Sustainable Public Land Management, Climate Change, and Livestock Grazing: 2015-2065

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Principles of Sustainability

- Environmental protection + restoration + development = compatible goals
- Environmental degradation inhibits economic development
- An improved environment leads to higher quality development + increased standard of living

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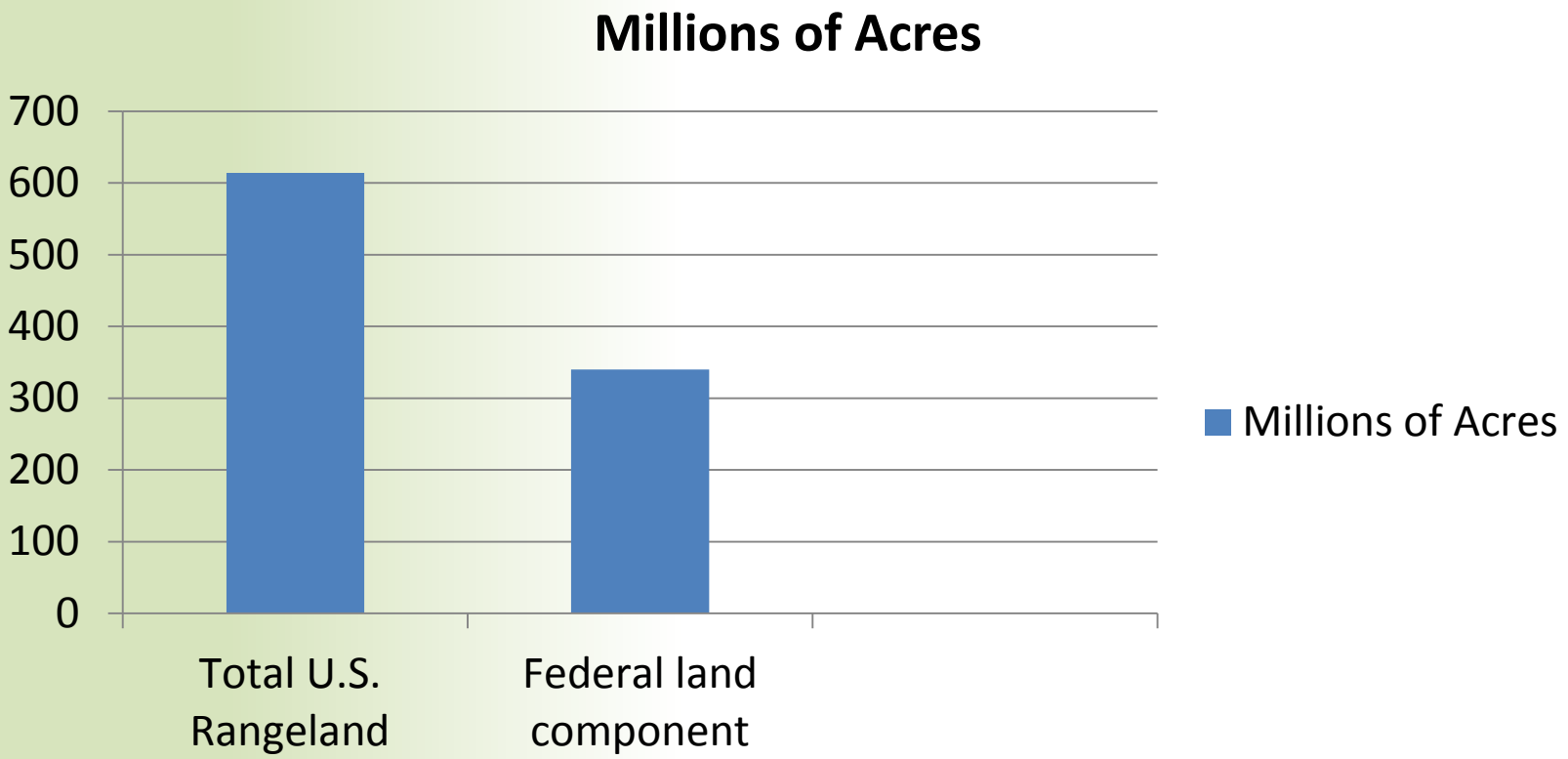
U.S. Agricultural Report Card



