

Appendix 1. The semi-structured interview script. Throughout the research process, we adapted the interview questions with the below script reflecting all included questions.

Hello. My name is **Anonymous Author**, and I am a **Title** from **Institution and Department**. We are conducting a research study on the experiences of ranchers and farmers in the United States (U.S.) West. I have come here to ask you some questions related to your experiences of ranching and farming. The information you provide is confidential. This means that we will not publish your name or any personal information. The interview will take approximately 2 hours, and you can end the interview at any time. Do you mind if I take notes and audio-record while we talk? If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask. Also, your participation is voluntary.

Identity

- First, what is your name and the name of your ranch/farm/operation?
- Do you yourself identify as a rancher, farmer, business/agribusiness operator, etc.?
- I am interested in the experiences of a range of producers from farmers to ranchers to agribusiness operators, and more specifically, I am interested to understand the unique roles of each of these operators. I noticed that you identified your operation as a [select title]. What does it mean to be [select title] operation versus a [select title]?
- What does it mean to be a [selected title], and how is a [select title] different from a [select title]?
- How many years have you been a [selected title], and where your parents [select title]?
Note: If prompted by the participant, a lengthier discussion of family history may develop. If not, this discussion will be continued below with questions regarding succession.

Land Use

- Can you describe your operation to me? Note: Depending upon what the individual mentions, may follow-up with some more specific questions regarding scale?
- (If not mentioned above) What type of operation do you run, and what livestock are involved in the operation? Note: Depending upon the response of the individual, I will follow-up with questions regarding breeds, breed selection, and potentially, scale?
- In addition to livestock production, are you involved in other enterprises (e.g., hay production, tourism, construction, etc.)?

Livelihoods

- Have you experience a major event such as drought? If yes, can you walk me through the experience?

If yes and after the initial overview, we will address the below matrix:

1. Event
2. Did you have a plan in-place for the event? If yes, was it useful?
3. Effect of the event
4. Your Response
5. Community Response
6. Who was Affected within the household? How?
7. Who was Affected within the community? How?

8. What were some sources of support? Note: If only income-based support is mentioned, I will inquire more broadly regarding support (e.g., family, church, academic institution)?

Note: If an event(s) is identified, this will prompt discussion on the role of community and individuals in livelihood coping strategies.

- How has this experience changed you and your operation?
- Is there anything important about the drought event that I forgot to ask about?

Change

- What are the main things that have been changing in this community over the past five years or so? Has the economic base changed (e.g., from agriculture to oil & gas or to tourism)?
- Are the kinds of people who live in the community change and if so how? Is the population size changing? If yes, why are people migrating in and out of the community? Why have you remained in the community?
- (If not discussed in the Individual/identity section above) How did you become a [select title]?
- Do you have a person or institution to continue the operation of your ranch or farm once you retire? If so, who, and how did you establish the relationship with this individual?
- People have told me that ranching, farming, or more generally, a rural lifestyle can be in our DNA, passed down and maintained? How do you think ranching/farming/rural lifestyles could be maintained in the US? What do you see as the future of ranching/farming/rural lifestyles in the US?

Well-being and Gender

- In your experience, have you observed or experienced negative changes to ranching/farming in the last five years? Last 10 years? Have these changes impacted your life in the last five years? Last 10 years?
- In your experience, have you observed or experienced positive changes to ranching/farming in the last five years? Last 10 years? Have these changes impacted your life in the last five years? Last 10 years?
- More specifically, what have been the main challenges for you and your operation over the past five years (e.g., labor shortage, marketing, production, etc.)? Last 10 years?
- Has your access to natural resources changed over the past 10 years (e.g., access to land, water, etc.)?
- Have you seen changes in the roles of men and women over the past five, 10 years, and across the last few generations? If yes, can you describe some of these changes? How have you seen the lives of women improved, and how have women become more disadvantaged? How have the lives of men improved, and how have men become more disadvantaged?
- Have you observed that certain individuals or groups of people are excluded from the benefits of the ranching/farming lifestyle? If so which group or groups of people? Have you observed that certain individuals or groups of people have recently been welcomed into the ranching/farming lifestyle? If so, which group or groups of people?
- Are there organizations or institutions have held you back from gaining a better living? Are there people in the community who are particularly disadvantaged by the way these organizations or institutions work? If so, which group or groups of people? Inversely, are

there organizations or institutions have helped you to gain a better living? If yes, how have they supported you?

- What changes would you like to make to your lifestyle or operation? What has held you back from making these changes? What are some opportunities that may help you achieve your desired goals?

Wrap-up

- Is there any question or questions that you would like to ask me?
- Is there anything that I missed or should have asked?