

A NATIONAL SURVEY OF PUBLIC LANDS RANCHERS



Bree Lind, John Tanaka, Kristie Maczko
University of Wyoming

ACES Conference
2014

December 10th

Washington, D.C

OUTLINE

- Project Description
- Research Questions/Objectives
- Previous Survey



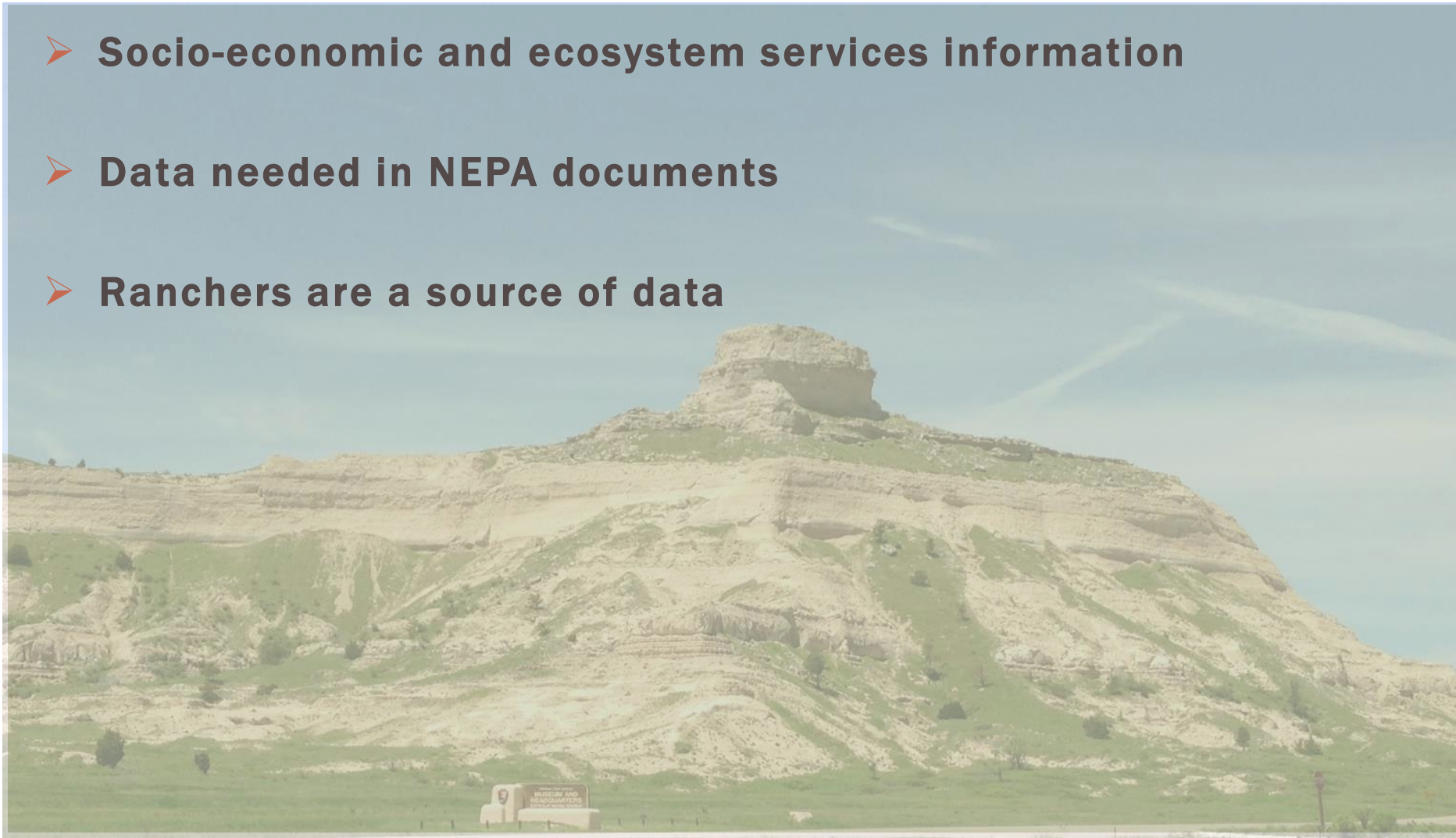
PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- A national survey of public lands ranchers
 - Focuses on:
 - Economics
 - Social attributes
 - Ecosystem services



