

Long Term Effects of Drought Planning for Recovery

Dwayne Rice, USDA-NRCS, Rangeland Management
Specialist, Lincoln, KS

Julie Elliott, USDA-NRCS, Rangeland Management Specialist,
Wray, CO

2012/10/03

Where are we today, 1/9/14?

Has the drought broken, or are we facing another year of some level of drought?

How do we make management decisions?

Perhaps, we should start by looking where we have been and then figure out where we are today.

2012/10/10



2012/09/11



Deep Sands Site, Phillips County, CO



2013/09/04

Loamy (hard ground) site, Yuma County, CO



A wide-angle photograph of a grassy plain. The foreground and middle ground are filled with dense, green grass growing in sandy soil. In the far distance, a plowed field with visible furrows is visible under a clear sky. The overall scene is a natural, open landscape.

Sandy Plains, Yuma County, CO

2013/05/31



2013/05/31



Sandy Plains, Yuma County, Colorado 2013/11/14



2013/11/14

Loamy Plains (hard ground), Kit Carson County, Colorado



2013/05/17



2013/05/17





2013/06/28



2013/11/19





2013/09/04



2013/05/31



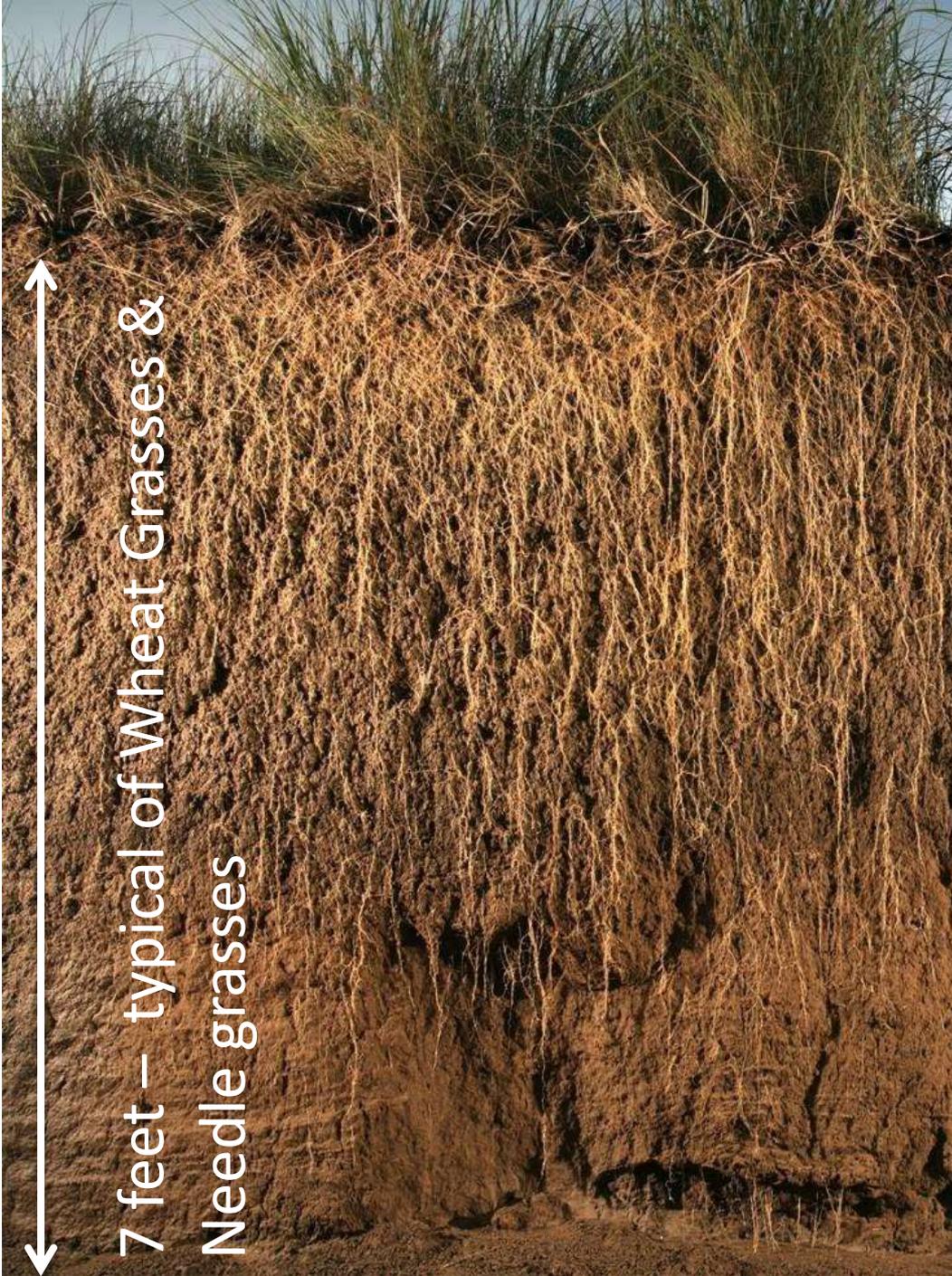
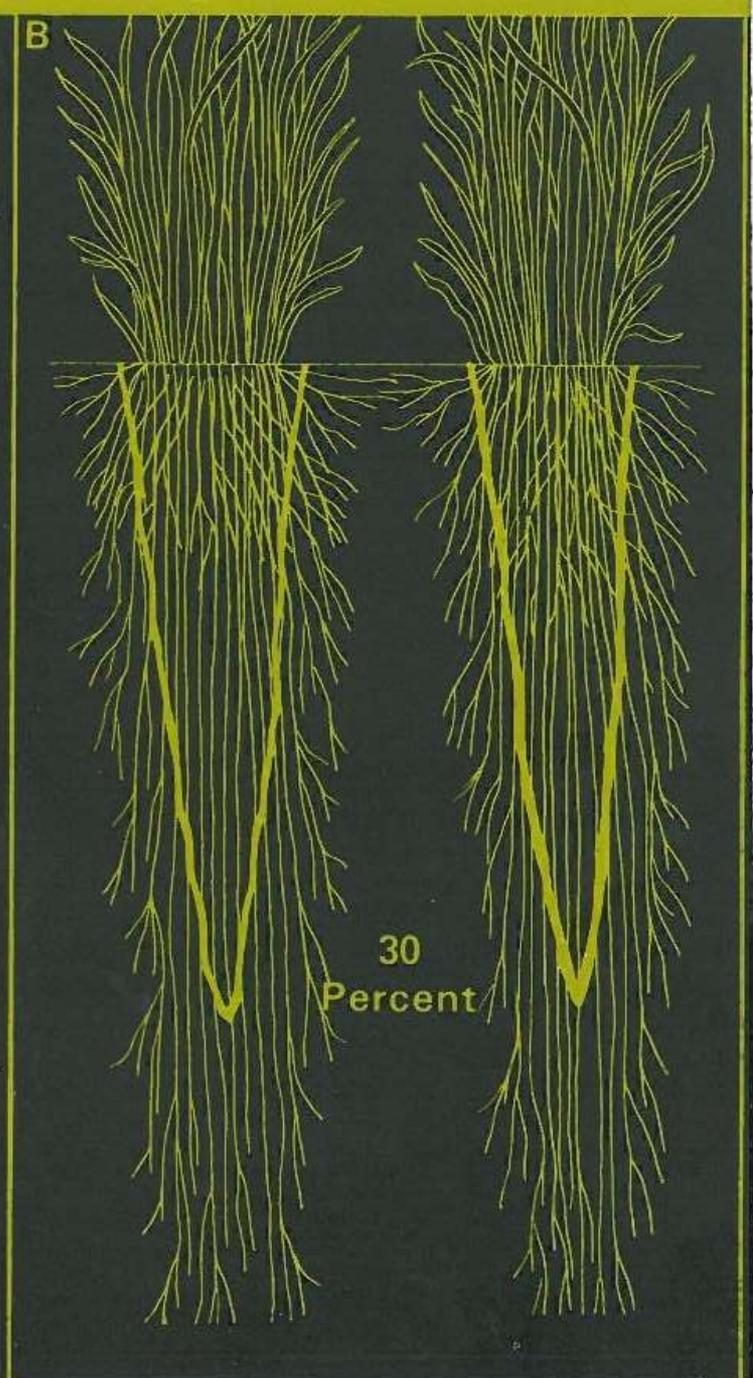
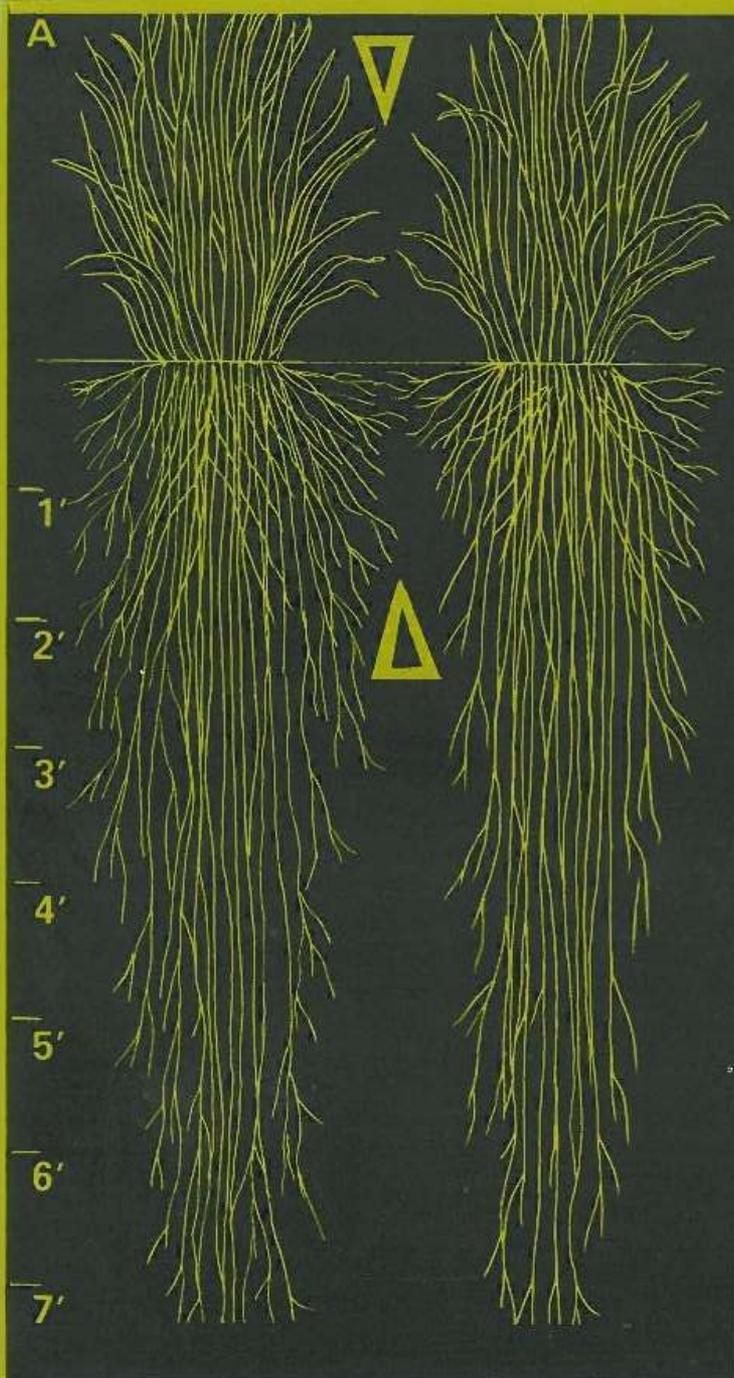
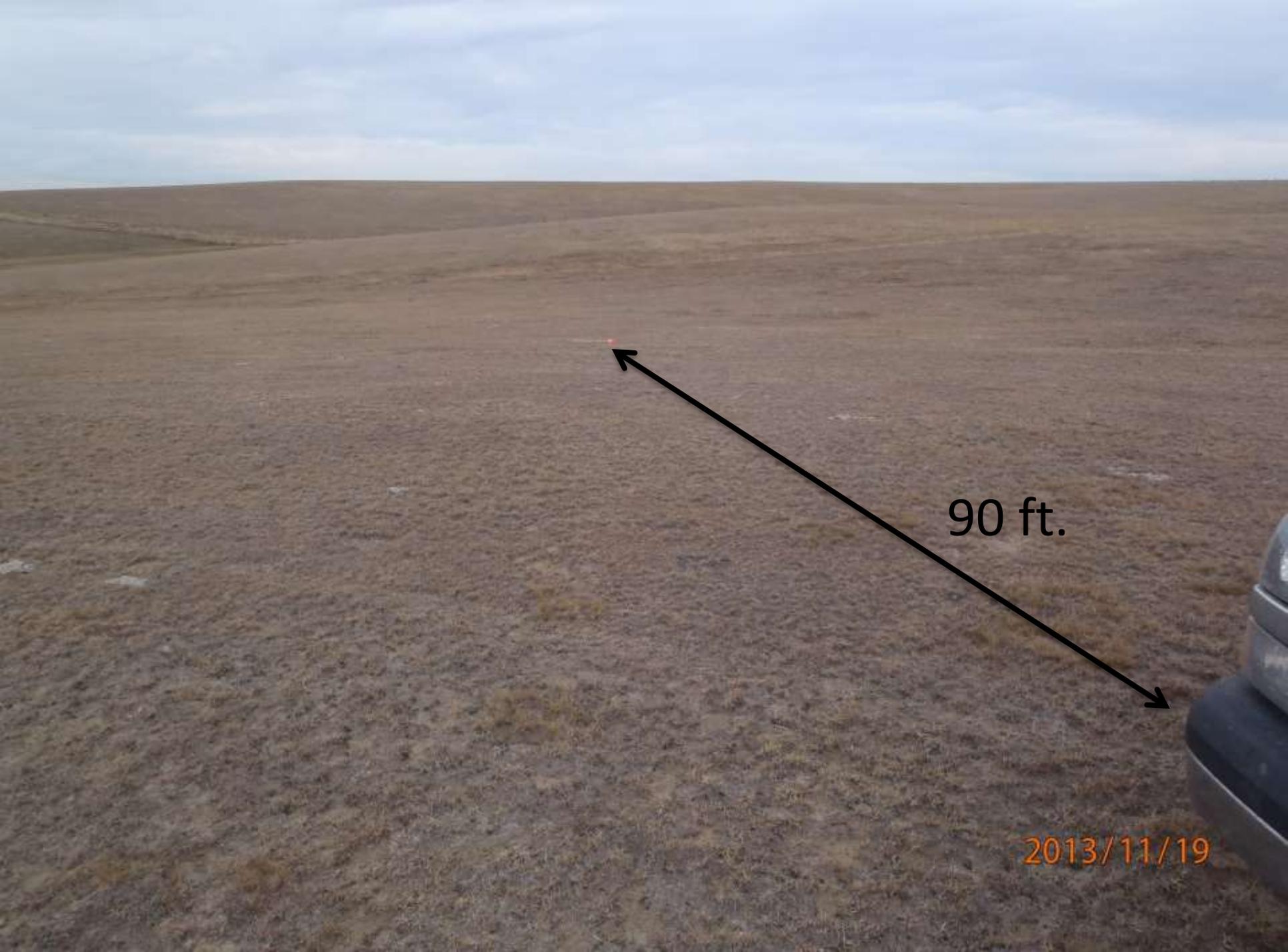


