

Cowboys and Horse(weeds):

*New Opportunities for Nebraska Graziers in
Invasive Plant Management on Rangelands*



February 8, 2008

Invasive plant
management using
livestock is not a new
concept, yet it has
seldom been used as a
first line of defense in
treatment scenarios



Background

Stepping up Efforts in Invasive Plant Management

NRCS Mission

- . . . improve the quality of all agricultural lands, including grazing land, pastureland, rangeland, forestland, and cropland so that the long-term sustainability of the resource base is achieved.



Grassland Summit

- Hosted by the Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition, 2005
- Over 25 organizations with interests in Nebraska grass lands
- Identified top issues
- **Invasive plants** was number one concern

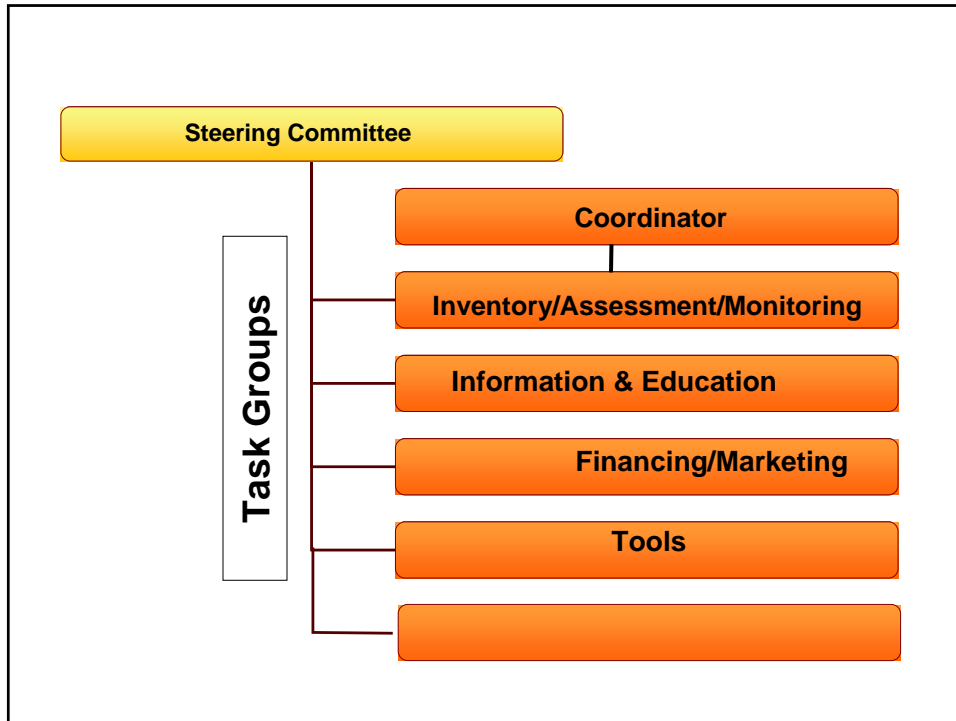


State Technical Sub-Committee

The membership consists of individuals who represent a variety of natural resource sciences and occupations

