

COSTS OF GRAZING CATTLE

ON NATIONAL FOREST

VS.

PRIVATELY OWNED IRRIGATED MOUNTAIN MEADOWS

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This publication summarizes the cost data accumulated by ranchers in conjunction with the Agricultural Extension Service, to arrive at a comparison of costs for grazing on public land, as opposed to privately owned land.

This study points out:

1. The cost of grazing on federal land equals or exceeds cost of operation on comparable private land.
2. Costs of operation are not comparable between individual allotments (range \$5.10 per A.U.M. to \$9.47 per A.U.M.).
3. The variation between costs on local range areas are such that it staggers the imagination to think in terms of a flat fee to all situations nationally.

Table 1 shows the cost of grazing on privately owned irrigated mountain meadows in northeastern California. Table 2 shows cost of grazing cattle on National Forest lands in northeastern California. Column 1 (Table 2) is a composite of costs of the Milford Range Association members. The other columns are actual costs of individual livestock producers in the area.

Table 1

COSTS OF GRAZING CATTLE ON IRRIGATED
MOUNTAIN MEADOWS - 4 MONTHS

(Privately Owned)

| | <u>Per Cow</u> | <u>Per A.U.N.</u> |
|---|----------------|-------------------|
| Mortality - Cows .85% of \$200 | \$ 1.70 | \$.42 |
| Calves-.85% of \$100 | .85 | .21 |
| Veterinary and Medicine | .50 | .12 |
| Moving in and out 1.1 hrs @ \$2.50 (man & horse) | 2.75 | .69 |
| Salt | .47 | .12 |
| Fence Maintenance by cattle owner | .20 | .05 |
| Miscellaneous | .75 | .19 |
| Rental fee-4 months @ \$4.50 | 18.00 | 4.50 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| TOTAL | \$25.22 | \$6.30 |

Table 2

COSTS OF GRAZING CATTLE ON NATIONAL FORESTS

| | Milford Range Association | | 64 head for 3 months | | 125 head for 4 months | | 583 head for 3 months | | 215 head for 3 months | | 335 head for 4 months | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------|----------------------|---------|-----------------------|---------|-----------------------|---------|-----------------------|---------|-----------------------|---------|
| | Per Cow | Per AUM | Per Cow | Per AUM | Per Cow | Per AUM | Per Cow | Per AUM | Per Cow | Per AUM | Per Cow | Per AUM |
| Mortality & Loss | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cows | \$3.00 | \$.75 | \$4.00 | \$1.33 | \$4.00 | \$1.00 | \$4.00 | \$1.14 | \$3.00 | \$1.00 | \$3.00 | \$.75 |
| Calves | 1.50 | .38 | 2.00 | .67 | 2.00 | .50 | 2.00 | .57 | 1.50 | .50 | 1.50 | .38 |
| Association fees | .20 | .05 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | .20 | .05 |
| Vet. & medicine | .50 | .12 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | .50 | .17 | .50 | .12 |
| Move in | | 1.38 | 1.09 | .36 | .72 | .18 | 1.32 | .38 | | 3.60 | 4.63 | 1.16 |
| Move out | 5.50 | | 2.35 | .78 | .80 | .20 | 1.68 | .48 | 10.81 | | | |
| Herd care | 1.00 | .25 | 3.00 | 1.00 | 1.98 | .50 | .89 | .25 | 3.91 | 1.30 | | |
| Salt | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Labor | .50 | .12 | | | | | | | .84 | .28 | .14 | .03 |
| Transportation | .20 | .05 | 1.00 | .33 | 1.25 | .31 | .40 | .12 | .45 | .15 | | |
| Salt | .24 | .06 | | | | | | | .24 | .08 | .24 | .06 |
| Stock water | .10 | .02 | --- | --- | .46 | .12 | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |
| Fence Maintenance | 1.80 | .45 | 1.38 | .46 | 1.41 | .35 | .07 | .02 | --- | --- | .93 | .23 |
| Irrigation | 1.00 | .25 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | 1.03 | .26 |
| Misc. overhead | .75 | .19 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | .75 | .25 | .35 | .09 |
| Grazing fee | 2.40 | .62 | 1.86 | .62 | 2.48 | .62 | 2.17 | .62 | 1.86 | .62 | 2.48 | .62 |
| Int. on value of permit | 6.08 | 1.52 | 4.86 | 1.52 | 6.08 | 1.52 | 5.32 | 1.52 | 4.56 | 1.52 | 4.56 | 1.52 |
| TOTAL | \$24.85 | \$6.21 | \$21.54 | \$7.07 | \$21.18 | \$5.30 | \$17.85 | \$5.10 | \$28.42 | \$9.47 | \$19.56 | \$5.27 |