

# ONGOING STUDIES AT THE STARKEY EXPERIMENTAL FOREST

Martin Vavra, Larry Bryant, Chuck Ballard and Wade Titus

Ongoing studies in the Starkey Experimental Forest are focused on grazing strategies for riparian zones and improved beef production, and participation in the long term livestock/wildlife/timber management study. Research is in partnership with the USDA-Forest Service PNW Experiment Station Range and Forestry Laboratory in La Grande.

The grazing strategies studies are long-term projects in the Meadow Creek drainage that are designed to provide some deferment of the riparian zone and uplands during the grazing season while providing for improved beef production. Increased livestock production can be accomplished with pasture systems that use predominately south facing slope pastures during the first half of the grazing season and north facing slope pastures during the latter half of the grazing season.

At the present time, cattle from the station are being used in distributional studies as part of the cattle/wildlife/timber management research. Animals are fit with radio tracking devices and monitored as to their pasture movements. Future studies hope to focus on dietary overlap and forage utilization among cattle, mule deer, and elk.

