

ROGER: Results Oriented Grazing for Ecological Resilience

Group Purpose

Rancher-led collaborative to achieve land management objectives that conserve sagebrush ecosystems and support ranching.

- Develop a shared vision of on-the-ground conditions & create a common understanding of what it will take to achieve those outcomes
- Identify ways to provide ranchers needed flexibility and take action
- Document and share successes, failures, and lessons learned with ROGER and others



Group Function

Information, learning and communication venue that supports individuals or groups of individuals experimenting in different ways. ROGER serves to bring various parties together to communicate, share information, ask the hard questions, struggle through disagreements, and learn in order to understand and develop solutions to the complex issues facing the sagebrush ecosystem in Nevada and the Great Basin.

Upcoming Events

- ROGER has quarterly meetings the second Tue & Wed of quarter (Jan, April, July & Oct) in Elko (locations may change in future).
- We have a 100+ person electronic mailing list with folks from Nevada and neighboring states. Contact Jon Griggs or Laura Van Riper if you want to be added.
- Field tour @ Smith Creek Ranch (Austin, NV) July 9-10.
 - Smith Creek Ranch is both an outcome-based demo and one of the ROGER science team's study sites.
 - Contact Ethan Mower if you'd like to attend.

Contact Information

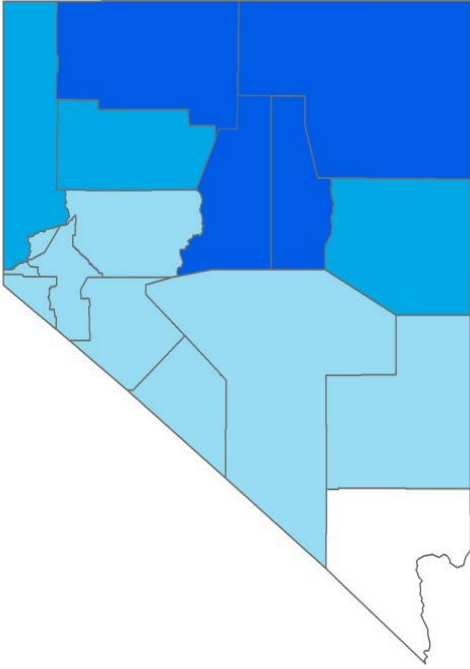
Jon Griggs, rancher, ROGER lead, jon@maggiecreek.com

Laura Van Riper, BLM, ROGER facilitator, lvanripe@blm.gov

Ethan Mower, July tour contact, emower@sagebrushco.nv.gov

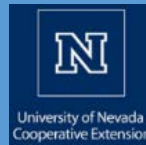


Service Area



ROGER is an interest-based group working to explore creative and effective options for land management in the sagebrush ecosystem (blue) through implementation of place-based projects. Counties in darker shades of blue have more representation in ROGER than those in lighter shades. The group is actively working to expand.

Partners



Focus Areas

Outcome-Based Grazing Demos

- Identify resource objectives and provide ranchers with the means to achieve them through grazing flexibility

Adaptive Management Planning

- Identify and apply suite of management tools and techniques that will help guide management and assess progress (e.g., Grazing Response Index)

Wildfire Management

- Explore issues such as targeted grazing, post-fire rehabilitation and post-fire grazing management

Assessment & Monitoring

- Explore new ways to assess and monitor rangeland conditions and GRS habitat by obtaining accurate and precise measurements across a large scale through timely and cost effective means.



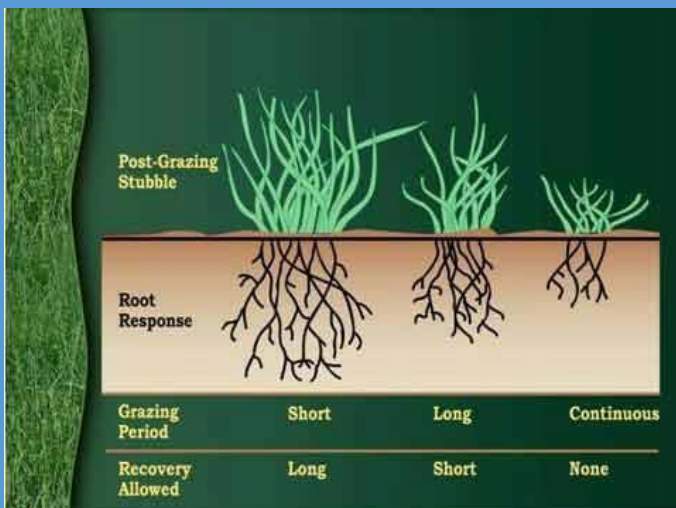
Significant Achievements

Outcome-Based Grazing Demos

- Three ranches selected for BLM National Outcome-Based Grazing Demo TPRs to be completed 2019-2020

Adaptive Management Planning

- Conducted training sessions for application of the Grazing Response Index (GRI) on 5 Nevada ranches. Funded through SARE grant and led by UNR.
- GRI is focused on time (duration), timing (season of use), intensity (amount of forage removed) and opportunity for plant recovery.
- Results will be shared through training programs, curriculum and fact-sheet development and peer-reviewed publications. Tool will also be included in OBG demo TPRs



Significant Achievements

Wildfire Management

- Selected for and implementing BLM National Targeted Grazing Demo
- Working with Martin Fire coordination group to address post-fire grazing (management agreements vs. automatic closures) and restoration issues (strategic use of native and non-native seed mixes, green-stripping, etc.)
- Planning to engage in other pre-, post- and during-fire conversations and strategic planning



Targeted Grazing Demo
Boulder Creek Fire
July 16, 2018
1028 acres

Joint targeted grazing project first implemented spring 2018 when approximately 2000 head of cattle were released for approximately 3 weeks to graze fuel break in cheatgrass. Targeted grazing and trailing worked to hold Boulder Creek fire at only 1028 acres in an area susceptible to large intense fires and protect previous ESR efforts designed to recover GRSG habitat after past fires.

Significant Achievements

Assessment and Monitoring

- Convened science team of rangeland ecologists (UNR), GRSG habitat biologists (USGS) and remote sensing specialists (USGS) plus other agency partners (BLM, FWS, NDOW) and ranchers.
- Secured approximately half of budget (\$700k) from FWS and BLM for 5-year research project to develop spatially explicit map for the Great Basin that incorporates State and Transition Models, Disturbance Response Groups, GRSG habitat objectives and remote sensing.
- Test the use and effectiveness of this product as a tool for conservation planning and monitoring the results of outcome-based grazing actions in conserving and improving GRSG habitat and rangeland health objectives on the ground using two ROGER OBG grazing ranches as study-sites



Future Goals

Maintain & Expand Group

- Recently received approximately \$100k in IWJV assistance to hire a multi-year coordinator to help manage the group and associated work groups, expand participation, assist with logistics, broadly share information and lessons learned, and build local capacity to move ROGER and similar collaborative community-based conservation efforts forward in NV.

Continued Progress on Four Focus Areas



Resource Needs

SHORT-TERM: Non-BLM contributions as 25% match for IWJV Coordinator funding

- Secured \$10-25k from FWS
- Need additional \$10-25k from other sources

LONG-TERM: Additional \$500k to fund development and testing of spatially explicit map as conservation planning and monitoring tool.

ONGOING: Continued support, participation and commitment from all parties.