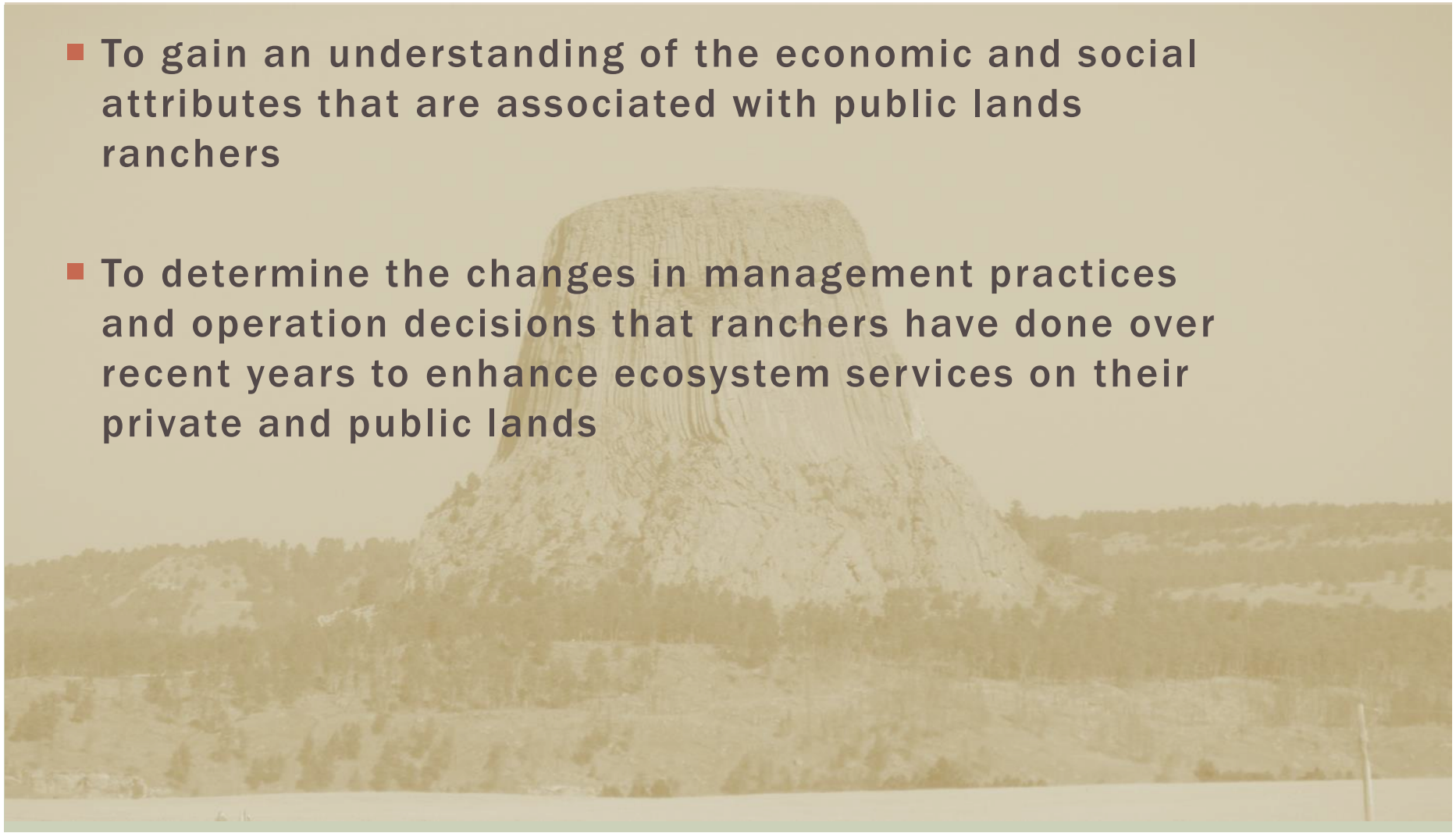
BACKGROUND ON PUBLIC LAND SOCIO-ECONOMICS/ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

