

INITIAL INTAKE FORM AND INTERVIEW QUESTIONS WITH PRODUCER:

INITIAL INTAKE FORM:

Date: _____ Name: _____ Operation location: _____

Breeds: _____

Estimated size of total grazed herd: 1-50 51-150 151-300 301-700 700+

Any species other than cattle protected? _____

Do animals have access to salt on a regular or irregular basis? regular irregular

Do animals have access to mineral on a regular or irregular basis? regular irregular

Do you use supplemental feeding? yes no (what and when?) _____

Do you use hormones? yes no (what type and when?) _____

Do you artificially inseminate? yes no (have you noticed a difference?) _____

Do you use a vaccination protocol? yes no _____

Do you booster cows/adults? yes no

Did you booster calves? yes no _____

In our mind, anyone who rides the herd, be it you, your cowboys, family members, or neighbors, is “riding”, whether it happens daily, or even just once a month, and be it on horse, foot, atv, truck, etc. With that in mind, can you describe a bit about who rides (first names only to protect privacy)?

Name:	Type (family, employee, outside hired rider):	Approx. frequency:	Mode(s) of travel:	Years of experience handling cattle/cowboying:	Years of experience on your operation:	Trained in low stress livestock handling? (type):
Producer						

If you’ve used riders for that purpose alone, what year did you start using a rider/participating in a riding program? _____

Are all riders permitted to move and handle livestock? What about doctoring animals?

Which allotments and/or pastures will have cattle this coming season?

Name:	Acres:	Approx. number of head:	Herd comp. (cow/calf, yearlings, heifers, adults):	Antic. ages or weights at turnout:	Antic. turnout date:	Antic. turnin date:	Rider?

Do you or your riders use herding dogs? yes no

If yes, who, how often, and how many? _____

Do you or your riders use livestock guarding dogs? yes no

If yes, who, how often, and how many? _____

Any restrictions to how dogs are used? How do your herds respond to dogs?

Do you use other nonlethal tools like fencing, fladry, carcass removal, fox lights, or other?

yes no

(Can you describe which, where, when, and who uses them?)

Do you use other monitoring tools like camera trapping, telemetry, or some other way to keep track of predator activity or herd activity?

Yes No

(Can you describe which, where, when, and who uses them?)

Year:	Notes on expectations:

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INTERVIEW QUESTIONS:

Questions about conflict:

1. How many years have you been grazing in areas with wolves and/or grizzly bears?
2. When did depredations and/or conflicts start?
3. Do you believe you've had unconfirmed depredations from that species? how do you think it compares to your confirmed depredations?
4. Any patterns you've noticed about the ages/weights of depredated animals?
5. Any patterns you've noticed in the time of year of depredations/conflicts happen?
6. Any patterns you've noticed in the general location of depredations/conflicts?
7. Any major shifts in depredations/conflicts over the years, and your impression as to why that shift happened?
8. Have you ever had to change your grazing protocols to avoid conflict with predators? Can you tell me more about that?

Questions about riding:

9. What is your primary goal for using a rider? What is the benefit you hope to gain?
10. Would you say you ride primarily for predator risk mitigation, or for other reasons? If "other reasons," what are those reasons?
11. How would you describe the approach of your riders? How do they use their time (for example, riding the predators vs. riding the cattle, or both)?
 - a. Do you agree with that approach?

12. On a scale of 1-5, 5 being extremely effective, and 1 being not effective at all, how effective do you believe range riding is at reducing -
 - a. Direct losses/depredation?
 - b. Indirect losses like reduced preg rates, increased illness, and reduced seasonal gain?
 - c. Reducing predator-caused stress?

13. On a scale of 1-5, 5 being extremely effective, and 1 being not effective at all, how effective do you believe range riding is at (ask “tell me more about that” for each) -
 - a. Keeping cattle grazing in the areas you want them to graze in?
 - b. Keeping cattle bunched together?
 - c. keeping mamas with babies?
 - d. Detecting carcasses?
 - e. Monitoring predator activity?
 - f. Monitoring herd activity and health?
 - g. Identifying other operational needs like downed fence?
 - h. Helping you sleep better at night knowing someone is out on range with their eye on things?

14. What do you believe makes for an effective rider or range riding program?
 - a. What skills do you believe a rider needs to have to be effective?
 - b. Do you think how a rider handles the cattle is important?
 - i. What are your thoughts on low stress livestock handling?
 - c. Based on your experience, is there anything about range riding in general that you feel could be improved?
 - d. Are there any circumstances, operational contexts, or even environmental conditions that you believe riding would not be an effective tool in?

