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Media reports and conversations at coffee shops often accentuate differences on issues such as sage-grouse and livestock grazing. Human nature seems to find differences more emotionally riveting while topics of mutual interest go unsaid or are lost to attention grabbing headlines. Sage-grouse and livestock grazing is one of those attention grabbing issues. At right are some points of mutual interest that you may not have heard in the headlines:



What's Good for Cows Is Generally Good for Grouse

Sage-Grouse and Livestock Grazing, Are There Mutual Interests?



Things that Benefit Sage-Grouse and Livestock

- Healthy, sustainable range
- Rangeland plant diversity
- A well-designed grazing plan
- A healthy forb component
- Weed and invasive species management
- Appropriate range management of encroaching conifers (juniper, Ponderosa pine)
- Healthy, productive springs and seeps
- Unfragmented working rangelands
- Productive sagebrush grasslands with a healthy native perennial grass understory
- Healthy wildlife populations

Things that Are Negatives for Sage-Grouse and Livestock

- Overgrazing by livestock or wildlife
- Urbanization
- Infrastructure developments and other disturbances such as roads that fragment the range and spread weeds
- Sagebrush habitat dominated by club moss or blue grama
- Stock water tanks that drown wildlife and foul stock water