



Holistic Resource Management of Texas, Inc.

Newsletter

Volume 22, Number 2

Spring 2007

Passionate People the LINK for Kids on the Land program

by Peggy Cole

Discovery was the connecting tissue of the first official gathering of passionate people interested in sharing their love of the natural world with children in the Kids On The Land program at Holistic Management International's David West Ranch. Six



Peggy Maddox helps a student discover his wonder

women from diverse fields came together Friday afternoon, April 27 to begin a journey in creating curriculum for informal (out of the classroom) education, outdoors, that can present a day of wonder and discovery for elementary school children.

For the past four years Peggy Maddox has been creating activities to support general themes for the various grades she has invited out from Ozona schools. She began with third grade and added the next grade each year. Word got around and now Eldorado wants to bring those 4 grades (third through sixth) and Ozona wants to bring kindergarten as well as those grades. Peggy and HMI devised this training to get the help she so badly needs for this important mission. To create the curriculum, HMI and the West Ranch are hosting these two seven-day workshops of training and implementing the school field days this spring.

Kelly White from Albuquerque; Dr. Pat Richardson from UT Austin; HRM ED Peggy Cole from Wimberley; Certified Educator, Christina Allday-Bondy from Austin; Kathy Dickson from Maryneal, TX; and Jeanne Rides-Alone from Dulce, New Mexico joined Peggy Maddox in the newly upgraded learning quarters for opening activities. Peggy Maddox uses teaching stories to great advantage and our 3 days of orientation were liberally spiced with great stories and poignant quotes about education and the natural world. We were presented with looseleaf notebooks stuffed with information about how people learn.

I needed a name to call these participants—part student, part teacher—in this article and into the future. We settled on LINK (Learning Involving Nature & Kids), because we want to be links—part of the connections in all directions.

The LINKs spent the three days before the school days creating a holistic goal for the workshop, doing yoga, preparing for school days activities and learning to design activities around any topic in a way that addresses the various kinds of intelligence we were learning about.

We took time to tour the ranch, soak in the hot tub, hike about or nap between 3 learning sessions each day and the wonderful West Ranch meals. We discussed the overall plan for youth curriculum and decided initially we would focus on K-6th grade groups

who are interested in out-of-the-classroom, outdoors education with the theme and possible title,

LIFE...on the land

Get the connection

to include understanding how the parts of the natural world work together and possibly add later simple goal setting and decision-making toward that goal. Audience includes public schools, private schools, home schoolers and others. We want to produce sets of activities that help children learn according to all the intelligences and that, where practical, address the state and national testing requirements.

Currently third grade is about the wind and how it can help people, fourth grade is about the plants, fifth grade is about water and sixth grade is about soil.

Weather and other unavoidable and unforeseen events cause Eldorado week to shorten to Tuesday and Wednesday (fourth and third grades) instead of the 4 originally expected. We Links were disappointed, but



LINKs in the class-room: L to R Christina Allday-Bondy, Jeanne Rides-Alone, Pat Richardson, Kelly White, Peggy Maddox and Kathy Dickson.

enjoyed the cool, rainy weather and the full and flowing draws all over the ranch.

Look for the whole story in the News & Notes e-newsletter.

HRM of TX Directors

John Hackley, President

940-567-3108 (Jacksboro)
jhackley@hrm-texas.org

Debbie Davis, Vice-President

830-562-3652 (Tarpley)
ddavis@hrm-texas.org

Peggy Maddox, Secretary

325-392-2292 (Ozona)
pmaddox@hrm-texas.org

Pat Richardson, Treasurer

512-471-4128 (Austin)
prichardson@hrm-texas.org

Jim/Judy Reed,

903-872-6836 (Corsicana)
jreed@hrm-texas.org
judyreed@hrm-texas.org

Malcolm Beck

210-483-1930 (San Antonio)
mbeck@hrm-texas.org

Dick Richardson

512-471-4128 (Austin)
drichardson@hrm-texas.org

John Treadwell

325-697-3424 (Brady)
jtreadwell@hrm-texas.org

Sharon Lane

817-461-4086 (Arlington)
slane@hrm-texas.org

Judith McGeary

512-243-9404 (Austin)
jmcgeary@hrm-texas.org

Joe Maddox

325-392-2292 (Ozona)
jmaddox@hrm-texas.org

Executive Director

Peggy Cole

5 Limestone Trail
Wimberley, TX 78676
512-847-3822, 512-858-2761 cell
pcole@hrm-texas.org

From the President

John Hackley

Greetings Everyone. I hope all of you have had much needed rains and your lands are refreshed, and you are seeing your production return.