15. What do you like the most about having a rider/participating in the rider program?

16. What do you like the least?

17. What have been the biggest challenges to using a rider/participating in the riding program?

18. Do you think range riding is effective at a community level? Why?

19. How large of an area do you think a rider can cover effectively? Why?

20. Has having a rider resulted in you worrying less about predator conflict? How so or why not?

21. What is communication like with your rider/riders?

- a. Has it changed over the seasons?
- b. How would you describe your level of satisfaction with your communication with your rider(s)?

(very satisfied / mostly satisfied / somewhat satisfied / somewhat unsatisfied / not at all satisfied)

- c. If not “very”, what would you like communication with your rider to look like?

22. Who hires your rider(s)?

- a. Did you have a say regarding who rides for you?

23. How would you describe your level of trust with your riders?

(I trust them completely / I mostly trust them / I trust them somewhat / I somewhat don't trust them / I don't trust them at all)

24. How important do you believe trust between you and your rider is for riding to be effective?

25. Do you feel like there are other, additional benefits to your operation from having a rider besides reducing direct and indirect losses?

- i. If so, what are they?

26. Have you noticed a change in the behavior and/or temperament of your livestock since you started using a rider?

- a. If yes, what specifically do you think caused that change?

- b. If no, why not?

- c. Do you want to see a change in behavior and/or temperament in your cattle resulting from a rider?

27. Have predators changed where and how your herd uses the landscape?

28. Have the riders changed where and how your herd uses the landscape?

- a. Do you believe that's because the riders are influencing the activity of the predators?

29. Who do you think should pay for range riders or rider programs?

- a. Why?

30. How expensive, both time and resources, would riding have to be for you to not use it anymore?

31. Based on your experience so far, what do you think would be an appropriate yearly salary or hourly wage for a rider?

- a. Would that amount increase or decrease if you could change what your riders are doing?
 - b. What outcomes or situations would signal to you that riding wasn't worth the effort, time, or funding you were putting into it?
32. Do you think the general public benefits from range riders and rider programs?
- a. How so?
33. Do your neighbors and fellow ranchers support you using a rider?
- a. Why do you think that's the case?
34. What about your family and friends, and why do you think that's the case?
35. What percentage of your neighbors/other ranchers in your area do you think use riders, or ride themselves?

General Questions:

36. What are the biggest challenges or needs on your operation right now, and is depredation related to those challenges in any way?
- a. Is riding related in any way?
37. Can you describe to me what stress looks like in your herd? (For example, some folks describe herds that are vigilant, anxious, or agitated, bawling, clumped, or grouped up, defensive, scattered, calves with cows, etc).
- a. Does it vary based on the cause of stress (herding vs predator presence)?
 - b. How does your herd respond to people? Does this differ between familiar (for example a rider or cowboy) and unfamiliar people?
 - c. What about horses?
 - d. What about dogs?
38. If you had to explain to someone with no idea about livestock production how riding falls within the larger scope of your operational needs for success, what would you say?

39. Do you receive funding or in-kind support for nonlethal implementation including your rider or other tools?

- a. From who?
- b. How do you receive it?

40. Do you receive funding or in-kind support for lethal implementation including your rider or other tools?

- a. From who?
- b. How do you receive it?

41. Anything else you'd like to share?

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FOLLOW-UP FORM TO BE COMPLETED ONCE ANNUALLY AT SEASON'S END:

Year:	Return rate:	# confirmed deps:	# un-confirmed deps:	# and type of injuries:	Species causing conflicts:	Preg rate:	Average calf weaning weights and age (heifer/steer/age):	# illnesses and type (poisoning, pneumonia, etc.):

1. Did any of these numbers surprise you? Were they different from what you expected?
 - a. Why do you think that is?

2. Were there any significant changes to when, where, and how grazing went this year?
 - a. Were any livestock moved to a different pasture or allotment? Why?
 - b. Were turnout or in dates changed? Why?
 - c. Was forage quality of quantity drastically different this year? Why?
 - d. Did leases change?
 - e. Did fire or drought influence your grazing plan?

Adjustments:

Name:	Acres:	Approx. number of head:	Herd comp. (cow/calf, yearlings, heifers, adults):	Antic. ages or weights at turnout:	Antic. turnout date:	Antic. turn in date:	Rider?

3. Were predators drastically different this year?
 - a. If yes, how so? What did you notice?

4. Were there any significant changes to operational circumstances like herd characteristics, supplemental feeding, vaccination, hormone, or insemination protocols, or changes to the market that impacted you? (please explain).

- a. If yes, did these events or circumstances influence your riders and/or how they rode this season?
5. Were there any significant injuries or illnesses this year? How so?
 - a. Did these events and/or circumstances influence your riders and/or their riding? How so?
6. Anything else you'd like to share? Challenges or highlights?

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