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Forward

With our nation's ever increasing appetite for food, fiber, water, energy, and recreation, America's population is becoming more and more aware of rangeland's significant contributions to society. As a result, there is greater interest in rangeland management than ever before. Historically, focus has been given to our extensive federal holdings, but recognition that many of our issues must be addressed at landscape scales now mandates that adjacent private land be considered part of the puzzle as well.

In addition to this increased scrutiny, rangeland/livestock managers are now challenged by new issues related to invading exotic plants, altered fire regime effects on native and introduced plant communities, potential climate change, and sustaining habitats for animals that may range over as little as one acre to more than several hundred square miles. Reestablishment of large predators over portions of their historic range is also complicating life for livestock and wildlife managers.

Our research on rangeland functions and livestock and wildlife grazing continues to advance practices that properly use our forages, sustain or improve the health of our ecosystems, and foster production of economically viable outputs. This report addresses several issues including: fire and grazing interactions, resilience of communities to grazing and fire, and developing a better understanding of the factors affecting grazing patterns and seasonal movements of cattle and wildlife at pasture and landscape scales.

The formal presentations of our 2009 Range Field Day will focus on several aspects of rangeland/animal relationships and behavior. Topics include cattle and wolf interactions, cattle/deer/elk/and human interactions, use of riparian pastures by cattle, pre- and post-fire cattle distribution, and beef cattle temperament effects on livestock reproduction and performance. Other reports within this document discuss post-wildfire grass establishment, efficacy of crested wheatgrass barriers for retarding spread of medusahead, western juniper density and year effects on soil seed banks, grazing history effects on post-burn vegetation recovery, and measurement scale effects on our characterizations of sage-grouse habitat.

If one has additional questions on these topics or portions of this report, we encourage you to contact the authors directly for more detailed information. The ultimate goal of our research programs is to make a difference. Your questions and feedback will help steer us toward relevant or critical issues that are truly pertinent to your needs and concerns. Your input has and will continue to provide guidance for our efforts.

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