

MANAGEMENT NOTES May through August



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SUMMER MANAGEMENT Spring is moving into summer, and it's time to move from spring into summer management. As summer begins, it's time to review how your land resources are responding to use and make sure they will be adequate for summer use. Hopefully, you are actively evaluating and managing your resources and finances in 2011. Also, you need to be adjusting your 2011 management and updating your five-year plan.

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

- Water should always be your highest priority.
 - Continue to monitor your water resources for availability and quality. Develop options if sources appear to be less than optimal. Continually evaluate water needs for the summer.
 - If high temperatures occur for an extended period, check water sources to insure they are adequate.
- Review rainfall records for the past 12 months, the forecast for the next three to six months, and determine the current soil moisture availability. Even if current soil moisture is good, projected plant growth may be below average if drought conditions continue as some predictions indicate. If drought conditions do occur, prepare for below average growth in 2011.
- 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 2011 stocking rates for the summer to allow the preferred species to recover and improve.
- Routinely check and repair, or replace, all improvements such as fences, water sources and equipment.
- Update financial plans for 2011 and the five-year management and economic plans based on current and projected weather plus current and projected economic conditions.
- Evaluate broadleaf and woody plant control sites and complete management plans.
- Evaluate prescribed burn areas for 2011 against the objectives. Begin preparing plans for 2012 burns.
- Continue the management program for any 2010 and 2011 seeded areas to insure long-term management is accomplished.
- Begin evaluating plans for any seeding opportunities for 2012 and how to prepare for seeding.
- Update your land resource records through new photos or other means.
- 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.
- Manage for today and the future based on what has been documented in 2010, what is planned and accomplished for 2011, and how weather, economic conditions and your personal life interact. Management is not easy!
- If you haven't developed a business management plan, please get started! 