

THE RANGE RANGERS

HEROES OF THE OPEN LAND



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Preface

Get ready for an exciting adventure across wide open spaces! With this book, explore the amazing world of *rangelands*—vast, wild places filled with plants, animals, and natural beauty.

Did you know rangelands help provide the food we eat and the clean air we breathe? Rangelands are home to all kinds of wildlife and offer space to hike, explore, and enjoy nature. These special lands need our help to stay healthy and protected.

As a Range Ranger in training, you learn why rangelands matter and how you can be a hero in protecting them. So, grab your outdoor gear. It is time to begin your journey into exciting rangeland!

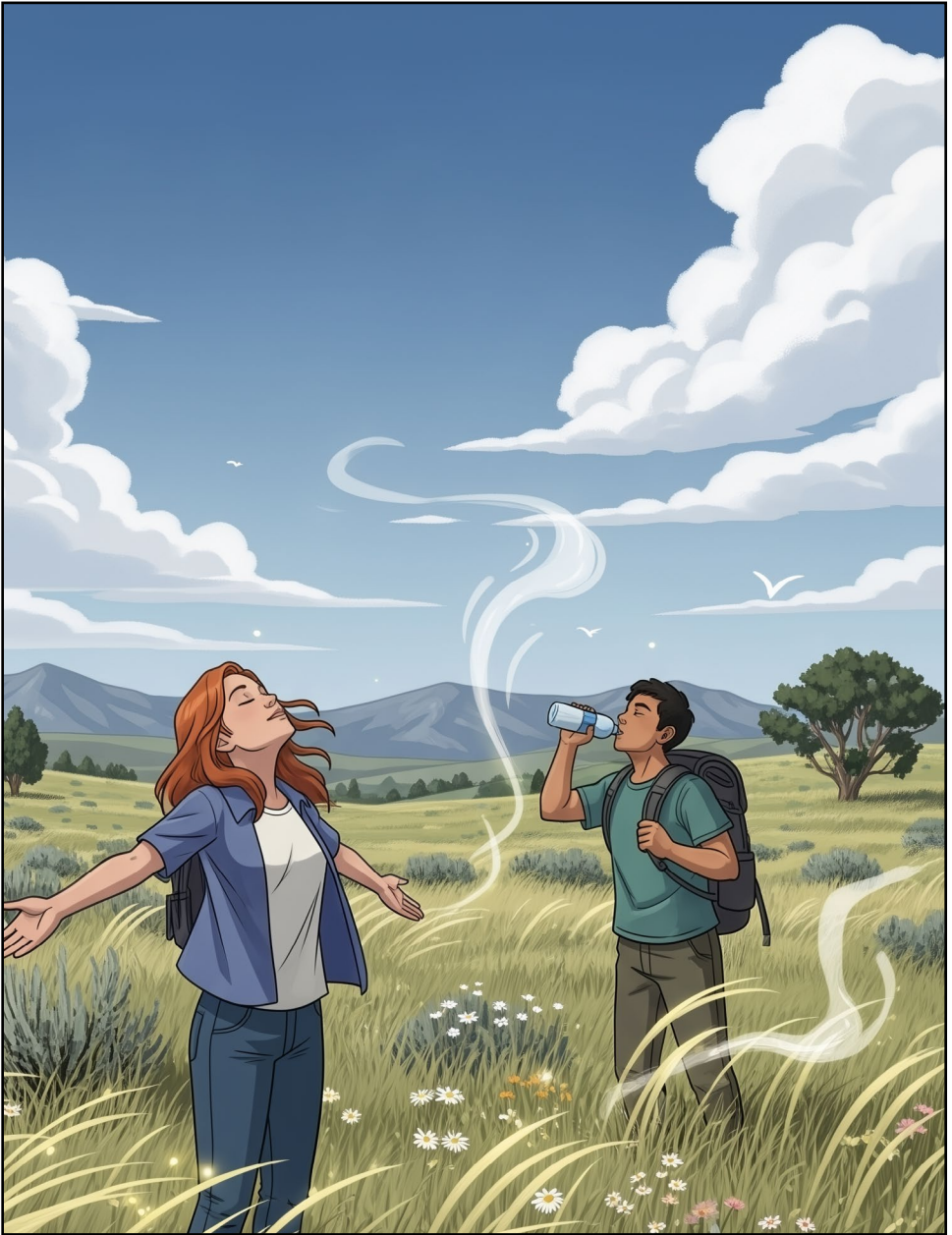
Educators, *The Range Rangers* is an engaging educational resource designed to introduce youth to the importance of rangelands—vast natural landscapes that support a rich diversity of plants and animals, provide essential ecosystem services, and offer valuable open space for recreation and agriculture.

