

## Foraging Animal Behavior & Management

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### Grazing management needs to be strategic

- Animal Behavior
- Diet Selection
  
- Plant response
- Plant community change
- Hydrology
  
- Practicality

### Some topics to be covered-

- Diet Selection
  
- Preference
  
- Livestock Distribution
  
- Timing & Intensity of Grazing

### Know your animals & what influences plant selection

#### Species

Breed

Age

#### Physiologic state

Experience- learned behaviors

## Diet selection

Species	Plants preferred	Classification
cattle	grasses	grazers
horses	grasses	grazers
sheep	forbs & grasses	intermediate feeders
goats	Browse, new shoots of shrubs	browsers
camelids- alpaca, llama, camel	browse	browsers

## Grazing Intensity

- Increases with increases in animals/area
  - Is greater for palatable plants than less palatable plants
  - Can change throughout a season and plants mature and their chemical composition changes
- = bites/ plant/ time

## Methods to improve livestock distribution

Methods to improve livestock distribution

- a. water
- b. fencing
- c. salt and other supplements
- d. herding
- e. type of livestock
- f. fertilization of plant community
- g. grazing systems

## Resources

- BEHAVE @ Utah State University  
<http://digitalcommons.usu.edu/behave/>
- Kathy Voth. Livestock for Landscapes  
<http://www.livestockforlandscapes.com/>
- Pasture & Grazing Management in the Northwest. 2010. Shewmaker & Bohle (eds.)