What are rangelands?

Rangelands include a variety of landscapes. Ecosystems include deserts, grasslands, and woodlands. Anything other than forest, water, rock or ice on this map is considered rangeland. As you can see, rangelands are a big part of the world’s land. In the United States, about 40% of the land area is rangeland, mostly found in the western states.

All of this land needs a lot of people to help manage it properly – people who care about managing the land for multiple uses, and to keep it healthy for the future. We need people like you!

For more information on range management careers, visit

https://rangelandswest.org/careersandeducation

For information on the Society for Range Management, a professional organization of range scientists, ranchers, and land managers, visit

http://rangelands.org/

This brochure was compiled by Rebecca Ozeran. Photos © Rebecca Ozeran (2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8) and © Cari Koopmann Rivers (1, 3, 9, 10, 11).
Did you know?

Rangelands provide many resources!

They provide habitat for hundreds of mammal, bird, reptile, and amphibian species, and thousands of plant species.

Rangeland soils naturally filter rain water before it becomes available for agricultural, residential and industrial use. These soils also store tons of carbon in the form of organic matter - including soil microbes, roots, and natural compost.

Plus, rangelands support one of the most widespread land uses: grazing. Cattle and sheep graze large areas of rangelands, turning grass into food and fiber for humans.

Rangelands also offer great places for recreation - camping, hiking, fishing, biking, hunting, and more.

Rangelands are common in the western United States. This hillside is on the Great Salt Lake in Utah.

Who do rangeland managers work for?

Organizations that hire range management graduates include:

US Department of Agriculture
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- Forest Service (USFS)

US Department of the Interior
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Non-Governmental Organizations
- Conservation Organizations
- Resource Conservation Districts
- Public and Private Universities, including Cooperative Extension
- Public Utility Companies
- Consulting Firms

About a third of people with range degrees work for a federal agency like the ones listed above (NCRS, USFS, and BLM).

So...what can I actually do in range management?

Great question!

Range management involves:

- Grazing Planning
- Natural Resources
- Wildlife Habitat
- Watersheds
- Recreation
- Restoration
- Conservation
- Public & Private Lands

Job titles include:

- Range Technician ♦ Restoration Ecologist
- Natural Resources Specialist ♦ Ranch Manager
- Research Technician ♦ Extension Agent or Advisor
- Animal Science
- Environmental Policy

Above all, rangeland opportunities are as diverse as the rangelands themselves.