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Spotted Knapweed Utilization by Sequential Cattle and Sheep Grazing

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Abstract

Prescribed (or targeted) sheep grazing can effectively suppress the invasive perennial forb spotted knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe* L. ssp. *micranthos* [Gugler] Hayek). Some ranchers and other natural resource managers, however, resist using this weed management tool over concerns that sheep may consume too much of the graminoid standing crop, thereby decreasing its availability to cattle and wildlife and possibly harming graminoids with excessive defoliation. One potential approach to address these concerns is to graze spotted knapweed infestations first with cattle, immediately followed by sheep. We evaluated this sequential grazing strategy on foothill rangeland in western Montana, comparing sequential grazing at a moderate stocking rate in mid June (spotted knapweed in bolting stage) vs. mid July (spotted knapweed in late-bud/early flowering stage). Pastures (0.81 ha) were grazed with three yearling cattle for 7 d, immediately followed with 7 d of grazing by seven yearling sheep. Combined relative (i.e., utilization) of graminoids by cattle and sheep averaged 40% in June and July, safely within sustainable grazing use levels recommended for the site. Combined relative use of spotted knapweed by cattle and sheep also did not differ between June and July, averaging 62%. Previous research indicates that this degree of use is sufficient to suppress spotted knapweed. Our results indicate that prescribed sheep grazing can be applied immediately following cattle grazing in either June or July to suppress spotted knapweed without overusing desirable graminoids. Cattle and sheep will eat less graminoids and more spotted knapweed if cattle and sheep graze sequentially when spotted knapweed is in its late-bud/early flowering stage (mid July) rather than its bolting stage (mid June).

Resumen

El pastoreo prescrito con ovejas puede suprimir de manera efectiva la herbácea perene invasiva spotted knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe* L. ssp. *micranthos* [Gugler] Hayek). Sin embargo, algunos ganaderos y manejadores de recursos naturales, se resisten a utilizar esta herramienta de manejo por la preocupación de que las ovejas puedan consumir grandes cantidades de gramíneas, resultando en disminución y disponibilidad para el ganado y fauna silvestre. Asimismo, se teme que el consumo ocasione un daño a las gramíneas por una utilización intensiva. Un posible enfoque para hacer frente a estas preocupaciones es pastorear las áreas infestadas de spotted knapweed primero con ganado vacuno e inmediatamente después con ovejas. Evaluamos esta estrategia de pastoreo secuencial en los pastizales al pie de los lomeríos en el oeste de Montana, comparando el pastoreo secuencial con una densidad animal moderada a mediados de junio (etapa previa a la floración) en comparación con el pastoreo durante mediados de Julio (finales de la brotación/ principios de la época de floración). Parcelas de (0.86 has) fueron pastoreadas con tres vacas de un año por 7 días, inmediatamente fueron pastoreadas por 7 días con siete ovejas de un año. Combinando la utilización relativa de gramíneas por ganado y ovejas promediaron 40% in Junio y Julio, con seguridad estos niveles de pastoreo son sostenibles recomendados para este sitio. La relativa combinación de la utilización de spotted knapweed por ganado y ovejas tampoco produjo diferencias entre Junio y Julio, promediando 62%. Investigaciones previas indican que este grado de utilización es suficiente para suprimir spotted knapweed. Nuestros resultados indican que el pastoreo prescrito con ovejas puede ser implementado inmediatamente después del pastoreo con ganado vacuno ya sea en Junio o Julio para suprimir spotted knapweed sin la sobrevso de las gramíneas deseables. El ganado vacuno y las ovejas van a consumir menos gramíneas y mas spotted knapweed si ambos pastorean secuencialmente cuando spotted knapweed está en finales de la brotación/ principios de la época de floración (mediados de julio) en lugar de la etapa de floración (mediados de Junio).

Key Words: *Centaurea maculosa*, *Centaurea stoebe*, grasses, prescribed grazing, targeted grazing, timing, weeds

INTRODUCTION

Spotted knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe* L. ssp. *micranthos* [Gugler] Hayek) is a nonindigenous, perennial forb that infests millions of hectares of rangeland in the United States and Canada (Sheley et al. 1999; Duncan 2005). This invasive plant continues to spread at a rate of 10–27% annually (Griffith and Lacey 1991; Duncan 2005; Montana Weed Summit Steering Committee 2005). Spotted knapweed infestations reduce cattle and wildlife forage (Watson and Renney 1974), reduce biodiversity (Tyser and Key 1988), and inflict dramatic economic damage (Bucher 1984; Hirsch and Leitch 1996).

