

Figures 5 and 6 depict change from season-long use on the North Fork of the Humboldt River in Nevada to a riparian pasture for use by yearling bulls several weeks prior to mid-June.



Figure 5. North Fork of the Humboldt, 1989.



Figure 6. North Fork of the Humboldt, 1994.

The Goosey Lake Flat (Nevada) riparian pasture (Figures 7 and 8) has generally been used as a gather or turnout pasture since it was changed from continuous season-long use. The grazing plan calls for use in early June for 1 year out of 3, and for 2 weeks in September for gathering during the remaining 2 years (Masters et al. 1996b).



Figure 7. Goosey Lake Flat Creek, 1965.



Figure 8. Goosey Lake Flat Creek, 1991.

4. *Winter (Dormant-Season) Grazing*

Normally, there is little or no vegetation growth during winter. Winter use is usually the least detrimental to soils (where they are frozen) and to dormant herbaceous vegetation. However, it may be the period of greatest use of browse species by both livestock and wildlife depending on temperatures, snow depth and duration, availability of other feed, animal concentration, forage/browse preference, and the extent of the woody plant community. Many riparian areas are unavailable for grazing during a major part of the winter due to snow depth. In areas that can be grazed, winter can be a season of use with minimal impact when grazing is closely monitored and controlled (especially use of woody plant growth).

Winter use can reduce a user's winter feed costs in some areas. In Oregon, this has amounted to as much as \$30 per head per season (Elmore 1987). However, winter use also has the potential to remove excessive amounts of vegetation cover just prior to spring runoff. Most streambanks need carryover vegetation for bank protection and sediment trapping during spring runoff.

Wickiup Creek in northern Nevada has been grazed in the winter by cattle since 1910 (Masters et al. 1996a). Winter grazing has maintained stable riparian conditions for decades (Figures 9 and 10). Additional management practices include placing salt well away from riparian areas, culling riparian loafers, and varying turnout locations from year to year.

Winter grazing has also improved riparian conditions on Meadow Valley Wash in southern Nevada (Masters et al. 1996a), Comes Ranch in Montana (Massman ed. 1995), and Texas Creek in Colorado (Prichard et al. 1993).



Figure 9. Wickiup Creek, 1939.