lack of understanding of how to care for rangelands. In response to western ranchers, Congress passed the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934 which led to the creation of grazing districts who regulated and managed livestock grazing. Until 1960, ranchers who grazed livestock were the primary users of public lands, but during the 1960s and 1970s, public lands expectations and management changed to include the Environmental Act of 1969, the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. The BLM then started to manage the protection of rangeland resources and endangered species in addition to livestock grazing.

1. <https://www.blm.gov/programs/natural-resources/rangelands-and-grazing/livestock-grazing/about>



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#6 - THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE

- Livestock grazing is an important and valid use of national forests.
- If responsibly done, *"We believe that grazing livestock on public lands provides a valuable resource to livestock owners as well as the American people."*¹

Background Information:

The Forest Service supports livestock grazing on federal lands. We believe that livestock grazing on these lands, if responsibly done, provides a valuable resource to the livestock owners as well as the American people. The Forest Reserves were originally established to protect timberlands and watersheds; however, it was recognized early in the history of the Reserves/Forest Service that grazing was a legitimate use. In 1897, the newly formed Forest Service was authorized by Congress to regulate grazing as long as it did not injure forest growth. The forest service controls permits, herd size, allotments, season of use in order to protect resources.

[1. https://www.fs.fed.us/rangeland-management/grazing/allowgrazing.shtml](https://www.fs.fed.us/rangeland-management/grazing/allowgrazing.shtml)