Prescribed (or targeted) sheep grazing can effectively suppress spotted knapweed (Olson et al. 1997; Launchbaugh

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and Hendrickson 2001). Some ranchers and other natural resource managers, however, resist using this weed management tool over concerns that sheep may consume too much of the graminoid standing crop, thereby decreasing the amount of graminoid forage available to cattle and wildlife and potentially harming graminoids with excessive defoliation. For example, one study from western Montana reported that when sheep prescriptively grazed a light infestation of spotted knapweed (spotted knapweed = 13% vegetative composition) in its late-bud/early flowering stage, graminoids comprised 55% of sheep diets (Thrift et al. 2008). One potential approach to decrease graminoid consumption by sheep is to graze spotted knapweed infestations first with cattle, immediately followed by sheep (Thrift et al. 2008). Given that cattle on foothill rangeland typically select grass-dominated summer diets (Miller and Krueger 1976; McLean and Willms 1977; Torstenson et al. 2006), cattle grazing immediately before sheep grazing may reduce graminoid availability and increase the relative abundance or palatability of spotted knapweed to the sheep, potentially causing the sheep to eat less graminoids and more spotted knapweed. This strategy potentially mirrors the way that sheep grazing can be followed with cattle grazing to reduce cattle consumption of larkspur (*Delphinium* L. spp.), a plant that is highly poisonous to cattle but much less toxic to sheep (Alexander 1989; Ralphs et al. 1991; Ralphs and Olsen 1992).

Previous research has determined that prescribed sheep grazing can be effectively applied when spotted knapweed is in either the bolting stage or the late-bud/early flowering stage (Olson et al. 1997; Launchbaugh and Hendrickson 2001; Thrift et al. 2008; Benzel et al. 2009; Surber et al. 2011). The purpose of our study was to investigate whether sequential grazing of cattle and sheep (i.e., grazing first with cattle, immediately followed by sheep) would be better applied when spotted knapweed was in the bolting stage (mid June) or late-bud/early flowering stage (mid July). We investigated the effects of the timing of grazing on cattle and sheep diets, forage use (i.e., utilization), and livestock foraging behavior. We hypothesized that sheep would eat less graminoids and more spotted knapweed in July when graminoids were more phenologically advanced and less palatable.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study Area

The study was located on foothill rangeland in western Montana near Greenough, Montana (lat 46°54′10.0794″N, long 113°25′22.8″W) at an elevation of about 1 100 m. The ecological site is Silty, in the 381-mm to 483-mm precipitation zone (USDA-NRCS 2003), and the habitat type is mountain big sagebrush/rough fescue (*Artemisia tridentata* Nutt. ssp. *vaseyana* [Rydb.] Beetle/*Festuca campestris* Rydb.; Mueggler and Stewart 1980). Soils are very deep, somewhat excessively drained, Perma gravelly, and stony loams (Loamy-skeletal, mixed Typic Haploborolls) that formed in alluvium (USDA-NRCS 2003). The study was conducted within a light infestation of spotted knapweed in which spotted knapweed comprised 18% of the vegetative composition, as quantified immediately before the initial grazing treatments in June 2006 (see "Data Collection" methods below).

Dominant graminoid species included rough fescue, Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis* Elmer), bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata* [Pursh] Á. Löve), threadleaf sedge (*Carex filifolia* Nutt.), prairie junegrass (*Koeleria macrantha* [Ledeb.] Schultes), and Sandberg bluegrass (*Poa secunda* J. Presl). Dominant forbs were spotted knapweed, silky lupine (*Lupinus sericeus* Pursh), rose pussytoes (*Antennaria rosea* Greene), and common yarrow (*Achillea millefolium* L.). The primary shrub on the site was mountain big sagebrush.

