

ALL ABOUT RANGE

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WHAT IS RANGE?



WHAT IS RANGELAND?

“Includes rangelands and forest lands that support a cover of herbaceous or shrubby vegetation suitable for grazing by livestock or game.”

Wildlands used to feed animals (forage)



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HISTORY - EARLY WEST

- Early to mid-1500's Spanish explore the West
 - Escaped animals graze in NM, AZ, & CO
- 1600's increased settlement
- Horses breed rapidly
 - Wild horses common in Southwest/Great Plains by mid-1600's to 1700's



HISTORY - EARLY WEST

- Deep cultural value in many indigenous cultures
- Pueblo Revolt 1680
- Comanche and other tribes changed life on the plains
- New evidence shows earlier dispersal and integration



HISTORY - RANGE WARS

- 1800's post-civil war
- Open range conflicts
 - Water
 - Livestock
 - Grazing
- 1863 Homestead Act



HISTORY - TRAGEDY OF THE COMMONS



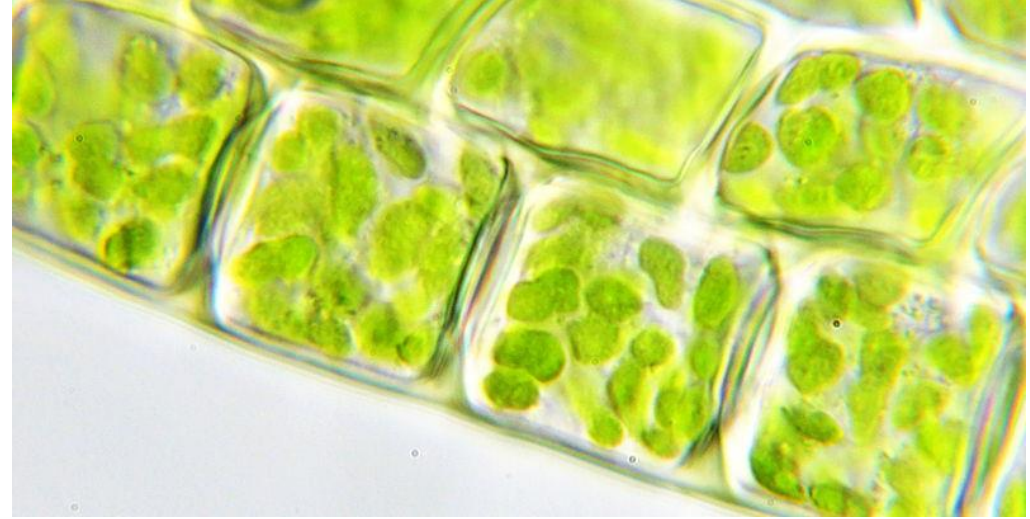
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

- Taylor Grazing Act 1934
 - Government control of grazing
- Scientists determine forage availability
 - “Animal unit month”
 - Livestock and wildlife
- “Permitted” to graze for a fee
 - Specific number of animals and time
 - Changes by allotment and year
- Wildlife managed by state agencies



SCIENCE OF GRAZING

- Leaf material removed from plants
 - Also reduces roots
- Take “half”, leave “half”
 - Perennial grasses
 - Rest areas for regrowth/seeding
- Healthy lands are resilient resources
- Renewable resource
 - Cycles nutrients
 - Removes excess fuels



EFFECTS OF OVERGRAZING

- Long-term forage reduction
 - Reduced cover changes soil
- Increased erosion
 - Compaction changes water dynamics
 - Can lead to desertification
- Invasive/noxious weed encroachment
- Disrupts native ecology
 - Less wildlife habitat



WILD HORSE/BURRO MANAGEMENT

- Hunting Wild Horses and Burros on Public Lands Act (1959)
 - “Wild Horse Annie Act”
- Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act (1971)



WILD HORSE/BURRO MANAGEMENT

- 177 Herd Management Areas (HMA)
 - 14% at or below Appropriate Management Level (AML)
- 10 western states
 - 12 states with off-range corrals
- 82,883 population
 - 25,000 in 1971



**WHAT ELSE DO WE
USE RANGE FOR?**



RANGELAND FOR MULTIPLE USES

- Livestock grazing
- Wildlife & hunting
 - Ecosystem services
- Recreation
- Energy & natural resources
- Cultural resources
- Public lands should benefit everyone *including* future Americans



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