

# How to develop a successful grazing plan for wildland fuels reduction

## Goals and Objectives

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# Purpose of the Grazing Plan

- Just for fuel reduction grazing?
- Does other grazing occur?
- Integrate with other grazing activities?
- Integrate with a larger grazing plan?
- What are the broader goals and objectives?
- What is the timeframe?
- What are the constraints?
- Is grazing part of a broader set of veg. management practices?

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  - Is grazing part of a broader set of veg. management practices?
- Purpose of other grazing
  - Timing
  - Type of livestock
  - Amount of residue
  - How might other grazing activities support or hinder fuel reduction grazing?
  - And visa versa

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- Commercial ranch viability
  - Threatened/endangered species
  - Wildlife habitat
  - Water quality
  - Public relations
  - Public access
  - Potential conflicts and mitigation

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- Long-term timeframe (years)
  - Seasonal windows of time

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- Financial
  - Infrastructure – might determine type of livestock
  - Species of concern

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# Grazing Plan Goal(s)

- Broad goal for the entire property or organization
  - Supports a mission statement
- More focused goal for the grazing plan
- Brief and clear
- Reflects values and purpose
- Backed by all vested interests
- Have a long-term application
  - Safe fire fuel environment
  - Integrate grazing into ecosystem



# Grazing Plan Objectives

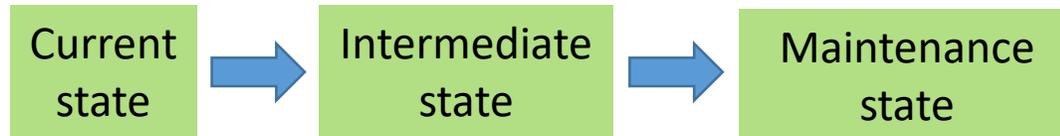
- Support the goal(s)
- Will vary across the landscape
  - Topography
  - Vegetation type
  - Proximity to structures
  - Water features
  - Other objectives
- Google Earth examples



# Grazing Plan Objectives

- What do you want the landscape to look like and when?
- Use objectives as targets

## Step-wise guide

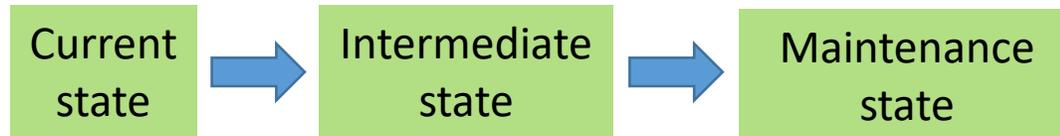


Short – Medium – Long-Term

# Grazing Plan Objectives

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## Step-wise guide



Short – Medium – Long-Term



# Grazing Plan Objectives

- S.M.A.R.T. Objectives are
  - S**pecific
  - M**easurable
  - A**chievable
  - R**elevant
  - T**ime-bound



# Grazing Plan Objectives

- Holistic approach in developing objectives
  - Grazing plan objectives should support broader objectives
    - Public relations & access
    - Water quality
    - Species of concern
    - **Capacity building**
- Identify conflicting objectives and explain reason



# Grazing Plan Objectives

- Static versus adaptive objectives
  - Grazing plan is a living document
- Experience-based
- Science-based



# Munch that grass: biomass reductions reduce fire hazards

**UCDAVIS**

*Russell L. Rustici Rangeland & Cattle  
Research Endowment*

**UC  
CE**



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**250 lbs/acre**

**750 lbs/acre**

**1,250 lbs/acre**

**>2,000 lbs/acre  
Untreated**

# Pasture Management

Biomass Range (lbs/acre)	Grazing Level	Potential Fire Behavior
>3,500	Ungrazed	Likely flame heights above 4 ft and all biomass is burned
3,500 to 2,500	Ungrazed or very light	Possible flames above 4 ft and majority burned
2,500 to 1,250	Light to moderate	Flames likely below 4 ft and fire will not be stopped
1,250 to 400	Moderate to heavy	Flames below 4 ft and fire may be stopped
<400	Very heavy	Flames below 4 ft and highly likely fire stopped

Applicable to annual grassland/hardwood rangelands (12-40 inches precip./year), 0-25% woody cover.

# Grazing Plan Objectives

- Avoid tendency to prescribe grazing practices
  - The plan objectives provide the targets
  - Let the contract grazer decide how to meet the targets
- Long-term view
  - How to re-integrate grazing back into our ecosystems



# Resources

- Targeted Grazing Handbook
  - University of Idaho, <https://www.webpages.uidaho.edu/rx-grazing/handbook.htm>
- Blog post: Thinking of hiring a targeted grazing contractor?
  - By Dan Macon, <https://ucanr.edu/blogs/blogcore/postdetail.cfm?postnum=29673>
- Contact a Certified Rangeland Manager (CRM)
  - Roster: <https://bof.fire.ca.gov/projects-and-programs/professional-foresters-registration/rpf-crm-rosters/>
  - About CRM, <https://ucanr.edu/blogs/blogcore/postdetail.cfm?postnum=29673>

# THANK YOU

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