

Date:  
February, 2002

# *Increased Forage by Intensively Managed Controlled Grazing of Logged Lands*

## Key Components of Managed Grazing Systems:

- \* watering
- \* fencing
- \* stocking rate

## For more information about the intensive grazing project call:

- \* Ernie Nimitz, Sunrise Valley (250) 843 2300
- \* Fred Burres, Farmington (250) 843 7074
- \* Glenn Hogberg, Progress (250) 843 7653
- \* Sandra Burton, Farmington (250) 789 6885

## For more information about the many options for remote watering systems contact:

- \* Brett Henschel or  
Garth Mottershead,  
PFRA, Dawson Creek  
(250) 782 3116

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## Three Key Components to Intensively Managed Controlled Grazing

For the past 2 years the Peace River Forage Association been monitoring 3 sites of intensively managed controlled grazing on aspen logged lands. They hosted Friendly Forage Field days, where they shared their management strategies with other ranchers.



Photograph of intensively grazed logged land managed by the Hogberg family (early July, 2001).

Controlled grazing can be done in many ways, but no matter how intensive the management plan, there are three key components which the rancher has to manage for. The first is watering: how will the livestock be watered? will it be brought to them? or do they need an alley way to access it? The answers to these questions will often determine the layout of your pastures. The second consideration is fencing: electric versus barbed wire, and temporary verses stationary fencing. The final issue to address is stocking density: that is to say what intensity of grazing and management are appropriate for your ranch?

This forage fact discusses each of these common key issues, as well as some of the unique features of each of the 3 cooperators' management plans.

## Watering

There are many options for watering livestock; and the three cooperators all employ different methods of watering.

**Glenn Hogberg**, Progress, has a gravity feed water system. He has a dugout, which has a waterline running from it, to fill 6 water tanks. Glenn has changed his water system over the past couple of years; he has exchanged some of his 100 gallon tanks for 300 gallon tanks. He also had problems with float chains breaking and found that the water tank should be checked at least every second day to prevent major water loss and erosion around water troughs.

**Fred Burres**, Farmington, has a portable water system which he uses to water the cattle as they move through his paddocks. He has a fenced off dugout in one of his paddocks and he pumps the water from there into a water trough. This system allows Fred to rotate his cattle freely through the pastures as the grass growth requires, because the water can easily be moved with the cattle.

**Ernie Nimitz**, Sunset Prairie, experiences more difficulties with his water. Because of his sandy soil, he has trouble establishing dugouts with enough water to support the cattle throughout the summer. Ernie has larger paddocks of about 45 acres, each set up according to water availability.

Peace River Forage Association  
of British Columbia

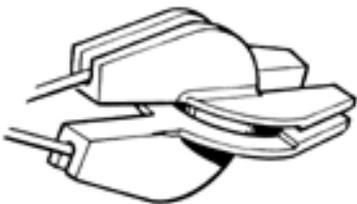




Econo reels ease moving electric fence (about \$50)



Round Corner Insulator (range between \$1 each to \$2.50)



Double U and Corner Insulator



Wood Post "W" Insulator



Wood Post Pinlock Insulator

## Fencing Systems

The three cooperators all use electric fences to divide up their paddocks. All 3 use high tensile wire for their permanent fences. Glenn uses 2 strands for perimeter fences, while Ernie and Fred use only one wire for all fences. Glenn and Fred both use portable fences to divide up their paddocks, usually using the step in type of post illustrated below. They use polywire for the portable fences and use the spools or econo reels to make their moves easier and keep their wire gathered.

**Insulators** that are commonly used are shown at the left side of the page. They range in price from \$0.50 to \$2.50 each. Ranchers that wish to buy corner insulators have a number of options, ranging from \$1 to \$5.

**Temporary posts** range from \$1.20 to \$10 per post, and are cheaper to buy by bundles. A delux tumbleweed hub makes fence moving very easy but costs considerably more.

## Wire options

### Aluminum versus galvanized steel

Aluminum wire has little or no resistance, that is to say that you do not lose very much power in long distances and it does not rust.

Most electric fences use steel because it conducts well, is more durable and more cost effective.

Aluminum Wire - \$275/ 4000 ft roll  
Galvanized Steel Wire - \$65/ 3000ft

These prices are approximate for Gallagher Fencing products. There are other products available at lower costs but Gallagher's has a 10 year warranty.

## Fence Charger Options

### Battery Powered Energizers

Photograph at right similar to Glenn Hogberg's



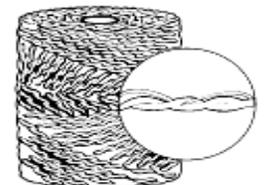
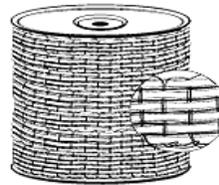
B260 12V (about \$400)

B260 Features:

- \*Stored Energy: High 2.6 Joules, Low 1.4 Joules, 12V
- \*Suitable for permanent or portable fences
- \*Low battery and low fence voltage indicator lights
- \*Red light flashes with each pulse at 2kV and above
- \*Battery Save Options - There are four adjustable pulse rate options

**Solar Electric Fence Chargers** can be combined with battery powered fences but are more expensive. B260 Solar Package with 20 watt panel & hardware, 12 V 2.6 joules is approximately \$800)

**110 Volt – 220 Volt Energizers** (similar to Ernie Nimitz's)



Polytape

Polyrope

### Polytape versus Polyrope

Polywire	256' - 5 strand	\$25
	1640' - 5 strand	\$60
Turbowire	656' - 9 strand	\$55
	1312' - 9 strand	\$100
Polytape	656' - 5 strand	
	1/2" wide	\$36
Turbotape	656' 5 super conductive strands	
	1/2" wide	\$60



Ernie Nimitz's paddock on June 16, 2000.



