

**“Living On The
Land...Overview
A “Sustainable” Course
For Small-Acreage
Landowners!”**

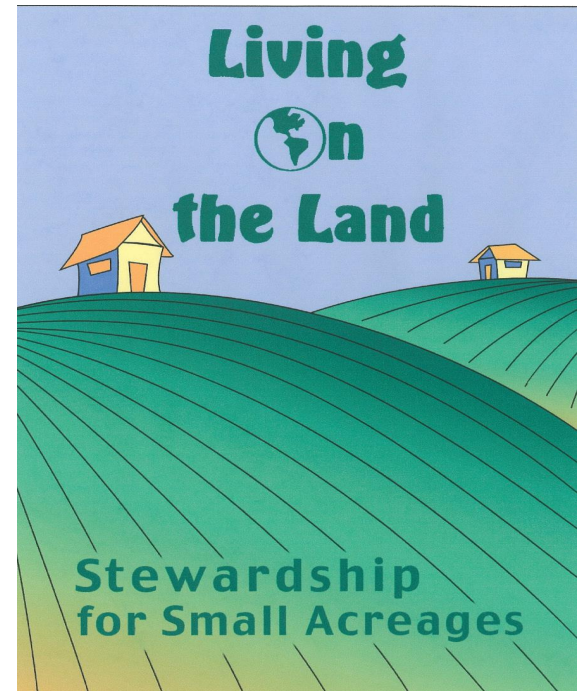


**Idaho Chapter – American Planners
Association Conference**

October 2018, Boise, ID
Scott Jensen UI Extension Educator

Living on the Land

A program
for people interested
in becoming better
stewards of the land!



Living On The Land: A “Sustainable” Course For Small-Acreage Landowners

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Living On The Land: A “Sustainable” Course For Small-Acreage Landowners

“The course is designed to address small acreage land units and urban sprawl. It’s a phenomenon so pervasive in our society today that it was featured in the July 2001 issue of National Geographic as an offshoot of the American dream. As communities grow, land at the urban fringes is being rezoned from large, agricultural enterprises to smaller 1 to 40+ acre parcels that maintain some agricultural uses while attracting a more diverse population of owners”

Living On The Land: A “Sustainable” Course For Small-Acreage Landowners

The conversion of rural land to urban use from 1992-1997 in Ada County was 26 percent or 24,200 acres and Canyon County was 14 percent or 13,000 acres (Idaho Natural Resource Trends 2001). This conversion rate (Ada: 4,480 acres/year; Canyon 2,600 acres/year) impacts transportation, land use and the environment.

LOTL Idaho Objectives

Participants will:

1. Learn about the role land use has played in shaping the physical and social interactions of the counties and the state of Idaho.
2. Research the needs of small acreage landowners and inventory resources noting changes that have occurred in their community the last 5 years.
3. Understand the difference between renewable and nonrenewable soil, water, plant, and animal resources.
4. Debate sustainability issues of the region as serious environmental threats and opportunities.
5. Explore how their own choices have affected land use, lifestyle, and the environment in their community and county.

LOTL Idaho Objectives

Participants will:

6. Raise skill levels in five basic core competency areas: land use planning and inventorying resources, soil sustainability, water sustainability, plant sustainability and management, and animal sustainability and management.
7. Increase understanding and technical expertise related to managing their small acreage resource in the Treasure Valley.
8. Identify key sustainable practices (Best Management Practices, BMP's) to implement on their acreages and in their community.
9. Participants will complete LOTL stewardship activities developed for the course and one of their own choosing over the 18 weeks of this course.
10. Learn, plan, and act on this stewardship knowledge in their community!

What we'll be covering

- The good, the bad, and the ugly of small acreage properties
- What are your goals for your property?
- What resources do you currently have on your property?
- Making a map of your land

A map of your property

- Buildings – house, barns, shed, etc.
- Facilities – pastures, fences, wells, septic tanks, power lines, sewer lines, etc.
- Assets – existing vegetation, pastures, streams, ponds, wetlands, existing irrigation, related features
- Problems – easements, weed areas, etc.
- What are your neighbors doing?

