



# RANGE MANAGEMENT



## WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

Wyoming has a vast array of rangeland to explore. This project allows you to study rangeland plant types and how/where they grow. You can learn more about the habitat and nutritional resources rangelands provide for livestock and wildlife. Identify, collect and develop a management plan to benefit the needs to the rangeland.

## HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN LEARN...

### STARTING OUT

- ✿ Understand what rangeland is including concepts of topography, ecosystems, forbs, grasses, shrubs and wetlands
- ✿ Use observation and interpretation skills to identify the water cycle in rangeland
- ✿ Identify grazers and browsers that may utilize the rangeland
- ✿ Understand how grazing animals can digest grasses
- ✿ Explain what preference and palatability mean related to rangeland

### LEARNING MORE

- ✿ Gain better understanding of the parts of an ecosystem
- ✿ Identify microclimates and know what causes them
- ✿ Explain how microclimates and an animal's ecological niche are connected
- ✿ Learn the steps of primary succession from bare rock to grassland formation
- ✿ Know what causes secondary succession

### GOING FURTHER

- ✿ Understand sustainable ways to manage rangeland
- ✿ Identify local land issues and investigate possible solutions
- ✿ Learn historical rangeland events
- ✿ Learn about local land use and the history of local lands
- ✿ Learn more about the agencies that work with landowners on range management issues

## RESOURCES

- ✿ *At Home on the Range 5311* (<http://store.msuextension.org/>)

## TAKE IT FURTHER!

- ✿ Contact the University of Wyoming Department of Ecosystem Science and Management to tour or help with local range plots
- ✿ Take a range tour to identify plants that live there
- ✿ Build a plant press and collect range plants and grasses to press
- ✿ Seed your own native grass nursery or complete your own grass trials
- ✿ Create and implement a range improvement plan
- ✿ Evaluate strategic locations for placing salt that will enhance grazing management
- ✿ Understand different monitoring systems and use in a grazing plan
- ✿ Learn about differed grazing systems
- ✿ Learn animal stocking rates
- ✿ Learn about wildlife and livestock interaction on the range
- ✿ Participate in WYRed, Montana Range Camp or the Northwest Area Range Camp
- ✿ Participate in a grazing school
- ✿ Explore the difference between warm and cool season grasses
- ✿ Learn the difference between native grass and introduced grass

### ENHANCE YOUR COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Do a demonstration on ways to sustainably manage land

Research internship opportunities in the Natural Resources field.

Develop a video about water on the rangeland

### GET INVOLVED IN CITIZENSHIP AND SERVICE

Participate in a highway cleanup effort

Volunteer with a land management agency to gain a better understanding of their role in range management

Participate in a Conservation District work day

### LEARN ABOUT LEADERSHIP

Host a range tour for your club or community

Contact your local University of Wyoming Extension Range Educators or the Bureau of Land Management Office and ask them to give a talk at your club meeting

Teach others how to identify range plants

## EXHIBIT IDEAS

- ✿ Pictures of rangeland during different times of the year
- ✿ Plant press
- ✿ Poster on rangeland careers
- ✿ Display of a ruminant digestive system
- ✿ Explain how forages are broken down
- ✿ Poster on range animals
- ✿ Grass and rangeland plant identification display
- ✿ Poster on grass palatability
- ✿ Display of a microclimate
- ✿ Make a rangeland monitoring notebook
- ✿ Display about common range disturbances
- ✿ Display of range plants that will and will not grow in Wyoming
- ✿ Display of clipped and weighed grasses
- ✿ Poster on differences in stocking rates of various classes of livestock
- ✿ Parts of range plants
- ✿ Display on what domestic grazing animals and wildlife species eat
- ✿ Results of a clipping study

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