- **Socio-economic and ecosystem services information**
- **Data needed in NEPA documents**
- **Ranchers are a source of data**



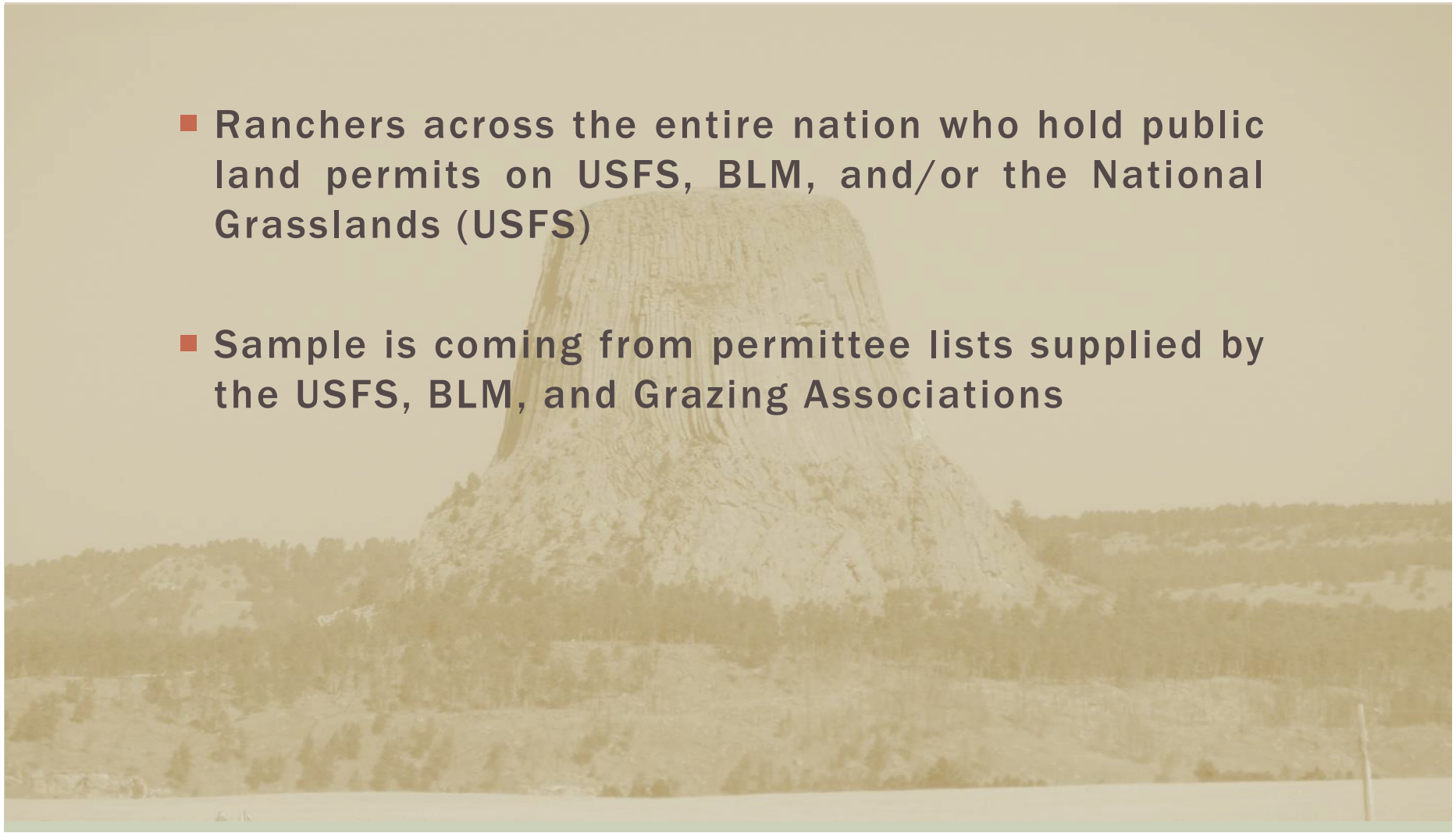
PROJECT PURPOSE

- To gain an understanding of the economic and social attributes that are associated with public lands ranchers
- To determine the changes in management practices and operation decisions that ranchers have done over recent years to enhance ecosystem services on their private and public lands



