

Paradise Grazing Plan



The primary goal of the Grazing Management Plan is to establish a sustainable, fire safe landscape that balances vegetation growth and removal to manage undesirable, invasive, flammable plant species. Historically, this was done with grazing or frequent low intensity fires. Managing vegetation with grazing is a lower risk practice for wildland urban interface areas than prescribed fire.

Sustainable Fire Safe Landscape

Growth = Removal

Paradise is located on a plateau between the West Branch of the Feather River and Little Butte Creek. Since its founding, the Butte County Fire Safe Council has constructed fuel breaks along the rim of the town with varying success. Fuel break maintenance is a challenge as funds are difficult to obtain and vegetation in open areas regrows to former levels in 3 to 5 years.

Yearly grazing is one of the best ways to maintain a fuel break.

- Grazing is cheaper than mechanical or hand treatments.
- Grazing is a lower risk practice than prescribed fire for urban areas.

Shrubs and ladder fuels can grow 1 foot a year, reaching pre-treatment levels in 3 to 5 years. Since the Camp Fire, ladder fuels and invasive shrubs have become dominant in areas that were once heavily forested. Unmanaged stands of brush can be fire hazards and hamper oak and pine regeneration. To maintain fire safe conditions, this vegetation should be managed yearly.





Goats are the livestock of choice as they are browsers and will eat higher growing tender shoots, twigs, and leaves of trees or shrubs. Sheep are used in conjunction with goats as they prefer grass and weeds on the ground. The quantity of sheep will eventually need to be increased as brush is managed and more grasses become available. Sheep and goats are not limited by the slope of the terrain; the limiting factor will be water and access for temporary fencing.



Yearly treatment...

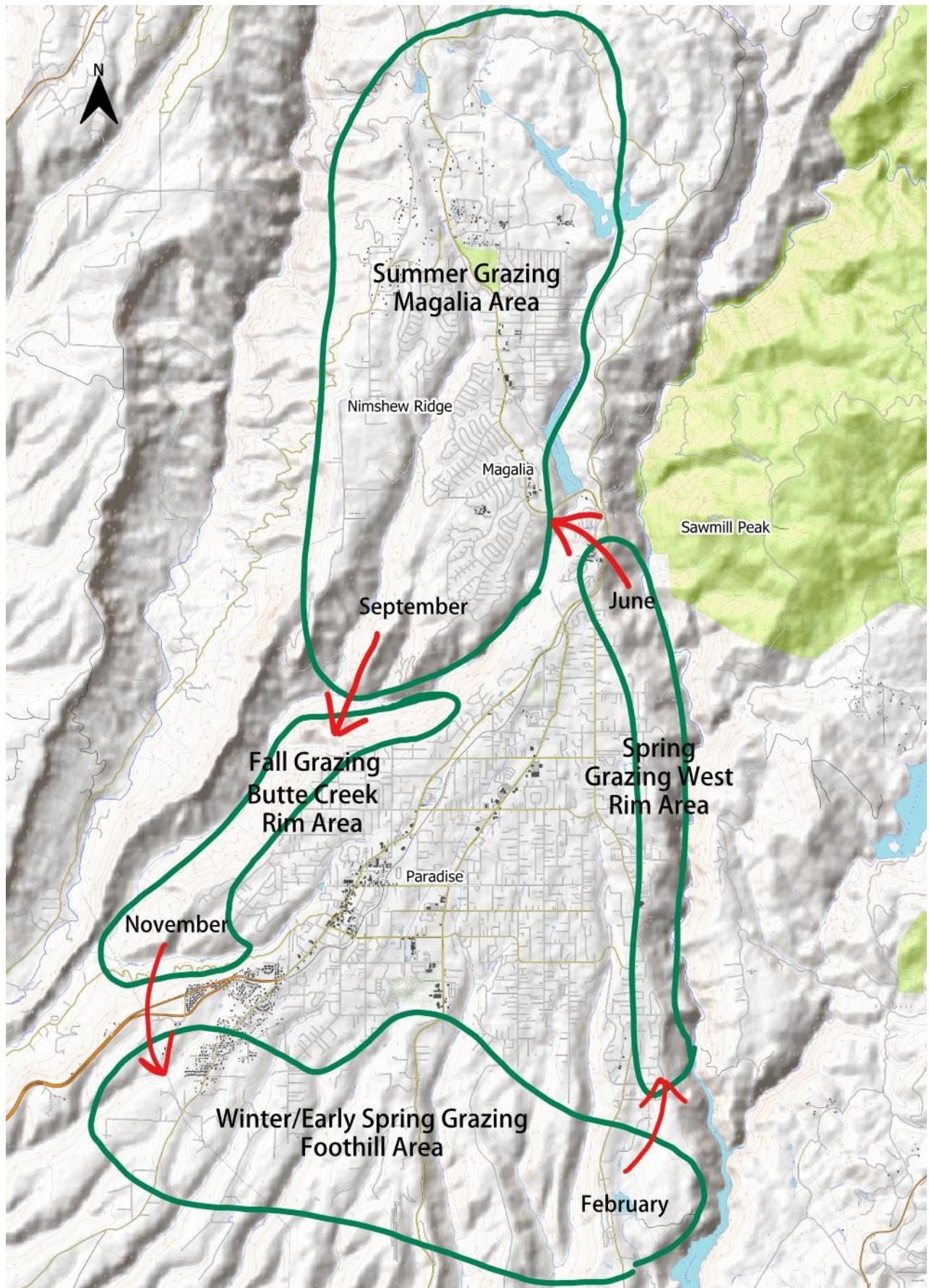
Will affect vigor of undesirable plant species