Our annual meeting was a great success and I thank you all for your support of your organization by attending both the education classes offered and the meeting program itself. Plans are already underway for next year's meeting.

The quarterly board meeting in late March saw HRM of Texas making good, steady progress toward our goals of more education and fulfilling our desire to be privately funded. The Dixon Water Foundation is working closely with us toward our goals, and for this we are truly thankful.

Education is our main goal for our members and their families. Our events are listed in the News and Notes section and in the calendar of the Website. I would lift up to your attention the "Grazing Classes" with Terry Gompert at the West Ranch. The evaluations of the 2007 annual meeting indicated you wanted more on the subject of "grazing", so here is your chance. If the response is good, it might be possible for us to offer more of these classes at different locations around the state. Show your support for these programs and sign up soon.

The more we learn the more chance we have to improve our opportunities for our business and families to grow. I hope you all continue to have a great year and share in the prosperity of this great land we are trying to preserve.



HRM of Texas Mission Statement

Transforming people's relationship with the land through awareness of its impact on every aspect of life, using the power of holistic management

Holistic Goal

Quality of Life - We value a healthy ecosystem capable of supporting the people in it, strong family units, financial sustainability, a land ethic and personal growth and development; while enjoying life and the fellowship of a professionally proactive organization.

Forms of Production/Activities - practicing holistic management, self-sustaining forms of revenue, facilitating training and education, creating public awareness and forming collaborative partnerships.

Future Resource Base - High biodiversity, a healthy water cycle, a healthy mineral cycle, efficient capture of solar energy, and a harmonious interdependence between urban and rural communities through an understanding of ecological processes; an active membership with respect for diversity, long term productive relationships with public agencies and endowment groups, and proactive networking with other groups that manage holistically.

Events/Announcements

MAY 30-31 - HOMEOPATHY FOR FARM ANIMALS, AUSTIN, TX

The Animal Compassion Foundation is pleased to offer a 2-day Homeopathy for Farm Animals workshop, May 30-31st in Austin, TX at Whole Foods Market Headquarters, 550 Bowie Street, Austin, TX 78703. For more info call Anne Malleau, (512) 542-0640

Spend two full days with Dr. Glen Dupree, a homeopathic veterinarian who has been practicing veterinary medicine for over 20 years, and has been practicing classical veterinary homeopathy for 10 years. During the two-day workshop, Dr. Dupree will teach the theory, philosophy and mechanics of classical homeopathy and will show you how to apply them in every day situations on your farm. Cost is \$100.

JUNE 2- FIELD DAY AT PUZZLEWOOD RANCH, ELKHART, TX

See how 2 brothers from Switzerland use efficiency and world travels to create a sustainable beef and hair sheep operation in the rainy world of the Trinity River bottomlands. 10am to 3pm. June 2, at Puzzlewood Ranch near Elkhart, Cost is \$20. Please let us know you are coming by May 25, 2007, so we can have a lunch for you and give you directions. Call 512-847-3822 to register or online at www.hrm-texas.org. See article, page 5.

JUNE 11-15, HM GRAZING CLASSES, OZONA, TX

We have arranged for Terry Gompert to come to Ozona, Texas, June 11-15, 2007 to teach a series of classes on grazing planning, land planning, biological planning and monitoring and grazing principles. All but the grazing principles are limited to 20 participants. See story, page 5.

For each of these classes you will need the *Holistic Management Handbook: Healthy Lands. Healthy Profits* and the *HMI Grazing Plan & Control Chart* available from the Holistic Management International's online store www.holisticmanagement.org/store/index.html. Register at www.hrm-texas.org, by calling the HRM office 512-847-3822 or mail your check and contact info to HRM of TX, 5 Limestone Trail, Wimberley, TX 78676. Classes are \$125 per day or \$500 for the whole week.

