The Role of Cow-Calf Enterprise Budgets in Evaluating the Economic Impact of Sage-Grouse Conservation on Rangeland Ranching Operations

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What we know:
- Sage-grouse habitat conservation on private land expected to reach 8 million acres by 2018 (USDA-NRCS, 2015)
- Conservation efforts can be mutually beneficial to wildlife and ranchers
  - Reduce threats to the sage-grouse
  - Improve grazing and livestock water supplies

What we do not know:
- What are the economic impacts of sage-grouse conservation on ranching operations?
- How are those impacts measured?
- Does the old adage, “What is good for the bird is good for the herd” stand true?

Tools we have: Enterprise Budgets!
Enterprise budgets document all resources necessary for ranching production along with the rates of use and costs. Budgets help producers benchmark their operation’s production and economic performance while providing estimates to business decision outcomes.

Model baseline cow-calf operation without practices

Cover majority of sage-grouse habitats
- 12 MLRAs in sage-grouse core area: 8, 10, 12, 23, 25, 28B, 32, 34A, 52, 58A, 58B
- Covering parts of CO, ID, MT, NV, OR, and WY.

Types of representative ranches:
- Small-herd, private-land only
- Small-herd, public & private land
- Large-herd, private-land only
- Large-herd, public & private land

Model Run and Analysis Stages

Economic Impact Cow-Calf Ranching Model

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