*Total U.S. land used as rangeland **– 614.3 million acres**

~Total federal land component - **340 million acres (55% of total)**

° LESS THAN 8% OF THE U.S. MEAT SUPPLY COMES FROM ANIMALS GRAZED ON PUBLIC LANDS

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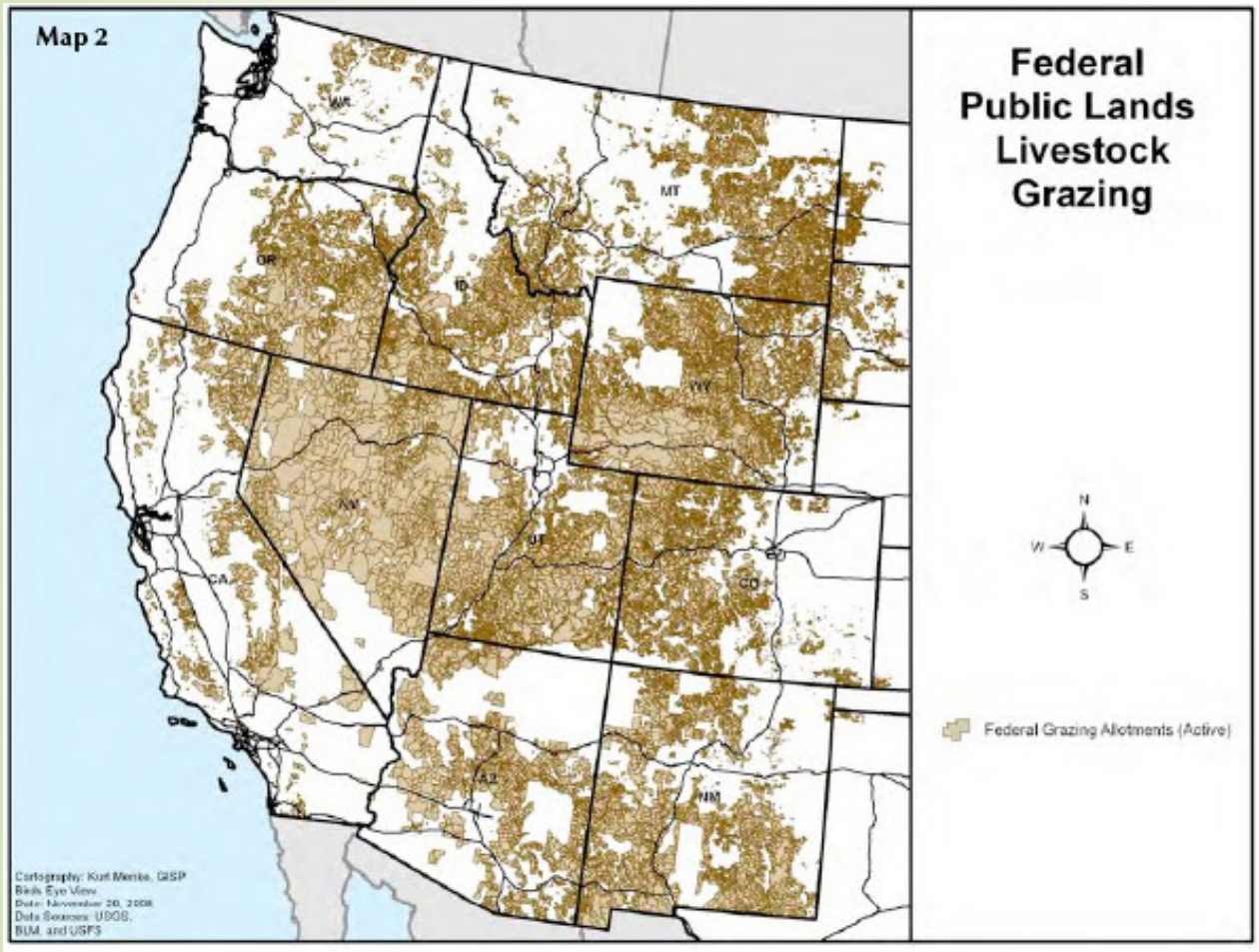