Photo of Kansas Native plants & roots by Jim Richardson









90 ft.

2013/11/19

Monday storms set rain records

8/14/2013

gctelegram.com/news/local/Rain-sets-record-8-14-13

By SCOTT AUST

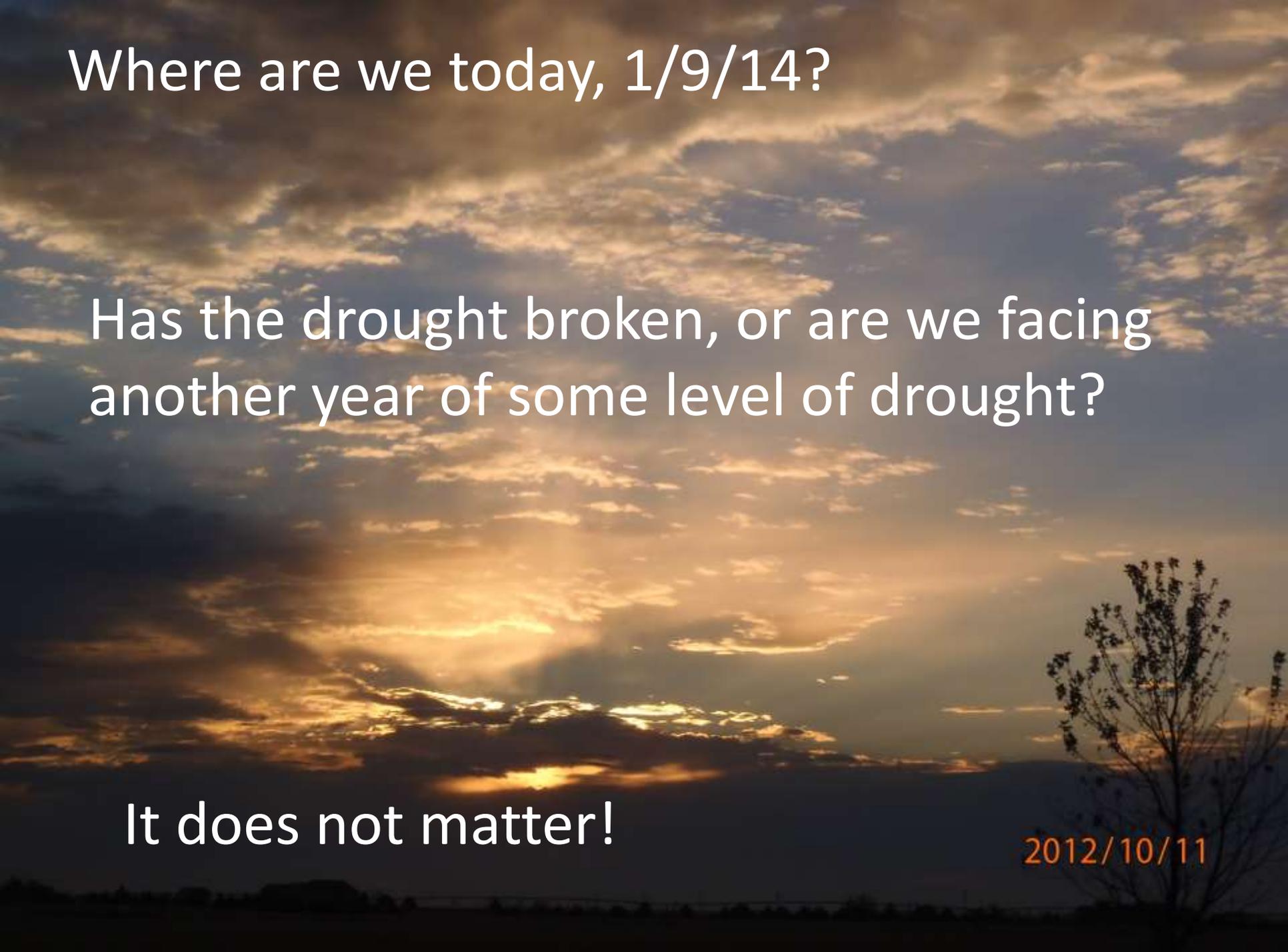
According to the National Weather Service, the thunderstorms that moved through the area Monday night set new rainfall records for that date in both Garden City and Dodge City. Garden City Regional Airport received 1.42 inches of rain in the 24-hour period that ended at 7 a.m. Tuesday morning... Dodge City also set a record, recording 2.29 inches at the NWS... The weather service also had reports of nearly six inches of rain in Ford County a few miles south of Dodge City.



2013/09/20



2012/10/03



Where are we today, 1/9/14?

Has the drought broken, or are we facing another year of some level of drought?

It does not matter!

2012/10/11

Will this action:

- Increase the number of new plants?
- Leave plants tall enough to:
 - Capture snow?
 - Slow wind at ground surface?
- Increase litter cover?
- Decrease bare ground?





Yellow tag with text and a small circular logo.

White tag with a barcode.



