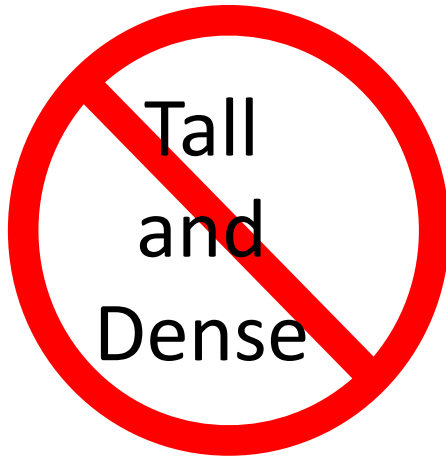


Cattle Grazing: Why?



Historic

Upland native grasslands were compositionally and structurally diverse and relatively low-statured with lots of bunchgrasses which create interstitial species between bunches that were often sparsely-vegetated.

Current

The invasion and dominance of aggressive non-native grasses and forbs that grow faster, taller, and denser to outcompete natives resulted in habitat going out of suitability for vespers



Cattle Grazing

reduce vegetation height and density

create structural diversity

create bare to sparsely-vegetated areas
that are difficult to achieve otherwise





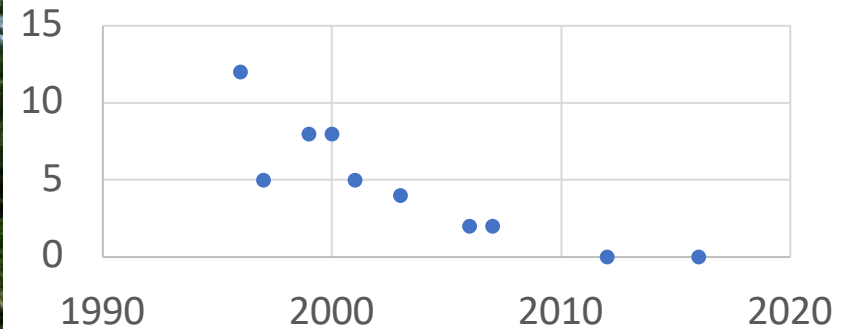
Vesper Nests and Cattle Trampling

- Vesper Studies: 2-15% of total nests
- Oregon Vesper Sparrow
 - 8 nests in 7 years
 - 4.2% of nests in pastures (n=172)
 - 9.1% of nest failure in pastures (n=88)
- Savannah Sparrow
 - 4 nests in 6 Years
 - 8% of nests in pastures (n=50)
 - 13.3% of nest failures in pastures (n=30)

Grazing removed mid-1990s



Vesper Sparrow Detections
Mt Pisgah



Public Lands and Grazing Removal

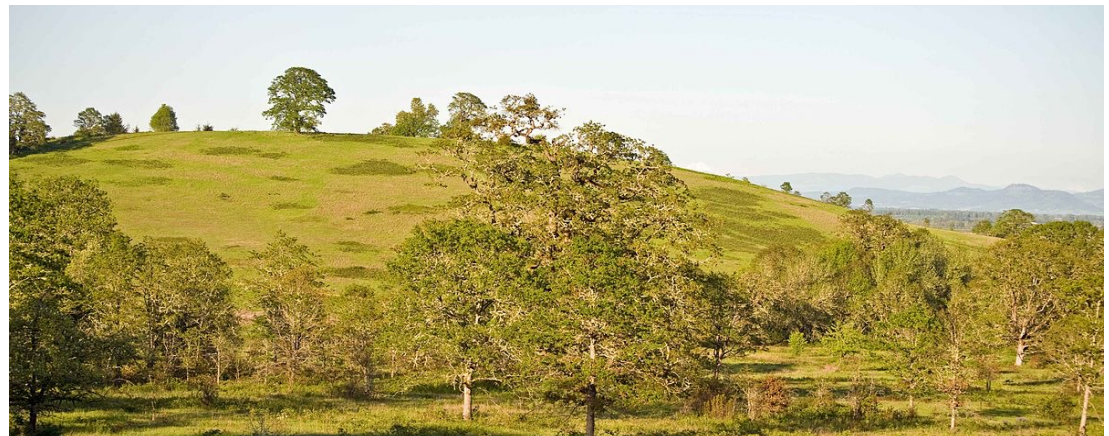
Finley National Wildlife Refuge

1969-1971: 10+ pairs

grazing removed early 1990s

1998: 0 birds

Current: 0 birds despite restoration



Potential Adaptive Within-Season Grazing Strategy

maximize suitable habitat conditions by grazing upland habitats or areas of high vesper densities in March and April before nesting, and wet habitats or areas of low bird densities in May and early June





Fenced separation of upland and transition to wetter pastureland



Grazing occurred on the right side of the fence in March to set the conditions for suitable Oregon Vesper Sparrow habitat

















Klamath Mountains



- Nest site vegetation compared to paired random sites





- Don't mow May 1 – July 15 OR start mowing this section in April and keep grass height low through June.
- Minimize impact of trespass cows during breeding season.
- Encourage campers to keep horses on trail and dogs on leash.
- Promote native bunchgrasses over exotics that grow uniformly tall/thick.

Lily Glen County Campground

