



Rangeland Resources

Rangelands provide us with a wide array of goods and services, including livestock grazing, wildlife browsing and habitat, water, recreational opportunities and open space scenery. Maintaining ecosystem functions on rangelands can help ensure continued sustainable production as well as balancing the diverse values that your rangelands represent. A fully integrated range management plan will help you to monitor changes on a year to year basis, which will allow you to proactively respond to climatic or ecosystem stressors that might impact your range resources. Rest rotation grazing, stream ex-closures, water developments, mechanical forage manipulation, and nutrient inputs will help to improve the resource while making your rangelands less susceptible to disturbance and non-native species invasion. The following resources will help you explore some of the above mentioned management actions as well as help you identify funding sources that might allow you to implement management changes on your property.



Photo: Lucas Cain

Information Sources

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

- [NRCS Programs](#) – NRCS's natural resources conservation programs help people reduce soil erosion, enhance water supplies, improve water quality, increase wildlife habitat, and reduce damages caused by floods and other natural disasters.
- [Montana Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative](#) - The Montana Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI) is a grass-roots voluntary effort to enhance private grazing lands. This program has amassed an impressive array of resources specific to private land grazing in Montana.
- [Grassland Reserve Program](#) (GRP) - The Grassland Reserve Program is a voluntary conservation program that emphasizes support for working grazing operations, enhancement of plant and animal biodiversity, and protection of grassland under threat of conversion to other uses.
- [Sage Grouse Initiative](#) – SGI represents a partnership of ranchers, universities, non-profit groups, and businesses that embrace a common vision: wildlife conservation through sustainable ranching. Contact: [Tim Griffiths](#), National Coordinator, Phone: 406-600-3908

[Bridger Plant Materials Center](#) - The Bridger Plant Materials Center provides plant solutions for the diverse ecosystems of Montana and Wyoming. BPMC has developed over 30 conservation grasses, forbs and shrubs used extensively throughout the northern plains to restore impacted landscapes or to create shelterbelts/windbreaks to reduce soil erosion.

[MSU Range Extension Program, Grazing Management](#) - The Extension Range Management program addresses range management issues facing Montana landowners. This includes a variety of Extension publications specific to private land grazing. Contact: [Dr. Jeff Mosley](#), Extension Range Specialist

- [Livestock Grazing to Control Invasive Plants](#) – Montana Sustainable Rangeland Livestock Task Force, Joe Skeen Institute for Rangeland Restoration

Cost Share and Funding Sources

[Rangeland Improvement Loan](#) – Gallatin Conservation District offers low interest loans for Montana farmers and ranchers for rangeland improvements and developments. Fundable projects include: fencing, seeding, stockwater development, and other range improvement practices.

[Agricultural Management Assistance](#) (AMA) - NRCS

Please contact GVLТ Stewardship staff with any questions you may have regarding agency information or cost share sources regarding rangeland management; Contact: peter@gvlt.org