



Livestock Grazing

Position Statement

Commercial livestock grazing impacts more total acreage, across a wider array of landscapes, than any other permitted use of public lands. Grazing compacts and erodes soil and destroys biological soil crust. It also consumes and damages natural water resources, destroys the native plants upon which wildlife depend, spreads invasive species, and damages cultural resources.

- 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 should only be undertaken to protect and promote native vegetation and natural processes—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. Agency decision making should involve interdisciplinary teams, a consideration of climate trends, and public transparency.
- Broads members document grazing impacts, communicate concerns to decision makers, suggest alternatives, and initiate and participate in consensus collaborations to minimize adverse impacts of livestock grazing.

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



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

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

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.