- FSA
- NGLC
- NG&P
- NWA
- UNL
- TNC
- APHIS
- TPNRD
- TNC
- NE Dept of Ag

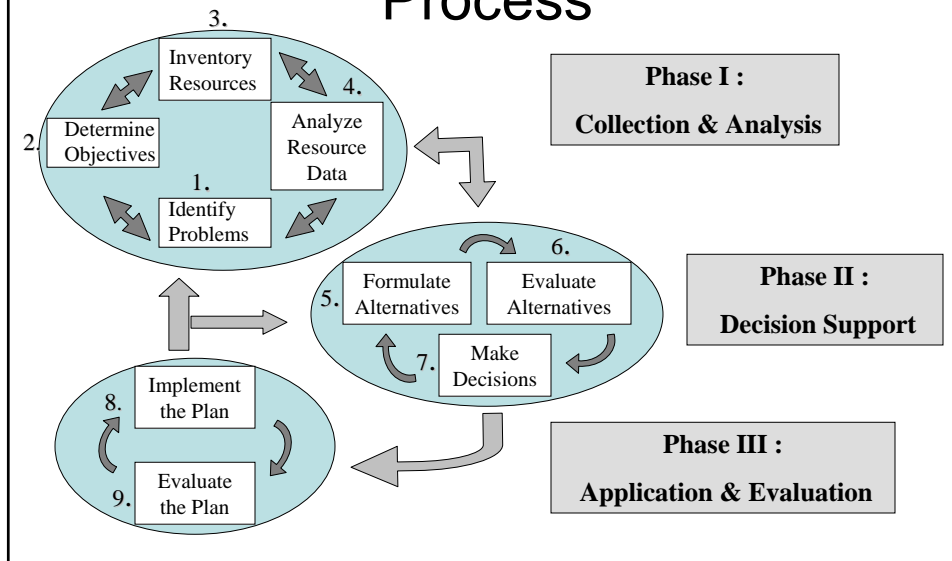




Grazing Planning

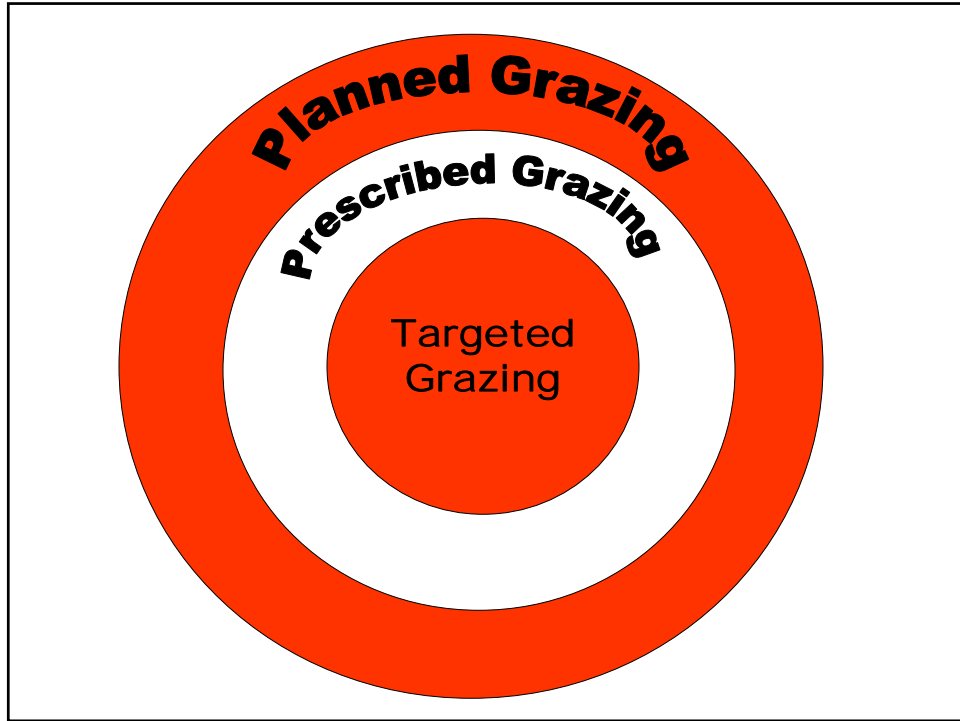
Considerations for Invasive Plant Control

Grazing Lands Planning Process

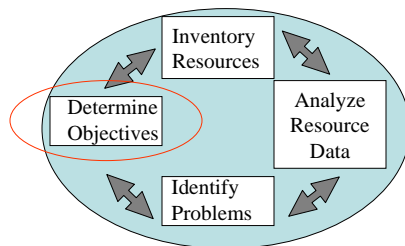


Grazing Plans

- Balance forage requirement with forage supply
- Meet growth needs of the plant
- Meet forage quality needs of the animals
- Meet health and husbandry needs of the livestock
- Meet the needs of the wildlife of concern
- Meet the objective

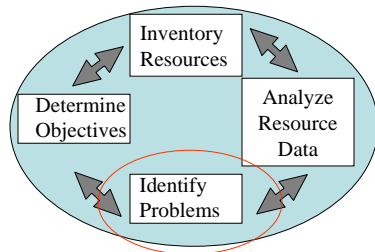


1. Clear Objective



Is the facilitating or accelerating practice the only defined objective?

2. Resource Problem



Identifying the resource problem will help determine the selection of tools needed to fix the problem

3. Ability to Apply the Practice

Does he have the knowledge, skills, ability and above all.....the labor resourcesto apply the practice?



4. The right animal



Is he right for the Job?

Diet Preference Animal Species	Type of Diet		
	Grasses	Broadleaf weeds and legumes	Browse ¹
Cattle	65 - 75	20 - 30	5 - 10
Horses	70 - 80	15 - 25	0 - 5
Sheep	45 - 55	30 - 40	10 - 20
Goats	20 - 30	10 - 30	40 - 60
White-tail deer	10 - 30	30 - 50	30 - 50
Elk	30 - 60	40 - 50	10 - 30

¹ Shrubs or trees

SOURCE: D. Forbes and G.W. Evers, [Texas A&M Univ](#)