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FEATURED NEWS

Livestock Grazing to Enhance Wildlife Habitat



By: **Jack McInerney**, Sales Associate

When purchasing a ranch in the Rocky Mountain West, Buyers are driven by the desire to own specific amenities including trout fishing, bird hunting, big game hunting or farmland. If livestock grazing is the focus, landowners question if the ranch will also enjoy big game hunting opportunities. Historically, the perception has been that in order to hold elk, the ranch must remove cattle grazing. Today, alternative perspectives show that cattle grazing systems can in fact increase elk

utilization on a ranch.

During the 2006 Society for Range Management symposium, "livestock versus wildlife in ecosystems across North America" was a topic addressed via a presentation of case studies on grazing to enhance big game habitat. The study was specific to northwest cattle grazing and rangeland management practices and the impact of elk utilization on the land. The study tracks a 7,000-acre ranch near Ennis, Montana, that was purchased by Montana, Fish Wildlife & Parks (FWP) for use as an elk wintering range. The intent was to remove cattle grazing with elk to fill the void providing less impact on neighboring ranch operations. Initially, the land was utilized by 250 elk during winter and cattle grazing year round. Over the next 20 years, cattle were not allowed to graze the land and as a result of the vegetation buildup, elk chose to utilize neighboring ranchland instead. Over the years, FWP adjusted the new grazing system, and the result is a 10-pasture rest-rotation utilizing electric interior fencing that is lowered during winter to allow for easier elk migration. Now, approximately 700 head of cattle are grazed each year and 1,200-1,500 elk are counted on the wintering range, a six-fold increase. It is shown that careful range management systems utilizing cattle can enhance elk use as opposed to removing cattle from the target rangeland. Range management practices can positively affect wildlife while maintaining or increasing capacity for livestock. These studies provide significant value to determining the best method to achieve a

desired outcome on your ranch.

For more information on range management decisions that positively impact wildlife, please contact Jack McInerney at 866.734.6100 or jack@livewaterproperties.com. We can also put you in touch with the appropriate person for your specific range management solution.

FEATURED AGENT

Meet Jack McInerney, Sales Associate



As a native Montanan who has intimate familiarity with Western Montana for over 30 years, Jack is positioned well for the “door to door” marketing efforts with local professionals, potential buyers, and the conservation community, which will accompany the national and international marketing campaign directed from Live Water headquarters in Jackson Hole. During the past twenty years in Livingston, Jack has purchased and improved “neglected” fishing and hunting properties in central and western Montana. Jack's passion for outdoor activities have interconnected with his interest in improving properties he has personally acquired, which have been diamonds in the rough waiting to be

polished. Improving these properties has also been an opportunity to gain knowledge about Montana water rights and conservation issues that impact landowners in many different river basins.

FEATURED PROPERTIES



Prickly Pear Mountain

Canyon Creek, MT

Price: \$3,950,000

Acreage: 1,340 Acres

Features:

- 1 mile of fishing on



Ranch on Sweet Grass

Big Timber, MT

Price: \$1,490,000

Acreage: 327 Acres

Features:

- 0.8 mile of Sweet



Smith River Home

White Sulphur Springs, MT

Price: \$695,000

Acreage: 42 Acres

Features:

- ¼ mile of the blue-

Prickly Pear Creek

- 4,987 sqft log home
- Stunning mtn. views

Grass Creek

- 2,544 sqft home
- Cattle ranching set-up

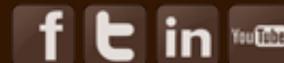
ribbon Smith River

- 2,600 sqft home
- Views of 3 ranges



Live Water Properties

phone: 866.734.6100



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