

# 2016 Grazing Season Plan

**(1) Grazing Sequence**

**(2) Stocking Rate**

**(3) Triggers for Cattle Movement**

# Grazing Sequence

**Grazing sequence for 2016 decided by Consensus  
at Jan 2016 Meeting)**

Ridgeline

Elm

South

Crossroads

Hilltank

Highway

Snowfence

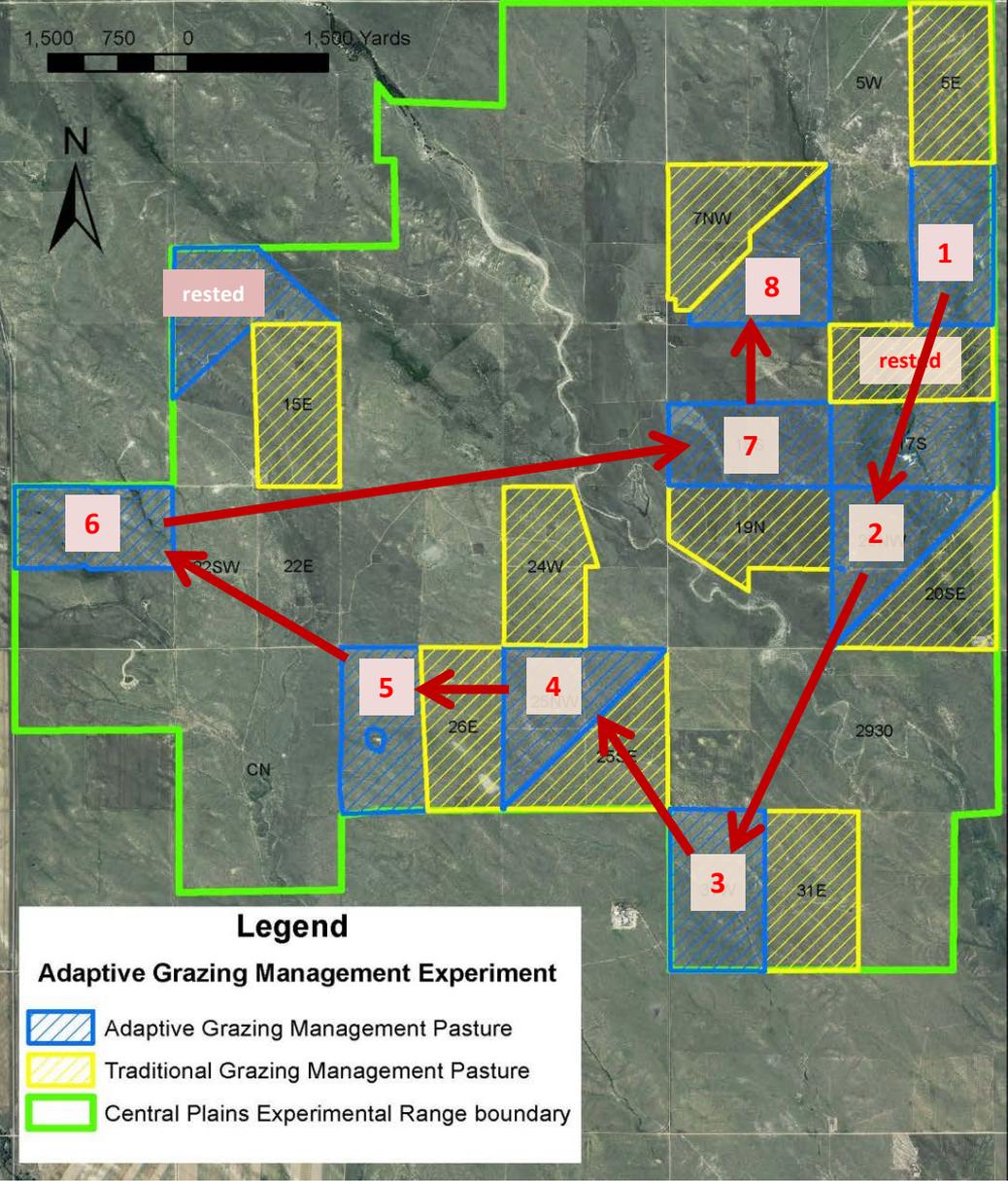
Headquarters: 10 days at end

Rest: Saltflat

Rest: Nighthawk

# 2016 Planned Grazing Sequence

1,500 750 0 1,500 Yards



## Legend

### Adaptive Grazing Management Experiment

-  Adaptive Grazing Management Pasture
-  Traditional Grazing Management Pasture
-  Central Plains Experimental Range boundary

# 2016 Grazing Season Plan

**Increase 2016 Stocking Rate by 5% (to 234 head)  
Consensus after second vote, Jan 2016.**

Reasoning: Increase profits; increase is possible based on current soil moisture and positive spring forecast; high residual from 2015 growing season.

# Triggers for Cattle Movement

## (1) Vegetation Visual Obstruction:

### Average to Wet Year:

- Loamy 450 lbs/acre
- Mixed 500 lbs/acre
- Sandy 550 lbs/acre

### Drought Year (<75% of normal precip by June 15):

- Loamy 300 lbs/acre
- Mixed 400 lbs/acre
- Sandy 450 lbs/acre

# Triggers for Cattle Movement

(2) Cattle Behavior: **Ranking of Activity = 2 will trigger move to next pasture (approved by consensus at April 2016 meeting)**

Cattle Observations 2016	Proposed Ranking	Interpretation
<b>Activity</b>	1 = Cattle leaving pasture to access forage elsewhere	
	2 = Cattle walking fences frequently, feeding through fence, leaning on fence/gate	Category 2 = cattle behavior indicative of moving to next pasture
	3 = Cattle grouping up in corners and near gates, starting to walk fences	Category 3 is key to increase scrutiny of cattle activity
	4 = Cattle grazing in smaller groups	
	5 = Cattle grazing in large groups	
<b>Topographic Distribution</b>	1 = Cattle mostly across all topographic areas with uniform/dispersed distribution	
