



Protecting nature. Preserving life.™

Matador Grassbank

Growing Conservation Through Grassbanking

Grasslands Conservation in Montana

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Managing Wildlife Habitat Using Livestock Grazing

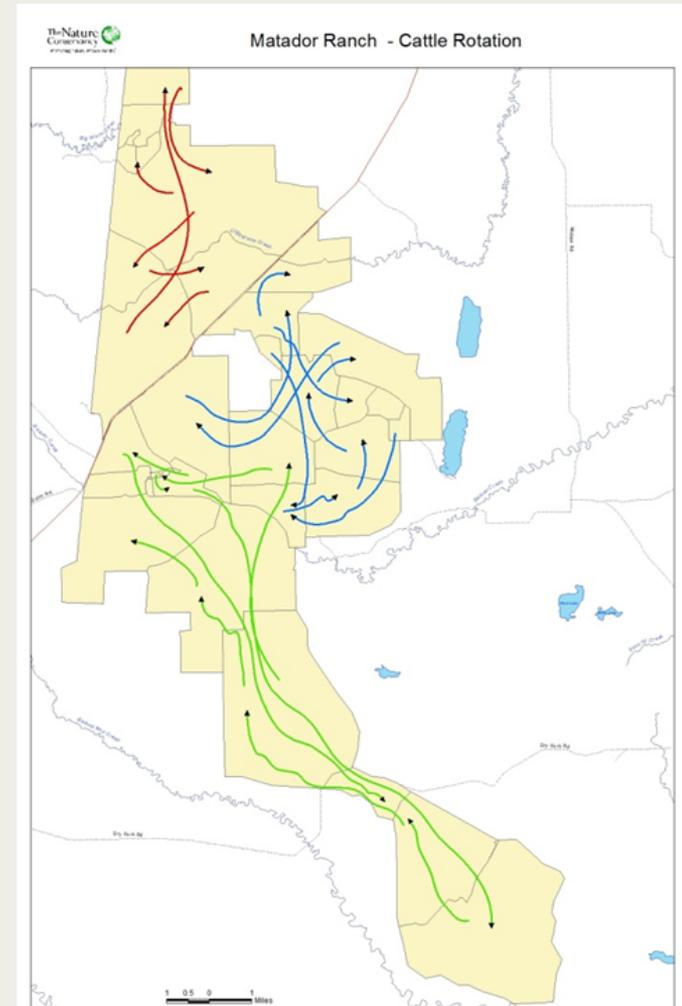


Ungrazed grass in foreground
contrasts with short grass where
cattle graze on a prairie dog town

Managed grazing is used to create variable grass
heights and plant species diversity required

Grassbank 101

- Grassbank = discount the cost of forage for conservation practices on participating ranches
- Lease Grass to Ranchers based on conservation values on their “home” ranches
- TNC manages the grazing on the Matador
- 3 cattle herds of blended ownership
- Ranchers manage livestock health on Matador
- TNC monitors and calculates discounts on grassbank ranches



Grassbank Discounts

Market-based Grazing Rate = \$26/ cow-calf pair/month (AUM)

Discounts:

Running Livestock in Common: \$2/AUM*

Approved Ranch Management Plan: \$.10/acre*

No Sodbusting Tillable Native Range: \$.40/acre*

Prairie Dog Towns: \$2/\$4/\$6/acre

Sage-grouse Habitat and Infrastructure: \$.125/acre

Optional: Negotiated

Maximum Discount = 50% of Grazing Bill

* Required discounts, others are voluntary

Grassbank Outcomes by the Numbers

Ownership	Approved Managed Grazing Ranch Acres	Acres Private Native Grasslands Conserved	Acres of Prairie Dog Towns Protected	Acres Private Sage-grouse Habitat Managed	Discounts
Grassbank Ranches	263,398	74,247	3,492	66,873	\$59,391.81
Matador	60,000	23,379	1,949	13,253	
Total	323,398	97,626	5,441	80,126	\$59,391.81

- Grassbank ranches include private land and public lease
- 2018 –14 Ranches; 4 Beginning Ranchers
~283,000 ranch acres
Waiting list of ranches
- Estimated carbon sequestered/year = 77,000 tonnes



Conservation Values of Montana's Grasslands:

- Largest expanse of intact glaciated grasslands
- Most intact wildlife assemblage in the Great Plains
- 2nd longest land mammal migration in North America – pronghorn antelope 450 miles
- Highest concentration of endemic grassland birds on the continent
- One of the largest populations of Greater Sage-grouse.



Questions?