

## Additional Notes on Targeted Grazing:

1. Grazing service enterprises are very different business enterprise models than grazing managed principally for growing livestock. In livestock production enterprises, producers get paid to optimize reproductive efficiency and weight gain – which may be difficult to do when using livestock to manage poor quality vegetation. Bottom line – targeted grazers need to get paid to replace the income they lose from having fewer lambs (kids, calves, etc.) or lighter animals to sell.
  - a. This imposes a paradigm shift on producers who want to add environmental objectives to their animal production enterprise – livestock become a tool rather than merely a production unit.
2. Grazing can be useful in cases where other tools are difficult to apply because of terrain, distance from roads, fire danger, neighbor concerns, potential soil damage from machinery, etc.
3. Grazing/browsing often works great for maintaining vegetation regrowth on fuel breaks, etc., but is probably not the best method for reducing dense biomass accumulations on old, decadent stands of brush
4. Grazing actually removes fuel biomass from the site – prescribed fire is the only other tool that does this!
5. Unlike other systems and tools, livestock can't be turned off and stored in a shed once the project is over. Part of what we pay for is the ability of the targeted grazing contractor to understand logistics well enough to know where the animals will be before our project and where they're going after our project is completed. This is huge – there's no such thing as waiting to ship the animals 2-3 days after the project is done. I'm not sure non-livestock people fully grasp the complex work that goes into the logistics of moving animals, personnel, water, fencing, and supplies around to multiple remote locations on a schedule.
6. Timing is critical for achieving the desired reductions in fuel-producing species and simultaneously minimizing impacts on non-target species. The opportunities for accomplishing this are often few, and short in duration.
7. There is a tension between a rancher's need to save dry forage for fall grazing and a community's desire to reduce late summer/fall fire danger. If ranches are pressure to significantly reduce dry grasses before fall rains (and new plant growth) begin, they may need to buy extra feed – which can be a very significant expense with the potential to make the enterprise economically unsustainable. If that is determined to be critical for community protection, I think it should be compensated.
  - a. In some cases, timing of pasture use on working ranches may be shifted, so that strategically important pastures are grazed down earliest in the season, and pastures where fire could more readily be contained used later. Even this may require substantial financial investment in water and other structural developments.

Here's a link to a publication I put together about hiring a grazing contractor – there might be some useful info:

<https://ucanr.edu/sites/Livestock/files/279408.pdf>

Here's a link to a paper I published in Rangelands several years ago: [http://californiawoolgrowers.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/The-Art-Science-of-Targeted-Grazing-Producers-Perspective\\_D.Macon\\_.pdf](http://californiawoolgrowers.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/The-Art-Science-of-Targeted-Grazing-Producers-Perspective_D.Macon_.pdf)

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