

USDA Satellite Features Feed

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FEATURE – USDA HELPS RANCHERS DEAL WITH FIRE AFTERMATH

INTRO: Recovering from a fire is difficult, especially when the fire burns much of your ranchland. The USDA's Bob Ellison has more on efforts to help ranchers affected by wildfire. (1:43)

THE CHALLENGE OF RECOVERING FROM A NATURAL DISASTER WHEN YOU MAKE YOUR LIVING OFF OF THE LAND CAN BE VERY DIFFICULT. THE U-S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE CAME TO THE AID OF NORTH TEXAS RANCHERS AFFECTED BY SPRING WILDFIRES...A NATURAL DISASTER MANY OF THEM HAD NEVER FACED.

Roger Schlichenmaier, Rancher, Archer Co., TX: In the wooded areas when the ground is scorched black and there was never that magnitude of native grasses in there per se, but if they do get reestablished, how long it will take, what will grow in there and are there any seeding things that we can do.

N-R-C-S HELPED AFFECTED RANCHERS WITH TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

Tony Dean, USDA NRCS: We need to eventually get out on the land with these people and help them assess the resources, assess damages and talk to them about recovery. Sometimes we can actually help them with some financial recovery.

Don Gohmert, USDA NRCS: Those fences need to be put back quickly because you cannot have cattle roaming around on public highways and byways and country roads and those kinds of things.

RANCHERS WERE ADVISED TO LET NATURE TAKE ITS COURSE IN THE LAND'S RECOVERY AND UNDERSTAND THAT FIRE COULD HELP GRAZING LAND COME BACK HEALTHIER.

Nathan Haile, USDA NRCS: These biological crusts are lichens and moss that occur naturally. It is a way of mother nature repairing itself.

Vollie Scarber, Rancher, Archer Co., TX: I feel like God burnt this off for me. I didn't have to do it. God taken care of that for me and then the rains came just at the right time to kick things back off.

LEARN MORE ABOUT CONSERVATION PROGRAMS AT YOUR LOCAL SERVICE CENTER OR AT N-R-C-S DOT U-S-D-A DOT GOV. FOR THE U-S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, I'M BOB ELLISON.