Legend

W Well

Trees

* Weedy

≡ Bare ground



∨ Marshy

→ Stream

≡ Water trough

⊕ Gate

⊕ Fence

S Septic

△ Manure pile

Acres = 25

Animals: 6 cattle,
1 horse, 3 goats

Pastures = 1

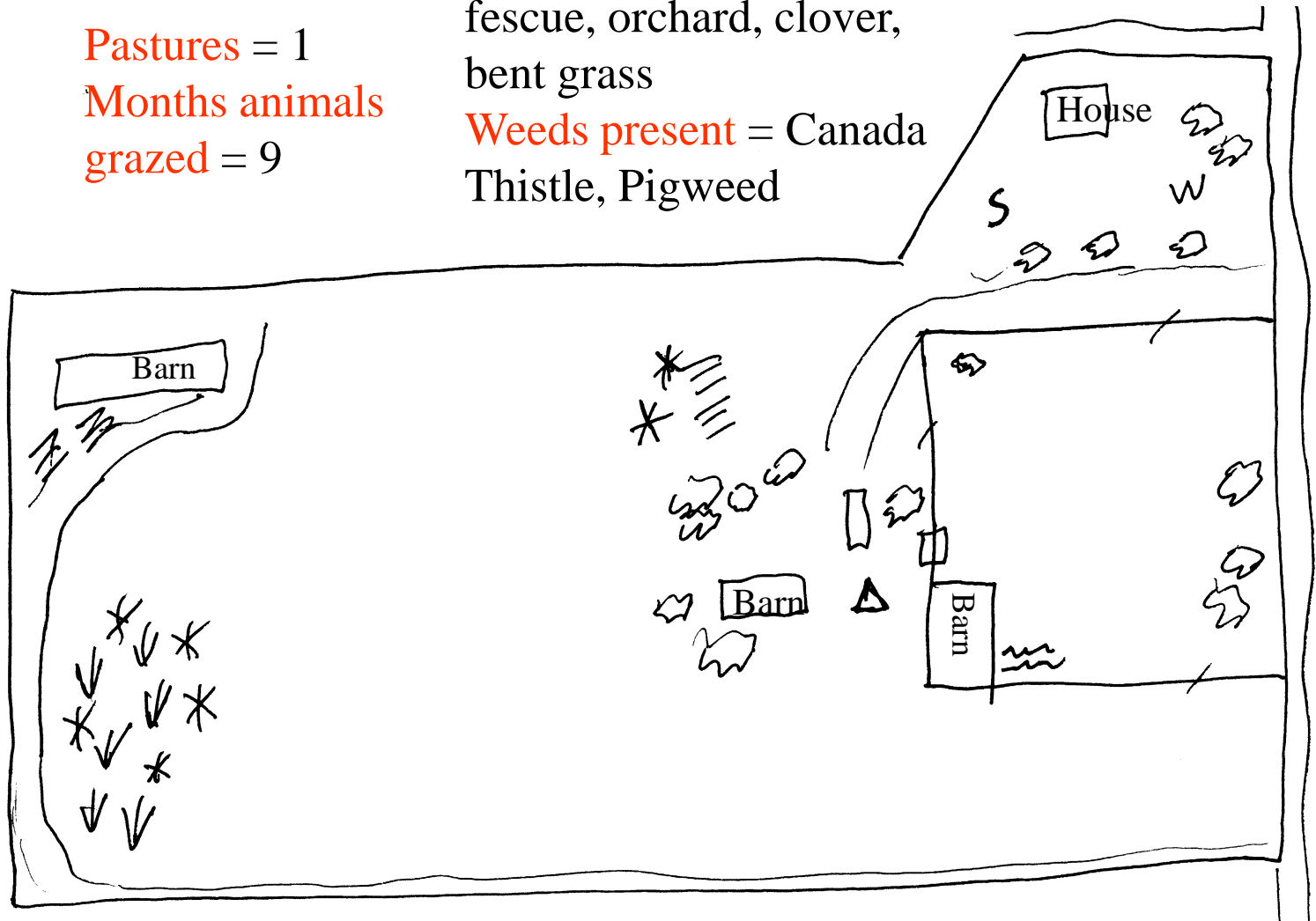
Months animals
grazed = 9

Soils = sandy clay
loam, silt

Grasses present = T.
fescue, orchard, clover,
bent grass

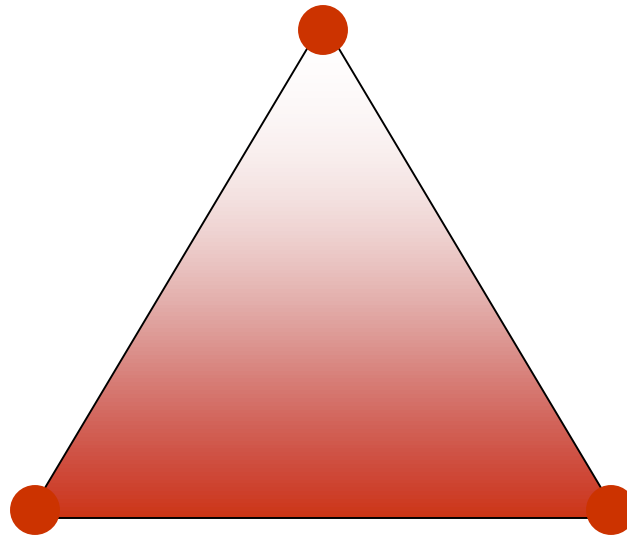
Weeds present = Canada
Thistle, Pigweed

Property Map



Goal setting is a balancing act

Your **goals** as landowners:
Are they realistic?
Do they reflect your priorities?



Your **investment**:
Money, time,
maintenance

Your **resources**:
Soil, water, plants,
animals and man-made
features

Getting Down and Dirty With Soil

Developed by :

Hudson Minshew

Oregon State University Extension Service

Susan Donaldson

University of Nevada Cooperative Extension



Water Quality: Making the Connection Between You and the Water

Developed by:
Susan Donaldson

University of Nevada Cooperative Extension

How can I protect my well water supply?

