



Managed Grazing



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Anyone living in California knows how easily wildfire can devastate a community. One of the many responsibilities of a property owner is to minimize fire hazards by controlling excess vegetation on their property.

Vegetation is most commonly controlled through manual, mechanical or chemical methods which can be effective when properly applied. Grazing is an alternative method that has been around for years and is growing in popularity due to environmental concerns, accessibility, and cost. In fact, many local and state government agencies are now using managed grazing to reduce fire hazard and control vegetation on public lands.

Managed grazing may not be appropriate for every situation, but when done properly, it's an effective, eco-friendly alternative that should be considered.



Benefits of Managed Grazing

One of the most noticeable benefits of grazing is the reduction of ladder fuels. Ladder fuels are dead vegetation such as tall grasses, shrubs, and low hanging tree branches that allow a ground fire to climb up into the tree canopy and spread. Managed grazing is a very effective way to reduce fire fuel loads because goats and sheep love grasses, clovers, weeds and brush species such as Manzanita, berry bushes, poison oak and even star thistle.

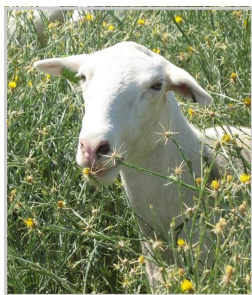
Being such good climbers, goats prune lower tree branches, which helps to keep fire from spreading from the ground level into the tree canopy. Goats and sheep are often used together to graze areas that have a combination of grassland and woody vegetation.



Environmental Benefits

Properly managed grazing has many environmental benefits, including:

- Watershed Health & Protection
- Habitat for Endangered & Threatened Species
- Sequestering Carbon from the Air
- Ground Water Recharge
- Wildfire Reduction
- Soil and Plant Health
- Eradication of Invasive Plant Species



Invasive Plant Species

Invasive species can impact the growth of native vegetation by depriving it of water and nutrients. Some invasive species grow tall enough to cut off sunlight to the surrounding native vegetation. Over time, grazing helps control the variety and growth rate of invasive plants, reducing them significantly

Getting Started

The City of Rocklin encourages the use of managed grazing for fuel load reduction and suppressing noxious weeds.

- Permit applications can be picked up at Fire Station 1 (4060 Rocklin Road) or they can be downloaded from the City's website at www.rocklin.ca.us/grazing.
- If you'd like to have an application mailed to you, call the Fire Department at (916) 625-5300.
- Application packets contain a list of area grazing contractors as well as a list of things a property owner should consider before engaging a contractor.
- Grazing permits are required but they are free of charge



Find Out More

To learn more about managed grazing and its benefits or to get a grazing permit, visit the City of Rocklin's website at www.rocklin.ca.us/grazing.



Did You Know?

Most goats ruminates (or chew their cud) 1-4 times per minute depending on the fiber content of their food