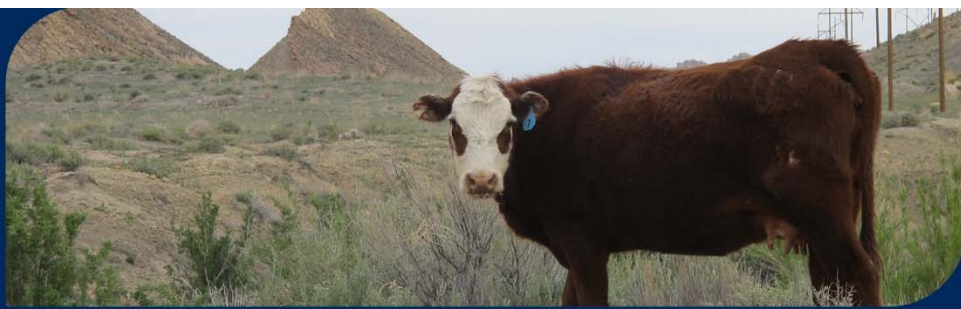


## Agriculture



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# Livestock Grazing on the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument: Its Importance to the Local Economy

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Grazing on public lands in Utah is common place. The past several decades, environmental groups have pressured land management agencies to reduce or eliminate livestock grazing on public lands, oft times not realizing the consequential effects (Power) (Cole, 2013). The Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument (GSENM) is no exception and since its designation in 1996 (Clinton, 1996), grazing continues to be a controversial issue. Many anti-grazing groups argue that if all the grazing on the GSENM was eliminated its effects to the local communities would be little if any. Important to note is the 1996 Presidential Proclamation protected grazing in its language stating, "Nothing in this proclamation shall be deemed to affect existing permits or leases for, or levels of, livestock grazing within federal lands within the monument."

## Survey Methods

Groups opposed to grazing seldom recognize the economic impact that grazing has on rural communities. In an effort to document the economic impact of livestock grazing on the GSENM, all GSENM livestock grazing permit holders were surveyed via a mailed paper survey. The survey covered detailed questions about livestock and economic data for individual permit holders. Another purpose of the survey was to determine the importance of grazing on the GSENM to each individual ranching operation and to determine how ranchers utilize GSENM permits in their operations. All survey information was kept confidential to protect individual ranching operations.

## Economic Models

From the survey data, two economic models were developed to estimate revenues from grazing within the GSENM. The first model estimates revenues generated from the Active AUMs in GSENM permits. The second

model estimates the revenues that would be generated if the Suspend AUMs were restored.

The model for Active AUMs treated the grazing operation as a single ranching operation including all Active AUMs for the grazing allotments within the GSENM without regard to if the cattle were actually utilizing all AUMs. Since the GSENM grazing permits are essential to most of the ranching operations all revenues generated on the ranches are dependent on utilization of the GSENM AUMs. Without GSENM AUMs no revenues for most ranches would be generated, thus, imposing an economic loss to ranchers, Garfield and Kane Counties and the economic region. The models for both Active and Suspended AUMs used the same methodology.

The revenues estimated in both models were imputed into Garfield-Kane Counties IMPLAN models for impact analysis. IMPLAN v3 is an input-output model developed by Minnesota IMPLAN Group, Inc. (IMPLAN Group, 2015). This model is commonly used by federal, state and local governments to determine economic impacts of various public policies, public investments and private economic activities.

## Economic Impact

GSENM AUMs are used during the times when other grazing AUMs are not available. Therefore, all revenues are dependent on utilizing GSENM grazing permits. Revenue model for active GSENM AUMs estimated that \$11.9 million was generated from utilizing GSENM AUMs if all active AUMs were available.

Active GSENM grazing permits have the following estimated benefits to the Garfield-Kane Counties Economic Region: 208 people are employed generating

\$2,223, 000 in labor income. \$5,709,000 in total value added production is added to the Garfield-Kane Counties economic region by utilizing the GSENM grazing allotments. The total output of effect of the Active GSENM AUMs is \$23,443,000

The revenue model for Active and Suspended GSENM AUMs estimated that \$16,561,052.32 was generated from utilizing GSENM AUMs if both Active and Suspended AUMs were all available. When this revenue is put into the IMPLAN model the results are summarized below.

Impact Type	Employment	Labor Income	Total Value Added	Output
Direct Effect	111.3	\$974,147	\$2,087,184	\$11,929,380
Indirect Effect	90.0	\$1,053,293	\$3,120,590	\$10,703,373
Induced Effect	6.7	\$195,407	\$501,394	\$810,118
Total Effect	208.0	\$2,222,874	\$5,709,169	\$23,442,872

Impact Type	Employment	Labor Income	Total Value Added	Output
Direct Effect	154.5	\$1,352,404	\$2,897,550	\$16,561,052
Indirect Effect	124.9	\$1,462,242	\$4,332,183	\$14,859,038
Induced Effect	9.3	\$271,275	\$696,064	\$1,124,653
Total Effect	288.7	\$3,085,922	\$7,925,797	\$32,544,744

The Suspended GSENM AUMs cost the Garfield-Kane Counties Economic Region 81 jobs, \$863,049 in lost labor income, \$2,216,628 in lost total value added and \$9,101,801 in lost output.

**Summary**

Livestock grazing on the GSENM provides significant economic benefits to Garfield and Kane Counties. If all Active and Suspended AUMs were utilized, there would be increased economic benefit. If ranching on the GSENM were lost, the economic sustainability in the Garfield-Kane Economic Region would be greatly reduced.

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