



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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The Nevada Department of Agriculture is pleased to provide you with a copy of a report entitled, "Nevada Grazing Statistics Report and Economic Analysis for Federal Lands in Nevada." This report represents a monumental effort to construct, compile, and analyze public land grazing trends in Nevada. Information used in this study was compiled and verified at the individual allotment level, making this study the most accurate and complete record of public land grazing trends in Nevada developed to date.

Many parties need to be recognized for their contribution to this project. First, the 1999 State Legislature recognized the importance and value of this information and appropriated the necessary funding for its completion. Second, the project contractor, the Nevada Association of Counties, and their prime subcontractor-Resource Concepts, Inc., working in conjunction with Gnomon, Inc. and the University of Nevada Reno Center for Economic Development, all need to be recognized for the dedication and professionalism devoted to this project. Third, the involved Federal agencies also deserve special recognition for the countless time donated in the compilation and verification of the grazing records. Finally, there were several rural Nevada counties, State Grazing Boards, and the Nevada Cattlemen's Association who either contributed to this report or commissioned previous regional studies from which this statewide study expanded. Without each of these parties fulfilling their respective roles, this project would not have achieved the level of success it now enjoys.

The information provided by the report documents level and trend of public land grazing over the recent past, provides insight into the factors driving these trends, and estimates economic effects that have resulted from changes in livestock grazing on Nevada's public lands. Second, the report provides information that can be used by others to estimate the positive or negative economic effects resulting from future grazing adjustments. Finally, the report and accompanying database provide an approach to assess cumulative effects resulting from past and future public land grazing decisions. Specifically, this report documents a statewide loss of over 470,000 animal unit months (AUM's) in permitted public land grazing from 1980 through 1999. This equates to a 16 percent reduction over the 19-year evaluation period. Based on analysis provided the University of Nevada Reno Center for Economic Development this decline in public land livestock grazing is estimated to represent a potential \$24.8 million loss to the statewide economy, including an \$11.6 million direct loss to the livestock sector. Please refer to the enclosed report for further information and details relating to these findings.

For purposes of expanding the accessibility of the compiled information, the results of this report can be found in several different formats and menus. In terms of published reports, there are two separate formats. The first and most numerous is the published Executive Summary. This summary report discloses public land grazing trends on a statewide basis by individual federal agencies. By comparison, the full project report contains the executive summary and summarizes grazing trends down to the agency district level.

Copies of these report files are available on the Department's web page found at <http://agri.state.nv.us/>, under statistics and reports.

The Department of Agriculture is proud to be able to share this information with you. If you have questions, or require further information, please contact me at the Carson City office. As the Department's manager for this project, I will be pleased to assist you any way that I can.

Sincerely,
Gary McCuin
Range Specialist, Project Manager