

**Brenda Richards**  
**Biography**  
April 2013

**Personal Background:**

Brenda Richards, along with her husband Tony and three sons, is actively involved in her family's fourth-generation ranching operation. They have lived in Owyhee County, Idaho for 16 years, having moved their cow/calf business there from Nevada in 1997. The Richards' sons, all of whom are in college or are recent college graduates, intend to carry on the family business. They each own their own cattle and are also invested in a joint venture cow/calf business. The Richards family has a permit tied to their private base property that allows them to run their cattle on Bureau of Land Management (BLM)-managed land. In Owyhee County, where 78 percent of the land is federally owned, the main economic driver is public-lands grazing tied to the private base properties.

**Professional Background:**

Richards has worked on public lands issues for over 22 years. She has been extensively involved in collaborative efforts to promote wise multiple use on federal lands, from the local to the national level.

- Education: BS in Business Accounting, University of Nevada, Reno
- Current Vice President of the Public Lands Council
- Current Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Owyhee Initiative
- Current Chairman of the Idaho Association of Counties Public Lands Committee
- Current Idaho Representative on the National Association of Counties Public Lands Committee
- Current member of the Boise District BLM Resource Advisory Council (7 years)
- Currently serving on the Owyhee County Natural Resource Committee
- Current Owyhee County Treasurer (8 years)
- Served 6 years as Idaho's Public Land User and Federal Lands Chairman
- Served 4 years on the Idaho Cattle Association Board of Directors
- Served 4 years on the Nevada Cattlemen's Association Board of Directors