



Rx
GRAZING
SERVICES

Our Mission

- ▶ “Rx Grazing Services LLC combines the best of human knowledge and animal impact to benefit our natural environment, clients, and future generations through environmentally friendly vegetation manipulation. Our business operates with unwavering integrity, expanding knowledge, and excellent stewardship to create a growing and profitable prescriptive/targeted grazing service and meat goat enterprise.”

What is targeted grazing and what are its applications?

Targeted grazing is defined by the Targeted Grazing Committee of The Society for Range Management as “The application of a specific kind of livestock at a determined season, duration, and intensity to accomplish defined vegetation or landscape goals.”

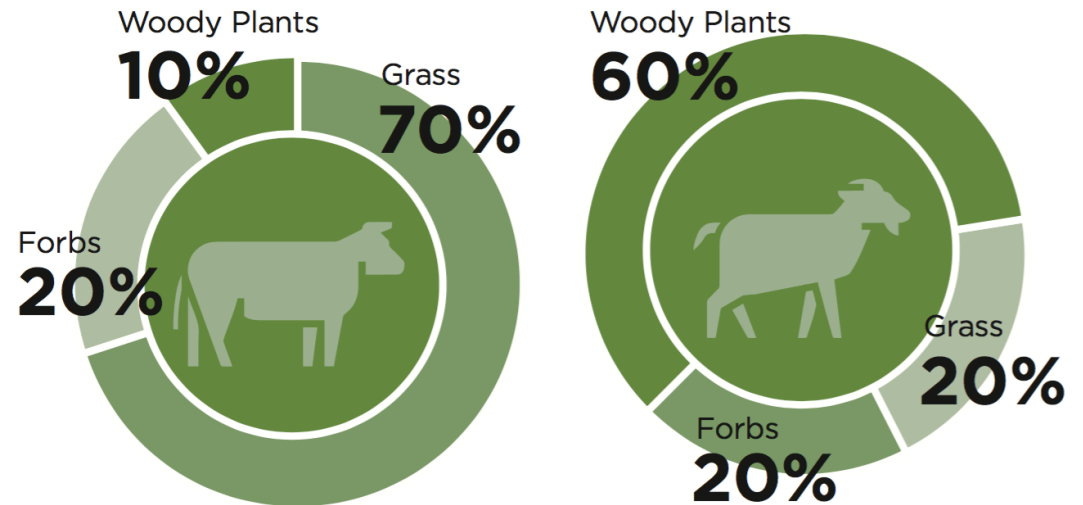
Targeted grazing is a tool commonly used for wildfire mitigation, invasive species control, and wildlife habitat enhancement.

Why goats?

- ▶ Goats are commonly used for targeted grazing projects due to their diet preferences and physiological adaptations allowing them to consume plants deemed unpalatable for other livestock species.

Diets compared in cattle and goats

Cattle heavily consume grasses with less than half their diet being forbs and woody plants. Goats however eat woody plants for a majority of their diet. Grazing the two together may benefit pasture land.



The target species: Gambel Oak (*Quercus gambelii*)

- ▶ Many of our ecosystems in SW Colorado are dominated by Gambel Oak.
- ▶ Gambel Oak is a desired forage for goats with up to 80% of their daily intake made up of oak leaves.
- ▶ Goats have been shown to reduce sprouts after mechanical treatment by as much as 95% (Davis et. al 1975).
- ▶ Gambel oak vigor is reduced by defoliation of the plant causing the plant to draw on carbohydrate reserves from the roots.



Timing and duration of treatments.



Gambel oak requires multi-year treatments in the early spring and late fall in order to be successful.



High stocking rates are required to treat areas.



Treatment using goats is most effective when combined with other treatment types. It is important that oak stands be treated prior to maintenance by goats by prescribed burning, mechanical treatments, or hand crews.



The short list on what you need to know for your project.

- ▶ **Project objectives and outcomes must be clearly defined and communicated prior to treatment.**
- ▶ **Animal welfare is top priority.** Keeping the animals safe and healthy requires a great amount of effort on behalf of the contractor.
- ▶ **It is a team effort.** There is a full-time herdsman, herding dogs, livestock guardian dogs, and horses on site.
- ▶ **It is a multi-year treatment** and often requires multiple treatments in one growing season.
- ▶ **Other plant communities and soils will be affected (usually in a good way).** Oak must be defoliated by at least 80% to be effective and understory plant communities will be disturbed.
- ▶ **Pricing is project specific.** Each project requires different logistics and planning. A site visit is required well before the project is started to create an accurate estimate.



For more information and/or to book a consultation please contact:



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