

Experience is gained with every burn which contributes to increased safety and effectiveness of burns. Much of the ground that was lost during the era of fire control and that of low intensity incendiary burning may never be restored. However, fire that once renewed and nourished our native grasslands prior to European settlement has once again taken its rightful place in the management of Missouri's natural resources.

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Cooperation and Commitment for Improved Relations and Range Conditions

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Grazing allotments on public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) range from greasewood flats to alpine tundra. When an allotment management plan (AMP) is prepared for an allotment, one problem usually identified is poor livestock distribution. There are many causes for this problem and vary with each allotment. The most common causes are:

- lack of water in an area which precludes livestock use;
- a seeding project that draws livestock to high quality nutritional forage;
- rough country and steep slopes which are grazed last, if at all; and
- a riparian area attracting livestock, like a magnet, to food, water, and shade.

One thing that can often interfere with solving livestock distribution problems is a lack of commitment by ranchers and BLM range conservationists to take action. This commitment has to be accompanied by excellent communication between the two parties or else the problem is not solved and often gets worse. Without open communication and a "win/win" attitude, it can be very difficult to solve distribution or other problems on public lands.

In the Uncompahgre Basin Resource Area of BLM's Montrose District in southwest Colorado (Figure 1), there is an example of what communication and a "win/win" attitude did to solve a distribution problem on the East Paradox Allotment. Local BLM range managers felt that by using a cooperative approach, any grazing-related

problem could be successfully overcome.

The East Paradox Allotment includes 16,250 acres of public land and about 2,600 acres of private land (Photograph 1). The climate of the area is semi-arid with hot summers and relatively mild winters. The most dependable precipitation occurs during the summer period, and brief high intensity thunderstorms are common. Plant greenup generally begins in March for native cool-season grasses. Vegetation consists of sagebrush, fourwing saltbush, galleta grass, cheatgrass, needle grass, and sand dropseed. About 500 acres of sagebrush were plowed in 1944 and another 350 acres plowed in 1984. Wheat-

