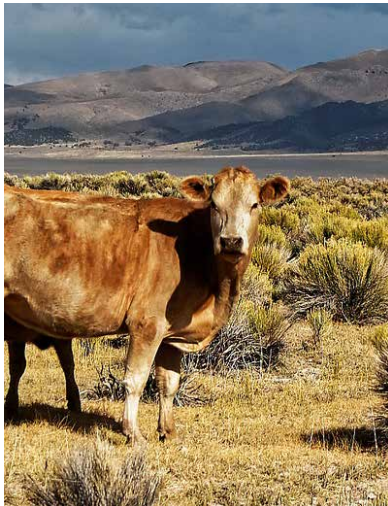




Great Old Broads for Wilderness



POSITION STATEMENT

Livestock Grazing

Commercial livestock grazing impacts more total acreage than any other permitted use of public lands. From headwaters and high mountain meadows to hot, dry deserts, grazing compacts and erodes soil and destroys biological soil crust. It consumes, fouls, and warms water, removes flowers, seeds, and cover upon which wildlife depend, depletes native plant and wildlife species, spreads invasive species, and damages cultural resources.

Grazing interests fuel demands to remove native woody vegetation, kill top predators, and alter water cycles by harnessing natural springs and damming runoff. Public land managers generally defer to private permittees and local governments, while the public is excluded from nearly every aspect of grazing decisions.

More than
\$100 million
a year spent on direct federal subsidies for public lands livestock grazing.


Ranchers pay only
\$1.35
a month to graze 1 cow and calf or 5 sheep or goats on America's public lands.

The same cost on private lands is
\$8 to \$23.

- Broads supports voluntary grazing permit retirement, followed by permanent allotment closure, for ecosystem or species recovery and for increasing ecosystem resilience in the face of climate change.
- Although livestock grazing is allowed on wilderness lands under the Wilderness Act, Broads supports the elimination of livestock grazing in designated wilderness.
- Natural waters, including springs and their associated wetlands, must be protected from livestock grazing impacts.
- Vegetation treatments (e.g., removal of piñon and juniper) should only be undertaken to protect and promote potential native vegetation and natural processes and not for the purpose of increasing forage for livestock or wild ungulates.
- Public lands grazing decision processes should seek and respond to evidence, research, and suggestions provided by interested members of the public; non-governmental organizations; tribes; and scientists, as well as permittees and government representatives. Agency decision making should involve interdisciplinary teams, consideration of climate trends, and public transparency.
- Broads are encouraged to document grazing impacts, communicate concerns to decision makers, suggest alternatives, and initiate and participate in consensus collaborations to minimize adverse impacts of livestock grazing.

The activities undertaken by Great Old Broads for Wilderness are guided by the overriding principle that the focus of attention must be on what is best for the land and water, for Mother Earth.



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