Treatments

We compared sequential cattle and sheep grazing in mid June vs. mid July in 2 yr (2006 and 2007). During the June grazing treatment, perennial grasses were at the five-leaf to six-leaf stage, and spotted knapweed plants were bolting. Perennial grasses were in the soft dough stage and spotted knapweed was in the late-bud/early flowering stage during the July grazing treatment. Each month and year, three 0.81-ha pastures were grazed with three yearling Angus cattle (bulls, steers, or heifers) for 7 d, immediately followed with 7 d of grazing by seven yearling Rambouillet wethers. Yearling cattle weights averaged 329 $kg \cdot animal^{-1}$ and yearling wethers averaged 68 $kg \cdot animal^{-1}$. Stocking rate was 0.6 animal unit month (AUM) $\cdot ha^{-1}$ for cattle and 0.3 $AUM \cdot ha^{-1}$ for sheep, totaling a combined moderate stocking rate of 0.9 $AUM \cdot ha^{-1}$. Each month and year, all animals were randomly assigned to the pastures following 5-d acclimation grazing periods in adjacent non-treatment pastures to familiarize the livestock with the forage on the study area.

Data Collection and Laboratory Analyses

Relative use (Frost et al. 1994) of spotted knapweed and perennial graminoids was measured after cattle (relative use by cattle) and sheep (relative use by cattle + sheep) grazing in June and July using the Grazed Class Method (Schmutz et al. 1963; US Department of Agriculture–US Department of the Interior 1996; McKinney 1997). Percentage of use of the nearest perennial graminoid (basal width ≥ 3 cm) and spotted knapweed plant was measured at 2-m intervals along a 60-m permanent transect located near the center of each pasture ($n = 30$ spotted knapweed plants $\cdot pasture^{-1}$ and $n = 30$ graminoid plants $\cdot pasture^{-1}$).

Botanical composition of sheep and cattle diets was determined using microhistological analysis of fecal samples (Sparks and Malechek 1968). In each pasture, fresh fecal samples were collected from cattle and sheep on days 5, 6, and 7 of their respective grazing periods. Waiting to collect feces until day 5 allowed forage ingested during the acclimation grazing periods to clear the digestive tracts of the cattle and sheep (Freeman et al. 1992; Park et al. 1994). Fecal samples were composited for each grazing period ($n = 1$ composite sample $\cdot species^{-1} \cdot pasture^{-1}$). Microhistological slides were prepared as described by Davitt and Nelson (1980). Six slides were analyzed per sample, and 25 microscope fields were randomly selected and viewed per slide ($n = 150$ views $\cdot sample^{-1}$). Slides were analyzed at ×100 magnification; however, ×200 magnifications were used for better resolution of fragments that were difficult to identify (Holechek and Valdez 1985). Plant epidermises were identified by life form (i.e., graminoids,

forbs, shrubs), with the exception of spotted knapweed, which was identified by species. The presence of all identifiable epidermises in each view was recorded. The frequency addition method (Holechek and Gross 1982b) was used to calculate diet composition.

Correction factors are recommended to improve the accuracy of microhistological analysis whenever the ingested plants vary widely in digestibility (Dearden et al. 1975; Vavra and Holechek 1980; Holechek et al. 1982a; Leslie et al. 1983). Accordingly, we prepared herbage mixtures of graminoids, spotted knapweed, and other forbs following the procedure of Vavra and Holechek (1980). Mixtures were digested for 48 hours using the ANKOM Daisy II incubator (ANKOM Technology, Fairport, NY) using rumen fluid from cows fed a grass/alfalfa (*Medicago sativa* L.) hay diet. Botanical composition of digested samples was analyzed via microhistological analysis using the same procedures as described above for fecal samples. Correction factors were calculated following the procedure of Leslie et al. (1983). Correction factors were applied to the botanical composition estimates derived from the microhistological analysis of fecal samples to arrive at the final estimates of the botanical composition of cattle and sheep diets.

Vegetative canopy cover was sampled in each pasture immediately before cattle grazing and immediately postcattle/presheep grazing using a modified Daubenmire Canopy Coverage Method (Daubenmire 1959; Bailey and Poulton 1968). Percentage of canopy cover for all graminoids, forbs, and shrubs was sampled within 20×50 cm quadrats spaced at 2-m intervals along a permanent 60-m transect located near the center of each pasture ($n = 30$ quadrats $\cdot$ pasture^{-1}). Plant species composition of each pasture was determined by dividing the percentage of canopy cover of each plant species by the summed canopy cover of all plant species within each pasture.

