

Range Monitoring



**MONTANA
RANGELANDS**
PARTNERSHIP

The Montana Rangelands Partnership (MRP) is a collaborative partnership comprised of more than one dozen local, state and national organizations.

Our Mission — *To further the health and sustainable use of Montana's rangeland ecosystems*

Our Goal—*To empower ranchers to make sound, informed decisions that further the future of conservation and their livelihood*

June through September is the optimal time to conduct range monitoring



Monitoring....

- ♦ **Is an effective tool to help livestock managers reach their desired ranch objective**
- ♦ **Indicates whether adjustments are needed in the timing, frequency or intensity of grazing**
- ♦ **Confirms that current management practices are meeting ranch objectives and historical data is being collected**
- ♦ **Recognition of potential problems allows time to plan adjustments before animal performance and grazing land health deteriorates. Range-land restoration or regeneration requires a lot of time and effort, which can be avoided with early detection through monitoring.**

LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION IN MONTANA



\$2,152,403,000

The 2015 value of Montana livestock production

11,845

The number of cattle ranches in Montana in 2012

1,486,000

Beef cattle inventory—First Jan 2016

2,650,000

Cattle inventory, including calves—First Jan 2016

627,000

Head of cattle in our nine participating partner counties, 42% of cattle in MT



How much time is required each year to conduct range monitoring?

The first year will take a little more time since choosing representative monitoring sites is the key to the success of the range monitoring program—plan on spending one-half to a full day the first year.

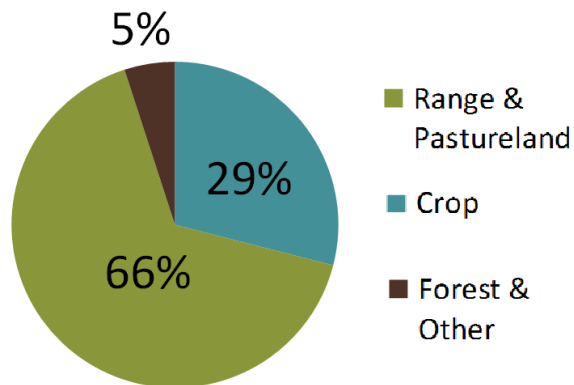
A few hours each year is all that's required after that.

Funding for this project provided by a grant from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation with contributions provided by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Bureau of Land Management and BNSF Railway. This material is based upon work supported by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, under number 0103.15.049870. Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Agriculture

What's the most difficult aspect of monitoring? Getting started! Once you decide to begin monitoring *you've taken the first big step!*



Most of MT Ag Land is Rangeland



Remember,
the Oldest
Photo You'll
Ever Have Is
the One You
Take Today.
**So Start
Taking
Pictures!**

Landowner's big-
gest regret about
range monitoring?
Not starting 10
years ago!

Coordinated Partnership Programs

Rangeland Technical Assistance

Montana Rangeland Monitoring Program

Certified Grazing Plans

Education

Top 10 Reasons to Conduct Range Monitoring:

- 10) Make it into an outing or a picnic with family &/or friends
- 9) Instill a sense of pride in owners/managers
- 8) Monitoring is FUN AND EASY to do
- 7) Monitoring will assist you in reaching your production goals
- 6) Your memory isn't as good as you think!
- 5) Share your ranch legacy with children and/or grandchildren
- 4) Rangeland health suffers long before animal performance falls off
- 3) Learn more about the forage that you grow
- 2) Validate and document good range stewardship practices

And the Number One Reason To Conduct Range Monitoring... ..

- 1) Healthy, vigorous, and productive rangelands are essential to the survival of the livestock industry and other users

The Montana Rangelands Partnership—We're Here to Assist You Free of Charge

www.montanarangelandspartnership.org



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Unless otherwise stated, all statistics taken from MT 2016 Agricultural Statistics