Cattlemen, Forest Owners Manage Cattle and Forests Together

The Situation
Cattle and trees can thrive together when managed properly. However, most forest owners have little training in livestock production. Likewise, many cattle producers have limited background in forestry. As a result, cattle producers and forest managers do not coordinate their activities as well as they could, so production of each suffers.

Our Response
As part of the Idaho Forest Stewardship program, a cooperative effort with the Idaho Dept. of Lands and many other partners, the UI Cooperative Extension System conducted an evening program titled Forestland Grazing to help forest owners and cattle producers promote forest health while cattle graze in forested areas. The program was held in St. Maries in January, 1995. Participants learned about forest forage and browse species; practices to enhance forest forage production; and managing livestock stocking rates, distribution, and health on forests. Participants received a workbook with additional reading materials, and reference guides.

Achievements
Sixteen (16) people attended the session. An estimated total of 14 non-industrial private forest (NIPF) owners and 7,391 NIPF acres were reached with the program. Sixty-four percent of the participants indicated they would implement improved management practices as a result of attending.
This was the third year Forestland Grazing has been held in Idaho. Over 144 people have participated in the program at 6 locations thus far. It is also commonly attended by natural resource professionals from both public and industrial ownerships who are interested in better managing grazing resources on the forest lands they work with.

**The Future**

Forestland Grazing is part of a comprehensive extension education program titled Strengthening Forest Stewardship Skills. The series of programs features a diverse array of educational programs designed to strengthen NIPF landowners' ability to implement practices which improve forest health and growth. Programs are offered in a variety of locations and times and are announced in a yearly calendar distributed each fall. Other programs offered in this annual series cover tree planting, thinning, insect and disease treatments, and many other topics. Forestland grazing continues to be of strong interest and will be offered in other Idaho locations in the future.

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**For More Information**

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