Relative preference indices (RPI) were used to evaluate diet selection by cattle and sheep during each grazing period (Krueger 1972). Preference or avoidance of available forage species was determined by dividing each species' percentage of composition in diets of cattle and sheep (determined via microhistological analyses) by its percentage of composition in the corresponding pasture (determined via canopy cover sampling).

Cattle and sheep foraging behavior was evaluated in June and July by recording the length of time an individual animal spent at a feeding station (i.e., feeding station interval; Ruyle and Dwyer 1985) and counting the number of steps taken between feeding stations (El Aich et. al. 1989). A feeding station is the area accessible to a grazing animal without moving its forefeet (Goddard 1968). We observed animals near dawn, during peak foraging, on days 2–7 of the grazing periods. Within each pasture, the three cattle and three randomly selected focal sheep were selected and observed for five minutes each. Focal sheep were selected each morning by observing whichever sheep moved first. We documented animal behavior (i.e., feeding station interval and steps between feeding stations) using a tape recorder in the field and later transcribed the data in the laboratory using an electronic stopwatch.

Statistical Analyses

The 0.81-ha pastures were the experimental units to which sequential cattle and sheep grazing was applied. Treatments were randomly assigned to pastures, with three pastures (i.e., replicates) per treatment. Experimental design was a split-plot in time, with sequential grazing applied in 2 different mo (June and July) in 2 yr (2006 and 2007). The whole-plot factor was month, and the subplot factor was year. Data were analyzed with analysis of covariance using the Generalized Linear Model of SAS software (Version 9.1, SAS Institute, Cary, NC). The pregrazing percentage of canopy cover of spotted knapweed in each pasture was used as the covariable. We examined the main effects of month and year and their interaction on relative herbage use, botanical composition of diets, and livestock foraging behavior.

Forage preferences were evaluated for significance with confidence intervals calculated per Hobbs and Bowden (1982) at $\alpha = 0.05$. When confidence intervals did not include 1.0, RPI > 1.0 indicated preference, whereas RPI < 1.0 indicated avoidance.

All differences were considered significant at $P \leq 0.05$. Percentage data were arcsine square root transformed before statistical analysis to stabilize variances and better approximate normal distributions of residuals (Kuehl 2000). Means and standard errors presented in the text and tables are from untransformed data.

Table 1. Relative use of graminoids and spotted knapweed ($\pm$ SE) by cattle, or cattle + sheep, in June or July on spotted knapweed-infested foothill rangeland in western Montana.

	Month	
	June	July
	% (SE)	
Cattle		
Graminoids	19 (3.9) a	29 (2.3) b[1]
Spotted knapweed	43 (3.3) a	39 (3.5) b
Cattle + sheep		
Graminoids	39 (3.3) a	41 (2.4) a
Spotted knapweed	62 (3.6) a	61 (1.7) a

[1]Means in the same row with the same letter are not different ($P > 0.05$).

RESULTS

Graminoid use by cattle was light in both months, but less in June than it was in July (19% vs. 29%, respectively; Table 1). Combined graminoid use by cattle and sheep averaged 40% between June and July. Spotted knapweed use by cattle was slightly greater in June than it was in July (43% vs. 39%, respectively), whereas combined spotted knapweed use by cattle and sheep averaged 62% between June and July.

Timing of grazing had similar effects on the diets of both cattle and sheep (Table 2). Cattle and sheep diets each contained more graminoids in June than they did in July, and cattle and sheep diets both contained more spotted knapweed in July than they had in June. The proportion of other forbs (i.e., total forbs minus spotted knapweed) averaged 42% between June and July in cattle diets and 46% in sheep diets. Neither sheep nor cattle ate any shrubs during the study.

Table 2. Botanical composition (± SE) of cattle and sheep diets in June or July on spotted knapweed–infested foothill rangeland in western Montana.

	Month	
	June	July
	% (SE)	
Cattle		
Graminoids	44 (3.1) a	34 (1.6) b[1]
Spotted knapweed	12 (2.3) a	26 (2.8) b
Other forbs	44 (1.7) a	41 (1.6) a
Sheep		
Graminoids	39 (1.6) a	31 (2.2) b
Spotted knapweed	11 (2.1) a	28 (4.7) b
Other forbs	50 (1.1) a	41 (2.6) a

[1]Means in the same row with the same letter are not different ($P > 0.05$).

