

partially finish yearlings or otherwise enhance operation.

Winter grazing is potentially not limited to wheatgrass seedings. Plant communities growing on non-arable situations such as basin wildrye (*Elymus cinereus*) communities on saline/alkaline soils can be used to winter dry cows.² This type of use can provide beneficial to the plant community as well as reducing hay requirements.

Winter grazing will not be a cure-all to the economic problems of ranching, but it offers the potential for additional

²See Lesperance, A.L., J.A. Young, R.E. Eckert, Jr., and Raymond A. Evans. 1978. Great Basin wildrye. *Rangeman's J.* 5:125-127.

flexibility in making management decisions. Evaluation of winter grazing in terms of the total ranch economic and biological situation is important.

Note on Winter Grazing

Despite the fact that the Union Pacific Railroad distributed thousands of copies of Dr. Latham's booklet, apparently only a dozen copies of the original edition survived and only perhaps one copy is in a private collection. The booklet was reprinted by the Old West Publishing Company of Denver, Colo., in 1962 with an excellent introduction and appendix prepared by Jeff C. Dykes.

The Grazing Lands Forum: What It Is and Is Not

Evert K. Byington

The Grazing Lands Forum (GLF) is an organization of representatives from existing organizations interested in various aspects of grazing land stewardship. It hopes to focus interest on the use of our grazing lands by providing a forum for those who wish to engage in a factual dialogue on the future of these lands and to share the results of this dialogue with the public. GLF is not a formal organization. At present it is an educationally oriented ad hoc group working toward creating a formal nonlobbying, nonprofit organization by the end of 1984.

This article explains some of the what, where, why, how, when, and who of the GLF.

What Will the Grazing Lands Forum Do?

The mission of the GLF will be to improve management of grazing lands through programs to increase knowledge, understanding, and awareness. This will be done by sponsoring an open forum to improve communications and understanding among all those interest groups active in grazing lands use. Improved communications should help member organizations in the following activities:

1. Identify, describe, and stimulate factual analysis of the complex issues and options affecting grazing lands.
2. Encourage the development, maintenance, and use of a standardized, quantitative national grazing-lands-information base to support informed decision making.
3. Develop and implement educational strategies and projects to increase public awareness and appreciation of grazing lands—particularly in cooperation with other organizations having active programs related to grazing lands use.

Thus the GLF will concentrate on promoting the assembly, processing, packaging, and dissemination of factual infor-

mation on the nature, extent, and use of all the nation's grazing land.

Where Are the Grazing Lands the Grazing Lands Forum Will Address?

The GLF will focus on those lands in the United States that provide forages for livestock and wildlife grazing. These include range, pasture, and forest lands, plus lands that provide harvested forages essential to the use of grazing lands, and croplands that are periodically grazed. Since economic, social, and environmental factors affecting grazing lands frequently cross national borders, the GLF will encourage participation by grazing lands organizations in other countries, particularly in North America.

Why a National Focus on Grazing Lands?

Over 800 million acres of the 50 states are being grazed by livestock—that's one acre in every three! In addition, there are hundreds of millions of acres that could be used for livestock grazing should the need arise. In 1978, the farmgate value of ruminant livestock was \$51 billion or 40% of the nation's agricultural output. But livestock products are just one of the benefits that come to us from our pasture and rangelands. These lands provide a large part of our wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, forest products, and water and air sheds; and they are a colorful part of our heritage.

Despite this vast contribution, Americans seldom think of our grazing lands as one of our great natural resources. Why is the general population so poorly informed about the value of these lands? Unfortunately, much of the fault is with us, the ones who care the most. We are not doing an adequate job of public education.

In this increasingly complex world, there is a tendency to become specialized—academically, geographically, and by user groups. (1) Academic and geographic specialization have given us two major grazing land types: *pasture* (per-

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manent, temporary, improved, unimproved, cool-season, warm-season, grass, legume, and all sorts of mixtures) and range (annual, transitory, forest, "conditional", i.e. poor, fair, good, and excellent, and "ecosystem", e.g. sagebrush, short grass prairie, Ponderosa pine, ad infinitum). (2) User group specialization has given us cattlemen, sheepmen, dairy producers, horsemen, wildlifers (hunters and nonhunters), recreationists (dispersed and nondispersed, vehicle and nonvehicle), foresters, miners and drillers, conservationists, protectionists, government land managers, and private land owners.

