

“What Conservation Theory Tells Us About Effective Grazing Lease Arrangements”



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Outline:

1. Applications of Nature Conservation Theory to Grazing Leases on Conservation Lands
2. Effective Grazing Leases on Conservation Lands

Nature Conservation Theory

Handout is a reference for future use--

1. Natural Resource Conservation (1890s) *
2. Wilderness Preservation, Recreation Access, and Aesthetic Appreciation (1960s) *
3. Environmental Planning and Mitigation (1970s) *
4. Biological Diversity and Its Conservation (1970s)
5. Ecosystem Health and Stewardship (1990s)
6. What's on the Horizon?

** Not in handout*

What are the most modern and effective concepts (paradigms) for conservation of California rangelands? (Stage #5)





Prof. Raymond F. Dasmann's Challenge:

“...parks and wilderness areas are important... But these are not the answer to nature conservation, or even likely to be a large part of the answer. It is the way we care for the lands where we live... that will be more important... our greatest challenge will be in producing our food and fiber, and obtaining fuels and minerals in ways that are not environmentally destructive.

...the fringe lands, the farmlands, the ranges, pastures, and managed forests are the areas where the real conservation issues of the next two decades will be faced.”

*From: Dasmann, R.F. 1981. The country in between. Introduction to the Wilderness 1982
Sierra Club Engagement Calendar.*

Lessons from Theory for Rangeland Conservation

Science and practical management has shown--

- Sustainability of complex ecosystems (with critical services) can be dependent on a sustainable ranching industry and community
- Management objectives must be feasible with specified expectations for targeted areas and resources
- Collaboration between agencies and ranchers works best to achieve management results
- Local community education, recreation, and participation in policy/planning are critical

What theory and lessons are on the horizon?
What's necessary to achieve conservation of
California rangelands in the next decades?



Nature Conservation Paradigms: Stage #6--What's on the Horizon?

- Incentives instead of penalties
- Food security
- Resilience (to extreme weather and economies)
- Private sector conservation (lands ownership and management; leasing and stewardship services for public lands)

Designing Effective Grazing Leases for Conservation Lands

1. Focus on “Conservation Services” from within broader “Stewardship;” compensation (lease fee credits) (*refer to handout*)
2. Achieve conservation with sustainable livestock operations
3. Separate the Grazing Management Plan
4. Long-term
5. Applicant selection—experience, local base, percentage for youth
6. Educate and celebrate stewardship

How can we support and compensate the grazing lessee for stewardship?



Distinguish “Conservation Services” from Standard Responsibilities and Livestock Production in Leases of Public Conservation Lands

Refer to your handout--

- A. Infrastructure for Grazing Management, Grazing Operations, and Related Stewardship
- B. Grazing Management and Operations
- C. Stewardship Services (for general land care, support of the land’s “ecosystem services,” and conservation purposes)
- D. Monitoring
- E. Administration and Coordination

Stewardship Services (from handout):

Rangeland Management Activities	Primary Benefits		Responsible Party			Record of Hours Spent
	Conservation	Livestock Production	Landowner	Livestock Operator (standard lease term)	Livestock Operator (potential fee credit)	
C. Stewardship Services (for general land care, support of the land's "ecosystem services," and conservation purposes)						
1. Remove/clean-up abandoned fence, equipment, and debris	X	X			X	
2. Conduct targeted grazing or exclusion for maintenance and enhancement of special habitats (special-status plants or animals, riparian woodland, ponds, wetlands, native grasses, or oaks), control of pest plants, reduction of fire hazards, and other special resources; activities might include herding, placement of attractants, herbicide application, construction, manual work, and specialized equipment work	X	X			X	
3. Conduct other construction, manual work, and specialized equipment work activities not part of a "normal" grazing lease for regular or one-time purposes	X	X			X	
4. Conduct wildlife pest control	X	X	X			
5. Patrol for site security, trespass; provide assistance to visitors	X	X	X		X	
6. Participate in educational events and visitor relations organized by the Landowner	X		X		X	
7. Be available and conduct rapid response to emergency requests for assistance and maintenance, or general visitor assistance	X		X	X		