JUNE 1 - HRM SEEKS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ANYWHERE, TX

Current HRM Executive Director Peggy Cole is longing to focus all her attention on our programs, so we have created a new position of Program Director as we grow and expand. As a result, Holistic Resource Management is offering a career opportunity in the leadership and development of HRM of TX and its endowment Foundation. The position is a collaborative relationship with the Directors and staff to communicate the essence of Holistic Management with the intention of building the organization and the endowment Foundation toward a sustainable future. Contact the HRM office for more information.

Applications close June 1.

see events, page 4

Now Taking Special Orders For HRM Shirts



HRM President John Hackley and Administrative Assistant Jamie Corson model men's and ladies versions of the long sleeved shirt.

HRM logo cotton shirts are available in short and long sleeved, men's and women's styles. We will be placing our summer order for short-sleeved shirts on May 18th. We plan to order assorted sizes in men's chest pocket style in three colors: faded blue denim, string (khaki) and sage. If you would like to request a different color, or a women's style shirt, please notify Debbie Davis by Sunday, May 17th with your request debwd@dwlonghorns.com (830) 562-3650. Short-sleeved shirts are \$28 plus \$4.05 postage.

Shirt orders may now be placed on the HRM website shopping cart by clicking in the column on the right of the Home Page "Shirts: special offer" There is a chart with color and style options. Long-sleeved men's chest pocket style shirts are in stock in three colors: faded blue denim, string (khaki) and forest green, for \$35 plus \$4.05 postage. Sizes larger than 2XL are \$38. If you would like to order a color other than one we have in stock, please place your request by the order deadline, and you will not have to pay the additional \$4 per shirt special order fee on the website.

Holistic Resource Management of Texas, Inc.

Newsletter

is published quarterly by HRM of TX, Inc., a non-profit organization.

News articles, area updates and photos are gratefully accepted and will be published as space allows. We welcome letters to the editor related to HRM principles or activities. Advertising is available. Direct newsletter correspondence

Peggy Cole

5 Limestone Trail

Wimberley, TX 78676

512-847-3822 pcole@hrm-texas.org

to:

Patricia Q. Richardson

608 Fairfield Lane

Austin, Texas 78751

512-371-1885 patr@biosci.utexas.edu

A lifetime of learning generously shared by Gene Sollock of Iola, TX

Gene Sollock has a nice green little operation there in Iola, Texas, site of the April 25 Clover Field Day. Gene is on the board of the Bedias Creek Soil and Water Conservation District and has been hosting this field day every spring for a number of years to show people how much soil and water conservation good management can produce. 150 people showed up in spite of potential rain and the ranch tour hayride saw a lovely sunny afternoon.

Gene grazes 100–150 head of stocker cattle in 35 two-and-a-quarter acre paddocks on about 80 of his 91 acres. He has learned quite a few useful things over the 25 years since he retired as a high school ag teacher and considers each day part of his continuing education. Because HRM was a sponsor and not the host of this field day, Gene was not just preaching to the choir when he extolled the virtues of planned grazing. He feeds year-round on the land with no supplemental feed and no hay for the past 12-14 years—even in the drought years. “You can do it too,” he said, “but you have to plan ahead. It’s all about managing.”

One of the keys to Gene’s success is clover. When he moved onto this land in 1982, it was “a tilled, mined, eroded, depleted, goat grazed, brushy dustbowl that was at the same time both over-grazed and under-grazed.

“I was not only supporting the cattle, I was supporting the banker, the feed store, the implement store, the fertilizer company, the insecticide company and the herbicide company. What I found out is you have to improve the soil first, then improve the herd.”

So Gene set out to work with nature by planting clovers (mostly ball clover) in the fall along with rye grass. Why clover? It increases forage quality and animal performance, fixes nitrogen and adds organic matter to the soil, reduces weed growth, allows for more cool season grazing days, reduces the need to feed hay, and lowers the cost of animal production.



Ken Graf examines the soil under thick clover for signs of compaction as Gene Sollock (right) watches.