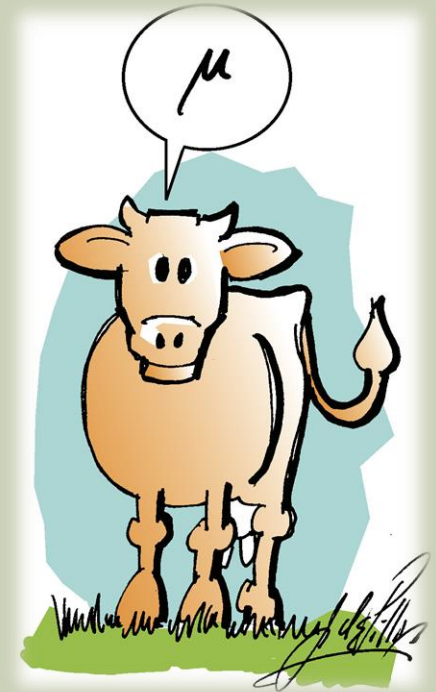
WHO IS BEING SURVEYED

- Ranchers across the entire nation who hold public land permits on USFS, BLM, and/or the National Grasslands (USFS)
- Sample is coming from permittee lists supplied by the USFS, BLM, and Grazing Associations




WHY IS STUDYING PUBLIC LANDS RANCHERS IMPORTANT??

- ✓ Public lands ranchers are a diverse group
- ✓ Over half of commercial beef in the western U.S. is grazed at some point in the year on public lands
- ✓ Public land agencies require better socio-economic information to use in NEPA analysis



RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- 
- ① Demographics that describe public lands ranchers
 - ① Economic and social attributes ranchers contribute to communities
 - ① Responses to changes in policy
 - ② Management changes/techniques for ecosystem services

SOCIO-ECON OBJECTIVES

- 
- To understand how involved/important public lands ranches are to their local communities both economically and socially
 - Community leadership roles
 - Estimate the number of permitted livestock on public lands as well as estimate the number of livestock on private farms and ranches associated with grazing permits
 - Estimate gross revenue generated from the sale of livestock

ECOSYSTEM SERVICE OBJECTIVES

- Assess contributions of public ranches to wildlife habitat, conservation easements, and miles of riparian habitat and miles of fish production streams
- Determine if ranchers are receiving revenue from hunting, fishing, or other recreational activities that they allow on the private land associated with grazing permits



SURVEY COMPARISON

Gentner and Tanaka (2002) Survey

Social and economic questions used to classify different classes of ranchers across the nation