Consider:

- Location
- Construction
- Condition

**Can you
find the
wellhead?**



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What to do About Weeds!

Weed Identification and Management in Pastures



Topics to be covered

- What is a weed?
- Why worry about weeds in pastures and landscapes?
- How weeds are regulated
- Weed biology
- Factors that lead to plant invasion
- Preventing invasion and spread of weeds
- Identifying weeds
- Control - mechanical, cultural, biological, and chemical
- Common weeds in your area

Grazing Systems & Grazing Management

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What we'll be covering:

- Introduction
- Forage establishment
- Factors to consider prior to renovation
- Plant characteristics
- Characteristics of individual grasses and legumes



So, You Want To Be An Animal Owner

Developed by :

Holly George, University of California Extension Service

Susie Kocher, University of California Extension Service

Bruce Miller, Utah State University

Melody Hefner, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension



We'll be covering:

- What are the legal considerations?
- Why have animals?
- What do animals cost, in terms of time and money?
- What do animals need?
- What can your land support?











Living



on the Land



Stewardship for Small Acreages

Key Concepts:

Use Of Experiential Learning Model With Learners.

Build Learning Community Where All Participants Become Co-instructors.

Instructors Are Learner Centered.

Learners Build & Present Own Plans To Peers.

Outcomes Include: New Networks, Skills, And Regional Examples Of Exemplary Stewardship.

IDAHO LOTL

Data Collection Methods

- ◆ **Case study**
- ◆ **Survey, questionnaire**
- ◆ **Interview**
- ◆ **Multiple measures**
- ◆ **Observation**
- ◆ **Video, photograph**
- ◆ **Group technique**
- ◆ **Environmental scan**
- ◆ **Data analysis**
- ◆ **Document analysis**
- ◆ **Portfolio review**
- ◆ **Expert or peer review**
- ◆ **Simulation**
- ◆ **Journal, log, diary**
- ◆ **Unobtrusive measure**
- ◆ **Testimonial**

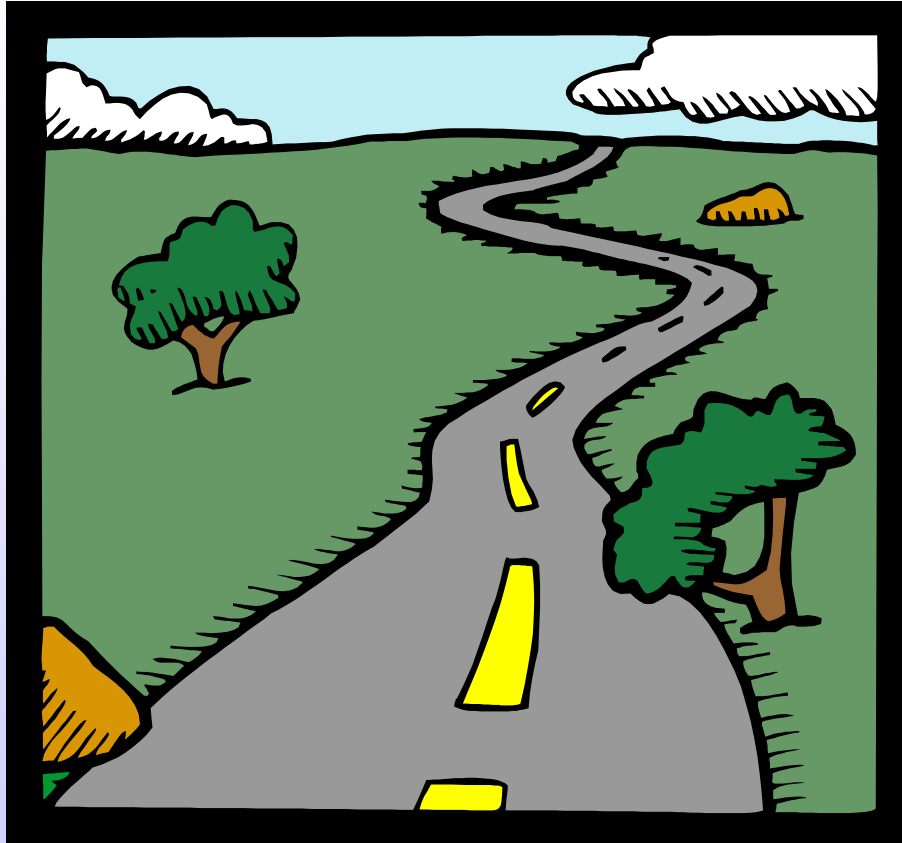
Identified Changes In Stewardship as a Result of LOTL

- Improved pasture and grazing management.
- Improved irrigation.
- Awareness on all topics greatly enhanced.
- We are planning now rather than just reacting to problems.

Identified Changes In Stewardship as a Result of LOTL

- It makes you think and plan before you act.
- I'm comfortable now testing soil and water so I can determine needs before investing money.
- Knowledge of weed management options and needs greatly enhanced.

You're on the road to



...Living on the Land

Questions...

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