

Successful Strategies in Grazing Cattle in Riparian Zones

Ehrhart & Hansen (1998)

- Tailor the approach to the specific situation.
- Incorporate management of riparian areas into overall management plan.
- Select season of use so grazing occurs, as often as possible, during periods compatible with animal behaviour, conditions in the riparian zone, and riparian objectives.
- Limit the time livestock spend in riparian pastures.
- Influence the distribution of livestock within the targeted pasture.
- Ensure adequate residual cover.
- Provide adequate regrowth time and rest for plants.
- Be prepared to play an active role in managing riparian areas.
- Practicality is the bottom line.

Determining season of use - 3 most significant factors:

- 1) The predicted response of different plant species.
- 2) The impact on the overall plant community which can result from grazing.
- 3) The degree of soil moisture on the site.

Reducing intensity of use by influencing cattle distribution:

- Use off-stream water.
- If you must use the stream, employ stable access points - gravel approaches.
- Salt & mineral placement – try for 1/3 mile from water.
- Use improved upland forage - lure cows away from riparian.
- Riding - move cows forcibly.
- Fencing - exclusion, temporary or permanent.