

CONSERVATION OF PRIVATE GRAZING LAND NATIONAL



Private grazing land constitutes nearly 1/2 of the non-Federal land of the United States. Society benefits from an available supply of food and fiber, clean air, healthy wildlife populations and habitat, improved fisheries and aquatic systems, healthy riparian areas, improved water quantity and quality, reduced potential for flooding, and less sediment in streams and reservoirs, by having healthy grazing land. Grazing land is a substantial component of

the agricultural economy and is the largest of all agricultural uses. The country's economic and environmental wellbeing depends on these lands.

Timely technical assistance is needed to meet the resource concerns while enhancing the economic and social stability of grazing land enterprises and the rural communities that depend on them.



Voluntary technical assistance to private grazing land owners and managers is limited and does not meet the demand for adequately sustaining or enhancing their private grazing resource. Owners and managers need to recognize conservation problems when they arise and receive sound technical assistance to improve or conserve their natural resources.

The problems impacting grazing land are:

Invasive brush and weed species - Wind and water erosion - Wildfires - Salinity problems - Urban sprawl - Droughts - Market volatility - Inadequate grazing systems - Overgrazing Complexity of resource laws, programs, and regulations & other resource issues!

The Natural Resources Conservation Service and partnership completed a workload analysis that indicated additional resources are needed to adequately address the needs on private grazing land.

The analysis indicated over 354,759,465 acres of grazing land (280,020,319 acres of rangeland and 74,739,146 acres of pastureland) are in need of conservation treatment. At the current rate of investment, about 32% of the annual conservation need on grazing land is being met (11,984,074 acres treated annually) with an investment of 970 staff years by the Natural Resources Conservation Service and their partners.



Meeting the need in an appropriate time frame, 37,720,548 acres of grazing land would need to be treated annually which would require a continuing investment of 3,876 staff years, an increase of 2,907 staff years.

