

# Outcome-based Grazing Program

The Bureau of Land Management implements an initiative known as Outcome-based Grazing Authorizations. It is designed to offer a more collaborative approach between the BLM and its partners within the livestock grazing community when issuing grazing authorizations. The following is part of a series highlighting ranches in this pilot program.



## Winecup Gamble Ranch

Wells, Nevada

### Q & A with James Rogers, Ranch Manager

#### **How would you describe this ranch to someone who has never been there?**

It's massive, and it's kind of a wild place in a lot of ways. The wildness of it is what makes Nevada so unique. The ranch is a million acres, so it's a very diverse landscape. We've got high elevation, meadows, and low salt desert. It's extremely diverse and full of life. My big thing is heartbeats. It's either the people that have heartbeats, the wildlife, or the cattle. Even though it's a desert place, there are so many heartbeats that depend on it and that it provides for.

#### **What is the philosophy that guides this ranch?**

We take a very holistic approach. We really do think about the land, the people and the economics of things. We try to look at everything through those lenses. We really value the people. We value the community and our partners. People are the most valuable resource we have. Without the right people, we would never be able to manage this place.

## Why did this ranch enroll in the Outcome-based Grazing program?

We were kind of looking for opportunities to model a different process. We wanted to bring more people to the table to make decisions on how grazing permits should be managed. We need the input of the permittees, the wildlife people, the community, and our employees. I think that the local knowledge is super important. As a whole, I think that the BLM and the bureaucratic process has gotten away from that. So, we're hoping that this can be an opportunity to demonstrate and model a collaborative, locally led Outcome-Based Grazing Program that we can showcase and put on a platform. This type of thing has been successful in the past, but hasn't received the attention it deserves. Because this is a national platform, we are hoping to garner attention for the importance of local management.

## Why is some flexibility important in a grazing permit?

What we're seeing is that some flexibility is important because of the dynamics in climate conditions. The climate is not very stable, and we're seeing these big extremes. In my nine years of experience on this ranch, we have experienced everything from droughts to floods to fires. You can't prescribe or predict how the management should be in an environment that is changing so often. But what we do know, is that there are ecological, social, and economic principles. If we can use those scientifically valid principles to come up with more flexible methodology of managing the land, I think it's going to make better conditions for our community, and our ranch-financially and ecologically. We can't predict what's going to happen next year, yet our permit tells us how we're supposed to manage it next year, and I think that's wrong. We have to come up with a different way to adapt as conditions are changing.

## Why should someone who isn't involved in agriculture care about how public lands are managed?

Public lands have a huge impact on the water cycle, wildlife, their habitat, and the community. Especially in the state of Nevada, with the impact the ranchers have on the viability of these communities. All of those affect the larger public in one way or another. When we think of climate conditions, and not just what is good for our cows, we can focus on what's good for the land. What's good for the land is better for us, our livestock, and our communities.



*Partnering to Conserve Sagebrush Rangelands* is a collaborative effort between the BLM and Intermountain West Joint Venture. Our purpose to catalyze proactive, voluntary, and community-led sagebrush rangeland conservation – expanding success across private and public lands. This collaboration is supporting the Outcome-Based Grazing Authorizations efforts. Learn more at [www.PartnersInTheSage.com](http://www.PartnersInTheSage.com).