The benefits of using goats for brush control

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How does it work?

It’s Not Magic!
Let's Be Realistic

Management vs. Eradication
Overview

- What Are Your Goals?
- Site Evaluation
- Prepping the Site
- Keeping the Goats Contained
- Herd Maintenance
Goals

- Why does it need to be cleared?
- Do you want to re-introduce native species?
- What's your timeline?
- Develop a multi year plan.
- Sites require multiple treatments.
Site Evaluation
Site is evaluated for:

- Brush Density
- Terrain
- Hazards
- Cost
What Will They Eat?

Black mustard  Locust Trees
Blackberry  Multiflora rose
Bull thistle  Musk thistle
Canada golden rod  Purple Starthistle
Canada thistle  Poison Oak
Cheat Grass  Rabbit brush
Coyote Bush  Russian knapweed
Diffuse knapweed  Russian Thistle
English Ivy  Sow thistle
Field bindweed  Spotted knapweed
Gorse  Wild Rose
Italian thistle  Willow
Kudzu  Wormwood sage
Leafy Spurge  Yarrow
Milk thistle  Yellow mustard
Willamette Valley Invasives

- Blackberry
- English Ivy
- Tansy
- Scotch Broom
- Thistles
- Poison Oak/Ivy
Prepping the Site

- Poisonous Plants
- Containing the Chaos
- Mitigating Hazards
## Poisonous Plants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ornamentals</th>
<th>Clematis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rhododendron</td>
<td>Sweet Pea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tansy</td>
<td>Azalea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hemlock</td>
<td>Tar Wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larkspur</td>
<td>Nightshades</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loral</td>
<td>Western Yew</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Containing the Chaos

Types of fencing & Solar Energizers
Protecting Trees and Natives
Herd Maintenance

- Healthy Goats
- Shephard Responsibilities
- Insurance
Healthy Goats

- Supplements and Water
- Shelter
- Hay
Shepherd Responsibilities

- Herd Maintenance
- Insurance
Goats: What Are They Good For?
Alternative Tool

Cost effective on difficult to access sites

Goats can easily navigate rough terrain, steep slopes, rocky, soft soils, up stairs and through thick blackberry thickets
What Are Some Other Benefits?

- Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides
- Prevent seed production (timing and biology)
- Reduce risk to hand crews and machinery by opening up site making it easier avoid dangers
- Reduce or eliminate disposal fees
Goats are Fun

- Relaxing to watch – proven employee morale booster
- Entertaining
- Good publicity and public relations
- Green choice – less fuel use, noise, soil disturbance
- Peaceful to listen to – satisfied eating noises
No Two Goats Are Alike

Foraging experience and what the goats have been eating greatly influences the type of weeds they will eat.
Sensitive and Challenging Places

- Agile Goats can easily handle:
  - Steep slopes
  - Rocky or uneven terrain
- Soft soils – light animal low impact
- Wetlands and Green Spaces
- Goats not deterred by dense thickets of thorns (blackberries, Russian olive)
- Goats like eating plants that irritate humans: Poison Ivy, Poison Oak, English Ivy
- Goats love to eat brush and weeds more than grass

www.healinghooves.com
Designing a Management Strategy

What are your goals?
What tools are available?
What is your budget?
Service Providers

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