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Rangeland Resource Trends in the United States: A Technical Document Supporting the 2000 USDA Forest Service Rpa Assessment

By John E. Mitchell

Createspace. Paperback. Book Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. Paperback. 86 pages. Dimensions: 11.0in. x 8.5in. x 0.2in. The status of rangelands in the United States has been of continual interest to the Congress and American people since the western states were occupied by Europeans. Until 1854, the issue for the federal government was one of acquisition. A decade later, however, the Homestead Act of 1862 marked the beginning of an era of land disposal. This western expansion for minerals, forage, and timber was considered our country's manifest destiny (Clawson 1983). During the 100 years following the Civil War, U. S. rangelands were almost exclusively used for livestock grazing. During the 1880s, the number of cattle in the 17 western states proliferated almost six-fold from 4. 5 million head to nearly 27 million head (Poling 1991). This was the high water mark of the prominent cattle barons financed by European capital (Mitchell and Hart 1987). At the same time, the number of domestic sheep was also multiplying from less than one million head in 1850 to 20 million head by 1890 (Stoddart and Smith 1943). The first national problem involving rangelands originated from the joint effects of land disposal and...



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