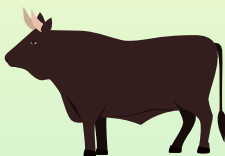


Rangelands and Ruminants

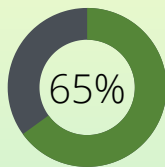
The Importance of Colorado's Rangelands and Cattle



Rangelands are lands on which vegetation primarily consists of grasses, grass-like plants, forbs, shrubs, and dispersed trees.



Ecological management of rangelands occurs primarily through domestic livestock and wildlife grazing and periodic fire.



Of the 66,700,000 acres in Colorado, approximately 43,100,000 acres are rangeland (65%).

Rangelands play a crucial role in Colorado as cattle are the leading agricultural commodity in the state. Rangelands function as conservation areas supporting wildlife populations and providing ecosystem services while supporting cattle grazing.

Ecological Benefits

Important ecosystem services include clean air and water, fish and wildlife habitat, biodiversity, climate regulation, soil nutrient cycling, and pollination.



Climate CHANGE

Socio-Economic Benefits

In addition to livestock and food production, other economic benefits include tourism, recreational uses, and renewable energy production.



Rangelands have other intrinsic but intangible worth including historical, aesthetic, and spiritual values and are an integral part of Colorado's culture.

