

# Misc. Grazing Topics

...From a Firefighter Point of View



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# How Does Grazing Affect Wildland Fire Behavior?



# How Grazing Affects Wildfire Behavior

- Surrogate for natural/historical wildfire?
- Manages surface and ladder “fuels” (vegetation)
- May change grass/plants that grow
- **Reduce heat production (intensity) and ember production**
- Visually, we see shorter flame lengths, slower fire spread, and less embers
- Slower spreading fires (not wind driven and/or on a steep slope) may stop
- Less water is needed to make vegetation unable or less likely to burn and/or extinguish

Right side of trail grazed (current year)  
Left side partially masticated (prior year)



Left side of trail grazed  
Right side not grazed



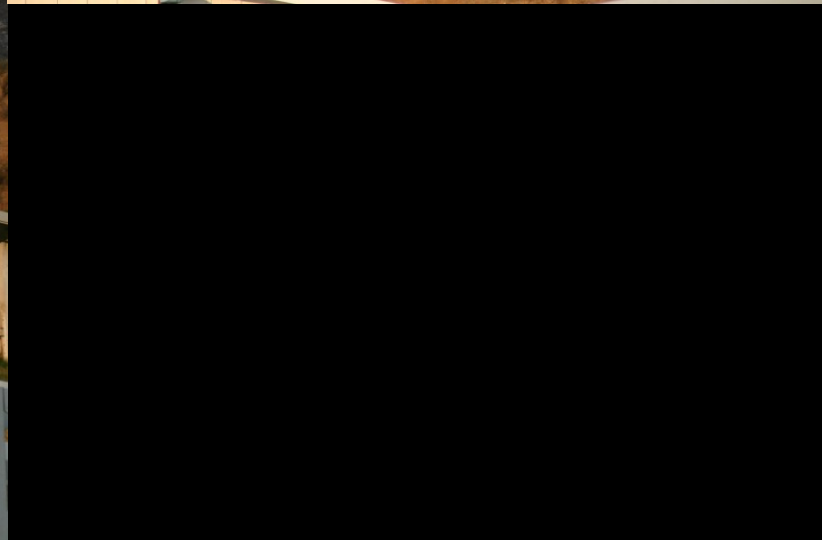


# Grazed Area

- Not obvious where grazing occurred
- Grass and small diameter vegetation managed



# 2009 Pendleton Fire San Bernardino County





2017 Detweller Fire  
Mariposa County



# 2017 Pocket Fire Sonoma County



# 2019 Kincade Fire Sonoma County

Grazed Area

Roof/building  
damaged by wind



# 2020 Glass Fire Sonoma County



# 2020 Prescribed Burning





Grazing is a “General Term”

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- Different types of animals
- Different grazing intensities
- Variations by vegetation types
  - Grass
  - Brush
  - Timber
- Slope limitations
- May not be a standalone treatment
  - Grazing before another treatment type
  - Grazing after another treatment type
  - Sequence of treatments
- Maintenance





Chainsaw (“Fuels Crew”)  
Treatment after Grazing









# Other Misc. Topics

- Animal health and public perception
- Damage caused by “escaped” animals
- Logistical support of contractor grazers
- Coordination, documentation, etc.
- Cost
- Plan



**QUESTIONS?**