Restoring Ecological Integrity, Returning Livestock to the Land
Getting Goats to Work in Washington County
July 25 – 1:00 to 3:00 – Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park
9653 Keats Ave. South – Meet at shelter near the playground, vehicle permit provided

Who Should Attend: This event is for land managers, public lands administrators and elected officials to learn about the use of livestock for ecological land management, how to improve contracting and the success of employing service livestock on public lands. How can we grow the use and effectiveness of ecological land management with livestock?

-- AGENDA --

-- Welcome: Ecological Service Livestock Network; Dan MacSwain, Washington Co. Parks; Andy Schilling, South Washington Watershed District; Jake Langeslag Goat Dispatch LLC.

-- Tour of the Browsed Site(s) --See the results of browsing livestock, explore the goals for this and similar sites, and put our heads together to brainstorm on next steps.

Site A: Goats were provided by Minnesota Native Landscapes this spring to control garlic mustard. The browsing was effective on this year’s crop of second year plants. First year plants are visible following grazing, so the plan is to graze again next year to further reduce the seed source.

Site B: Goats will be working at Lake Elmo Park Reserve. Attendees can see fence set-up and goats working on buckthorn and honeysuckle provided by Goat Dispatch.

-- Contracting from both sides – Issues and Ideas: Service Livestock Business owner(s) will share their experiences and perspectives on running a profitable service livestock business that provides real value to land managers, including our taxpaying fellow citizens. The contract is their livelihood --we will discuss ways to improve contracting and making it easier and more efficient to return grazers to the land, such as, alternatives to requiring secondary fence, cameras to monitor herd and installation of permanent fencing in some locations.

-- Open Dialog: The long game - How livestock can become a standard tool for managing our public lands in ways that increase ecological integrity (e.g. diversity, function, service), while decreasing pesticide and fossil fuel inputs. How livestock can achieve ecological and agricultural objectives while providing a nexus for market-based conservation.

Nature as guide – she has been at it for a while!

For more information and to RSVP please contact Karl Hakanson, U of MN Extension (khakanso@umn.edu / 612.624.7948) or Dan MacSwain, Washington Co. Parks (651-430-4323 / Dan.MacSwain@co.washington.mn.us) Check out the ESLN Web Site: www.sfa-mn.org/ecological-service-livestock-network