2013/11/14

Forage
Demand

Forage
Supply

Pairs & Bulls

Yearlings/weaned
calves

Early (cool
season) grass

Summer (warm
season) grass

Recovery





Scenario Development

3rd Down, 3 yards to go

| Situation | Indicator | Trigger | Response |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| 1st quarter No score Own 20 | 4 - 3 defense Zone coverage | Linebackers 3 yards from line | Tailback dive off tackle |
| 1st quarter No score Opp 20 | 4 -3 defense Man coverage | Linebackers crowd line of scrimmage | Audible from run to pass, slant route |
| 4th quarter Tie game Opp 20 | 4 - 3 defense Man coverage | Linebackers crowd, safety walks up | Audible from slant route to slant/go |

The Ranch Play Book

Situation Questions

How did the pasture finish the growing season the last two years?

How much moisture is in the soil profile on April 15? June 1? July 1? August 1?

How much standing grass is there on each of these days?

Critical to know:

- * when the bulk of annual ppt comes – look at long term averages. (by ~ July 15)
- * when most of the plant growth occurs for the grasses on your ranch. (~July 15)

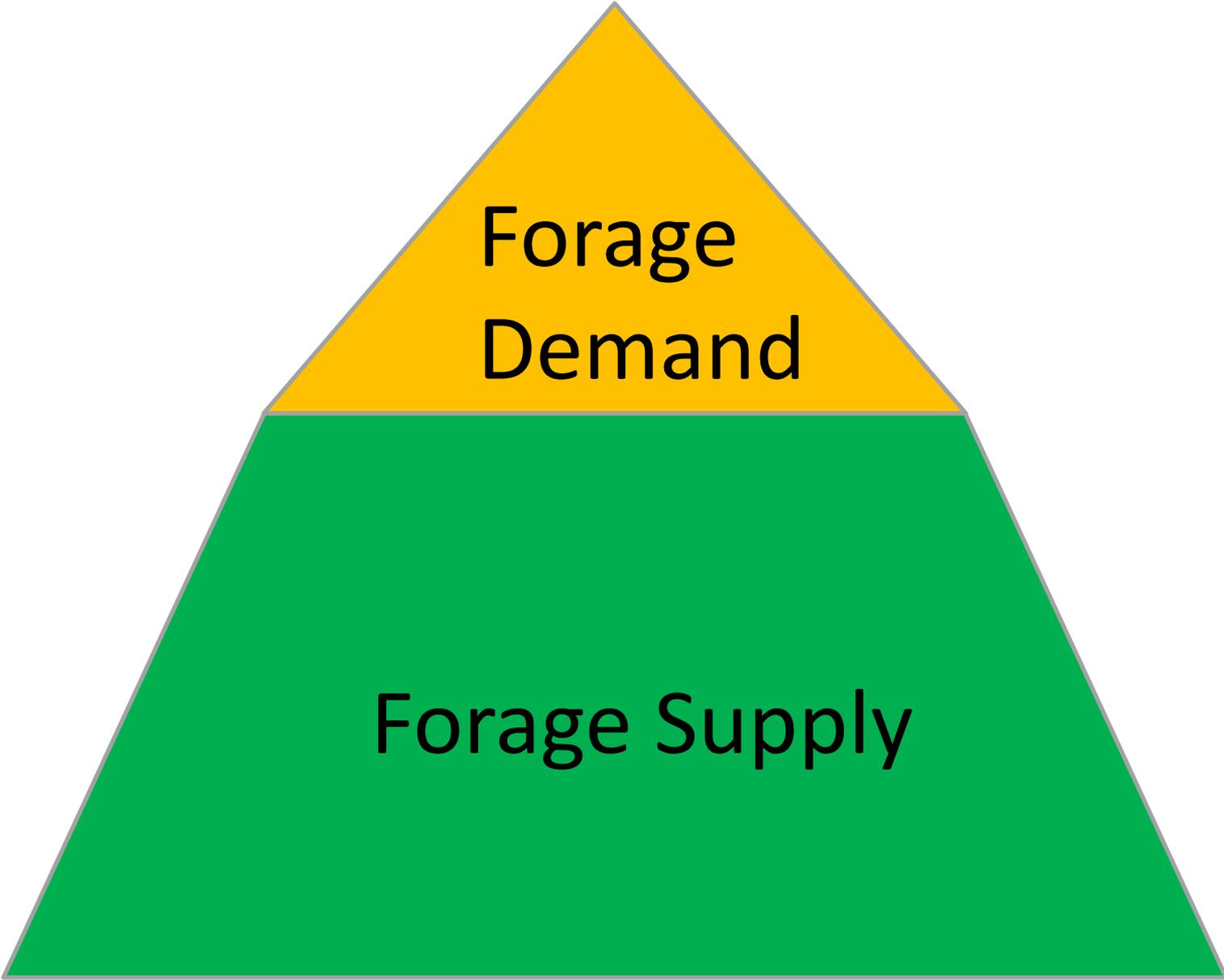
Rain that comes after ~July 15 will result in big seed heads waving high in the breeze, not in leaves and forage for livestock.

