



Glossary

Bloat	digestive problem of ruminant animals (especially cattle) marked by accumulation of gas in one or more stomach compartments
Consumer	those organisms within an environment that are nutritionally dependent upon other organisms or their products
Cost/benefit analysis	a type of thinking in which you carefully consider what will be needed (cost), and what you will gain (benefit) if a certain action is present
Culture	a way of thinking, behaving, or working that exists in a place or organization
Curation	the process of selecting, organizing, and looking after items or things
Decomposer	organism that breaks down dead organic material
Drought	a period of below-average precipitation resulting in shortages of water supply and/or soil moisture and could result in shortage of grass/forage
Dryland farming	growing crops with naturally occurring moisture, not using irrigation
Economic cost	the time, money, and resources required for a task or job

Ecosystem	everything that exists in a particular environment; an ecosystem includes living things, such as plants and animals, and things that are not living, such as sunlight and water
Food chain	what-eats-what in an ecological community, typically a graphic representation
Food web	the natural interconnection of food chains and generally a graphical representation (usually an image) of what-eats-what in an ecological community
Forage	vegetation that is used primarily for grazing by livestock or wildlife
Herbicide	a substance that is toxic to plants and is used to destroy unwanted vegetation
Invasive species	species that grow and disperse easily, usually to the detriment of native species and ecosystems
Irrigated farming	process of raising crops with water in addition to natural precipitation
Model	a simplified representation of a system that can explain and help make predictions regarding a phenomenon
Native	found originally in a place; not introduced from another place
Noxious Weeds	plant that has been introduced, accidentally or intentionally, into an environment and causes or is likely to cause environmental or economic harm; plants that have been declared by a legislative body as worthy of management due to their real or perceived negative effects
Organism	an individual animal, plant, or single-celled life form
Pasture	Fenced-in area of grazing land
Pesticide	a substance used for destroying insects or other organisms harmful to plants or animals

Photosynthesis	a natural chemical-process by which chlorophyll (magnesium-containing pigment in green plants, blue-green algae, phytoplankton, and green and purple bacteria) uses sunlight (radiation) energy to convert (synthesize) water and atmospheric carbon dioxide into life sustaining organic compounds such as glucose; responsible for almost all of the oxygen in the atmosphere, photosynthesis is the basis of all life on earth
Producer	organism on the food chain that can produce its own energy and nutrients
Ruminant	animal's stomach has four components or chambers, able to digest plant material
Simulation	allows us to test and make sense of a process or a change without having to observe it in the real-world. Simulations can help us answer complex questions and slow down or speed up processes
Steward	an individual who manages areas or resources
Stewardship	As Wyoming citizens, we are stewards entrusted with the responsible development, care, and use of our resources to benefit current and future generations
System	a group of individual parts and/or processes that function together