

MANAGEMENT TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES COMMON TO ALL GRAZING STRATEGIES



The challenge on rangelands is to find the balance between total protection, proper use, and overuse.

When problems occur it is not generally stocking rates but rather lack of appropriate management for that site.

Livestock Grazing is a Tool

- **Tools & Techniques to Assist Grazing Management Objectives and Strategies**
- **Grazing Management Strategies**
- **Targeted Grazing Management**

Boot Before Grazing



Boot Grazed



Post-grazing



The effects of grazing on plants depend on:

- Timing relative to stages of plant development
- Severity, and
- Frequency of recurrence

(as with most disturbances)

Tools and Practices

- **Capitalize on or modify existing animal behavior.**
- **Economically feasible and practical for the operator/manager.**
- **Chosen and implemented for each individual case.**

"NO COOKBOOK APPROACH!"

Techniques That Attract Livestock Away From Riparian Areas

- **Off site stockwater developments**
- **Alternative forage sources such as seedings**
- **Fertilization to improve palatability of off-site forage**
- **Prescribed fire to improve both forage availability and palatability**
- **Feed supplements**







Mobile Solar Powered Pump



Pasture Nose Pump



Herd Management & Animal Husbandry

- Kind of Livestock



- Herding/Supplements

Alternative Livestock Species



Targeted Grazing



Livestock Grazing

Why?

- Control of re-sprouts/new seedlings/older vegetation
- Preferred plant species/communities
- Maintain or improve native plant species
- Manage fire risk by reduction of fine fuels
- Decrease herbaceous vegetation competition for tree growth (upland)

Livestock Grazing

- Goats and sheep eat a variety of non-native invasive species.
- Cattle controlling weed species are learned tastes and can be trained to eat a variety of weed species.
- Targeted Grazing
- Kathy Voth, Livestock for Landscapes provides method of training cattle.

Selection of Feeding and Resting Sites



Management can change where animals graze and possibly where they rest.

**Supplement placement to
manipulate grazing distribution.**



Use of Supplements



- Strategic supplement placement can modify cattle grazing patterns.
- Strategic supplement placement appears to be more effective when forage quality is lower and feed alternatives are minimal.