Many of these questions were replicated for the 2015 survey

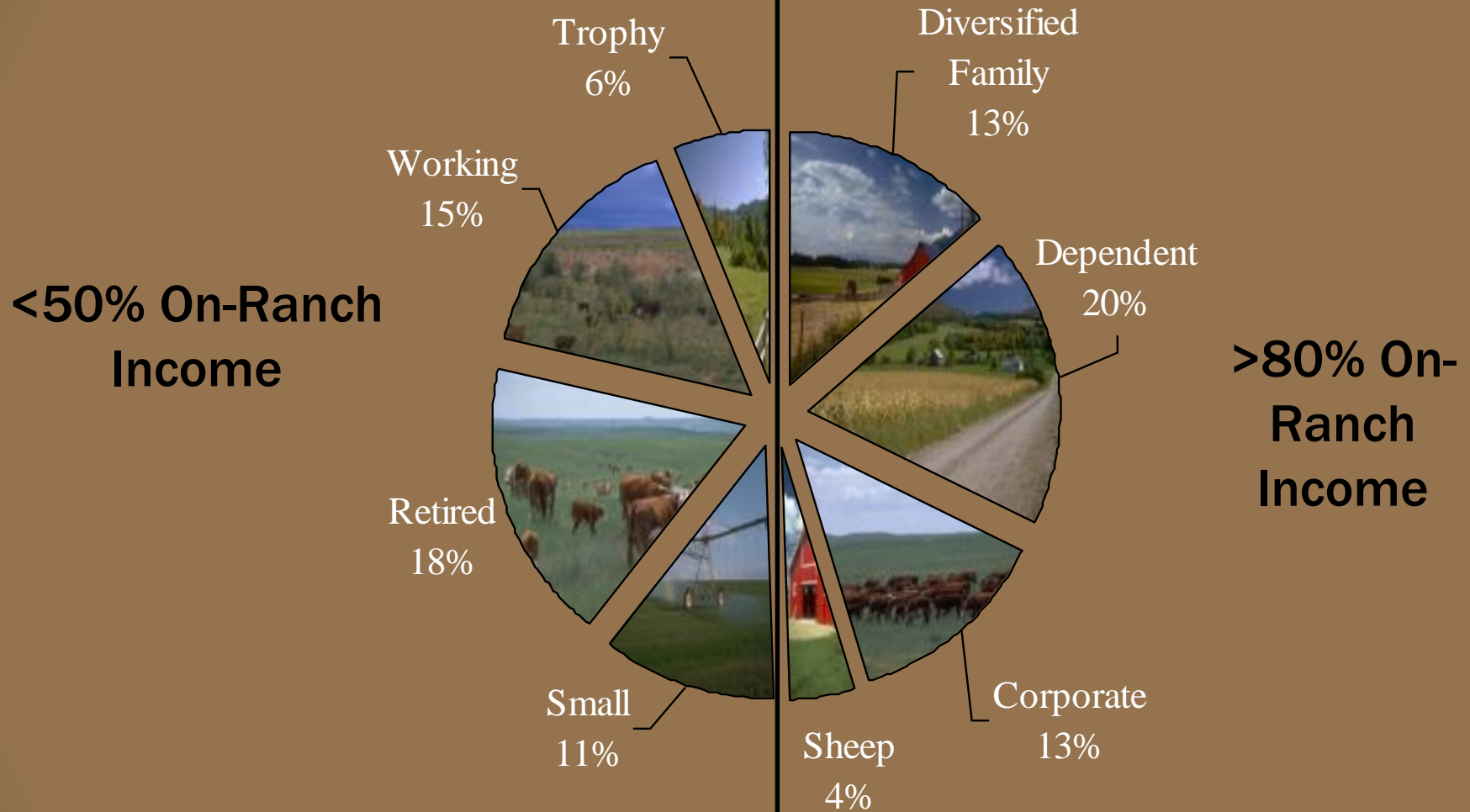
Characteristics and Attitudes of Public Land Ranchers