He stopped removing soil and plants from the land and harvests the forage with livestock, not a hay baler. Manure is returned to the soil by dung beetles and earthworms. He chooses not to burn because he wants to capture all the carbon and water he can with his green forage. He has eliminated mowing by controlling

weeds with stock density and allows ample recovery (35-90 days) for the forage by having enough paddocks in the rotation. He has begun to use some compost tea and spreads a little chicken litter in the fall to feed the microbes.

Some of the practices he recommends are to: • get a soil test first and see what the soil needs, but be careful not to kill the mycorrhizal fungi. • Have an open mind, a can-do attitude and don’t listen to those who say it won’t work. • Visit managers who have been doing intensive planned grazing (aka Management Intensive Grazing or MIG) for 10 years, preferably one using clover. • Subscribe to the *Stockman Grass Farmer*. • Invest in a good fence charger and get to fencing (he uses 12 gage smooth wire). • Start carefully, using what is available—don’t kill the soil food web by plowing up the existing sod and planting introduced grasses, just add legumes to existing forage to provide good grazing with high protein. • Plant clover on top of the ground and let the animals trample it in.

Gene uses a trencher to “subsoil” which is digging a trench 3” wide, and 18” deep, about every 20 feet to catch the rain and send it deep into the soil. He does this after the cattle leave the pasture so it can settle before they return. He cautions to stop each trench about 10’ from the fence so you can ride the fences in a 4-wheeler. That alley is also a good place to put water lines so you always know where they are.

“The shortest route to prosperity is across green pastures with livestock grazing. If you are not feeding, breaking soil and seeding, you can be profitable,” insists Gene Sollock.

Events, from page 1

JULY 30 - HRM BOARD MEETING, WIMBERLEY,
10am to 4pm. Open to the membership. Call the office to RSVP.

OCTOBER 26 - HRM BOARD MEETING, ALEDO
as part of our big fall tribute to Clint Josey

OCTOBER 25-27 - BEAR CREEK RANCH, ALEDO

We are planning workshops in animal handling, a big field day and tribute to Clint Josey who has led HRM from its infancy. Stay tuned for all the details as they become firm.

OCTOBER 30-NOV. 3 - HMI INTERNATIONAL GATHERING, ALBUQUERQUE, NM

HMI is hosting, “From the Ground Up: Practical Solutions to Complex Problems”— four exciting days packed with keynote addresses, powerful and educational workshops on the topics that matter to you most, and special events. Whether your focus is land desertification, food security, public lands, meeting consumer demand for organics, or global warming, you’ll exchange ideas with knowledgeable experts and discover the solutions that are working now. Visit their website www.holisticmanagement.org or call (505) 842-5252 for the brochure.

HRM Field Day June 2 at Puzzlewood Ranch near Palestine, TX

Join us as we travel to the Palestine area June 2 to see how two Swiss brothers, Alain and Jean Galley, work their sustainable ranch in the damp bottomland of the Trinity River. We will gather at 10am and finish about 3pm to allow travel time. Cost to attend is \$20 and includes lunch. Please let us know you are coming so we can plan the lunch and can give you directions. You may pay in advance (online, via phone or send us a check) or when you arrive. We all expect to learn a lot from these innovative world class ranchers.

“Our goal is to develop a ranch with time and livestock rather than money and machines,” said Alain.

The Galleys followed a New Zealand design, fencing (so far) 3,000 of their 6,000 acres into 45 80-acre permanent paddocks which are further sub-divided by temporary fences as needed to move their 2,000 beef

cattle and 4,000 hair sheep every couple of days. The area rainfall is 50 inches, but the watering system is set up for irrigation, just in case. Base forage is bermudagrass and ryegrass for a 10 month grazing season with supplemental hay to round out the year. They have 2 contract laborers from Mexico and each hand is allowed 2 months family time in Mexico in rotation. The Galley brothers have 3 ranches in Mexico in addition to the Texas ranch.

Sheep and beef are balanced by weight to prevent parasites, so there are roughly 10 ewes for every cow. This balance also helps reduce predation on the lambs and the Galleys have no coyote problems, even with no guard dogs, llamas or night penning.

“The only preventive medicine that really works is genetics,” Alain said. “Consequently, we never worm our sheep.

We get rid of the animals that have parasite problems. That’s the way you make real genetic progress.”

