

## Getting Started

The City of Rocklin encourages the use of managed grazing for fuel load reduction and suppressing noxious weeds. With a grazing permit from the Rocklin Fire Department, the services of a professional grazing contractor can be used in lieu of, or in addition to, other weed abatement methods on your property. While a permit is required for anyone using grazing animals in Rocklin, they're available at no charge from the Fire Department.

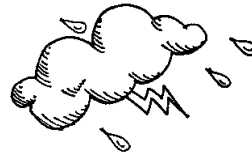
Permit applications can be picked up at Fire Station 1, 4060 Rocklin Road, or they can be downloaded from the City's website at [www.rocklin.ca.us/grazing](http://www.rocklin.ca.us/grazing). If you'd like to have an application mailed to you, call the Fire Department at (916) 625-5300.

Included in the application packet is a list of area grazing contractors, as well as a list of things property owners should consider before engaging a contractor. These documents can also be downloaded from the City's website at [www.rocklin.ca.us/grazing](http://www.rocklin.ca.us/grazing).

### Did You Know?



The indentations left in the soil by animal hooves are ideal catchments for native plant seeds to take hold and grow.



### Report Illegal Dumping

Our inspectors and maintenance crews are on the look-out for possible illegal dumping into the city storm drain system. To report an incident of illegal dumping into a storm drain, call the Public Works Department at (916) 625-5500 or click on the Access Rocklin link on our website at [www.rocklin.ca.us](http://www.rocklin.ca.us).



# Managed Grazing

City of Rocklin Public Works Department  
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City of Rocklin

## Managed Grazing

Anyone living in California knows how easily wildfire can devastate a community. One of the many responsibilities a property owner has is to minimize fire hazard by controlling excess vegetation on their property.



The methods most commonly used to control vegetation are manual/mechanical (hand or machine removal) and chemical (using herbicides).

Both methods can be effective when properly applied, at least in areas that are accessible with equipment.

Another approach to vegetation management is biological. Grazing has been around for years, but environmental concerns, accessibility, cost, and losses due to wildfires in California are contributing to its growing popularity. In fact, many local and state government agencies are now using managed grazing to reduce fire hazard and control vegetation on public lands.



Managed grazing may not be appropriate for every situation, but when done properly, it's an effective, eco-friendly alternative that should be considered when deciding the best method to use for your property.

## Benefits of Managed Grazing

One of the most obvious benefits of grazing is the reduction of fire hazard. Especially dangerous are ladder fuels. Ladder fuels are dead vegetation (tall grasses, shrubs, and low hanging tree branches) that allow a ground fire to climb up into the tree canopy. Managed grazing is a very effective way to reduce fire fuel loads because goats and sheep love grasses, clovers, weeds and brush species such as Manzanita, berry bushes, poison oak and even starthistle.



Being such good climbers, goats prune lower tree branches, which helps to keep fire from spreading from the ground level into the tree canopy. Goats and sheep are often used together to graze areas that have a combination of grassland and woody vegetation.



Goats are very athletic and are excellent climbers.

## Environmental Benefits

Properly managed grazing has many environmental benefits, including:

- Watershed Health & Protection
- Wildlife Habitat
- Habitat for Endangered & Threatened Species
- Sequestered Carbon from the Air
- Ground Water Recharge
- Wildfire Reduction
- Soil and Plant Health
- Eradication of Invasive Plant Species

## Invasive Plant Species



Munching yellow starthistle.

Invasive species can impact the growth of native vegetation by depriving it of water and nutrients. Some invasive species grow tall enough to completely shade out the surrounding vegetation. Over time, grazing helps control the composition and growth rate of invasive plants, reducing them significantly.

## Find Out More

To learn more about managed grazing and its benefits or to get a grazing permit, visit the City of Rocklin's website at [www.rocklin.ca.us/grazing](http://www.rocklin.ca.us/grazing).