With this book, students explore basic information about what rangelands are and why they matter and how they can help protect and sustain these vital ecosystems. The content encourages curiosity, environmental stewardship, and a sense of responsibility, empowering young learners to become active participants in conservation.

This resource supports science, environmental education, and agriculture-related learning goals, making it a valuable addition to classroom, 4-H, or outdoor education programs.



Rangeland is wide, open land covered with grasses, wildflowers, and shrubs. It's a special kind of ecosystem—a place where plants, animals, and people depend on each other to survive.



Rangeland plants do an important job. They help keep our air and water clean. By growing deep roots in the soil and covering the ground, rangeland plants protect the soil, ensure clean water, and even help provide fresh air. Rangelands make the world a healthier place!



We are the Range Rangers—protectors of the land! Join us on an exciting adventure to explore rangelands, to discover why they matter, and to learn how you can be a hero for rangeland!



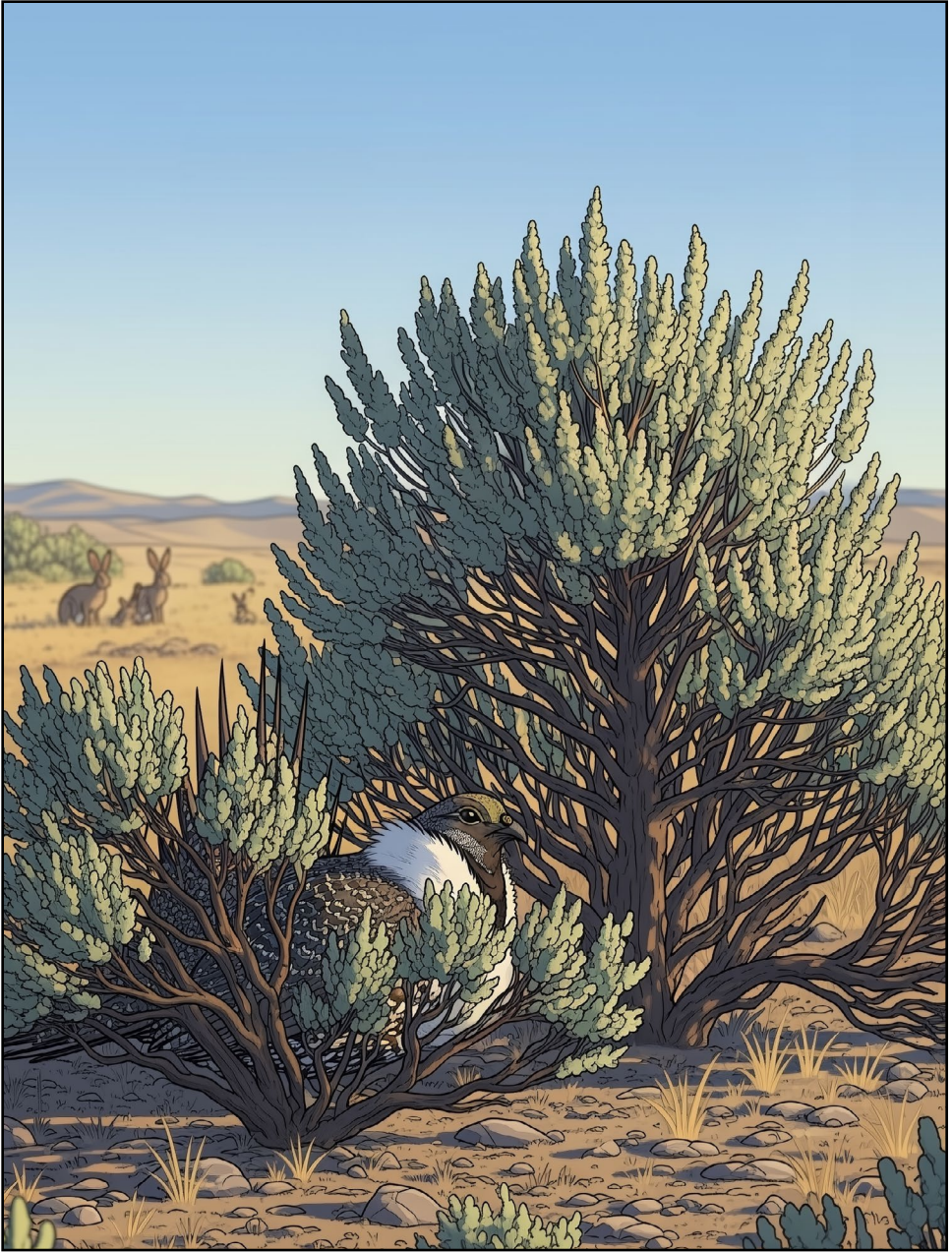
Rangeland is home to many animals like deer, elk, antelope, cows, sheep, coyotes, insects, birds, and even snakes! Each of these animals plays an important role in the ecosystem. Some help spread seeds, some graze plants to keep them healthy, others keep insect and rodent populations balanced, and many provide food for other wildlife. Just like pieces of a puzzle, every living thing on the rangeland fits together to keep the land healthy and alive!



