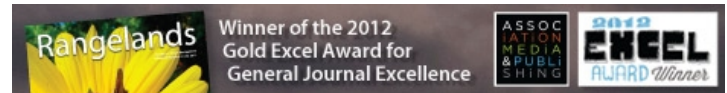


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doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.2111/05-173R1.1>**Research Articles****Property Rights Orientations and Rangeland Management Objectives: Texas, Utah, and Colorado**Urs P. Kreuter ^a, Malini V. Nair ^b, Douglas Jackson-Smith ^c, J. Richard Conner ^d, and Janis E. Johnston ^e^aAssociate Professor, Department of Rangeland Ecology & Management, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843^bConsultant, Bearing Point, New York, NY 10024^cAssociate Professor, Department of Sociology, Social Work and Anthropology, Utah State University, Logan, UT 84322^dProfessor, Department of Agricultural Economics, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843^eResearch Associate, Department of Sociology, Colorado State University, Ft. Collins, CO 80523

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In response to substantial economic and social dislocations in the United States, many rangeland owners are changing land use and management practices. Changes in land use can significantly affect the services rangeland ecosystems provide. Decisions associated with such changes are likely mediated by landowner views regarding individual rights, social responsibilities, and the future security of property rights. In this paper, we examine the extent to which landowners are likely to adopt, without public compensation, socially desirable land management objectives that enhance ecosystem services from rangelands. The study consisted of a mail survey of landowners with at least 40 ha: 500 in Texas, 500 in Utah, and 694 in Colorado. Adjusted response rates were 62% in Texas, 46% in Utah, and 51% in Colorado. Regression analyses showed that willingness to adopt socially desirable rangeland management objectives was positively correlated with the social responsibility dimension of respondents' property rights orientations but negatively correlated with the rights erosion dimension. Our results also suggested that landowners in private land states, such as Texas, might be less willing than landowners in states with more public land to manage their land for the maintenance of ecosystem services without being compensated. Although the scope of our study was limited, the results suggest that agencies tasked with maintaining ecosystem services on private rangelands might more successfully achieve their mission by promoting social responsibility among landowners. Including community leaders with a highly developed sense of social responsibility in programs aimed at improving land stewardship and including peer-pressure incentives in such programs might enhance social responsibility perspectives among landowners. Such programs should also be adaptable at the state-level to account for differences in property-rights orientations relative to landowner dependence on private and public land.

Resumen

En respuesta de las confusiones substanciales sociales y económicas en los Estados Unidos de América, muchos de los propietarios de pastizales están cambiando el uso del terreno y las prácticas de manejo. Los cambios en el uso de la tierra pueden afectar significativamente los servicios que el ecosistema de pastizal provee. Las decisiones asociadas con tales cambios probablemente son mediadas por los puntos de vista de los propietarios con respecto a los derechos individuales, responsabilidades sociales y seguridad futura de los derechos de la propiedad. En este artículo, examinamos que tan dispuestos están los propietarios de los terrenos a adoptar, sin una compensación pública, los objetivos de manejo de la tierra socialmente deseables que mejoran los servicios del ecosistema del pastizal. El estudio consistió de una encuesta por correo a los propietarios de los terrenos con al menos 40 ha: 500 en Texas, 500 en Utah, y 500 en Colorado. Las tasas ajustadas de respuesta fueron 62% en Texas, 46% en Utah y 51% en Colorado. Los análisis de regresión encontraron que la disposición para adoptar los objetivos de manejo del pastizal socialmente deseables estuvo positivamente correlacionada con la dimensión de responsabilidad social de la orientación de los derechos de propiedad de los propietarios que respondieron las

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encuestas y correlacionada negativamente con la dimensión de los derechos de erosión. Nuestros resultados también sugieren que los propietarios de tierras en los estados con terrenos privados, como Texas, pueden estar menos dispuestos que los propietarios de los estados con terrenos públicos a manejar su tierra para mantener los servicios del ecosistema sin ser recompensados. Mientras que el alcance de nuestro estudio fue limitado, los resultados sugieren que las agencias a cargo de mantener los servicios de los ecosistemas en pastizales privados pudieran alcanzar su misión más exitosamente al promover la responsabilidad social entre los propietarios. Los programas enfocados a mejorar la administración pueden también ser una herramienta útil para promover un sentido de responsabilidad social entre los propietarios de los terrenos. Los programas para cambiar el manejo de los pastizales deben ser adaptables a nivel de estado para tomar en cuenta las diferencias en la orientación de los derechos de propiedad relativos a la dependencia del propietario en las tierras públicas y privadas.

Keywords: [landowner attitudes](#), [land management](#), [rangelands](#), [social responsibility](#)

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