The competition between and within user groups and geographical interests has diffused our vision of the nation's grazing lands resource. Instead of working together, we frequently concentrate on local special interests. As a result, existing research, educational, technical, planning policy, and management programs are not fully complementary to the goals of conserving, developing, and using grazing land resources to meet the needs of the people. A major factor limiting grazing lands conservation, development, and use is the public's lack of knowledge to consistently make informed decisions, particularly where land-use conflicts exist. Furthermore, this condition is not changing rapidly enough because existing mechanisms for assembling and delivering grazing lands information to the public are not adequate. There is a real need to improve this process.

In an era of shrinking resources for education, research, and land management and improvements, we are seeing more and more competition for these resources and the process of allocating these scarce resources becoming more political. The highly fragmented structure of the various grazing lands interest groups is making it difficult for us to play an effective role in the political process that is affecting the future of our grazing lands. We need to decide what our common goals are, get organized, and work toward these goals.

Decision making by the political process is complex and there are many ways to participate in it. The allocation of limited resources always involves a high level of emotion because most political decisions result in winners and losers. Fortunately, in the process of selecting between options for the future use of our grazing lands, we have a substantial body of factual (social, economic, environmental, and technological) information that can be used to help us keep our emotions in proper perspective.

The challenge before us is to make this body of information more useable and accessible to the public and their political representatives. This will assist them in selecting national policies that will help to ensure that our grazing lands are recognized as national resource of vast potential, and that this potential must be developed so that the needs of all grazing land users are realistically balanced while maintaining our nation's fundamental commitment to conservation. To meet this challenge of providing factual educational programs to the public, we in "the grazing lands family" must get our facts in order and learn to live together on a less emotional basis so we can work more efficiently on common goals.

How Will the Grazing Lands Forum Operate?

The GLF will be an organization of organizations which already have active programs focusing on some aspect of

grazing lands. The GLF will be governed by a board of directors composed of representatives selected by the member organizations. Current draft bylaws call for three membership classes: core, advisory, and sustaining.

In general, core membership will be open to those national (in some cases, regional) nonprofit organizations that have an active interest in some aspect of grazing lands use. The intent is to have the full spectrum of interest groups represented, ranging from production agriculture to scientific and environmental viewpoints. Each core member will have one vote on the GLF board.

Advisory membership will be extended by the GLF board to organizations that do not meet the requirements for core membership but that can provide technical information essential to the accomplishment of the GLF mission. For example, selected governmental agencies, universities, private businesses, and others with grazing land programs would be asked to send representatives to participate in board discussions. Advisory membership would not have voting rights.

Sustaining memberships would be open to individuals, commercial enterprises, and other organizations not qualifying as core or advisory members. As of this time, sustaining members will not be directly represented on the board.

The day-to-day administration of the GLF will be performed by an executive committee elected from the board of directors. Educational and other activities will be carried out by committees appointed by the executive, with the board's approval. Each committee member may be selected from the general membership of any of the member organizations.

The GLF is intended to function as a facilitator to aid others to more efficiently use their capabilities through improved communications. The GLF would undertake research, education, or other projects on its own only if no one else were willing to do so.

When Will the Grazing Lands Forum Become Operational, and Who is Involved?

The current effort to establish a national organization with a comprehensive view of grazing lands started in 1980. In November of that year, the Extension-Industry Beef Resources Committee recommended that extension take the lead in increasing public understanding in the role of grazing lands. Specific recommendations included holding meetings to educate the public through an informal plan called the "Grazing Lands and People Project"; and the creation of a national coordinating group tentatively called the "Grazing Lands Council".

Further momentum came in June 1981 when the International Grassland Congress passed a resolution to encourage the formation of a "Grazing Land Coordinating Council". An informal ad hoc organization, the Grazing Lands Roundtable, was formed in Washington, D.C., and had representatives from 14 organizations. In July 1982, a National Leaders Conference on "Grazing Lands and People" was held in Denver, Colorado, as part of the Grazing Lands and People Project.

