

Rangelands...



**MONTANA
RANGELANDS**
PARTNERSHIP

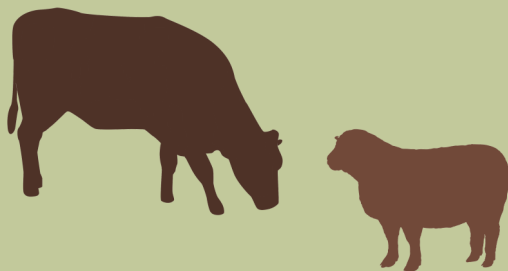
www.montanarangelandspartnership.org

...cover **68 million acres (over 70%)** of
Montana, with approximately **48 million acres**
under private ownership

...provide watershed services worth **\$14/acre**,
including water **collection**, groundwater
filtration and aquifer **recharge**



...support **584,000 deer**,
159,000 antelope, and
163,000 elk in Montana



...provide forage to support
Montana's **\$2.2 billion**
livestock industry

...provide opportunities for hunting and
fishing, which generated
\$1.3 billion for Montana in 2015

...maintain and **improve biodiversity** on the landscape, a service worth **\$19/acre**

...sequester more than **20%** of the world's terrestrial carbon, and provide **erosion
control** and **nutrient cycling** services valued at **\$106/acre**

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The Benefits of Grazing


Western **rangelands** evolved with **grazing animals**, which makes livestock an **important management tool** on these landscapes

Public land ranchers **save money** for the government:

The BLM spends **\$5 per acre** to maintain **ungrazed public land**, but only **\$2 per acre** for **grazed land** maintained by ranchers



Well-managed grazing...




facilitates diverse habitat for grassland birds

reduces fire fuel load and fire severity

can be used to **control noxious weeds**

provides fertilizer to **improve the nutrient cycle**



Through **good stewardship** of their grazing lands, ranchers helped to prevent **Sage Grouse** from being listed as an endangered species

Livestock can **utilize land that is unsuitable for farming** or development, which **preserves open space** in Big Sky Country