The cows are Red Angus crossed on Tuli (from Zimbabwe) and Nelore (from Brazil) bulls. That cross is then bred to South Devon bulls for their exceptionally tender meat. The sheep are Dorper, for the heat resistance and great meat, crossed on Barbados.

“Jean and I have been lucky to have had the chance to travel the world and see what works and what doesn’t,” Alain said.

“This ranch is a combination of Swiss capital, Mexican labor, American grass and markets, African and Brazilian livestock genetics and New Zealand fencing technology. We are very thankful to the USA for allowing us the opportunity to put all of this together.”

Grazing Classes with Terry Gompert offered June 11-15 in Ozona, TX

You asked for it! During the 2007 Annual Meeting, class evaluations revealed an overwhelming consensus to bring back Terry Gompert, Nebraska Certified Educator in Holistic Management, to teach detailed classes in grazing planning to a small class.

Grazing Planning—Monday and Tuesday, June 11-12, 8am to 6pm, at the West Ranch and Ozona Visitor’s Center each day, 20 unit limit, Cost \$250. HM Grazing Planning gets your animals to the right place, at the right time, and for the right reasons. It enables you to manage land, animals, and wildlife so that in the growing months the land can produce the maximum amount of high quality forage. Objectives: • Complete a Grazing Chart (open-ended plan) • Complete a Grazing Chart (closed plan) • Learn how to calculate standard animal units, animal days per acre available, stocking rate, and stock density • Learn grazing, over-grazing, growth rates, and recovery period • Learn how to monitor and control the grazing plan.

Biological Planning and Monitoring— Wednesday, June 13, 8am to 6pm at the West Ranch, 20 unit limit, Cost \$125. Holistic Management® Biological

Monitoring is monitoring to make what you want happen. You will learn how to read your land and assess the functioning of the four ecosystem processes – water cycle, energy flow, community dynamics, and mineral cycle. Objectives: • Complete a Comprehensive Biological Monitoring Data Sheet • Complete a Comprehensive Biological Monitoring Summary Sheet • Complete a Comprehensive Biological Monitoring Analysis • Learn how to biologically monitor.

Land Planning—Thursday, June 14, 8am to 6pm, West Ranch and Ozona Visitor’s Center, 20 people limit, Cost \$125. Holistic Management® Land Planning is important because investments in land represent long-term commitments, so this land planning procedure and its gradual implementation on your land are of extreme importance. Your land plan takes you into the future, building infrastructure as your finances permit, and can prevent costly mistakes. Objectives: • Design the ideal layout • Consider fencing and water options • Consider handling facility

Grazing principles— Friday, June 15, 8am to 6pm, West Ranch and Ozona, 50 people limit, Cost \$125. When you manage

grazing animals you need to make sure their presence enhances all 4 ecosystem processes. The grazing principles’ class will help you become more knowledgeable about the practices and actions that more closely mimic nature and will head you toward improvement of your land, livestock and profit. Objectives: • Learn about ecological principles • Stocking rate and stock density • Production utilization and dry matter intake • Plant diversity • Legumes • Matching forage quality to animal needs • Multi-species grazing • Grass and plant growth • Rest & Recovery • Plant health • Ten Factors of Grazing.

For each of these classes you will need the *Holistic Management Handbook: Healthy Lands. Healthy Profits* and the *HMI Grazing Plan & Control Chart* available from the Holistic Management International’s online store www.holisticmanagement.org/store/index.html

Register at www.hrm-texas.org, by calling the HRM office 512-847-3822 or mail your check and contact info to HRM of TX, 5 Limestone Trail, Wimberley, TX 78676. Classes are \$125 per day or \$500 for the whole week.

Cows Have Culture Too—Part II

Understanding Livestock/Landscape Interactions

The second in a two-part series on foraging behavior.

By Jim Howell

We left off last issue with an analogy of a bad eating experience tending to stick with you, whether you be two-legged or four-legged.

