

3. Rangeland Stewardship, Can You Have It All? Uses and Values of Rangelands

Time: 30-35 minutes

Supplies: “Can You Have It All” table for each student, PowerPoint

Introduction:

Rangeland provides natural beauty, a diversity of wildlife, recreational opportunities like hunting, hiking, and camping, and economic values including ranching, mining, and electric power. Because rangeland is important for their diverse array of uses and values, they are managed under the principle of multiple use. Multiple use means that several uses and values of rangeland are managed simultaneously and with care to avoid overuse and/or destruction of natural resources. This is one of the biggest challenges we face when managing rangeland.

Directions: Show students the collage of “Uses and Values of Rangelands” and ask them which of these pictures look like something they would like to see more of where they live. Rangelands can and have been used for all the things in the pictures and many more.

Uses and Values of Rangelands



Do:

How do you value rangeland? Have team members rank how they **value land uses** using the table below. Write the ranking in the “Individual Ranking” column. *Each number can only be use once!* **Remember, there is NO right answer on the ranking chart--every use has potential negative and positive consequences.** Printable table can be found at idrange.org

- Rank of 1 = highest value of rangeland
- Rank of 11 = lowest (or least) value of rangeland

Directions: Once team members have completed their survey, have each member write their ranking on a large piece of paper (see example below). Add the scores together for each value (remember, the smallest numbers have the most value).

Land Use	Individual Ranking	Group Rankings	Total
Wildlife Habitat			
Livestock Grazing			
Native Plant Harvest			
Hunting/Fishing			
Non-motorized Recreation			
Motorized Recreation			
Aesthetic (Beauty)			
Rural Housing Development			
Agriculture			
Urban Development			
Energy Development			

Top 3 Most Valued Land Use

(lowest numbers in the “Total” column)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Least Valued Land Use

(highest number)

1. _____

Do:

Once individual team members have completed their survey, have each member write their rankings under the “Group Rankings” column. Add the scores together for each value and place in the “Total” column. Rank the “Top 3 Most Valued Land uses” and “Least Valued Land Use”. Remember, that the lowest numbers have the most value!

Example

Land Use	Individual Ranking	Group Rankings	Total
Wildlife Habitat	4	3 + 2 + 2	11
Livestock Grazing	1	2 + 1 + 1	5
Native Plant Harvest	10	9 + 10 + 6	35
Hunting/Fishing	3	4 + 7 + 3	17
Non-motorized Recreation	9	5 + 6 + 4	24
Motorized Recreation	5	6 + 5 + 7	23
Aesthetic (Beauty)	8	7 + 4 + 5	24
Rural Housing Development	7	10 + 8 + 8	33
Agriculture	2	1 + 3 + 9	15
Urban Development	11	11 + 11 + 11	44
Energy Development	6	8 + 9 + 10	32

Top 3 Most Valued Land Use

(lowest numbers in the “Total” column)

1. Livestock Grazing
2. Wildlife Habitat
3. Agriculture

Least Valued Land Use

(highest number)

1. Urban Development

Reflect:

- According to the ranking, how does your team value rangeland? If you surveyed a larger group, how might this ranking change (i.e., if you surveyed a group of realtors or developers, might the value of rangeland change)? Do your results represent society's needs and desires?
- Based on your rankings, do you think it would be easy or hard to manage for multiple uses on rangeland?

Words to Explore*:

- **Diversity:** The distribution and abundance of different plants and animal communities within an area.
- **Multiple Use:** Use of range for more than one purpose, i.e., grazing of livestock, wildlife production, recreation, watershed and timber production. Not necessarily the combination of uses that will yield the highest economic return or greatest unit output.
- **Rain Shadow:** The region of diminished rainfall on the leeward side of a mountain range, where the rainfall is noticeably less than on the windward side.
- **Steppe:** semi-arid grassland characterized by grasses occurring in scattered bunches with other herbaceous vegetation and occasional woody species.



*Definitions from the Society for Range Management Glossary of Terms

Additional Resources:

Visit the <https://idrange.org/education-2/i-roam-curriculum/> for each topic to see videos and other additional educational links and materials.