Follow up treatment will be less intense than the prior year as plant vigor is exhausted. The timing of treatment has been shown to impact plant species composition. Some plant species tend to be more palatable and preferentially selected by sheep and goats at different times of the year. For most effective results, grazing before seeds can be set will decrease future populations.



Yearly grazing cycle following plant palatability.



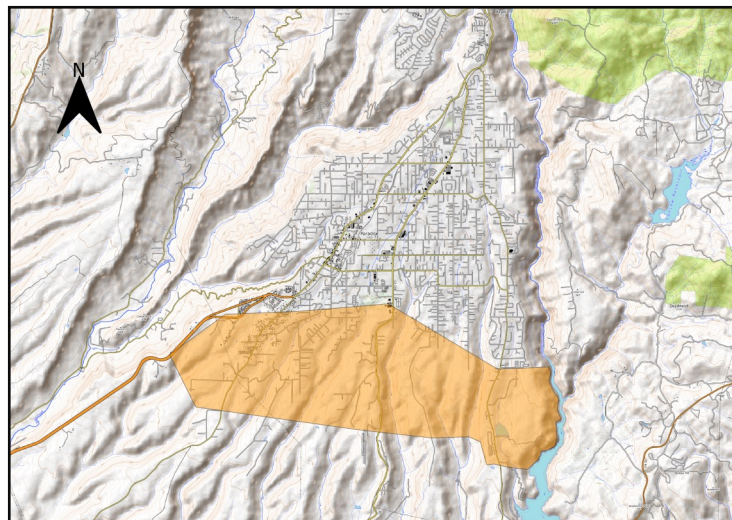
Foothill



In the lower elevations, oak dominated grasslands cover rolling hills leading up to the ridge. Foothill Pine and chaparral become a component of the landscape as the elevation increases.

Grazing in this area can keep chaparral and grass based fuel accumulation low.

This area is most effectively grazed December through April.



