Grazing Management for Riparian-Wetland Areas

Resource Training in a Collaborative Setting

Introduction

THE NATIONAL RIPARIAN SERVICE TEAM, in partnership with University Extension, USDA Forest Service, USDA Bureau of Land Management, and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, has been working with private and public land managers since 1998 to raise awareness about different grazing management strategies and practices that can improve riparian-wetland areas. This training course is one of the many ways the team provides assistance to both the technical and social dimensions of managing this important resource.

THE TRAINING COURSE will provide participants with an understanding of the tools, concepts, and thought processes necessary to collaborate with other individuals, groups, and agencies to develop and implement their own successful grazing management strategies in the future.

WORKING IN A COLLABORATIVE SETTING is key to achieving successful results. This training course provides an opportunity for livestock managers, private and Federal land management agencies, and special interest groups and individuals to study different grazing management methods and learn how to work in a collaborative manner to “Accelerate Cooperative Riparian Restoration and Management.” Participants will work on an actual livestock operation and provide grazing management alternatives to achieve riparian-wetland objectives.

Identifying Key Plant Species

Shrubs are rooted colonizing and deep rooted stabilizing key plant species are reviewed.

Examing Livestock Behavior and Forage Selectivity

Animal behavior and forage selectivity are the driving grazing management forces affecting resource interactions.

Reviewing Grazing Treatments

Examples of some grazing treatments for riparian-wetland areas include:

- Spring Grazing
  - Uses the pasture during the early growing period.
- Deferred Rotation Grazing
  - Provides critical growing season rest for each pasture every year, but each pasture is also grazed.
- Rest Rotation Grazing
  - One or more pastures rotated the entire year with the remainder of the pastures grazed for a portion of the year.

Course Topics Include:

- Issues concerning common functions of riparian areas, proper functioning condition, long-term sustainability, and key plant species
- Grazing management principles and concepts, including livestock behavior and forage selectivity
- Grazing management strategies, including key management strategies, grazing treatments, and additional management techniques
- Monitoring riparian-wetland vegetation in the short and long term
- Cardinal rules for planning and managing riparian-wetland areas

Monitoring the Riparian-Wetland Area

Short-term monitoring looks at what is happening this year. Long-term monitoring looks at what is happening over several years.

Considering Additional Management Techniques

Practices used to implement livestock grazing management strategies.

For more information about hosting grazing tours in your area, contact Susan Holman at (888) 428-2076 or ddsnwsf@ncsu.edu.