Considerations

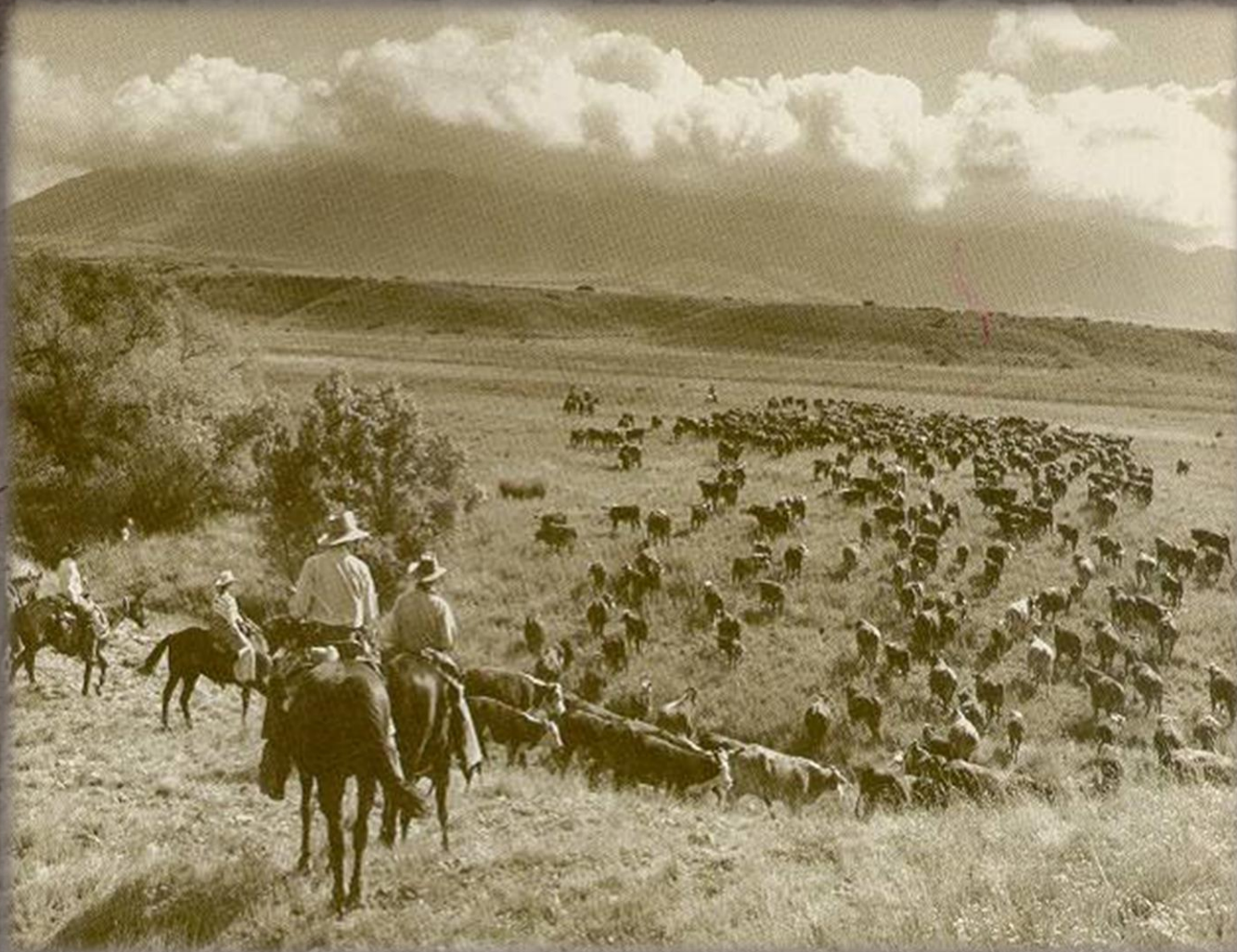
- Cost of installation
- Cost of product
- Cost of increased management
- Extension of grazing period within a pasture
- Increase in grazable AUM's (riparian/upland)
- Increase in animal weight

