

Final DRAFT
Grazing VERSION IV

Grazing reduces fine herbaceous fuels which include grasses, brush, and small trees. It reduces fuel bed depth (volume) and fuel loading (height). Grazing creates desired gaps in horizontal and vertical continuity of fuel through consumption and impact from trampling. The result is reduced fire intensity through reduced flame length, reduced fuel biomass and reduced rate of spread. Grazing often occurs in areas difficult to access by hand crews or machinery, maintenance of critical wildlife or plant habitat, and within or around urban development.

Grazing can work in conjunction with other treatments. Examples would include larger treatments with mechanical thinning or prescribed fire that are maintained with grazing in subsequent years.

Livestock grazing preferences and behavior play a major role in selecting whether to use sheep, goats, or cattle on a fuel reduction project. Sheep prefer grazing grass to brush. Goats prefer grazing brush to grass. Goats are bipedal, standing on their hind legs to browse 6 feet high to impact vertical continuity. Cattle reduce fuel loads through grazing on a larger landscape scale with less required management

Fuel load reduction through grazing is accomplished through a combination of herding and electric fence to manipulate stock density. Guardian animals are used as a non-lethal means to protect against predators. Livestock water is accessed directly onsite or hauled to the site. Livestock are transported to sites by truck and trailers.





Livestock Pasture use and Plant Preferences*

High Selectivity
(leaves, blades, buds)

Selection for
Plant Parts

Low Selectivity
(Whole plants)