Rangelands are great places for outdoor fun. You can hike, camp, ride horses, bike, and even go hunting or fishing. Some people gather firewood, take photos, or simply enjoy the peaceful scenery. Rangelands are not just important for wildlife; they are special places where people enjoy nature and can explore the great outdoors in a safe and respectful way.



Some rangeland plants like lupine, yarrow, and many others grow beautiful flowers. These flowers are more than just pretty, they provide food like nectar and pollen for bees, butterflies, and other important insects. By feeding these insects, rangeland plants help to keep the ecosystem healthy.



Shrubs like sagebrush and bitterbrush are strong plants that grow in cold, dry places. They play an important role in the rangeland by providing food and shelter for animals like deer, birds, and rabbits. These hardy shrubs help wildlife survive through hot summers and snowy, cold winters.



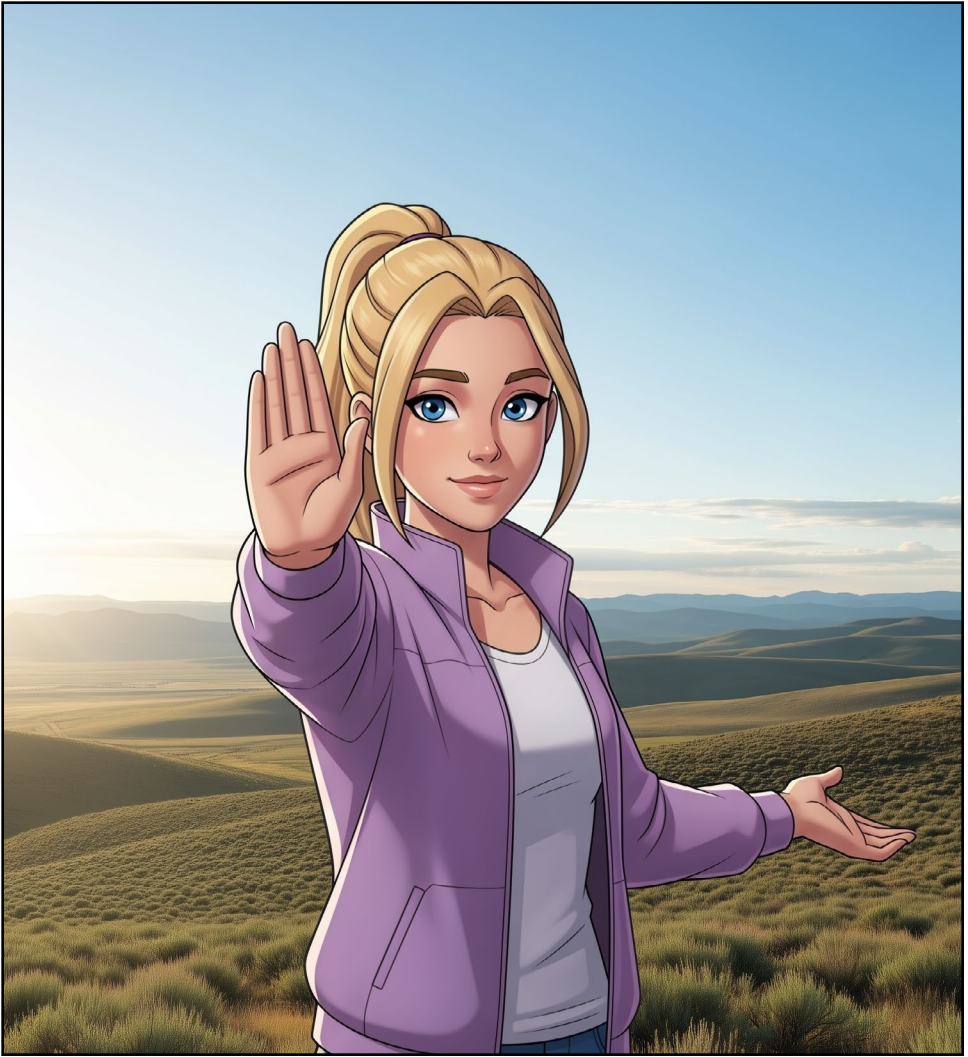
Grasses are some of the most important plants on the rangeland. They provide food for animals like cattle, sheep, deer, elk, and many other wildlife species. These plants are full of nutrients and grow back after being grazed. They are a vital food source. Without grass and other plants, rangeland animals would not have the food they need to live.