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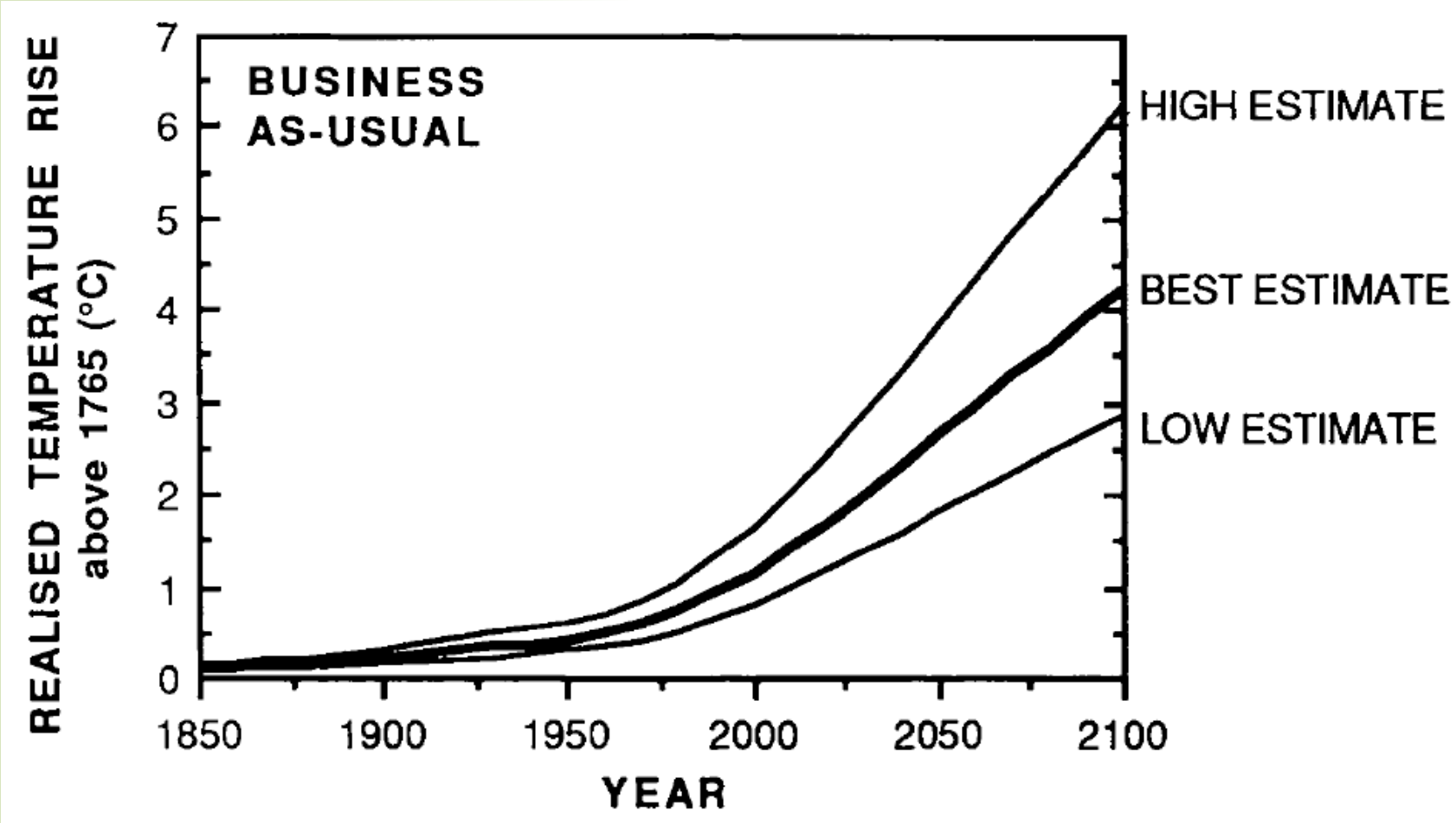
IPCC Climate Model



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CLIMATE CHANGE

Dry Times Ahead

Jonathan Overpeck[1] and Bradley Udall[2]

The climate of the western United States could become much drier over the course of this century.

- 2F Warming since 1900
- Snowpack Reductions and Changes in Runoff Timing Already Present
- Most Severe Drought since records kept
- Powell and Mead at 50% of capacity now, full 2000
- Tree Mortality Rates High
- Increase in Wildfire Frequency
- Drought may be natural, but exacerbated by higher temperatures
- Snowpack Reductions and Runoff Timing attributed to climate change
- Continued drying likely as temperatures increase and storm tracks shift
- Megadroughts independent of climate change a possibility with severe consequences if combined with warming

@Science, June 25, 2010

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What is Sustainable for 2015-2065?

- No subsidies for public lands grazing
- U.S. Ag.'s reliance on public lands must decrease, particularly in arid or desert regions
- BLM and Forest Service should use climate models to make long and short-term planning decisions about grazing allotments
- BLM and Forest Service should enforce existing regs consistently

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