- May change wildlife distribution and use

Herding & Animal Husbandry Practices

- **Culling practices**
- **Low stress handling**





Low-Stress Livestock Handling

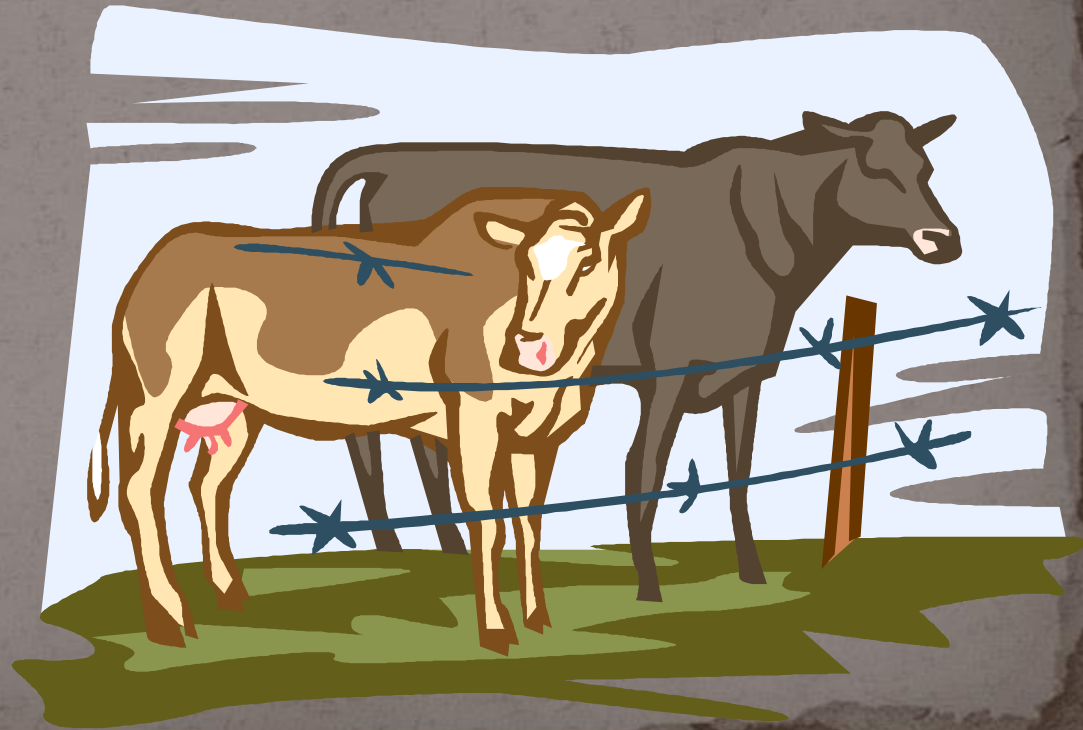


Consider

- Are there physical restraints to plant recovery?
- **Integrated Weed Management Plan**
- Use the principles of range management
- **Allow for plant recovery**
- **Long-term Management/Monitoring**
- **No “Silver Bullet”**

Restriction of Livestock Away From Riparian Areas

- Hardened crossings or water access points
- Fencing
- Barriers



Techniques That Restrict Livestock From Riparian Areas

- **Fencing** - sometimes exclusion is the most practical approach, especially in the short term or to use larger pasture while resting riparian area or other sensitive sites
- **Barriers** - e.g., brush windrows, down trees, and natural barriers such as rock formations
- **Hardened crossings or water access points** (livestock will often avoid steep banks in preference of gentle slopes and sure footing)



Streambank Damage by Livestock

LONG TERM EXCLUSION IS NOT PRACTICAL IN MANY CASES BECAUSE:

- **Cost of materials/installation**
- **Floodplain fence maintenance**
- **Weed encroachment**
- **Montana studies indicate healthy riparian areas with well-managed grazing systems**
- **Detrimental to wildlife movement**
- **Discourages recreation access**



**Livestock Access Point Allows Debris Flow
and Limits Livestock Access to Stream Channel**

Fencing

Direct method of regulating grazing, but it is usually expensive and time-consuming to maintain.





Solar powered temporary electric fence used to hold in the right location.

Armored Livestock Access Area















"Livestock are a tool,
just like a hammer is a tool.
If you hit your thumb with the hammer,
you are using the tool incorrectly.
The same analogy can be said of livestock
grazing."

Dale Pizel, Rio Oxbow Ranch



Points to Ponder

- Was past management responsible for current condition?
- Planned changes in management?
- Return of water table needed to restore desired plant community and hydrology?



Project Planning

**No one time fix -
incorporate ongoing management
and maintenance**

**Economically and Ecologically
Feasible**

"Don't get stuck on one method!"



Photo by Tamarisk Coalition

Maggie Creek



1980

1999 rest for 3 years &
then grazed early spring



Lynn Creek



← 1991

1998 with rest
every 3rd year.



Rest rotation (grazed every other year) late spring.

Camas Creek - 1981

Camas Creek - 2009



Annual grazing with occasional rest as needed;
generally grazed late summer;
AUM's reduced

Deep Creek - 1994



Deep Creek - 2009



Include Adaptive Management (in case there is a need for it)



- Streams change
- The environment changes



- The interaction of the two is dynamic



2000

1999: 3/19-6/25 cow-
calf pairs;
2000: 3/15-6/30



2002

DATE 11-20-02
CENSUS
JACK 3
SECTION 5-3
PARCEL 7-7

11-20-02.

2001:rest;

2002: 2/27



2003

12-3-03.



11-23-04. 2003: rest;
2004 2004: 4/2-7/7

Indian
Jack
5-3
11/23
04



2005

11/05; 2005: rest



2006



2007



07.09.2009







Costs Vary Due To:



- Local cost of materials
- Distance to site/Access
- Availability of materials
- Installation cost (Contractor or manager's time)
- Design & Specifications
- May take up to 3 years before see positive results.



A baby wearing a light-colored straw hat and a blue and white plaid shirt is looking out from behind a metal mesh fence. The fence has a repeating pattern of diamond-shaped openings. The background is a blurred green landscape.

Got
Questions?