Rangelands help grow food not just for wildlife but for livestock too, like cows and sheep. In Idaho, these animals are raised on rangelands and are an important part of the state's economy. In fact, they help contribute over \$1 billion every year! That money supports farmers and ranchers, creates jobs, and helps provide meat, wool, and other products for people around the world. Rangelands are important not just for nature, but for communities and families too!



You can be a rangeland protector. By being respectful of nature, picking up trash, staying on trails, learning about the land, and leaving wildlife alone, you help to keep rangelands healthy and safe. Every small action makes a big difference. When we take care of the land, we protect the plants, animals, and resources we all depend on. Protecting the range means protecting our world and our future!



Do you want to become a Range Ranger? Range Rangers are curious, caring, and ready to protect the land, plants, and animals that call rangelands home. If you are ready to join the adventure, say this pledge out loud:

“I promise to explore wisely, protect nature, and respect the rangeland and everything that lives there!”

Congratulations! You are now a Range Ranger! Keep learning about rangeland and remember that every respectful action you take helps to keep the rangeland healthy for people, animals, and the planet.

For Youth

If you are excited to keep exploring the rangelands, there is much more to discover. Check out additional activities, videos, and games that go along with *The Range Rangers* book:

- [High School Resources \(Idaho Rangeland Resources Commission\)](#)
- [University of Idaho Rangeland Center](#)

These resources help you to learn how to take care of the land, identify wildlife, and learn more about protecting rangeland in your own community.

For Educators

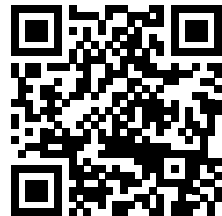
Using the links provided in the For Youth section, teachers and youth leaders can access companion materials, including lesson plans, hands-on activities, and links to rangeland education programs. These tools align with science and environmental education standards and are great for classroom use, 4-H, FFA, and outdoor learning settings.

To Learn More

Visit the [Idaho Rangeland Resources Commission website](#) or your local [University of Idaho Extension office](#) to explore free resources, to find local rangeland education events, or to connect with a rangeland expert in your area.

To learn more about rangeland and how to protect it, ask an adult to scan the following QR code or visit the URL below:

<https://idrange.org/education-2/>



The background is a stylized illustration of a sunset over a mountain range. The sky is filled with warm, orange and yellow clouds, with the sun low on the horizon. The mountains are rendered in shades of blue and purple. In the foreground, there are rolling hills and a herd of four cows standing in a field of tall grass. The cows are dark brown or black, and their shadows are cast on the ground. The overall style is reminiscent of a woodcut or a graphic print.

MEET THE RANGE RANGERS

Range Rangers are curious, caring, and ready to protect the land, plants, and animals that call rangelands home.

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