Out of the Denver meeting came a decision to use the Grazing Lands Roundtable as a vehicle to initiate efforts to establish a formal national grazing lands coordinating organization. Members of the Roundtable and others who have

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Grazing Lands Forum (cont'd)

been involved in the development of the GLF met at Winrock International in June 1983. They reaffirmed the need for such an organization but felt that participation should be broadened so that all aspects of grazing lands use would be fully considered and that greater emphasis would be placed on communications rather than on coordination. At this meeting the name, Grazing Lands Forum, was selected.

Currently, the GLF is an ad hoc group of individuals and organizations, sufficiently interested in the concept, voluntarily working to guide the GLF toward incorporation. *Participation in this group is open to anyone who is interested in becoming involved.* A five-member executive committee was appointed in 1983: Chairman, Ron Michieli, National Cattleman's Association and the Public Lands Council; Secretary, Evert Byington, Winrock International; Peter Jackson, Society for Range Management; Dan Merkel, USDA/Extension Service; and Walter Wedin, American Forage and Grasslands Council. The group is now in the process of developing bylaws, with aims toward incorporation by late December 1984.

Two of the major tasks before the executive committee and those people serving on the other committees (promotion and public relations, organizations and membership, and activities) were: (1) to develop the bylaws, and (2) to expand the range of organizations participating in the establishment of the Grazing Lands Forum. Considerable progress has been made to accomplish both of these tasks. Thus far about 60 people have participated in one or both of the two meetings held to address the creation of GLF. In addition, another 100 people are on the mailing list to receive minutes, draft bylaws, and other documents associated with the Forum. Many people have made valuable inputs into developing the bylaws and informing others about GLF. We are in the process of preparing the second draft of bylaws and stepping up efforts to expand awareness about GLF.

Anyone wishing to be involved in the activities or to have their name placed on the mailing list are asked to contact:

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Texas Section Youth Range Workshop

In June the Texas Section conducted its 30th Annual Youth Range Workshop near Junction at the Texas Tech University Center. Through 30 years, 939 Texas youth selected from 4-H Clubs and FFA Chapters throughout Texas have attended the workshop. The workshop is conducted to recognize outstanding Texas youth involved in range programs, provide an opportunity for further development of leadership skills, and train our youth in range management.

The 1984 Workshop was attended by 10 girls and 26 boys, who received advanced training both in the classroom and field. The educational experience covered such topics as range ecosystems, plant identification, range management practices, range-wildlife interrelationships, range animal nutrition, noxious plant control, watershed management, ranch planning, leadership, and 4-H and FFA range judging contents. The youth were sponsored financially by local Conservation Districts, 4-H Clubs, Farm Bureaus, banks and parents.

Youth participants were involved in many activities during the weeklong workshop including a range visit to the Woodard-Alamo Ranch near Junction, a tour of the Kerr Wildlife Management area, a strenuous inhouse lecture series, plant collecting, field work on range contests and watershed management, recreation, and the Range Olympics. Youth competed each day to present a live radio program over Radio Station KMBL in Junction. Impromptu talks on the daily workshop activities provided valuable experience

in communications for the youth and an educational value to the listening public. Evening sessions were highlighted by a leadership program directed by Marshal Stabel on individual needs, leadership styles, and being a successful leader. A morning thought for the day and evening vespers provided a spiritual aspect to the workshop emphasizing man's stewardship of the rangeland resource.

As in past years, each youth kept a workshop notebook and completed a collection of important range plants. These were used to evaluate the youth on their performance for awarding blue, red, and white ribbons. Based on leadership exercised as Ramrods, ability to work with others, and other traits, Honor Ramrods and a Trail Boss were selected by the youth and directors. Honor Ramrods selected included Ted White (San Angelo), David Portalatin (Abilene), Linda Weatherford (Seguin), Shannon Laramore (Marble Falls), and Cuatro Patterson (Leakey). Roger Hodge (Del Rio) was selected as the Trail Boss for the 1984 Youth Range Workshop.

On the final afternoon, graduation certificates were presented to all youth participants by Texas Section President Russ Pettit. Three youth participants were selected as potential delegates to the High School Student Forum at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Range Management at Salt Lake City, Utah. These included Rosa Telles (Eagle Pass), Susan Miller (Harwood), and Ted White (San Angelo). Cuatro Patterson was selected as the alternate delegate to the Forum and the delegate to the Texas Section Annual Meeting in Corpus Christi this December.