

CHAPTER X

BENEFITS OF PUBLIC LANDS RANCHING

By now, some skeptical readers may be thinking, "Yeah, maybe most of this book is true. But what about the *other* side? What about public lands ranching's contributions?" In the interest of presenting a more complete picture of the issue, therefore, this chapter is dedicated to public lands ranching benefits.

Public lands ranching:

- Produces 3% of US beef.
- Keeps some people wealthy.
- Keeps some people powerful.
- Helps maintain some people's accustomed lifestyle.
- Helps keep bureaucrats busy.
- Allows us to feel like we are doing something useful with otherwise "useless" public land.
- Requires endless miles of barbed wire fences, which occasionally catch ORVers.
- Provides humans roaded access to every nook and cranny of public land and opens the West to widespread exploitation.
- Reduces groundcover, allowing hikers easier travel and the ability to spot venomous snakes more easily.
- Gives hunters *something* to shoot at (cows).
- Helps -- ever so slightly -- to preserve "our Western legacy."
- Promotes excessive beef consumption, and thus helps reduce human overpopulation.
- Provides material for Gary Larson cartoons.
- Maintains remote base properties that serve as excellent sites for criminal hideouts and narcotics laboratories.
- Provides an excellent example of how tyrannical, wasteful, and destructive a special interest can be without public awareness or opposition.

Bumpersticker seen in New Mexico:

**TO PROTECT ALL HIS CREATIONS
GOD CREATED RANCHERS**

We have all encountered much misinformation and many romantic renderings of ranching, but how much real evidence do we have to justify public lands ranching?