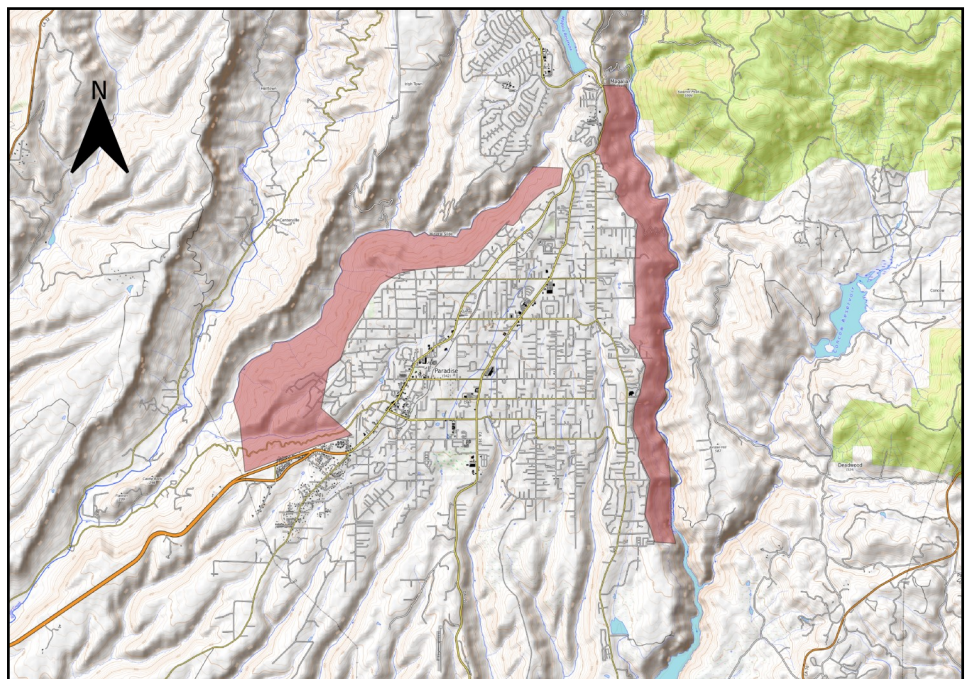
Rim



Steep slopes with dense thickets of Manzanita, Oak, Ceanothus and Broom make up the vegetation along both the East and West Rim surrounding Paradise.

Unlike machines, goats aren't limited by the steep slopes in this area.

***Grazing
between Mid-
April and June
most
effectively
controls
invasives and
ladder fuels.***

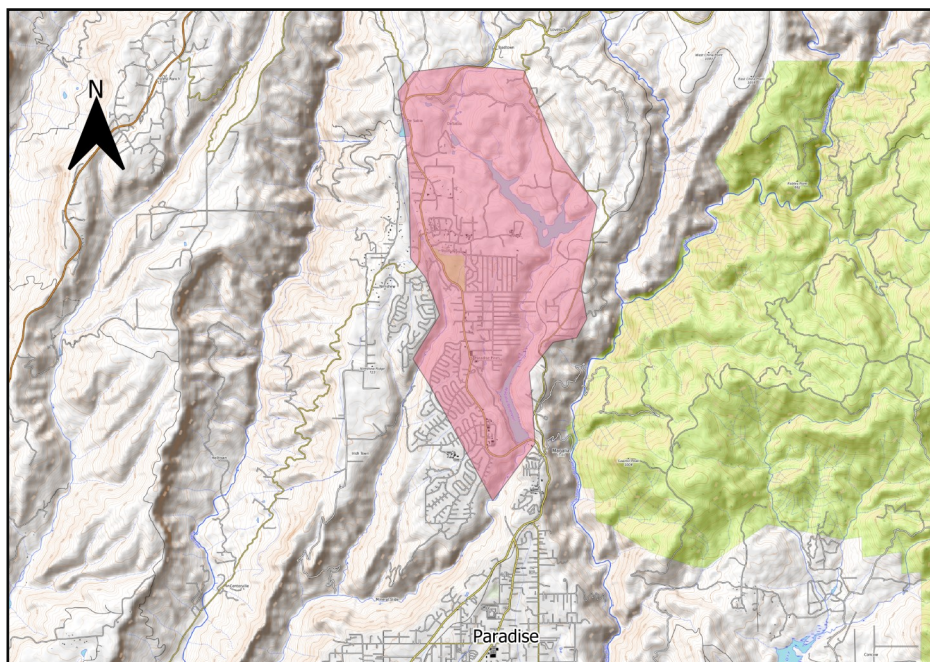


Magalia



Ceanothus, Tanoak, Blackberry and Oaks are the predominant vegetation in the Magalia area in need of management.

This area is best suited for summer grazing.

