

Hello AGMers,

Woo-ee! The summer help has arrived! The vegetation and bird crews were busy this week preparing for the onslaught of data collection that waits in weeks to come. All is good at the CPER and we are looking forward to getting out there and bringing you the best monitoring data in NE Colorado. Have fun out there!

Highlights of Happenings

- Our cattlemen report only a minor mix-up in the AGM herd this week. They should have that taken care of by the end of the day. Other than that, no other issues to report as the water tanks are full, the fences are holding, and critters seem happy and healthy.
- Not much change in standing forage levels this week compared to last. Today, Melissa and I measure and average VOR of 2.88, giving us an estimated 680 pounds/acre in Ridgeline. The forage threshold is 450 pounds/acre and the maximum day threshold is 24 days.
- We've received another 0.62 inches of rain this week bring the May total up to 1.24 inches. The ground is still a bit soggy, so hopefully all this sunshine will kick the grasses into high gear next week.
- Our scientific collaborators at UC-Davis have launched a one-stop-shop for rangeland research information and resources at rangelands.ucdavis.edu/. At this new web-based information center, you will find updates on current projects by the UC Rangelands team, as well as highlights of future and past research and outreach activities.

For detailed precipitation data, maps, last year's updates, scientist bios, and AGM documents, see our website: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/Research/docs.htm?docid=25733> . Remember to send your questions, concerns, and ideas my way and I do my best to have them addressed in next week's email.

Photos



Last week's drive of the AGM herd to the Ridgeline Pasture.



The SW corner of the Ridgeline pasture today(left) and last Friday (right).



Justin motivates this year's new arrivals at Monday's meet and greet.

On behalf of the USDA-ARS-Rangeland Resources Research Unit, I thank you all for your continued participation in this project.

Nick Dufek
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