Diversity – the Spice of Life

From a practical management point of view, this is both good and bad. If the plant is indeed highly toxic, we want the animal to avoid that plant for the rest of its life. More often than not, however, the plant has the potential to play an important part in meeting the animal's needs as long as not too much of it gets consumed at any one time. Dr. Provenza has demonstrated that when presented a variety of different plants, livestock will consume more total nutrients per day than with only one or two plants available. This isn't because the high variety diet contains more nutrients per pound than the simpler diet; it's because an animal will only eat so much of one plant type before it becomes satiated on that plant and wants to eat something else. Usually, the satiation is caused by toxic compounds in the plant. Essentially all plants contain these compounds and are potentially toxic if over-consumed. The emetic system starts to tell the animal to slow down on one plant and switch to another.

Most rangeland landscapes support a broad diversity of species, especially those in which the ecosystem processes are functioning effectively. Most of those species can be used by our domestic livestock to one degree or another. We often assume that broad, uniform utilization of our ranges can only be achieved by a mix of livestock species. That of course is one way to do it. Some species have higher tolerances for some toxic compounds than others. Goats, for instance, will tend to browse sagebrush more readily than cattle. But oftentimes, a particular species has the potential to feed over a much broader range of plants than we give them credit for. The reason they don't, typically, is because they've never learned to. This learned behavior can take years to evolve, but there are things we can do as managers to help it develop faster – more on that in a minute.

Culture Shock

This brings us back to culture. The Fleckvieh Simmentals in Namibia know how to make a living in their very un-German environment. Over the past hundred years, the animals that have figured out which combination of plants they can best make a living on have been the ones to survive and pass that behavior on to their offspring. They have evolved a new culture.

A population of animals that is intimately familiar with a ranch, and that has been managed the same way for years, decades, or even centuries, will have developed a very strong culture – a culture of survival molded by history and dependent on a diversity of plants. When we change that culture by mobbing them up into bigger and bigger herds, for example, and into tighter and tighter units of land, we have to expect a culture shock. Many of the little bunches that formerly occupied their own smaller home ranges are now being forced into areas of the ranch where they seldom venture, and possibly exposed to plants they've never seen. The foraging patterns or habits of each original little bunch will change drastically, because the land they have access to on any given day will be totally different to what they're accustomed to, and it will take time before the animals learn a new grazing pattern that meets their nutritional needs. If the animals are moving through lots of pastures, they'll have to go through this learning curve in every pasture. This is stressful.

Smooth Transitions

Be prepared for trouble, but be patient, observant, and don't give up, because the good news is that the animals will learn. They will change their culture, and there are some things we can do to help them along. One of those is to take things slowly. Expecting to turn a desert into the Garden of Eden in one season is wishful thinking. Initial enthusiasm wanes quickly when animals aren't happy.

As you start to amalgamate herds, think about the best way to do that from the animals' point of view. For example, scattered groups of animals that are already

using one ecologically distinct region of the ranch (and therefore already know each other and the plants) can be combined into one herd and managed under that new social and spatial context before they're taken into completely new country and combined with totally unfamiliar animals into even larger herds. When planning the development of new pastures or grazing units, try to make sure each area has as much plant diversity as possible. Remember that the more plant types an animal has to select from, the more able will it be to meet its needs. You may already have animals that know how to meet their needs from the range of plants on your ranch, but if you mob them up into smaller pastures that lack that diversity, expect trouble. I have had personal experience with this exact challenge on a fairly degraded ranch that I managed in New Mexico. If I would have understood the importance of "access to plant diversity", I would have urged our management group to do our land planning and subsequent infrastructure development much differently.

When bringing new animals onto a property, remember that younger animals will more readily adapt to the new environment than older individuals. The old adage that "you can't teach an old dog new tricks" applies to cows as well. Also, those new animals, regardless of age or history, should always be mixed with animals that know what to eat and where to go, and an effort should be made to keep them mixed. The new ones will tend to segregate themselves, but the quicker they integrate, the faster the newcomers will learn how to make a living in their novel surroundings.

