

Course- FRW- 602 Wildlife Management & Research

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4th Lecture

Grazing Control

Grazing Effects

- Herbaceous (dicotyledonous) plants grow from meristems In the stem and grazing will remove many most of the meristems and thus severely hinder growth
- Monocotyledons species such as grasses grow meristems at the base of the plant and thus are less affected by grazing
- Grazing tend to increase the proportion of monocot plants

Grazing and diversity

- Grazing can either increase or decrease diversity
- If the dominant specie is palatable then grazing will increase the diversity by reducing
- If the dominant species is unpalatable then grazing reduce the diversity by making

Grazing Species

- Grazing intensities can increase the structural complexity
- Different grazing species produce different effects
- Sheep nibble the vegetation to a uniform sward and their scattered faces have little impacts
- Cattle pull clumps of vegetation, often break the sward and their dung have greater impacts.

Trampling Effects

- High level Of trampling will encourage those plant species which are resistant to trampling
- Extent of trampling depend upon the grazer
- Cattle are heavier than sheep, horses are active than cattle, young's are active than old

Grazing Methods

Natural

- Using natural populations of wild species
- preferred. realistic in large sites

Rotational

- Moving stock between areas
- Mosaic of different habitats can be created
- Use of ditches, fences
- Avoid areas in sensitive periods where ground nesting birds

Continuous

- Keeping stock throughout the year
- Intense grazing-uniform short sward

Seasonal

- Restricting the grazing to certain seasons

- Grazing in winter-no effects on flowering

Spasmodic

- Beneficial in setting back succession