



Innovative Grazing Management

**Tools and Incentives for
Ranchers**

Presented by

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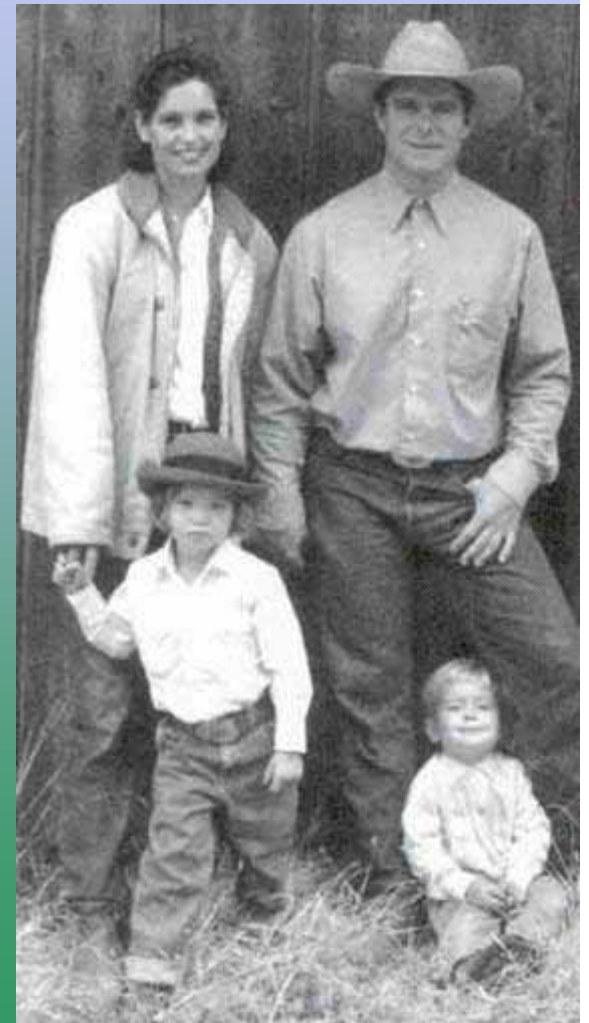
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Introduction

- Overview
 - Why do ranchers care about environmental stewardship?
 - Grazing Management Tools
 - Partners in Innovation
 - New Approaches: Incentives and Markets
- Background (personal & professional)

Why do ranchers care about environmental stewardship?

- Ranches are both homes and businesses
 - We all want to live and work in places that are aesthetically pleasing and environmentally safe
- Ranchers are in the business because they care about the land and their animals

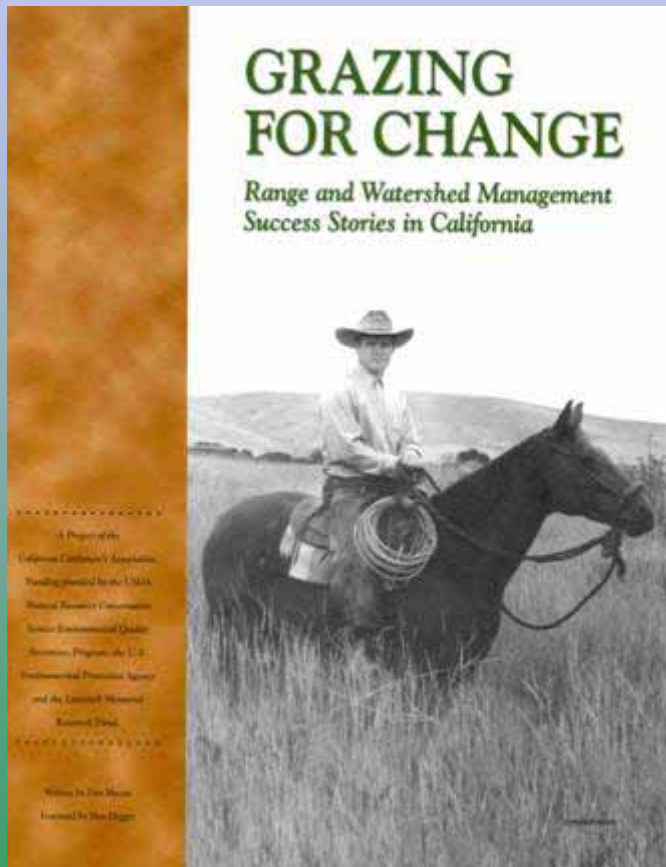


Why worry about environmental stewardship?