Fine Tuning

And finally, for those of you who have survived the inevitable performance dip and now have culturally sophisticated livestock that prefer to be bunched and constantly moving, here's another tidbit Dr. Provenza threw out. He is now experimenting with different levels of protein and energy supplements designed to stimulate animals to eat plants that they normally don't select (or at least don't select aggressively), like sagebrush and other plants that dominate vast tracts of land in the West. If we can get animals to go after these plants, we'll have a much better chance at healing many severely degraded landscapes.

continued on back cover

DORPCROIX HAIR SHEEP

Fertile
Hardy
Gentle
Adaptable



Art Roane
325-392-2706
Home
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Mobile

These woolless, trouble-free ruminants will
increase profits. Lambs for sale.

DOUBLE T RANCH - OZONA, TEXAS

Working to provide encouragement and support of holistic management in Texas

Holistic Resource Management of Texas, Inc. is a non-profit organization made up of ranchers, farmers, public land managers, educators, conservationists, and others who are interested in finding economically and ecologically sound ways to manage land.

Categories of membership: \$35—Basic *\$100—Active *\$250—Sustaining *\$1,000—Lifetime

*Includes the textbook, *Holistic Management*, by Allan Savory

Annual (calendar year) membership dues entitle you to:

- Subscription to the quarterly HRM of Texas, Inc. Newsletter
- Membership directory
- The privilege to vote for and serve as director of HRM of Texas, Inc.
- The opportunity to be notified of and participate in management clubs, field days, practitioner panels and other educational opportunities to assist with the application of Holistic Resource Management.

Please complete, detach and return the form below with a check for your dues.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____ county _____

e-mail / website: _____

Phone (evening/day/fax): _____

Occupation /Business name: _____

Committee preference: _____ Membership Category: _____

Please make check for desired membership category payable to Holistic Resource Management of Texas, Inc.
and send to: **HRM of TX 5 Limestone Trail, Wimberley, TX 78676**



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Heavy browsing pressure on sagebrush, in combination with hoof action, will help open up these sagebrush monocultures and stimulate new forbs and grasses to start filling in bare ground. If the animals refuse to eat sagebrush, there is little chance of making this happen.

With two groups of lambs that were familiar with sagebrush (i.e. it wasn't a novel plant to them), he offered one group a restricted amount of an energy supplement (200 grams per day) and a protein supplement (also 200 g/day), along with all the sagebrush they wanted. Another group was offered both of these supplements ad lib – meaning they could eat all they wanted, in addition to the sagebrush. The restricted group ate 1500 g of sagebrush per day, while the ad lib group only ate 800 g per day. The ad lib group wasn't stupid. The alfalfa and barley in the supplement met their needs more readily than the sagebrush, so without the restriction, they ate more of it and less sagebrush. The 200 g each of protein and energy was enough of a complement to the sagebrush, however, that the restricted group really put away the sagebrush – lots more than they would

have without the supplement. Roughly 75% of their daily dry matter intake was composed of sagebrush. That's pretty good. This indicates that restricted use of strategic supplements, in combination with sound grazing planning, might just be the trick to the utilization and healing of vast tracts of otherwise worthless rangeland, or to getting animals to eat any plant that is potentially useful but greatly underutilized. Anyway, they're currently trying it out on the Deseret Ranch in northeastern Utah on a commercial scale, so we'll have a better idea of how this works in the real world pretty soon.

One last thing. It's awfully important to remember that most of us, when starting to manage holistically, will not only be changing the culture of our animals, but our own as well. Give yourself time, be clear on what you're doing and why you're doing it (holistic goal), and keep a positive attitude. If you think the transition to a healthier ranch, a healthier lifestyle, and a healthier bank account is going to create more pain than it's worth, you'll probably be right. If you know you're going to make it work and be successful no matter what

happens, you'll also be right. It's up to you. Now go get cultured.

If you missed part 1 of this article in our last issue, you can read the entire article online at the website of Dr. Fred Provenza (www.behave.net) in the application stories section. The article first appeared in InPractice, the journal of Holistic Management International (www.holisticmanagement.org). Jim Howell is a long time practitioner of HM in the high country of Colorado and with his wife Daniele, leads international ranching tours through their business, Sun Country International (www.scranchtours.com). Call the Howells at (970) 249-0353.

HRM of TX is seeking volunteers to help with our educational events, the newsletter, membership, website and well... all of our activities. Want to get involved and have a lot of fun while you help out mother earth? Contact the HRM office: info@hrm-texas.org / 512-847-3822.