Cattle and sheep displayed similar forage preferences and avoidances (Table 3). Cattle and sheep strongly preferred spotted knapweed in July and avoided graminoids in June and July. Other forbs were preferred by both cattle and sheep in June and July.

Livestock foraging behavior was relatively unaffected by whether sequential grazing occurred in June or July, indicating that cattle and sheep perceived their forage similarly in both months (Table 4). In June and July, feeding station intervals averaged 16 s for cattle and 12 s for sheep. Cattle took slightly more steps between feeding stations in June than they did in July (2.2 steps vs. 1.9 steps), whereas sheep in June and July averaged 3.2 steps between feeding stations.

DISCUSSION

Relative use of spotted knapweed averaged 62% when cattle and sheep grazed sequentially in mid June (spotted knapweed in bolting stage) or mid July (spotted knapweed in late-bud/early flowering stage). The combined 62% use of spotted knapweed in our study was achieved while maintaining 40% graminoid use, well within sustainable grazing use levels (40–60%) recommended for foothill rangelands in western Montana (Lacey and Volk 1993; Lee-Campbell 1999).

The combined 62% use of spotted knapweed in our study was sufficient to suppress the reproduction of this noxious weed. Benzel et al. (2009) reported that 35–40% relative use during its bolting stage decreased spotted knapweed's viable seed production nearly 90%, and complete removal of its buds and flowerheads during the late-bud/early flowering stage reduced current year's spotted knapweed viable seed production nearly 100%. We observed in our study that sequential cattle and sheep grazing during the late bud/early flowering stage of spotted knapweed removed nearly 100% of its buds and flowerheads. Olson and Wallander (2001) also reported that sheep readily consumed spotted knapweed buds and flowerheads during its late-bud/early flowering stage.

Cattle and sheep in our study preferred spotted knapweed in July, and cattle and sheep both ate more spotted knapweed and less graminoids in July than they did in June. We attribute this response to the graminoids in July being more phenologically advanced and less green and palatable than the spotted knapweed. Similar trends in sheep diets were observed in moderate spotted knapweed infestations (spotted knapweed = 36% vegetative composition) in western Montana (Thrift et al. 2008; Surber et al. 2011). However, Thrift et al. (2008) reported that when prescribed sheep grazing was applied without cattle in a light spotted knapweed infestation (spotted knapweed = 13% vegetative composition) similar to our study site (spotted knapweed = 18% vegetative composition), sheep ate more graminoids in July than they did in June. Apparently, pregrazing by cattle caused sheep in our study to eat relatively more spotted knapweed in July than they would have consumed had they not grazed immediately after cattle.

Table 3. Relative preference indices (RPIs) with confidence intervals (CI) for cattle and sheep grazing in June or July on spotted knapweed–infested foothill rangeland in western Montana.

		June		July	
Species	Forage class	RPI	95% CI	RPI	95% CI
Cattle	Graminoids	0.80	0.62–0.98*	0.67	0.58–0.76*
	Spotted knapweed	0.72	0.34–1.10	2.07	1.36–2.78*
	Other forbs	2.32	1.37–3.27*	1.28	1.12–1.44*
Sheep	Graminoids	0.77	0.60–0.94*	0.57	0.45–0.68*
	Spotted knapweed	0.67	0.29–1.05	3.23	1.87–4.59*
	Other forbs	1.95	1.13–2.77*	1.33	1.10–1.56*

*When confidence intervals do not include 1.0, RPI > 1.0 indicates preference, whereas RPI < 1.0 indicates avoidance ($\alpha = 0.05$).

Spotted knapweed use in our study (62%) was much higher than when prescribed sheep grazing was applied without cattle within spotted knapweed infestations in western Montana (35–50%; Thrift et al. 2008). We attribute the increased use largely to the cattle in our study eating notable amounts of spotted knapweed in both June and July (12% and 26% of cattle diets in June and July, respectively). In fact, the levels of relative spotted knapweed use by cattle in our study (i.e., 43% in June and 39% in July) approximated the 35–50% relative use achieved with prescribed sheep grazing alone by Thrift et al. (2008). Casual observations of cattle having eaten spotted knapweed are common (e.g., Robbins 1990; Sheley et al. 1999), but we believe our data are the first in the research literature to quantify spotted knapweed in cattle diets.

