

Evaluating Your Pastures After Fire

Question to ask:

What did you have before?

Perennial grasses or annuals and weeds?

Do you have perennial grasses?

- Do you have 3-5 plants/crowns per square foot? If so, you may be OK. If not, re-seeding following the strategy below under Annuals and Weeds may be appropriate.
- If you do have 3-5 plants per square foot:

GIVE THEM A CHANCE TO RECOVER

- Best strategy is rest for a growing season and do not graze until July 2016.
 - Can you at least rest some of your pastures by using electric fence?
- Wait until the leaves are at least 6-8 inches high before turning out livestock.
- Leave a 4 inch stubble height.
- Let your pastures go to seed every two to three years.

- Be vigilant for weeds and act on new infestations.

Do you have Annuals and Weeds?

- They will come back. Good time to investigate ways to re-establish perennials.

DO NOT JUST THROW SEED ON GROUND.

Take care of your weeds first.

- Kill weeds when they start to sprout this fall. Spray with non-selective herbicide or cultivate.
- Kill again in the spring when they green up.
- Repeat one more time in the spring before re-seeding. Repeating for another year would be even better.
- Be sure you have good seed to soil contact. A smooth seedbed free of weeds is important. Using a drill would be preferable if not double your seed rate if broadcasting.
- Cover seed with a harrow or rake.

Call the NRCS Grangeville office for additional information. (208) 983-1046. Other NRCS field offices can be found at this site: [Office Locator](#).