

Livestock grazing in forests stop weeds, help trees

Grazing livestock in public and private forest plantations can save thousands of dollars in weed and grass control costs, according to a rangeland resources researcher at Oregon State University.

"Weed and grass control in replanted forest areas is a major concern to forest managers because competition for water and soil nutrients can kill or severely stunt young conifer seedlings, delaying the establishment of the timber stand," said Bill Krueger, head of the OSU department of rangeland resources.

"Since it takes 60 years or more for a timber stand to reach maturity, forest managers are anxious to get a new plantation off to as smooth a start as possible, which usually means a weed and grass control program for at least 10 years or more," Krueger said.

According to a study in the Siuslaw National Forest, controlling weeds manually cost \$115 per acre, while using herbicide sprays cost \$110-143 per acre depending on the herbicide used.

"The third alternative is grazing livestock, sheep or cattle, in new plantations," said Krueger. "Done right, it can benefit both the forest

and the livestock at a cost of \$10 per acre or less, and in some cases, the grazing may earn income for the forest landowner.

"This isn't a new idea, but a lot of the research on grazing cattle in forests has emphasized the nutritional needs of the livestock rather than the needs of trees for relief from weed competition," Krueger said.

The OSU study concentrates on the trees. Called the "Cattle Grazing in Managed Forests" project, it began in 1962 under the leadership of Krueger's predecessor, Don Hedrick. Krueger and Mary Vavra, professor and superintendent of the OSU Eastern Oregon Agriculture Research Center, near Burns, have worked on the study since the early 1970s.

"The project is designed to take a thorough look at the effect of grazing livestock in new forest plantations in both Eastern and Western Oregon over a period of several years," Krueger explained.

"We've learned that management is a key to success," he said. "The numbers of cattle per acre in forest grazing areas and the timing of the grazing are important factors."

In a portion of the study conducted on Hall Ranch acreage at the Eastern

Oregon Agricultural Research Center, cattle were grazed on five-acre plots at the rate of 1.3 animals per acre in reforested areas planted with ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, western larch and western white pine.

"Those trees were planted 25 years ago," said Krueger. "Observations since then indicate conifer growth is significantly greater in plots grazed by cattle compared to plots where cattle were excluded."

And the grazing was beneficial for the cattle, too. Yearling heifers put on the Hall Ranch forest acreage 30 days of the year had weight gains ranging from 50 to 80 pounds for the one-month period.

The Hall Ranch research also looked into tree seedling damage caused by livestock grazing, or browsing, on trees as well as grasses and weeds.

"Observations taken over a period of several years show no increase in tree seedling mortality in plantations where there are cattle grazing," said Krueger. "Some seedlings die in all reforestation areas, but we haven't found livestock grazing to cause more seedling mortality than would be expected without grazing."

Boardman • Irrigon News

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Boardman indicates support of prison

By Mindy Nix

If a vote by show of hands is any indication, it looks as if the citizens of Boardman are in support of the medium security prison which, if built in Boardman, would be located 7-8 miles out of town on the west side of Tower Road.

The main concern of most citizens was the possibility of families of inmates moving into the community.

With a panel of Ron Daniels, President of Blue Mountain Community College; Jim Whitney, Realtor in the Pendleton area; Bob Wright, Superintendent of Eastern Oregon Correctional Institute; Orlin Culbertson, Parole Fields Services

branch manager; Cindy Arnold, Adult and Family Services in Pendleton; Paul Curtis, Pendleton Educational Service District; Bill Griffith, Pendleton Branch Manager of Inland Empire Bank; Ed Tabor, Pendleton Chief of Police and Joe McLaughlin, Mayor of Pendleton; all answering questions to the public at the Boardman Town Hall meeting March 29, in the Riverside auditorium. They all calmed the fears of the locals who weren't in favor of the prison.

Jim Whitney, said that property value would go up, with the influx of new families moving in to work

in the prison.

Boardman, with its current 16% unemployment rate, would benefit from the prison, as it would produce steady year-round employment. The prison would provide 175 new jobs in the \$18,000-\$25,000 a year range. If the prison were to be built in Boardman the population is estimated to raise to 2,000 and 2,250 people.

Most of the panel agreed that the inmates after being released on parole or their families would not move into the area, since the prison would only be a short stay for most of its inmates. The families couldn't afford to move for that short of time.

Ed Tabor said that the Pendleton Police department hasn't had any problems with the inmates and that many of these types of people are already in the community.

The Boardman City Council will discuss the possibility of putting Boardman in the running with Condon and Rufus Tuesday night, April 4.

ECOAC meets April 18

ECOAC will hold their district meeting in Heppner, April 18, 9:30 a.m. at St. Patrick's Hotel meeting

hall. The five-county association meets bi-monthly.

Mahoney takes State Citizen Bee

All-Around at McMinnville

Morrow County High School Rodeo team competed April 1 and 2 at Yamhill County High School at McMinnville.

All-Around for boys was Mike Mahoney, Heppner, with 21 points. Reserve All-Around was Mike McKinnon of Baker with 20 points.

All-Around for girls was Penny Conforth, Redmond with 20 points. Reserve All-Around was Shelly Williamson, McMinnville with 16 points.

Mike placed first in boys cow cutting, fifth in steer wrestling and sixth in calf roping.

Libby Britt, Heppner was 8th in girls breakaway roping. Marti Suter, Boardman was fourth in goat tying. Bryan Kollman, Heppner also competed.

RHS send three students to

State Citizen Bee

Three Riverside High School students have qualified for the State Citizen Bee competition to be held in Salem on April 22.

Jim Meyers, a junior, was the first place winner in Saturday's regional Citizen Bee held at Eastern Oregon State College in LaGrande. Joining Jim in Salem will be Steve Connor, a junior who finished third and Harold Glenn, a senior, who finished fourth. Meyers earned \$500 for his effort and Connor received \$150. They will be competing for almost \$2000 at the state contest.

The Citizen Bee is a national con-

test sponsored by the Close Up Foundation of Arlington, Virginia. The contest promotes our national heritage and tests students in government, history, economics and current events. Other schools competing in the regional contest were Grant High, Heppner High, and Stanfield High School. Each region of the state selected six students and a total of 18 students will gather on April 22 to compete for state honors. The state winner advances to the national contest in Washington, D.C. Bob Deeter serves as the Riverside High School Citizen Bee advisor.

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Hospital Notes

Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner reports admitting and discharging the following patients during the past week:

Leonard Munkers-admitted March 27, discharged March 28;
Lacy Davis-admitted April 1, discharged April 3.

As of press time Tuesday the following patients were still receiving care:

Irene Dollarhide-admitted March 28; and
Marilyn Bergstrom-admitted March 29.

Dee Crist was discharged from the hospital on March 27.

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