

Grazing Report Combined North Pods Complete



**This pod was initially combined with the full Northside Pod (total area of 1.15 acres) in June due to inclement weather forecasts. Forecast was calling for 50 – 100mm of rain with potentially double in our area. Wind gusts were predicted to be 60 – 80km/hr. The goal was to give the flerd as much access as possible prior to the storm while avoiding compaction and saturation.

Grazing Log for Combined Northside Pods

Date: June 19 and 20

Flerd: 15 sheep and five alpacas

Pod Type: brush with a woodland transition, patches of open and green grass

Session Timing – Two sessions per day: approximately 8:00–11:00 a.m. and 4:00–6:00 p.m.

Weather Conditions

Temperatures ranged from 14–18°C with moderate humidity and light to moderate winds. Skies were overcast during most sessions, with breaks of sun. Ground was damp but firm, with good footing throughout. Shade from spruce and aspen along the north perimeter helped retain soil moisture in those zones.

Vegetation Observed

- Dense green understory of aspen saplings, shrubby willow, wild rose, and cottonwoods.
- Grasses – healthy mid-height coverage, some seedheads forming, including Kentucky bluegrass and brome species.
- Browsing species – potentilla, poplar/aspen saplings, low shrubs.
- Forbs – clover, bedstraw, meadow rue present in patches.
- Shade offered by spruce/aspen along the north perimeter

Grazing and Browsing Impact

- Utilization was light to moderate overall (~30–45%), with heavier pressure in open grassy corridors and around clover patches.
- Woody browse was light but present, especially on younger aspen and willow shoots.
- Even dispersal was observed in open sections, with steady interest in shrubby edges.
- No significant avoidance behaviour, suggesting favourable forage quality.

Animal Behaviour

- Active foraging on both browse and grasses
- Even dispersal in the open sections and interest in shrubby edges
- No clumping or avoidance behaviour, suggests favourable forage quality

Soil and Litter Conditions

- Litter layer intact across most of the pod.
- No bare ground observed.
- Hoof impact was light; no signs of pugging or compaction despite damp soil.

Future Considerations

- No re-entry for this pod planned until early August to allow recovery.
- A potential short-duration horse pass later in the season could help break up grass thatch in certain areas if conditions permit.
- Consider targeted grazing later in summer to encourage use of less-preferred grass species while maintaining healthy browse availability

No re-entry for this pod planned until early August but will likely be subdivided into smaller pods, pending conditions.