

# **BIG GAME AND CATTLE INTERRELATIONSHIPS AND THEIR INFLUENCE ON BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES, SEASONAL RANGELAND AND AGRICULTURAL LAND IN NORTHEASTERN OREGON**

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Livestock/wildlife conflicts continue to be an area of concern to livestock producers, public, and private land managers, and wildlife management agencies even though studies in some areas have shown the conflict to be more perceived rather than actual. Winter ranges are of particular concern since they are usually a mixture of public and private ownership. Elk winter range in Oregon is approximately 50 percent private ownership while deer winter range is approximately 30 percent private ownership.

Factors contributing to compatible use by livestock and wildlife need to be identified. Once these factors have been identified, compatible use areas and conflict use areas should be compared and evaluated to determine causes of conflict and the management changes that can be implemented to alleviate current or anticipated conflict on seasonal rangeland, especially on winter ranges considered to be problem areas.

Although results of previous studies and on-going management practices will be used to design the model for conflict resolution, the study will have a research component to identify previously unstudied conflict mechanisms and approaches to resolution. Research will be used to determine management modifications and/or inputs that can be used in applying the conflict resolution mode. Livestock and wildlife use and vegetation parameters will be monitored before and after management modifications have been implemented to validate the applicability of management practices in the conflict resolution model.

The benefits of a study of this nature conducted at the present time would be substantial. Grazing on public and private land by livestock is coming under increased scrutiny by the general public as environmental conservation groups become increasingly involved in policy making for future use of public and private grazing land. As a consequence, private and public land managers are being placed in a defensive position relative to many grazing issues. A cooperative study designed to identify management practices that have been successful in resolving conflict over allocation of forage and habitat on seasonal winter ranges presents an opportunity for private and public land managers to take a pro-active position relative to these issues. A study of this nature also presents the opportunity for cooperators to demonstrate their concern for proper use of the land resources and their ability to resolve issues voluntarily rather than in response to imposed mandates.

The projects being developed will be cooperative in nature and involve private landowners, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Forest Service, and O.S.U. Extension Service.