

Environmental Benefits of High Country Grazing



Nunniong Plot Area on left is fenced off from all grazing animals. Area on right fenced of from cattle and wild horses.

This plot at Nunniong is on an area that is the most heavily grazed of any on Nunniong at 4000 ft. The left side of the plot is fenced off from all grazing animals and the right side is fenced to exclude cattle and wild horses and to study the effect of rabbits. As you can see even though the physical evidence of rabbits is not obvious to most people, rabbits have a serious impact on vegetation. The left side indicates what happens when grazing and cool fire are excluded. It is indicative of what happens in our National Parks when these management regimes are excluded. This photograph was taken in November. Given the fuel load in this plot was transposed to the surrounding grazed area, a fire would have a flame height of 15 to 20 feet thus causing a crown fire in the surrounding tree canopy.

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Fire Protection, Grazing reduces fuel loads and keeps grass species in their vegetative state longer. Grazing is the only agency that protects moss beds from the ravaging effects of wild fire on a regular annual basis
Grazing reduces erosion. Where grazing and cool burning is not practiced this land is more likely to **suffer the ravaging effects of wild fire**, one of which is massive soil erosion as witnessed after the 2003 and 2006/7 wild fires.



Kosciusko Nat. Park Tumut River destroyed by wild fire.

Grazing and cool fire enhances bio diversity by allowing the less dominant species to see daylight and compete against the dominant snow grass.



Snowy Plain NSW 4500 Ft. Adjoining Nat. Park. Roy Hedger's property.

Enhanced water catchment values. On short grazed land as in the Nunning Plot photograph, snow packs more densely in much the same way as a groomed ski slope. The snow lasts longer and is absorbed more efficiently into the ground and water courses. When snow falls on the overgrown senescent snow grass it does not pack densely. As a result much of the snow evaporates into the atmosphere or is absorbed into the dead mass of vegetation before reaching the water course.



Snowy Plain NSW.4500 ft. Roy Hedgers property adjoining Nat Park.

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Treasure's Cow Paddock Dargo High Plains. Note wild flower display enhanced by heavy grazing.

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Snowy Plains NSW 4500ft. Well managed private land adjoining Nat park MCAC