Table 4. Feeding station interval and number of steps between feeding stations (± SE) of cattle and sheep grazing in June or July on spotted knapweed–infested foothill rangeland in western Montana.

	Month	
	June	July
Feeding station interval	s (SE)	
Cattle	14.9 (0.8) a	16.7 (0.7) a[1]
Sheep	11.0 (0.5) a	12.8 (0.5) a
Steps between feeding stations	n (SE)	
Cattle	2.2 (0.2) a	1.9 (0.1) b
Sheep	3.7 (0.2) a	2.7 (0.1) a

[1]Means in the same row with the same letter are not different ($P > 0.05$).

We were surprised by the extent that cattle consumed spotted knapweed in our study, and we attribute the higher than expected amounts to age, previous experience, and stock density of the cattle. Younger animals typically select more diverse diets than mature animals; grazing animals often select plant species with which they are familiar, and high stock densities encourage grazing animals to forage more uniformly (Arnold and Dudzinski 1978). In our study, the yearling cattle were born and raised on the ranch where our study site was located. Our study animals grazed, at least part of each year, on spotted knapweed-infested foothill rangeland near mature cows with years of previous exposure to this weed. Also, cattle density during our 7-day grazing periods (3.7 yearlings $\cdot$ ha^{-1}) was much higher than commonly applied by rangeland cattle producers, although our cattle stocking rate was light (2.2 ha $\cdot$ AUM^{-1}). For comparison, if the same light cattle stocking rate used in our study was applied with mature cows in either 45-d or 60-d grazing periods (i.e., common grazing period lengths for rangeland cattle pastures in the region), cattle density would be about 0.3 or 0.2 cows $\cdot$ ha^{-1}, respectively. If a moderate cattle stocking rate (1.1 ha $\cdot$ AUM^{-1}) was applied with cows in either 45-d or 60-d grazing periods, cattle density would be 0.6 or 0.4 cows $\cdot$ ha^{-1}, respectively. Therefore, cattle densities in our study ranged from 6.2 to 18.5 times higher than rangeland cattle densities common to the region.

Prescribed cattle grazing at high stock density has been used to effectively suppress Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense* [L.] Scop.), an invasive weed in the same taxonomic family (Asteraceae) as spotted knapweed (De Bruijn and Bork 2006). In central Alberta, Canada, De Bruijn and Bork (2006) applied stock densities of 16 to 39 cattle $\cdot$ ha^{-1} during 3-d to 4-d grazing periods. These stock densities were much higher than the 3.7 cattle $\cdot$ ha^{-1} used in our study.

MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Prescribed (or targeted) sheep grazing can be effectively applied immediately following cattle grazing when spotted knapweed is either bolting or in its late-bud/early flowering stage. Sequential cattle and sheep grazing at a moderate stocking rate during these phenological stages can suppress spotted knapweed without overusing desirable graminoids. Cattle and sheep likely will both eat more spotted knapweed and less graminoids when sequential cattle and sheep grazing is applied when spotted knapweed is in its late-bud/early flowering stage vs. its bolting stage. Our results also indicate that future research is warranted to refine prescribed cattle grazing strategies for suppressing spotted knapweed. In our study, cattle grazing at a light stocking rate (2.2 ha $\cdot$ AUM^{-1}) and moderately high stock density (3.7 yearlings $\cdot$ ha^{-1}) during 7-d grazing periods used spotted knapweed sufficiently to suppress this weed. In much of western North America, where spotted knapweed infestations proliferate, cattle are much more numerous than domestic sheep. Many more hectares of spotted knapweed–infested rangeland might be treatable with targeted livestock grazing if cattle grazing strategies could be refined to suppress spotted knapweed. It is noteworthy that the moderate cattle use of spotted knapweed (39–43%) and the light cattle use of graminoids (19–29%) in our study were achieved by cattle grazing at a light stocking rate. Presumably, cattle grazing alone at a moderate stocking rate, with equivalent or higher stock densities, might well increase cattle use of spotted knapweed while keeping graminoid use within moderate, sustainable levels (i.e., 40–60% use).

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