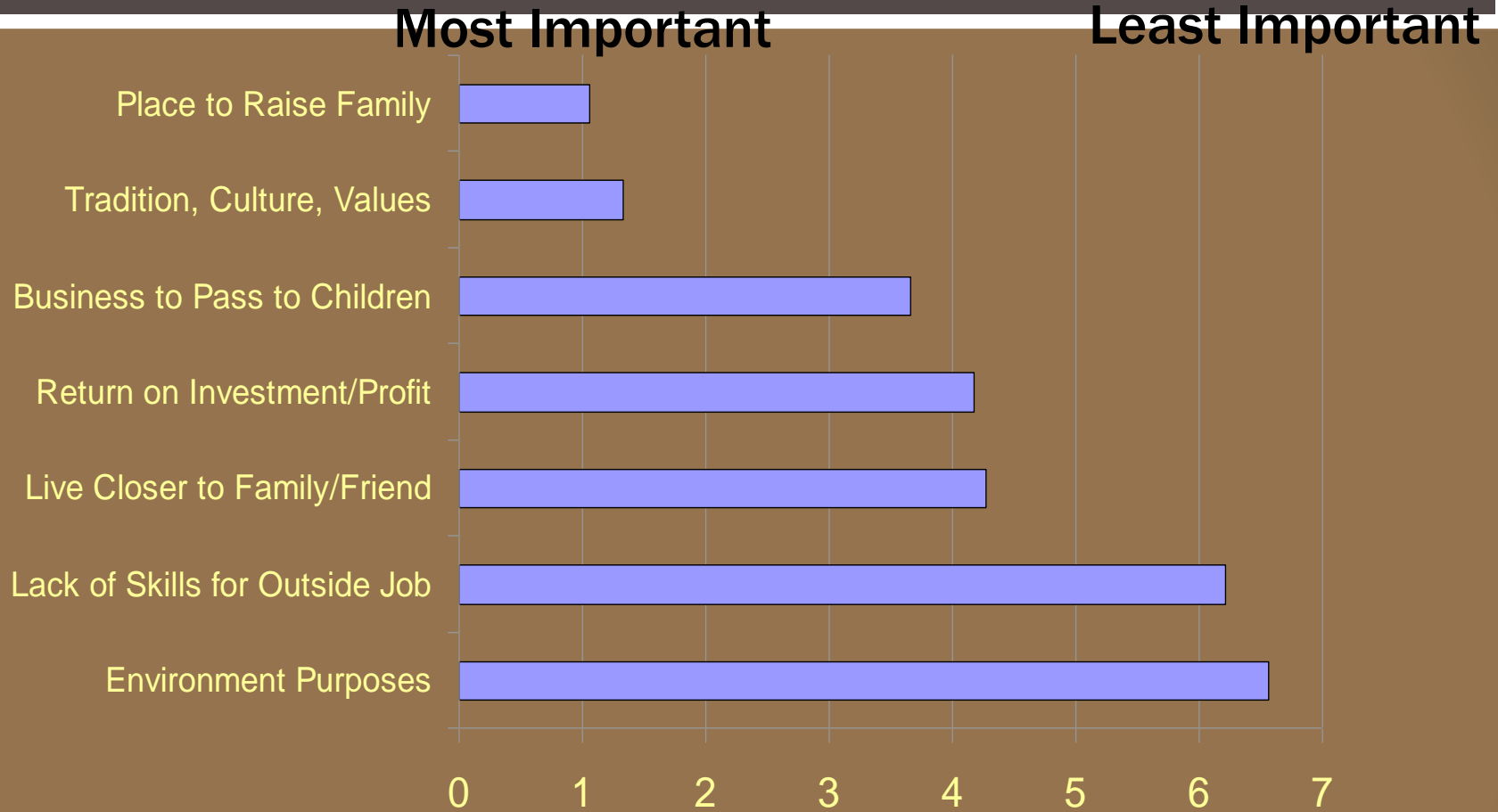
A Survey of Public Land Grazing Permittees in the Eleven Western States

