

# Ranch-Level Economic Impacts: What We've Learned

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## Ranch-level Conclusions

- Models indicate that fire has negative impact on ranch income
- Models also indicate that increased fire frequency increases the chance of bankruptcy (infeasible solutions)
- Alternative forage sources are limited and expensive
- Non-use period following fire needs careful consideration

“If you lose your federal grazing, you gotta try to survive of you're gonna hammer your private ground for a while until you just can't make it work. So then, somebody with a small place like mine is going to think, 'Now, this is stupid, I could make big bucks selling out to a developer,' and there goes the wildlife habitat and everything else.”

—Anonymous, IRRC Focus Groups, 2007

“Well, from our perspective, I think we've got to educate the public too and fires aren't all bad. There's the right place and right time, and I'd like to see that addressed. [Fire] is a great tool if used correctly. We do get flack about the smoke in some areas...But this is the key to educate people: rangelands for everybody, cattlemen, hunters, rock hounds, whatever. It's a good resource and we need to protect it.”

—Anonymous, IRRC Focus Groups, 2007

## Summary

- Benefit-Cost Analysis: need to develop estimates of benefits and costs of fires
  - Probability
  - Non-use period
  - Non-market values
  - Community social structure and open space
- Ranch-level impacts
  - Cheatgrass and fires reduce ranch income