

**FERRY COUNTY IS
A "RANGE AREA"
EXCEPT FOR 2
SMALL HERD LAW
AREAS**

There are no range areas for exotic or any livestock other than Cattle, Horses, Mules or Donkeys. It is illegal to let other stock roam free!



**FOR MORE
INFORMATION**

Regarding laws and regulations visit the WSDA (Washington State Department of Agriculture) website:

<https://agr.wa.gov/washington-agriculture/laws-and-rules>.

Laws regarding livestock found in RCW 16 Title/Chapters available:

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=16.24>

For additional information contact:

- Cattle: Ferry County Cattleman's Association (509) 845-2702
- Horses, Mules & Donkeys: Stevens County Farm Bureau (509) 684-8397 or JLoveall@wsfb.com
- WSU Ferry County Extension (509) 775-5225, X1116
- Ferry County Commissioners (509) 775-5225, X2508
- WSDA Brand Inspector/Tonasket (509) 486-2714
- WSDA Livestock Investigations Olympia (360) 902-1857

**WHO TO
CONTACT**

If Cattle, Horses, Mules, or Donkeys break through a legal fence & enter your property:

- The Livestock owner
- Ferry County Sheriff's Office (509) 775-3132



**RANGE AREAS -
CATTLE,
HORSES, MULES
& DONKEYS**



**WELCOME
TO FERRY
COUNTY**

"The Last Frontier"

**Responsibilities of
Residents Regarding the
Range Area Laws in
Ferry County**



Ferry County

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

RANGE AREA

Ferry County has many scenic open fields and rangelands that are part of its natural beauty and attractiveness. Part of keeping these fields and open areas undeveloped is keeping the ranches and farms in business. To allow this part of our struggling economy to continue, Ferry County is classified as Range Area in all areas other than two small areas shown on the map.

Range Area means that Cattle, Horses, Mules and Donkeys are free to wander and graze unless fenced off a property by a legal fence. Small livestock and exotics are illegal to let run at large. This is a state law and does not pertain to federal land. Range Area is not a right, it is a legislative decision governed by local County Commissioners and the State Legislature. Grazing Cattle, Horses, Mules and Donkeys can have a benefit of reducing wildfire fuels. In California, they are bringing livestock back as a natural way to prevent catastrophic wildfires. If a landowner does not want range area stock on their property, they should construct a "lawful fence" around that portion they want protected.

Owners of livestock have a responsibility to adhere to the "Good Neighbor Policy" which is to manage their animals and make sure they have adequate forage for their stock so they do not become a nuisance, which could result in ending Range Area classification.

This brochure is a brief overview of some of the rules, definitions, and contacts if you have questions, or concerns about problem animals.

WHAT IS A "LAWFUL FENCE"?

"A lawful fence shall be of at least four barbed, horizontal, well-stretched wires, spaced so that the top wire is forty-eight inches, plus or minus four inches, above the ground and the other wires at intervals below the top wire of twelve, twenty-two and thirty-two inches. These wires shall be securely fastened to substantial posts set firmly in the ground as nearly equidistant as possible, but not more than twenty-four feet apart. If the posts are set more than sixteen feet apart, the wires shall be supported by stays placed no more than eight feet from each other or from the posts."

RCW 16.60.010 Lawful fence defined

BOUNDARY FENCES

**RCW 16.60.030 Partition Fence –
Erection – Notice** When two or more persons own land adjoining which is enclosed by one fence, and it becomes necessary for the protection of the interest of one party said partition fence should be made between them, the other or others, when notified thereof, shall erect or cause to be erected one-half of such partition fence, said fence to be erected on, or as near as practicable, the line of said land. See RCWs for further details.

BREAKING THROUGH A LEGAL FENCE

If livestock break onto your property through a legal fence and you are unable to locate the owner, contact Law Enforcement, Animal Control Officer or Brand Inspector as soon as possible.

Even if livestock break through a legal fence, the law does not allow the person "finding" the animal to "keep" it if the owner cannot be located. If the property owner feels the livestock have caused damage to their property, they may retain custody of the animals until such time as these damages have been paid. Information on damage reimbursement and other related laws can be found in **RCW 16.04 Trespass of animals.**



PLEASE CLOSE GATES

Ferry County is a Range Area county. Livestock drift down towards lower areas for grass & water supply. It is critical that if you find a closed gate to always leave it closed, as fencing only works to protect other people's property & grazing management if gates are respected.