



**BLM & USFS Grazing fee \$2.11 per cow**

**What is the fee?** This fee covers only the right to graze on the grazing allotment under very specific terms and conditions. Contrary to ranchers who pay to graze on private land, which is maintained by the owners of the private land, ranchers who hold a public lands grazing permit enter in to a partnership with the federal government to cost-effectively manage public lands and are responsible for maintaining the fences, water sources, healthy wildlife populations, safe recreational spaces, and the land in general, the costs for which comes from the ranchers' own pockets.

**RanchingTruth.com**

**About Us**

We at Ranching Truth are a collection of ranchers, cowboys and agriculture professionals who have turned our passions into livelihoods to earn a living for our families and feed the world.

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One cost of grazing on federal lands that was not included in the total cost study was the expense of purchasing Federal Grazing Permits. While legal precedence suggests that permit value need not be considered in federal grazing fee policy (Pankey Land and Cattle Co. v. Hardin and Hickel, Cite 427 F.2d 43 1970), the cost of obtaining a Federal Grazing Permit is often at the center of the fee controversy.



**Ranching on Public Lands**



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[www.ranchingtruth.com](http://www.ranchingtruth.com)

## NEW MEXICO AGRICULTURE BY THE NUMBERS



Source: NASS (National Agricultural Statistics Service).

### Today, more than 22,000 ranchers graze cattle and sheep on Federal lands.

These ranchers, who provide food and fiber to our nation, own their own property, but pay an annual fee to the government that permits them to graze their animals on some of the 250 million acres of public lands designated for grazing throughout 14 western states. According to the Department of the Interior, grazing on public lands contributes a minimum of \$1.5 billion annually to the economy. In addition to paying Federal-grazing fees, ranchers invest a great deal personally to maintain the land, sustain healthy wildlife populations and make the space safe for public recreational use.

**What is a grazing Allotment?** It is a piece of property owned through a split estate with the Rancher, state and federal governments. For the Rancher it is a tangible right to real property that can be bought, sold, traded and used as collateral, for the purpose of livestock production. It is not borrowed or leased from any government agency or the public domain, but because of the split estate ownership portion it gives a unique Multi-Use quality which gives allowances for hunting, fishing, hiking and other outdoor recreational purposes it also allows for timber production oil and gas production mining and other things. Depending on whether you're talking BLM or forest changes some minor things in the daily management practices.

**“To comply with decreased permit flexibility usually requires the operator to implement more labor and/or capital for intensive grazing management practices. In some cases, traditional grazing or operating methods have evolved to ensure more controlled grazing practices. More intense herding or grazing practices increase overall operating costs and reduce profit margins.”**  
Bureau of Land Management

The graphic has a light blue background with a green border. It lists five requirements with green checkmarks. At the bottom, it states 'ANNUAL SAVINGS TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT \$750 MILLION' and features the 'PUBLIC LANDS COUNCIL' logo with the years 'EST. 1944'.

**FEDERAL GRAZING PERMITS REQUIRE RANCHERS TO:**

- ✓ Preserve clean water sources
- ✓ Install and repair fences
- ✓ Eradicate invasive plant species
- ✓ Create and maintain firebreaks
- ✓ Serve as wildfire first responders

**ANNUAL SAVINGS TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT \$750 MILLION**

**PUBLIC LANDS COUNCIL** EST. 1944

In 1992, the USFS and BLM commissioned a study to examine the value of grazing on federal lands in anticipation of a proposed incentive based grazing fee. As a component of that study, the total costs of grazing on 173 BLM allotments, 72 USFS allotments and 151 private leases throughout Idaho, New Mexico and Wyoming were collected (Van Tassell, Torell, Rimbey and Bartlett, 1997). The total cost, including the lease rate, of grazing on private leases was \$19.04/AUM, while the total cost of grazing cattle on BLM and USFS leases, excluding the federal grazing fee, was \$15.41 and \$21.89, respectively. This implies that a BLM grazing fee, and a USFS grazing fee of **-\$2.86** would equate the total costs of grazing federal and private leases. This suggests that ranchers would be better off financially if private leases could be obtained, rather than grazing USFS allotments. The higher costs of grazing USFS allotments compared to private leases included lost animals, association fees, moving and herding livestock, miscellaneous labor, vehicle expense and horse costs. The idea of a differentiated fee between resource or environmental areas. was dismissed because the variation of grazing costs within resource areas was as great as the variation between resource areas.