

DRAFT

GRAZING ASSESSMENT

Cherokee Meadows Community Members:

The Cherokee Meadows Road Association (CMRA) Board of Directors (BOD) has contacted the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to assist with the evaluation the impacts of cattle grazing in Cherokee Meadows. Each year, a grazing lease is signed with a local rancher to allow for a certain number a cow/calf pairs to graze on land that has not been fenced off by property owners. The purpose of contacting the NRCS is to request them to perform an on-site assessment of the current conditions and to obtain recommendations for future actions. Cattle grazing has been occurring in Cherokee Meadows for many years and the ecosystem in our area appears to be resilient. However, impacts over the years can result in ecosystem changes and shifting from their historic conditions. This shifting can lead to poor soil health, unwanted plant species, and multiple years for recovery.

What is NRCS?

The mission of NRCS is to deliver conservation solutions to agricultural producers in order to protect natural resources. It is a non-regulatory agency. NRCS is nation-wide and almost every county has an office to support agricultural professionals in their area. The resource team works with producers in both Larimer and Weld County as well as with the Larimer Conservation District. The NRCS is not connected with the Larimer County Assessor office in any way and this grazing evaluation will not impact the current tax assessments for Cherokee Meadows property owners.

How can NRCS help the Cherokee Meadows community?

NRCS representatives visited Cherokee Meadows on June 9 and 10 to perform a field assessment. They have provided the BOD with a grazing report that addresses proper land management to meet the overall community goals. This report provides stocking rates, desired grazing windows, management recommendations, areas to improve on, and overall best management strategies moving forward.

What happens next?

BOD members Kathy Orloski and Curt Palin have formed a Grazing Lease Subcommittee and will be reviewing the NRCS report as well as contacting NRCS with further questions/comments. They will present the findings of the report at the annual meeting on July 23, 2022. If you have questions/comments about this grazing lease assessment, please contact Kathy (970) 222-4161 or Curt (970) 217-8061.