	2 = Cattle mostly on uplands in clumped distribution	
	3 = Cattle in both lowland and upland in more clumped rather than dispersed distribution	
	4 = Cattle mostly in lowlands in clumped distribution	
	5 = Cattle mostly near water	

# Followup from January, 2016 Meeting:

## Things to be considered in April meeting:

- Scenarios for increased stocking in the grazing calculator
- Running past years through grazing calculator to test it against what happened
- Max days threshold-
  - Jan Meeting discussion:
    - Consider setting 21-day max day because that's when cattle diet quality seems to consistently decline
    - BUT, new 2016 changes to VOR triggers (as set in Jan meeting) should move cattle out of pastures when we want, and perhaps we shouldn't add maxdays as another variable (i.e. perhaps best to see how well VOR alone works with the new trigger levels)

# Triggers for Cattle Movement

## (3) Maximum Days Threshold:

**Maximum of 24 days per pasture will be applied to all pastures in 2016 (decided by consensus, April 2016 meeting)**

Reasoning: To meet cattle gains objective, want to minimize chance of leaving cattle in a pasture too long early in the grazing season, when weight gains are most important; forage calculator predicts that VOR threshold will allow cattle to stay in 1<sup>st</sup> pasture (Ridgeline) for 31 days; concerns expressed that this could negative impact weight gains. Avoid this by setting 24 day max. Group discussion indicated this decision is not anticipated to have negative consequences for bird habitat objectives or the vegetation objectives.

# 2016 Grazing Season Plan Summary

1. **Grazing Sequence:** Ridgeline, Elm, South, Crossroads, Hilltank, Highway, Snowfence, Headquarters (10 days at end)
2. **Stocking Rate: 234 steers (5% increase from 2015)**
3. **Triggers for Cattle Movement**
  - i. VOR thresholds
  - ii. Cattle activity
  - iii. Max days