



# Western Rangeland Management: Balancing Diverse

KEVIN SEDIVEC

EXTENSION RANGELAND SPECIALIST – DIRECTOR CENTRAL  
GRASSLANDS RESEARCH EXTENSION CENTER

NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

# Western Rangelands

- ▶ Rangelands include prairies and grasslands, sagebrush steppes, and desert, and woodland areas.
- ▶ Rangelands comprise more than 40% of the total productive land base in the western U.S.
  - ▶ **Almost 50% of the land mass world wide.**

# Western Rangelands

- ▶ Rangeland management objectives include grazing, recreational uses (*including hiking, camping, fishing, hunting, etc.*) and mining (*in some cases timber harvest*).
- ▶ Rangelands are diverse and rich in natural resources and provide an essential fresh water source for all of the western U.S.
  - ▶ **North Dakota is found in the Northern Great Plains region**

# Cowboy Life





# Ranching for Today and Tomorrow

- ▶ Cost-effective
  - ▶ Stewards of Land and Livestock
  - ▶ Sustainable
  - ▶ Manage under new policy directives
  - ▶ Raise and enjoy your family
- ▶ Don't be afraid of adding income through being an entrepreneur



# Probably the biggest factor affecting the ranching community and Rangeland?

- ▶ Land Conversion
- ▶ Lack of Protected Grasslands
- ▶ Overgrazing
- ▶ Under-grazing



# Future Policies will Impact Rangelands of Tomorrow

- ▶ Our current climate conditions and management strategies are reducing the plant diversity of our rangelands
- ▶ Kentucky bluegrass in the Northern Plains
- ▶ Cheatgrass in the western rangelands
- ▶ Eastern red cedar and Mesquite in the Southern Plains





# Why is this Plant Diversity Important?

- ▶ Threatened and Endangered Species
- ▶ Pollinator species
- ▶ Passerine birds





# Grazing Management – Improving Efficiency



# Without Overgrazing

- ▶ Protect the land and our resources
  - ▶ Reduce erosion
  - ▶ Reduce weed encroachment
  - ▶ Protect our water
  - ▶ Increase plant diversity





# Minimize Under-grazing and No Grazing

- ▶ Protect the land and our resources
  - ▶ Increase plant diversity
  - ▶ Reduce risk of wildfire
  - ▶ Stabilize streambanks





# Proper Grazing Management of Rangeland enhances the Rancher and Wildlife Community



# Communication and Education

- ▶ Stakeholders with different values and opinions improve communication and working relationships to develop improved rangeland management strategies



# Summary

- ▶ Create a Sustainable System that enhances the resource!



- ▶ Happy family that support a local community



# Any Questions?

