



Rangelands & Grazing Leases/Permits

1,596 permits and leases administered by the BLM and held by ranchers who graze their livestock on public lands in Oregon and Washington.

2,003 allotments administered by the BLM for livestock grazing on public lands in Oregon and Washington.

\$1.41 per AUM is the annual grazing fee for public lands administered by the BLM in 2018, as determined by a congressional formula.

The BLM is responsible for administering nearly 14 million acres of rangeland in Oregon and Washington. Much of it is grazed by livestock under a system of permits and leases in which ranchers pay grazing fees for the use of public land.

The BLM administers 1,596 ten-year permits and leases held by ranchers who graze their livestock (mostly cattle and sheep) in Oregon and Washington on 2,003 designated areas called allotments. It is a BLM priority to renew expiring grazing permits/leases, as they help promote job creation and support working landscapes.

Fifty percent of the collected grazing fees deposited into the U.S. Treasury are returned to the Range Betterment Fund for on-the-ground range improvement projects. Depending on whether the collected fees are from permits or leases, portions are also returned to the states or counties where the fees were generated. For leases, 50% of collected fees goes to the Range Betterment Fund and the other 50% goes back to the county where the fees were generated. For permits, 50% of fees goes to the Range Betterment Fund, 12.5% goes to the state or counties where the fees were generated, and 37.5% goes to the U.S. Treasury.

Range improvements are authorized modifications or treatments designed to improve production of forage, change vegetation composition, control patterns of use, provide water, stabilize soil and water conditions, or restore, protect, and improve the condition of rangeland ecosystems to benefit livestock, wild horses and burros, and fish and wildlife.

To achieve desired conditions on the public lands, the BLM uses monitoring data to evaluate the rangeland health standards and guidelines. There are many different treatments used to assist in maintaining rangeland health, including prescribed burns, rehabilitation of burned lands, fencing, water developments, weed control, and juniper management.

Rangeland Health Assessments on these lands are used to determine watershed functions, ecological processes, water quality and habitat for all species -- including native, threatened and endangered species.

The goal of the BLM's rangeland management program is to ensure the health and productivity of public rangelands for the use and enjoyment of current and future generations.

The BLM is committed to strong relationships with the ranching communities in Oregon and Washington, and works closely with permittees to ensure public rangelands remain healthy, productive working landscapes.