

Strategy vs. System: Grazing for Desired Outcomes

Sponsored by Colorado Section, Society for Range Management

December 2-4, 2008

Ft. Collins Marriott



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Tuesday Afternoon:

Plant/Animal Interaction on Landscapes

12:30-1:10 Grazing Management – Early Research and Successful Programs; Elements of a Successful Grazing Strategy

§ Some early grazing management research and history of successful grazing management practices.

Bill Krueger Professor Emeritus Oregon State University

1:10-2:05 Timing of Grazing and its Effects on Individual Plants

§ Differential effects of defoliation on plant physiology and inter-plant competition (individual plant scale) with a particular emphasis on the seasonal timing of grazing and different rainfall patterns.

Pat Reece CEO, Prairie & Montane Enterprises

2:05-2:20 Break

2:20-3:15 Plant Defoliations – What We Do and Do Not Know

§ Stocking rate, graze period length, timing, etc. and the effects on the frequency and intensity of defoliation.

Justin Derner USDA –ARS Cheyenne and David Briske – Texas A&M University

3:15-4:10 Effects of Grazing on Nitrogen Cycling and Implications for Rangeland Productivity

§ Effects of grazing on temporal and spatial components of soil nitrogen availability in semi-arid rangelands.

David Augustine, USDA-ARS Ft. Collins, and Dan Milchunas, Colorado State University

4:10-5:00 Factors Affecting Animal Selection on a Landscape and Manipulating Distribution Without Fences

§ Alternative methods of managing distribution and timing of grazing.

Derek Bailey New Mexico State University Department of Animal and Range Sciences

7:00 – 9:00 Colorado Section SRM Awards Banquet



Wednesday Morning:

Animal Selectivity – Implications for Management and Research Design

8:30-9:20 Factors that Affect Animal Selectivity – Implications for Grazing Management

§ The relationship among herbage allowance (HA), harvest efficiency (HE), stocking rate (SR), stock density (SD), and graze period (GP), on animal selectivity, intake and performance.

Larry Rittenhouse Professor Emeritus Colorado State University

9:20-10:20 Why Animals Do What They Do - Influences of Animal Experience on Grazing Choices

§ The effect of animal experience and selectivity on vegetation structure and species competitive relationships: research interpretations and management implications.

Fred Provenza Utah State University (USU).

10:20-10:40 Break

10:40-11:40 Why Researchers and Practitioners Report Different Results

§ How research projects can be designed and response variables chosen and measured to better reflect the temporal and spatial scales and variation of management units.

Richard Teague Texas A&M University Experiment Station, Vernon

Noon meal on your own

Wednesday Afternoon:

Managing Grazing for Desired Ecological Outcomes

1:00-2:10 Grazing Management and Its Effects on Soils and the Hydrologic Cycle

§ Effects of time, timing, and intensity of grazing on plant community structure and soil characteristics of water capture, storage, and release: A review of the research and management implications.

Jimmy Richardson USDA-ARS, NRCS ret. Author of Wetlands and Soils Hydrology

2:10-3:20 Improving Wildlife Habitat Using Grazing Management

§ Effects of grazing practices and timing of grazing on waterfowl, sage grouse habitat and deer and elk use in systems grazed by domestic livestock.

Terry Messmer Utah State University Fisheries and Wildlife Professor and Quinney Professor for Wildlife Conflict Management

3:20-3:40 Break

3:40-4:50 Grazing Research and Grazing Management: Where Theory Meets Reality

§ Concepts and paradigms to guide grazing research and grazing management.

Brien Norton Director, Centre for the Management of Arid Environments, Kalgoorlie, Australia

5:30-7:30 Synthesis of the Past Two Days.

§ Panel discussion and questions with all Tuesday and Wednesday speakers

Moderated and summarized by Fee Busby, USU.

Pizza provided, cash bar available

Thursday Morning:

The 9th Annual Nick Petry Workshop

Intensive Grazing Management: A Key to Profits

8:00-8:45 Why I Use Planned Grazing In a Semiarid Environment

§ Risk management using grazing management.

John Welch Rancher, Fowler Colorado and General Manager Spade Ranches, Texas

8:50-9:50 “There are Horses for Courses” – Grazing Strategies for Different Rainfall Patterns

§ Using planned grazing to change plant community composition in different environments.

Jim Howell Holistic Management Rancher, Gunnison Colorado and New Mexico

9:50-10:05 Break

10:05-11:00 “Whether You Think You Can Or You Think You Can’t, You’re Probably Right”

§ The learning curve and using adaptive management to make a successful grazing program.

Grady Grissom Rancher, Las Animas County, Colorado

11:00 – 12:00 Multi-species Grazing for Profitable Wildlife Habitat Management

§ Using multiple domestic species for wildlife management objectives.

Rick Danvir Wildlife Manager Deseret Land and Livestock, Utah

12:00-12:45 Lunch provided

12:45-1:45 Guidelines for Grazing Management – Factors Affecting The Likelihood of Success of a Grazing Management Program.

§ Rules and guidelines for successful grazing management.

Pat Reece CEO, Prairie & Montane Enterprises

1:45-3:00 Panel Questions and Answers

§ All of the day’s presenters will be available as part of a panel for questions and discussion.



Thank you for attending this informative discussion. We hope to see you at future tours and meetings!

We want to recognize and thank our sponsors and supporters who made this meeting possible: National Western Stock Show & their Scholarship Fund, Colorado State Land Board, Colorado Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative, The Nature Conservancy, The Quivira Coalition, Ridley Block Operations, Colorado Holistic Management, Holistic Management International, Colorado State Conservation Board

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