



LAND MANAGEMENT



At Caerus, we care deeply about the lands where we live and work. This passion for our ecosystem is demonstrated in our thoughtful approach to land management.

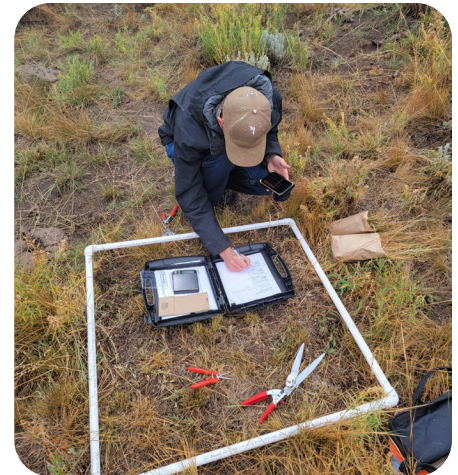
TAKING ACTION TO IMPROVE & RESTORE OUR NATURAL HABITAT

Caerus owns almost 100,000 acres of surface land in Western Colorado that includes high-quality and biodiverse rangeland, forest, scrubland and wetlands. We respect this biodiversity and invest in the people, tools and processes to preserve and enhance it. While many companies focus their efforts on being sustainable, our goal is to create an environment that is regenerative. We take our cues from nature, striving for variety, balance and symbiotic relationships to preserve the integrity of the natural landscape.

Regenerative Grazing Improves Soil Health & Land Quality

Improving the quality of the land starts with improving the quality of the soil. Soil is much more than simply dirt; it is a living organism filled with microbes that require organic matter and water to thrive. Creating healthier soil benefits both humans and wildlife. Improved soil creates an environment that allows for increased carbon sequestration and moisture retention.

At Caerus, we use managed grazing practices such as rotational grazing, which mimics the movement of buffalo across the plains, to improve soil quality and encourage a diverse and healthy assortment of grasses and forbs, providing year-round forage and habitat for livestock and wildlife, including birds and small mammals. Additionally, through rotational grazing we minimize soil compaction, encourage the health of desirable vegetation, and reduce woody shrub encroachment.



Promoting Healthy Wildlife

We work closely with Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) to promote the well-being of native wildlife species. We have collaborated with CPW on a number of projects related to mule deer, greater sage grouse, cutthroat trout and wild turkey. In 2021, Caerus collaborated with CPW and the Bureau of Land Management on a compensatory mitigation project in which we cleared woody overgrowth from 218 acres of land historically used by greater sage grouse, elk, and mule deer to encourage growth of desirable grasses and shrubs, increasing forage and expanding sage grouse breeding and brood rearing habitat.

Regenerating Riparian Areas


Riparian areas – lush strips of land that run immediately parallel to rivers and streams – serve as natural biofilters and prevent streambank erosion and sedimentation. We protect and regenerate riparian areas using various natural structures to slow water movement, develop springs and drill water wells, and install temporary fences to reduce livestock impacts to stream banks. By maintaining and improving our wetland habitats, we increase carbon sequestration and water retention, and promote cleaner water that benefits humans, wildlife, fish, insects, and stream ecology.



Reducing the Threats of Wildfires

Wildfires have become one of the biggest threats to the environment. One of the most effective ways to reduce the intensity and longevity of wildfires is through land management. Using rotational grazing, we minimize fine fuels and invasive grasses that can spark and propel a wildfire. Before being moved to fresh ground, cattle consume or trample fire threats such as woody shrub encroachments, oak brush and overgrown sage. While wildfires still occur, they are lower in intensity and spread less rapidly than without these grazing practices.

Maintaining moisture in the soil also helps in fire suppression. “The more water we have in our soil, the less fire risk,” says John Andrews, Caerus’ ranch manager. We clear land of excess trees and strategically fence off areas to encourage native plants to grow that help the land retain moisture. We also repair and restore three to four natural springs each year to encourage natural water flow.



“A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability and beauty of the biotic community.”

– Ecologist Aldo Leopold

IN CONCLUSION

From grazing management to wetland restoration, we continuously work to improve the health and quality of our lands. In the words of noted ecologist Aldo Leopold, “A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability and beauty of the biotic community.” We aim for what is “right” and to leave our world and our lands a better place than we found them.

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