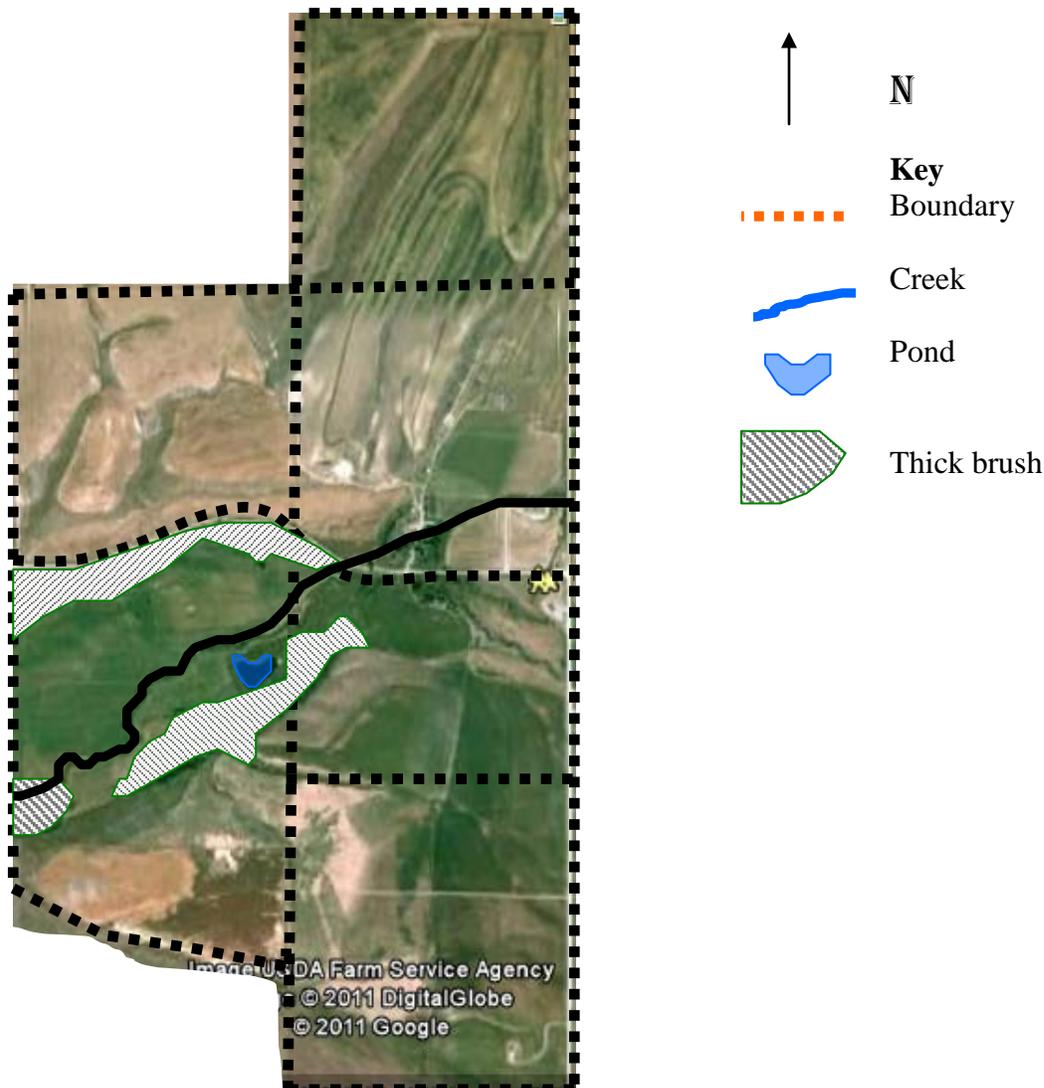


2011 Montana State FFA Agronomy CDE Team Problem

Your team has been hired provide land use recommendations for Pass Creek Ranch, a, 960 acre ranch near Bozeman, MT. The area receives 12 inches of precipitation annually. Pass Creek flows through the middle of the ranch and provides water year around. There is also a pond that is available for irrigation or livestock water if the creek runs low. There is an overflow sight near the creek that gets flooded every spring. There is thick brush in some of this overflow site that makes Ideal habitat for wild animals. The rest of the range land has silty soil and has rolling hills that are used for pasture and hay ground. The 960 acre ranch is split into 6, 160 acre pastures, one of which is in the overflow site.

The family has been ranching on the same site for four generations and ranching will continue to be a staple for the family, however, the family has discussed the possibility of working to build the wildlife population and begin selling guided hunts on the ranch, and on forest service land on the mountain to the east overlooking the ranch.



Your job is to determine how many 1200 pound angus cows with calves at side you can stock from February to August. (Winter pasture is leased at another location) and how much wildlife, if any you would plan to stock year-round. Remember that the family produces their own hay and need enough hay to feed through calving season. (100pts)

What rotation system, if any should be used to improve pasture use. Explain any other management decisions your team made in their recommendation and explain your reasoning. (100pts)

Weigh the pros and cons of sticking with traditional cattle ranching and managing the land for wildlife production. Explain your decision and your reasoning. (100pts)