



2019-2020 Ranch Operations Manager Report

This spring and summer have been one of the best years for grass and cattle grazing on Pine Lakes Ranch for some time. We were able to get some of the cattle in early and leave them in the South Pasture longer to save the North and Easement pastures for the later grazing. We anticipate we will have cattle on the ranch well into November, weather dependent.

A section of fence was replaced and improved that runs East-West between Ethel Hall's property and the new corral separating the North and South Pastures. We will continue to replace old sections of fence each year as funds are available. There are over 12 miles of fencing on PLR. Repairs are substantial due to snow, elk and deer damage every spring.

The main ditch was cleaned this year. We must hire this done every four years to keep the irrigation water running all the way to the end. Improvements were made to the pasture ditches by clearing, installing pipes and check gates to improve water distribution. A section of pipe on one of the siphons rusted out and was successfully replaced. Most of the natural drainage ditches need to be cleaned below the culverts under the roads to keep the pipes from plugging up. Driveway culverts are a homeowner's responsibility to keep cleared.

Granite Excavation did our snow plowing last winter and will be doing it again this winter. They do individual driveways at the owner's request and expense whenever the main roads are plowed. Tim Gridley did our spring grading, spread the annual gravel purchased to maintain the roads and he has completed the fall grading with the PLR grader and backhoe. We have several new owners who have heavy equipment experience and have voiced an interest in getting checked out to help.

All the PLR equipment is operating well with no major maintenance expenses this year. The grader does not get near the use since we are contracting snow removal but is still useful doing the summer grading, keeping our expenses down. The backhoe is used often in the summer on the ditches and through the winter to help keep the front entrance free of snow. The small tractor has been useful in clearing ditches in the pastures, light front-end bucket tasks such as snow removal and spraying the pastures, ditch banks and roadways with the 55-gallon boom sprayer. The post hole auger and a 3pt grass/brush mower have also seen use.

Our annual weed control kickoff day was well attended this year. The effort continued through the summer by hired workers and volunteer homeowners. We dispensed nearly 600 gallons of herbicide attempting to control the various noxious and obnoxious weeds on the ranch. Thanks to Marge for coordinating with Steve Anderson of Valley County Weed Department for training, equipment and herbicide.

This is a wonderful place to live, visit or just hang out. It takes all of us to keep it that way. Maintenance, repair, and improvements are ongoing. Your help is always appreciated.

Charlie Chambers