Part-Time

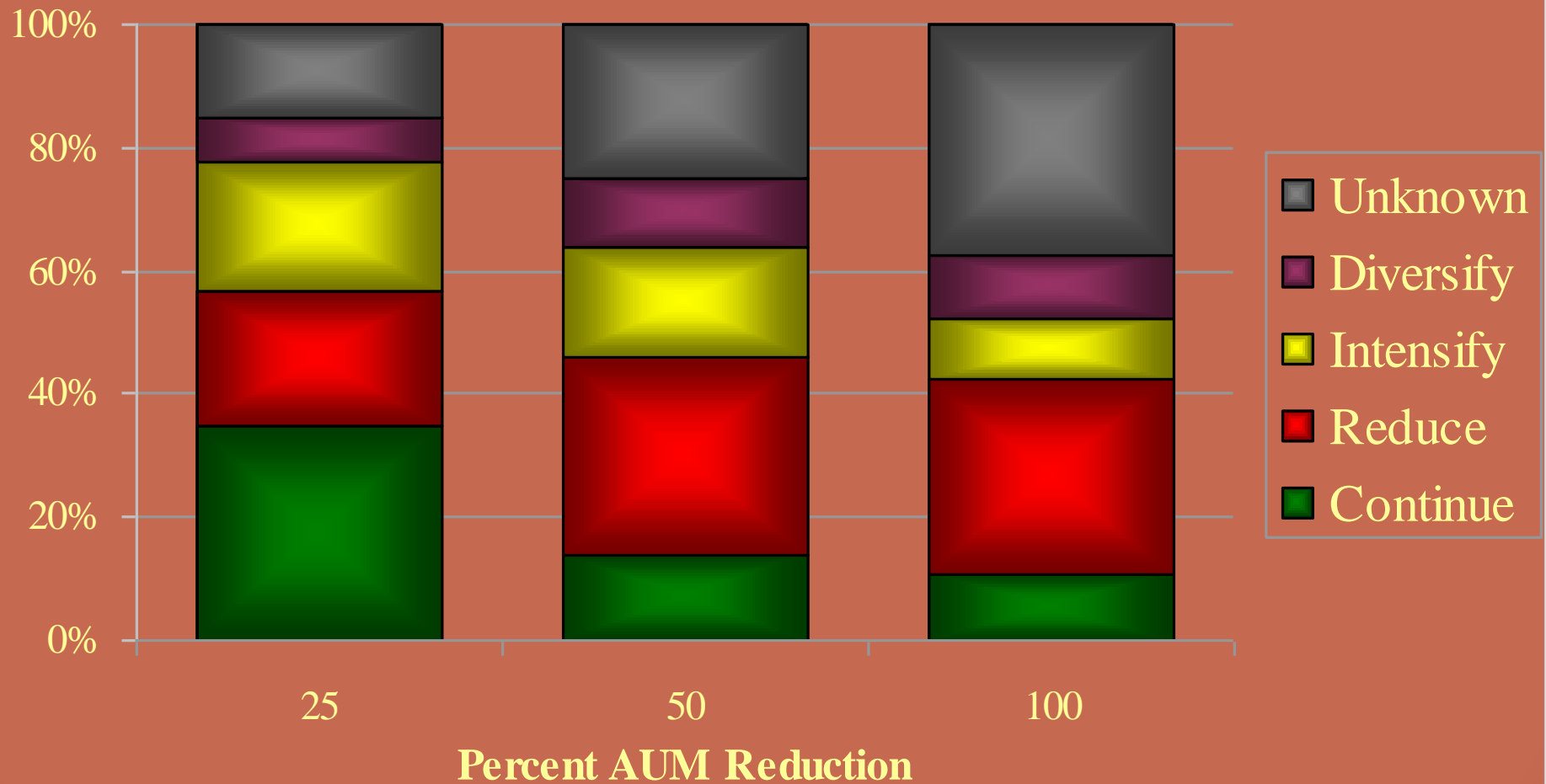
Full-Time



WHY DO THEY OWN A RANCH?



All Permittee Response to AUM Reductions



ECOSYSTEM SERVICE SURVEY



- A complimentary survey that is focusing on different aspects of ecosystem services
 - Perceived importance of different ecosystem services on ranch lands (public and private)
 - Management of ecosystem services
 - Protection of ecosystem services
 - Revenue from providing different ecosystem services

EXAMPLE QUESTIONS

Use/Activity	Importance				
	Very Little	Little	Moderate	High	Very High
A. Hunting/Fishing	1	2	3	4	5
B. Livestock operations	1	2	3	4	5
C. Recreational activities such as horseback riding and ATV use	1	2	3	4	5
D. Maintenance of open space	1	2	3	4	5
E. Maintenance of biodiversity	1	2	3	4	5
F. Clean water production	1	2	3	4	5
G. Biomass production	1	2	3	4	5
H. Aesthetically pleasing landscapes	1	2	3	4	5
I. Carbon Sequestration	1	2	3	4	5

EXAMPLE QUESTIONS

Approximately how many customers and person-days of customers do you average on an annual basis for recreation ad hunting?

Activity/Operation	Total Customers	Person Days	Charge Per Person Day
ATV Use			
Mountain Biking			
Snowmobiling			
Horseback Riding			
Livestock Herding			
Ranch Work Experience			
Hiking			
Bird Watching			
Non-Recreating Guests			
Hunting (unguided)			
Guided Hunting			
Fishing (unguided)			
Guided Fishing			
Other (Please List/Describe Below)			

SUMMARY

- Limited information on public lands ranchers
 - Socio-economics
 - Ecosystem services
- Survey hopes to answer some of these questions
 - Gain information to help in decision making
 - Understanding ranchers' management of ecosystem services



Thank you!!

QUESTIONS??

Bree Lind
University of Wyoming
blind@uwyo.edu