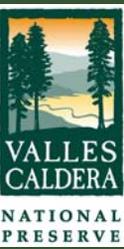


MUSY - Forage Terminology



Multiple Use and Sustained Yield of Forage

MUSY: MULTIPLE-USE SUSTAINED-YIELD ACT OF 1960 [As amended through December 31, 1996, P.L. 104-333]

Multiple Use : The management of all the various renewable surface resources of the national forests so that they are utilized in the combination that will best meet the needs of the American people; making the most judicious use of the land for some or all of these resources or related services over areas large enough to provide sufficient latitude for periodic adjustments in use to conform to changing needs and conditions; that some land will be used for less than all of the resources; and harmonious and coordinated management of the various resources, each with the other, without impairment of the productivity of the land, with consideration being given to the relative values* of the various resources, and not necessarily the combination of uses that will give the greatest dollar return or the greatest unit output.

***outdoor recreation, range, timber, watershed, and wildlife and fish purposes.**

Forage: food for animals especially when taken by browsing or grazing.

Forest thinning allows sunlight and moisture to penetrate the tree canopy – generally increasing the quantity and vigor of grass in the understory. The photos below are taken at the Banco Bonito Entrance before (top) and after thinning.



The Trust is carefully measuring the response of the grasslands in the Valle Toledo to prescribed fire (below). We are also measuring how the use of the grassland by elk is affected by the treatment of the grasslands with prescribed fire which may be an important tool in managing elk distribution.



Stewardship of the Preserve

Stewardship Action: Activity or group of activities consisting of at least one goal, objective, and performance requirement...that may

1. Guide or prescribe alternative uses of the Preserve upon which future implementing decisions will be based; or
2. Utilize or manage the resources of the Preserve.

Goal: Desirable condition of the Preserve sought by the Trust. The board...may remove, amend, and/or adopt one or more goals only after completing reviews of the goals adopted by strategic guidance and a current State of the Preserve. Current goals are defined in the Act and the 10 Management Principles adopted by the board. New goals can be adopted upon review of existing goals and a current State of the Preserve

Objective: The desired outcome that can be meaningfully evaluated by location and timing within the Preserve.

Monitored Outcome: The short-, mid-, or long-term outcome selected for systematic evaluation.

Performance Requirement: The limitation placed on the implementation of a stewardship action necessary for compliance with applicable laws, regulations, standards, mitigating measures or generally accepted practices.

National Environmental Policy Act

NEPA: National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 as Amended

“ The purposes of this act are: To declare a national policy which will encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between man and his environment; to promote efforts which will prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and biosphere and stimulate the health and welfare of man; to enrich the understanding of the ecological systems and natural resources important to the Nation; and to establish a Council on Environmental Quality”

Senator Henry S. Jackson is quoted upon introduction of S. 1075:

“The survival of man, in a world in which decency and dignity are possible, is the basic reason for bringing man’s impact on his environment under informed and responsible control”

The Valles Caldera Trust published procedures for implementing the provisions of NEPA in the Federal Register, July of 2003.

The Use of Forage vs. the Management of Forage

The Trust is considering the allocation and use of forage consistent with the Multiple Use and Sustained Yield Act of 1960 and other connected actions.

Actions that directly manage the grassland ecosystems of the Preserve towards a desired condition will be considered at a later time in context with the management of forest ecosystems. Actions considered at that time could include forest thinning and prescribed fire.

The use and management of resources cannot be completely separated. Cattle grazing and timber harvest are actions that primarily use resources. However, these actions can also support resource management objectives. Forest thinning is usually implemented to manage the forest or move it towards a desired condition. However, forest thinning often yields wood products which can be used.

Decisions regarding use or management of resources are linked through goals and objectives and measured through monitored outcomes. Adjustments can be made in either use or management of resources to allow the Trust to better achieve goals and objectives.

Adjustments in management actions based on monitored outcomes, or *adaptive management*, is known to be an effective and efficient way of managing complex natural systems over time.