- Community issues
 - quality of life
- Regulatory issues
 - water quality
 - wildlife
 - air quality
 - public safety



Grazing Management Tools



- Tools used by the ranchers highlighted in *Grazing for Change*
- These tools are used by ranchers throughout the West
- Publication highlights cattle ranches – other range livestock producers are equally innovative

Grazing Management Tools

- Management Planning
 - Rangeland Water Quality Management Plans
 - Holistic Management
 - NRCS Conservation Plans
 - Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) Plans
 - Other planning processes

Grazing Management Tools



- Monitoring
 - Goal-based
 - Appropriate for rangeland type
 - Utilization vs. trend
 - Record-keeping
 - Simplicity

Grazing Management Tools

- Rotational Grazing
 - Varying the timing, duration and intensity of use on a particular plant
 - Can improve plant vigor and composition



Grazing Management Tools

- Off-stream water development
 - Keeps livestock away from riparian areas and springs (to protect vegetation and water quality)
 - Aids in livestock distribution (especially when used with minerals)
 - Provides additional water for wildlife



Grazing Management Tools

- Brush and woody vegetation control/removal
 - Reduces threat of wildfire (which protects water quality)
 - Increases forage production
 - Goat research project - Colfax



Grazing Management Tools

- Riparian restoration
 - Improves wildlife habitat
 - Protects/enhances water quality
 - Increases forage quality/quantity
 - Wood Ranches/LADWP example

Grazing Management Tools

- Controlled burning programs
 - Controls invasive weeds (starthistle, medusahead, blackberries, etc.)
 - Encourages establishment of native grasses
 - TNC programs



Grazing Management Tools

- Native perennial grass restoration
 - Improves wildlife habitat
 - Protects water quality (depending on what is being replaced)
 - Increases forage production (depending on what is being replaced)
 - Three Creeks Ranch



Grazing Management Tools

- Multi-species grazing
 - Different species use rangelands differently
 - Multiple species can help control invasive plants, manage brush, etc.
 - Increased risk management opportunities through diversification



Grazing Management Tools

- Conservation Easements
 - Allows landowners to realize development value of their land without developing
 - Provides for transfer from one generation to the next
 - SHOULDN'T PRESCRIBE RANGE MANAGEMENT!
 - CRT programs

Partners in Innovation

- Partners

- NRCS
- UCCE
- USFWS
- USFS
- US EPA
- BLM
- CDFG
- WCB
- Watershed Groups

- Partners

- CDF
- State Parks
- RCDs
- RC&Ds
- Private Foundations
- Conservancies
- CRT
- SRM
- FSA



Partners in Innovation

- Programs
 - EQIP
 - WHIP
 - WRP
 - Partners in Wildlife
 - FRPP
 - CFCP
 - National Fire Plan
 - GLCI

- Programs
 - Grazing Academy
 - Savory Center
 - Ranching for Profit



New Approaches: Incentives and Markets

- Stewardship Incentives
 - Conservation Security Program
 - Grassland Reserve Program
 - Private Land Partnerships
 - Agricultural Land Stewardship Programs
 - Massachusetts Agricultural Viability Program



New Approaches: Incentives and Markets

- Market-based programs
 - Conservation Beef
 - Yampa Valley Beef
 - Oregon Country Beef
 - Lopez Island Land Trust Mobile Processor
 - HIGH SIERRA BEEF



Conclusion

- Successful approaches seem to mix tools (and create new ones)
- Some ranchers work with partners and programs - others do the work on their own
- New recognition that stewardship has value to society = willingness to pay
- Questions?