

## Grazing on the Colorado Plateau: Ten Ways You Can Help Improve It

**The goal:** Public lands with multiple values thriving, including springs, sage grouse, beaver, cutthroat trout, flowers, bumblebees, meadows, native bunchgrasses, clean water, rare plants and animals, aspen, native predators.

- 1. When you're on your public lands, document what you see.**
  - a. Photograph with location data.
  - b. "Photographing Livestock Damage" (handout)
  - c. [305 photos of livestock-related resource concerns on the Manti-La Sal NF](#)
- 2. Visit exclosures and other areas that are not grazed by livestock.**

You can never understand the damage livestock do, until you see areas that have not been grazed for many years.
- 3. Meet in person with agency staff;** talk with them about your concerns and suggestions.
- 4. Go out on grazed areas with others**— with agency staff; with groups working to address grazing concerns; with diverse constituencies.
- 5. Read about grazing impacts** so you can better understand and recognize them.
  - a. "Climate Change and Grazing" (handout)
  - b. Beschta, et al. 2013. [Adapting to Climate Change on Western Public Lands: Addressing the Ecological Effects of Domestic, Wild, and Feral Ungulates](#) *Environmental Management*
  - c. A blog, "[Beaver, Boreal Toads, and Grazing](#)," is the 6<sup>th</sup> of six stories of how grazing can impact species and habitats. At this link, links are given to the other five short, informative stories.
  - d. Example: Type in "Grazing" at <http://www.greatoldbroads.org/pvt-mantilasal/#lit-review> for some of the large body of scientific literature on direct and indirect impacts of livestock grazing.
- 6. Report problems or poor conditions** and follow up for response.

Go up the food chain if necessary, because these are YOUR public lands.
- 7. Suggest solutions** for a more balanced approach to grazing.
- 8. Ask honest questions** to understand the basis for any claims about grazing.
- 9. Learn how to systematically and scientifically record conditions.**

For instance, go on volunteer trips that are documenting conditions relevant to grazing. Learn which grasses are exotic and which native (and why it matters)
- 10. Get help:** contact Grand Canyon Trust, Great Old Broads for Wilderness, Western Watersheds, and/or other groups that are working on grazing reform with any questions you might have; and pitch in!

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