Ernie Nimitz's paddock on May 1, 2001.

## Nimitz's Management

**Ernie Nimitz** began his land conversion project in 1996 with the logging of 135 acres. From 1997-1999 he grazed 200 cow/calf pairs extensively and periodically. Year by year, pasture development progressed. By 2000, he was utilizing 8 pastures, including 3 cutblocks for a total of 580 acres for his 200 cow calf pairs over 45 days in the summer of 2000. In 2001 Ernie grazed his 200 pairs on approx 240 acres for first 15 days of July, then had to move the cows off. Ernie has struggled to establish water and fence on the south side of the river, but each year he achieves new goals. In 2001 Ernie was able to get a wire across the river for most of the summer and was therefore, able to manage his paddocks more intensively than in prior years.

Ernie's long term goal for his ranch is to extend his grazing seasons and be able to access his pastures early in the season. He wants to keep the aspen regrowth down in his logged lands, allowing for more pasture for his cattle.

*"We recorded all our pasture/livestock movements this year on our form  
"Pasture Production Record for Grazing Management and Forage Production"  
developed several years ago by the R & D Committee of the Forage Association."  
Ernie Nimitz*

### Available soon:

"Intensively Managed Controlled Grazed Logged Lands" by Ernie Nimitz

\*an in depth description of the goals & management at the Nimitz site.

## Burres' Management

**Fred Burres** is also trying to keep his aspen and willow regrowth to a minimum. Fred started controlled grazing his pastures about 10 years after logging. This allowed for the aspen regrowth to get quite a jump on him. However, Fred was not to be discouraged and started his intensively managing and implementing his grazing plan in 1999.

He wants to increase the productivity of his land for foraging benefits, while keeping aspen and willow regrowth to a minimum. Fred had his pasture divided into roughly 5 acre paddocks. He grazes 100 cow/calf pairs on for 3 to 4 days, depending on the time of year. Fred has numerous paddocks, 24 in total. This number of paddocks allows ample time for the paddocks to rest between grazing periods. Ample rest periods are important to keep the forages productive and actively growing. Fred's pasture, primarily native grasses, seems slower to grow in the spring, and hit harder if over grazed than similar pastures with tame forages.

With the intensive management at Burres', there is a visual difference in the pastures that we have been monitoring. Many aspen have been killed, or knocked back. This is great encouragement for Fred who times his moves precisely. He times his moves so that the cows have the last ½ day in the pasture, where the grass is low enough that they will start to graze back the aspen.



Paddock at Fred Burres' on May 18, 2000.



Fred Burres' paddock on June 16, 2001.



*Glenn Hogberg, as host for a Friendly Forage Field Day in July of 2001 said:*

*"It is important to start with a different paddock first at the beginning of each growing season.*

*By never starting in the same paddock, the damage to each paddock in the spring is reduced."*

## Hogbergs' Management

Glenn Hogberg's grazing system is similar to Fred's but his pasture is in a different condition. This allows him to have a different focus in his grazing plan. Glenn hired Don Lumsden to aerial seed his land the fall after logging. He began grazing his pastures the following spring. He got an excellent catch of fall rye and other pasture grasses and even some legumes. Glenn struggles to keep up with his grass in the later summer and has found that the first rotation should be pushed through faster than on the grazing cattle's second and third passes.

Glenn, like the other two cooperators is trying to minimize the cost of breaking new land by utilizing the land and pasture, while the stumps and debris decay. By using the logged land as pasture and intensively managing it, these ranchers have found a way to graze their cows and prevent aspen from reclaiming the areas. Controlled grazing has proven to be an effective method in knocking back aspen regrowth and in stalling or reducing the regrowth after logging.



Looking east over Glenn Hogberg's paddocks on June 16, 2000.



Looking east over Glenn Hogberg's paddocks on June 14, 2001.



### Watch for more Friendly Forage Field Days in the summer of 2002:

- \*organized by directors and members of the Peace River Forage Association of BC.
- \*contact Sandra Burton or Julie Robinson.

## Cooperators Committed & Continuing

The PRFA is continuing to monitor the success of intensively managed grazing for controlling aspen regrowth. We will collect some plant densities and plant community compositions in both control and grazed sites, to see what affect grazing is having on shrubs and other plant communities.



Keith Carroll teaches us tame and native forage identification and community composition techniques.

**Compiled by:** Julie Robinson and Sandra Burton in Winter of 2002

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