

## Management Notes for July through October

Summer is moving toward fall and it's time to think about management changes. As summer continues, probably hot and dry, it's time to review how your land resources are responding to current use and to determine if they will be adequate for the rest of summer. Hope you have been actively evaluating and managing your resources and finances in 2011. Also, you need to be adjusting your 2011 management, starting on your 2012 plans, and updating your 5-year plan.

Here are some points to consider in the next few months.

- G Water should always be your highest priority. Without adequate water, production is difficult at best.
  - ✓ Continue monitoring your water resources for availability and quality. Develop options if sources appear to be less than optimal. Continually evaluate water needs for the rest of summer with an eye on fall needs.
  - ✓ If extreme temperatures continue, check water sources more often.
- G Review rainfall records for the past 12 months, the forecast for the next 3-6 months, and determine if the current soil moisture availability is adequate for the rest of the season. Even if current soil moisture is fair to good, projected plant growth may be below average if drought conditions continue as some predictions indicate. If drought conditions do continue, prepare for below average growth in 2012.
- G Evaluate the status of grazing and browse use to date. The amount of use on highly desirable species is critical. If use is heavy, reduce use if possible and plan to reduce 2012 stocking rates to allow the preferred species to recover and improve next year.
- G Routinely check and repair or replace all improvements such as fences, water sources, and equipment.
- G Update financial plans for 2011 and the 5-year management and economic plans based on current and projected weather plus current and projected economic conditions Also, start developing the 2012 management and economic plans.
- G Evaluate broadleaf and woody plant control sites and continue management plans.
- G Evaluate prescribed burn areas for 2011 against the objectives. Begin preparing plans for management in 2012 plus start identifying potential 2012 burns areas.
- G Continue the management program for any 2011 seeded areas to insure long term management is accomplished.
- G Continue evaluating plans for any seeding opportunities for 2012 and how to prepare for seeding.
- G Update your land resource records through new photos or other means.
- G If you haven't started a land resource record, start now. If you use photographs, establish points that you can return to and photograph at least once each every year.
- G Manage for today and the future based on what was documented in 2010, what is planned and being accomplished for 2011, and how weather, economic conditions, and your personal life interact. Management is not easy!
- G If you haven't developed a business management plan, please get started!

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