



Using Hoof Action to Control Clubmoss

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Clubmoss (*Salaginella densa*) is a plant indigenous to eastern Montana with the undesirable tendency to dominate large areas of degraded rangeland. Hoof action by livestock may offer a viable control alternative to conventional chiseling or chemical methods on remote or irregular terrain. The trial site consisted of a 2 acre control plot and a 4 acre treatment plot; a solar powered electric fence enclosure was constructed. The 4 acre treatment plot was fenced and then divided into two, 2 acre paddocks. One acre received a single pass with an aerator; 1 acre received two passes with an aerator and 2 acres were treated with hoof action. Surface cover sampling was via permanent 100 foot line transects, whereas, two 9.8 sqft hoops were used to sample production per transect. Two hundred forty four head of cattle were confined in the hoof action plot for 24 hours. Livestock were excluded from paddocks for two growing seasons as per NRCS's technical specifications. After sampling each treatment for three years the single pass treatment with the aerator had virtually no effect on clubmoss cover, whereas the double pass reduced clubmoss cover by 60% and the hoof action by 100%. In inaccessible areas, concentrating livestock on clubmoss dominated land is a viable control option.

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