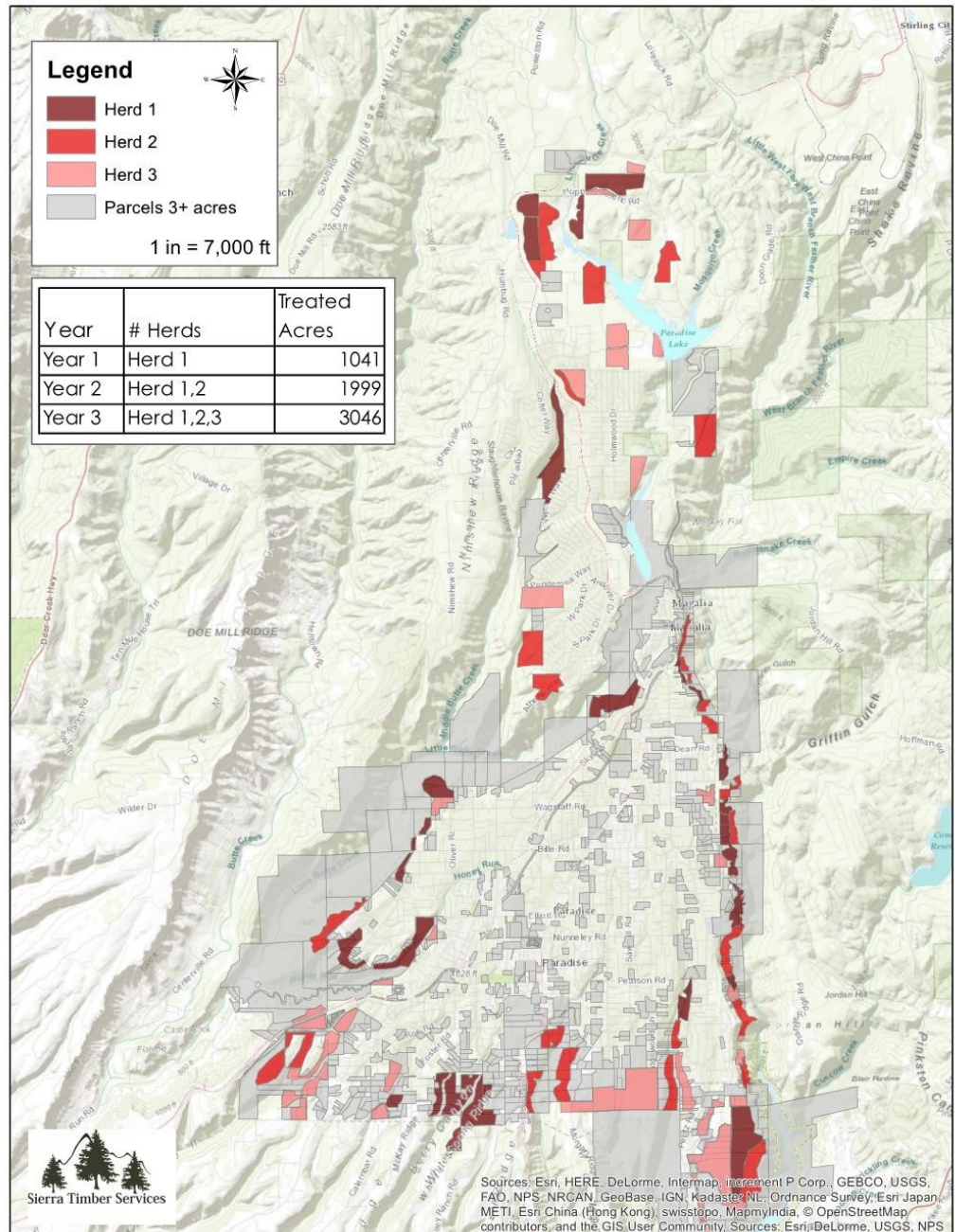


Butte County Fire Safe Council



Goal

- Year 1 (2021/2022) with 1000 head of goats to create and maintain fuel breaks around Paradise.
- Year 2, add another 1000 head of goats for a total of 2000 goats to create and maintain fuel breaks around Paradise.
- Year 3, add another 1000 head of goats for a total of 3000 goats to create and maintain fuel breaks.
- Parcels with 3 + acres are potential areas for future expansion of the fuel break areas.



Making it work

To be most efficient, grazing contractors need

- Long term contracts
- Large grazing areas (groups of parcels)
- Permanent boundary fencing
- Water access

With a long term contract, the grazing contractor can maintain a large herd of goats while efficiently planning a rotation cycle that decreases supplemental food costs.

Large grazing areas in close proximity allows a single herder to reduce transportation costs. Livestock can be walked between grazing areas instead of trucked.

Permanent boundary fencing lowers the time spent setting up electric fence. Having water access on the property eliminates the need for a water truck to haul water for the goats.



Community and Landowner Involvement

Property owners working together with the Town of Paradise and Butte County Fire Safe Council (BCFS) can :

- Develop infrastructure by creating permanent livestock fencing along grazing area boundaries to enable herds easier access and lower setup time and costs.
- Participate in goat grazing programs offered by BCFS. Encourage your neighbors to join to create a large area for grazing.
- Give permission for water use by goat grazing herds.



If you are an interested landowner within one of the zones mentioned above, contact Butte County Fire Safe Council to participate:

5619 Black Olive Dr. Paradise

530-877-0984

Online at : <https://buttefiresafe.net>