

Table 1.2 Principal federal legislation governing the management and use of public sagebrush lands.

Year	Legislative Act		Land Use
1862	Homestead Act	37 th Congress, Chapter 75, 12, Stat. 392	Permitted entry on 160 acres provided the settler built a home and lived on the land, and made improvements and farmed it for 5 years.
1872	General Mining Act	30 USC 21-54	Declared that all valuable mineral deposits on lands belonging to the United States were free and open for purchase. Anyone could stake a claim at no cost.
1877	Desert Land Act	43 USC 321-339	Permitted entry on 640 acres at \$0.25/acre provided the lands could be irrigated.
1897	USDA Forest Service Organic Act	16 USC 473	Established grazing management on forest reserves
1909	Enlarged Homestead Act	43 USC 218-221	Permitted entry to 320 acres for dry-land farming
1912	Three-year Homestead Act	37 Stat. 123-125	Reduced the occupancy period to 3 years
1916	Stock Raising Homestead Act	Statutes at Large, vol. 39, p.864	Permitted entry to 640 acres that had been designated for grazing. Federal government retained subsurface rights to minerals and coal. The area was still too small for many arid sections.
1920	Mineral Leasing Act	30 USC 181-287	Directed management of the energy resources on Federal lands to be developed by leasing exploration and development rights.
1934	Taylor Grazing Act	43 USC 515-315r	Established grazing fees and districts, lands were classified as to their best use, federal government has to care for the land and take into account the people who use it.
1946	Creation of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management	28 USC 403	Merged the Grazing Service with the General Land Office to form the Bureau of Land Management within the U.S. Dept. of Interior

1954	Recreation and Public Purposes Act	43 USC 869	Authorized the sale or lease of public lands to states, state agencies, other political subdivisions, or nonprofit organizations for recreational or public uses (campgrounds, parks, fairgrounds, landfills, historic monuments).
1964	Wilderness Act	16 USC 11131-1136	Recognized the need for protection and preservation of lands in their natural condition. A wilderness was defined as an area, generally >2000 ha, of underdeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval condition without permanent improvements, such as roads, or human habitation. These lands were to be protected and managed to preserve the natural character for future generations.
1964	Classification and Multiple Use Act	43 USC 2420	Directed that natural resource lands be managed under the principles of multiple use consistent with the Taylor Grazing Act.
1969	National Environmental Policy Act	42 USC 4321-4347	Federal agencies must consider the impact of their actions on the quality of the environment.
1971	Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act	26 USC 1331-1334	Stated that wild horses and burros were a symbol of the western landscape. Gave the Secretary of Interior the authority to control the proliferation of wild horses and burros.
1973	Endangered Species Act	16 USC 1531-1543	Section 7 required that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service must be consulted by Federal agencies to insure that any action authorized, funded or carried out by them is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or modify their critical habitat.
1975	Energy Policy and Conservation Act	42 USC 6201-6202	Developed the provisions to stabilize the energy supply through the creation of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, establish energy conservation programs and regulatory mechanisms, increase the supply of fossil fuels in the United States through price incentives and production requirements, reduce the demand for petroleum products and natural gas by making coal a more

			feasible alternative, assure the reliability of energy data, and conserve water by improving the water efficiency of certain plumbing products and appliances.
1976	Federal Land Policy and Management Act	43 USC 1701-1782	Public lands must be managed for multiple use and sustained yield and maintain quality of land. Directed that a portion of grazing fees should be returned for range improvements. The United States must receive fair market values for the use of public lands and resources unless otherwise provided for by statute.
1977	Surface Mining and Reclamation Act	30 USC 1201-1202	Recognized the need for reclamation of coal and other surface mining areas
1978	Public Rangelands Improvement Act	43 USC 1901-1908	Provided for restoration of damaged rangelands, and recognized the need for a policy of inventory and monitoring. Established a formula for calculating grazing fees.
2000	Energy Policy and Conservation Act (reauthorization)	P.L. 106-469	Called for an inventory of all onshore Federal lands to identify and estimate oil and gas reserves and the extent or nature of any restrictions or impediments to the development of such resources.