

Student's name

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Livestock

Why? Why, why us? That was the only thought as the old cowboy rode his horse through the crisp morning air. The air was like a vise as it made his chest tighten with every breathe he took. The winter was getting close now and he knew that this could be the last time that he was going to be on his horse bringing livestock home. His grazing permits had been taken away because of the formation of a new national park. He would not only be removing his livestock from this ground that his ancestors used but he would become a trespasser at the same time. Fortunately, this is just a story but could soon become a reality for many. This is why the topic of grazing on national parks and federal land has to be addressed.

When ranchers first arrived in the west they immediately began raising livestock due to the abundance of grazing land. Many obtained permits from the federal government giving them the rights to graze on the land, these permits remained with these families for generations and created a livelihood that remains today. Unfortunately, this has and is changing with the formation of national parks and restrictions advocated by environmental groups and this piece of our heritage is being removed. I am not proposing that we eradicate national parks, rather create a solution so that both ranchers and environmentalist can agree. My tentative thesis is to help the public understand the benefits that come with grazing by decreasing restrictions on federal land.

Wolf, Kristina M., et al. "Compatibility of Livestock Grazing and Recreational Use on Coastal California Public Lands: Importance, Interactions, and Management Solutions." *Rangeland Ecology & Management*, no. 2, 2017, p. 192. *EBSCOhost*, doi:10.1016/j.rama.2016.08.008.

In this study Kristina Wolf, who graduated with a degree in ecology from California, and her associates examine the interactions between ranchers who want to use public land for grazing and the general public who thinks it has better recreational purposes. This article will serve as a key component to my proposal because the information and the conclusions found are presented equally. To summarize this article and its findings they review the problems with livestock on public lands, where conflicts could arise between private owners and the general public and try to find a solution that does not favor one party. They knew also that there would be many interactions between the two groups so they did their own research to find the best solutions to minimize confrontations. To paraphrase one of their findings they asked many people their opinions and they found that many think that recreationalists and livestock can't use the same land. To conclude her findings wolf provides a statement which gives us hope for the future saying, "Increased concurrent livestock grazing and recreation on public lands is an entirely plausible and mutually beneficial strategy" (Wolf et. al).

This source is interesting and contains many strengths. It not only presents both sides of the argument and represents them fairly but it also gives detailed solutions on what could be done to help educate the public. I can see that there are some weaknesses to this study, one because this study was conducted in California which relates to Utah only because they are both located on the west coast. I plan on using ethos to help my audience understand that there is a civil way to allow both recreationalists and the rancher to benefit. This only helps my thesis

grow stronger. This article is peer reviewed and was published in behalf of the “The Society for Range Management” so it helps me build credibility.

Ibanez, Javier, et al. “Desertification Due to Overgrazing in a Dynamic Commercial Livestock-Grass-Soil System.” *Ecological Modelling*, no. 3–4, 2007, p. 277. *EBSCOhost*, ezproxy.uvu.edu/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=edsgao&AN=edsgcl.164116441&site=eds-live

This resource is a study conducted by Ibanez Javier and his associates. To summarize, they studied the impacts of grazing and what could happen if livestock were left too long in a specific area. They found that there were warning factors that preceded too much grazing on land causing desertification and they provide information about what can be done to slow or eradicate this problem.

The researchers also used math to help build their claim. To paraphrase their findings, they applied many variables and considered factors that were difficult to identify at the beginning. They calculated how much food different animals ate on diverse ecosystems. According to Javier, “large numbers of grazing animals may degrade vegetation cover thereby increasing soil erosion” (Javier et. al). Nobody wants grasslands to become a wasteland and everyone wants to help the future generation.

This article is great but one weakness that I found is that the information is not presented in an easy way to understand, therefore I will have to study it and present it in an easier manner. Another weakness is that it is not in favor for grazing on federal land but I believe that also makes it a strength. It allows my readers to know that I am informed on both sides of the argument. Another strength that this article contains is that since the state of Utah is mostly

desert its gives warnings so that more damage is not caused. It may not help my thesis grow but it improves my credibility. This article is full of statistics which will be helpful because I want to use more logos in this proposal.

Rupprecht, Denise, et al. "Effects of Year-Round Grazing on the Vegetation of Nutrient-Poor Grass- and Heathlands—Evidence from a Large-Scale Survey." *Agriculture, Ecosystems and Environment*, vol. 234, Oct. 2016, pp. 16–22. *EBSCOhost*, doi:10.1016/j.agee.2016.02.015.

In this source researchers study the effects of yearlong grazing on five specific environments. To summarize their experiment, they conducted research on plants species and the impacts that were caused due to grazing. They found in their study that every variable that they measured seemed to impact the environment in a positive manner. This source is great and will help my audience see that it is not only beneficial for ranchers but it also impacts the environment in a favorable way.

These researchers also discovered something that I know will help the public understand that grazing is vital to an environment. To paraphrase this they explained that because wild horses and bison are extinct and don't roam wild there is vegetation that is growing out of control. The only way that we can deal with this problem is by cutting or brushing it. This would only increase spending and could potentially create more problems.

Denise and her associates finish by saying, "we conclude that year-round grazing is a suitable tool for the restoration and management of open habitats on nutrient-poor sandy sites" (Denise et. al). This is a great strength to my paper because in Utah much of the land is covered with sand. This was a large-scale experiment and was conducted in five locations which allows it to withstand criticism from those who oppose grazing. One of the weaknesses of this article is

that this study was conducted in Europe which differs from Utah in many aspects. This source allows readers to know that it is credible due the fact that it is a peer reviewed journal. It also provides me with more logos which will help my readers realize the significance of this problem. With this extra information my thesis will continue to clarify the need that the public has regarding grazing on federal land.

Audience:

The intended audience of this essay is the board and director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) of Utah, Ed Roberson. He directs the land in the state of Utah and will play a big role in changing the public's perspective of grazing livestock on public land. He alone cannot make this change so along with Roberson, Micheal D. Nedd who is the Acting Deputy Director for Operations, will have to be informed of my proposal. According to the website of the BLM their mission statement is, "to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations". I plan on using this statement to suggest that with their help they can create a movement to change the laws regarding grazing. It will not only benefit the present generation of ranchers but their contributions will greatly influence the future generations that will use the land.

The BLM is a group of people who are dedicated to their work and due to this they don't have an abundance of time. I plan on using a little bit of ethos, pathos and logos in my proposal, but because this group is mostly a council and most of them rely on scientific studies to help them make decisions I plan on using mostly logos. Some of these individuals are from an older generation and have grown up with some rules and regulations regarding grazing so I will have to build trust and also present the information in a very formal manner. I want my audience to know that I am serious so I plan on using a very formal style. Micheal D. Nedd and many others

who are leaders of the BLM are from the east coast and work there too. Many of them don't understand what it is like to use grazing land for their livelihood which will make it hard for me to create an urgency to fix this problem. I plan on adding a little pathos because I have some personal experiences and have seen families declare bankruptcy due to this problem.

I know that they are well informed on this subject and there has been many studies and debates that have been the center of this specific problem. This has been a matter of debate for many years and a few years ago was in the public's eye. I hope that with this extra information they will see that they can change lives forever. Grazing is more than just allowing livestock to live but it is a way of life for some. We can't let this piece of American heritage slip through the cracks. Every grazing season that passes may not impact your lives but it may be affecting those who are behind the scenes. This is why decreasing the laws and restrictions is so vital to rancher's survival and maintaining a piece of our heritage.