May-June, "Two-thirds of our grass growth is here by mid-June...If you know you're dry [in] April and May, you've already lost 2/3 of your growth."

Diversify enterprise mix: "...have a class of animal that you can sell or get rid of... "

"When its dry,....start depopulating something.Sell some of those pairs.... get your stockers moving."

Stick to the plan, Don't second guess.



Forage
Demand

Forage Supply



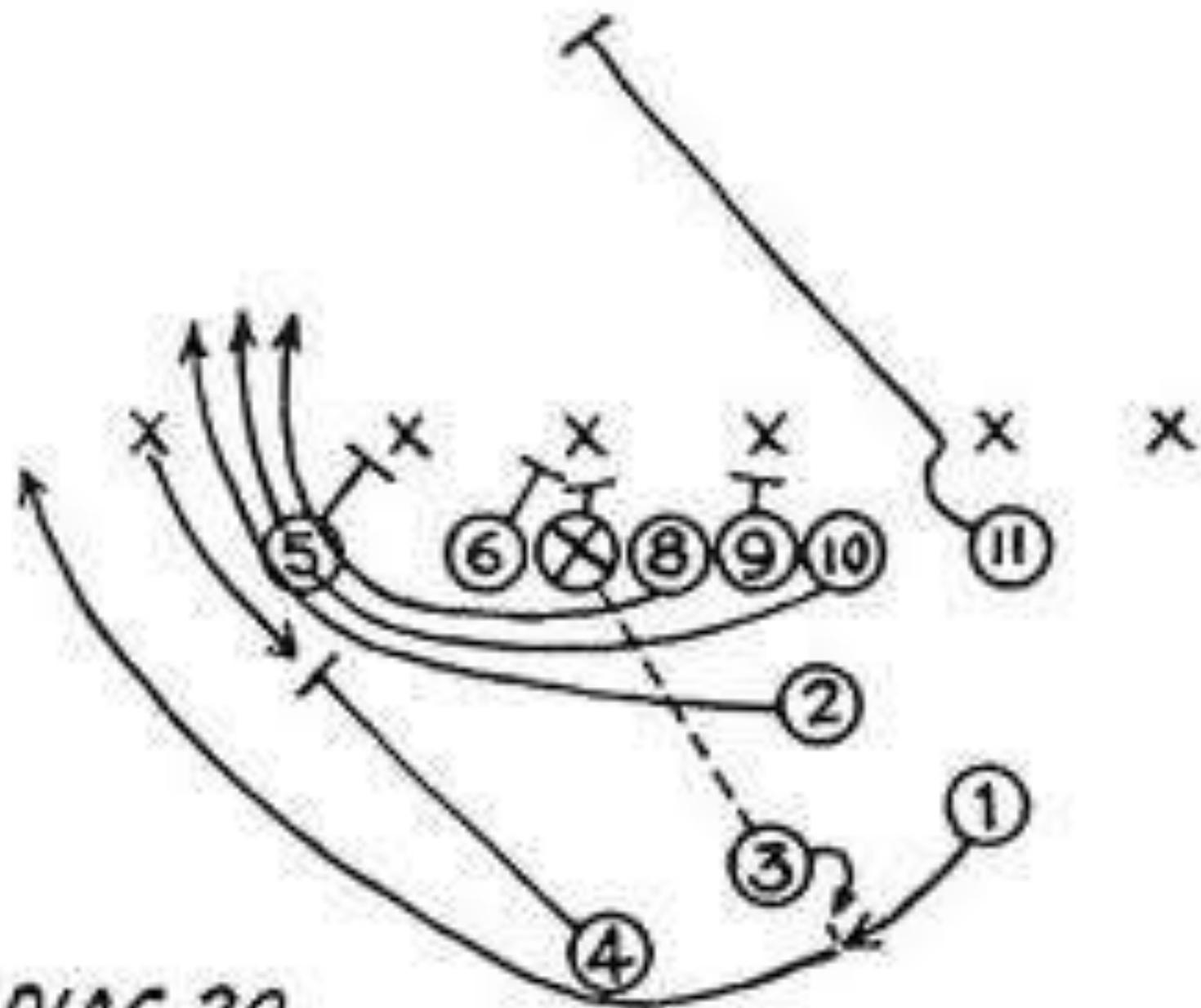




2013/11/19



2013/11/19



DIAG. 20

Loamy (hard ground) site, Yuma County, Colorado (near Beecher Island)



2013/06/28

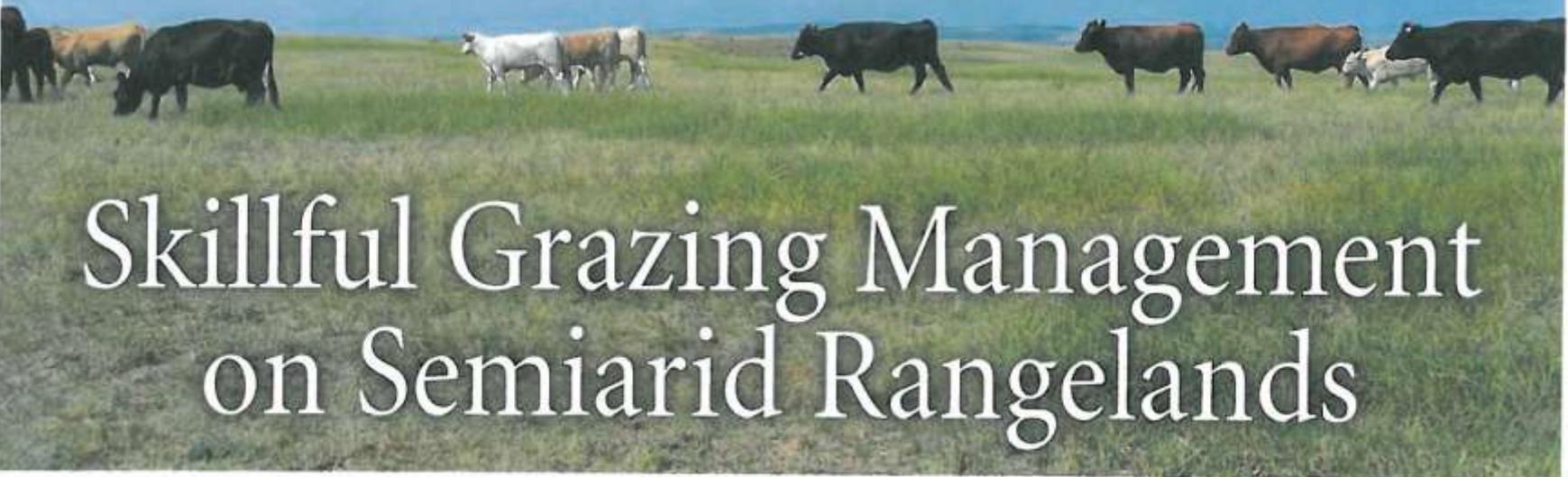


www.ianrpubs.unl.edu

UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
Lincoln

EXTENSION

EC162

A photograph of a herd of cattle grazing in a vast, green, semi-arid rangeland under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The cattle are of various colors, including black, brown, and white. The foreground shows a mix of green grass and dry, brownish patches of soil.

Skillful Grazing Management on Semiarid Rangelands

Patrick E. Reece, Extension Rangeland Ecologist; Walter H. Schacht, Range Management Scientist; Jerry D. Volesky, Extension Range and Forage Specialist



Whether the drought is over or not is not so relevant after all.

We MUST manage our grass to be the best it can be under the current conditions.

Acres don't feed cows – grass feeds cows.

2013/11/07

Questions?

