

**Nomination Packet for the Leopold Conservation Award as part of
the Wyoming Environmental Stewardship Award Program with
the Wyoming Stock Growers Association**



Nominated by:
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1. Does the cattle business provide your primary source of income?

...Cattle Country...

The Pape Ranches' primary income is generated from a working cattle ranch that has been in operation since 1904. The ranch began with Norman's grandfather, Frederick Herman Pape. Norman's father, Lester, ranched with Frederick until he was 28, when he wed Mary Hillier Pape. He then purchased property from Frederick, which had belonged to an uncle, to form the present operation in 1917. To keep this a working cattle ranch for their family is one of the driving goals for their operation.

The three families that live on this ranch include Norman and Barbara Pape and their sons, Fred and David, and their families. Three beautiful granddaughters (5th generation) are being raised in this pristine piece of Wyoming. Jane, their oldest child, lives and works in California, raising two grandchildren: Mary Barbara (8) and Joe (6) along with her husband Chuck Potempa. She has never missed one branding on the ranch and continues to contribute to the ranching operation through her support and enthusiasm for this family's pride. For years, their foreman was a part of the operation and the ranch family. Now, the family can support the operations of the ranch, especially with the help that Michelle, Fred's wife provides along with the girls: Logan (16) and Sydney (14) and David's daughter, Hadley (13).

No one living on the Pape property has had to take jobs off the ranch in order to support the operation. All family members work and contribute to the success of this ranch. This entity is a unit and its' success is due to their cohesiveness as a family. Daily discussions over coffee as well as a daily diary, maintained since Norm's dad was keeping the notes, guides their decisions and aids in the planning of the ranch operations. The single-mindedness and common goals of the members of this ranch make it function effectively and enjoyed immensely by all members of the family.



6. Given the criteria listed within, describe any other factors the review panel should take into consideration.

...Accomplishments...

Awards/Honors

1970 – Lester Pape Wyoming Game and Fish Commendation (Norman's father)
1976 - Yearbook of Agriculture – The face of rural America
1987 – Sons, Fred and David return to ranch to continue family tradition
1996 – Barbara Pape – Ranchwoman of the Year, Green River Valley Cowbelles
2000 – Jackson Pinedale Region Landowner of the Year—WY G & F
2003 – Green River Valley Cattlemen's Association Lifetime Members
2007 – Barbara awarded Sublette County Cowbelle's Lifetime Membership

Boards/Memberships:

Norman and Barbara:

University of Wyoming Alumni Board
Sublette Retirement Center Board
Order of Eastern Star, 47 years
St. Andrews in the Pines – Episcopal Church; Active members and leaders
Kickin' Cancer of Sublette County – Founding Members

Norman:

1975-1983 - Sublette County School Board
1988 – 1993 – Game and Fish Commission (1992 – Chairman)
Sublette County Planning and Zoning Board
Sublette County Conservation District Board – 21 years
President of Sublette County Farm Bureau and active member for years
Past President – Green River Cattlemen's Association
Masonic Lodge Member, Franklin Lodge #31 AF&AM, 50 years

Barbara:

Election Board – 40 years
Judge at county fairs
4-H Leader – 25 years
Rural Health Care Board
Bronx Community Club (oldest in Sublette County) member for 48 years

Fred and Michelle Pape:

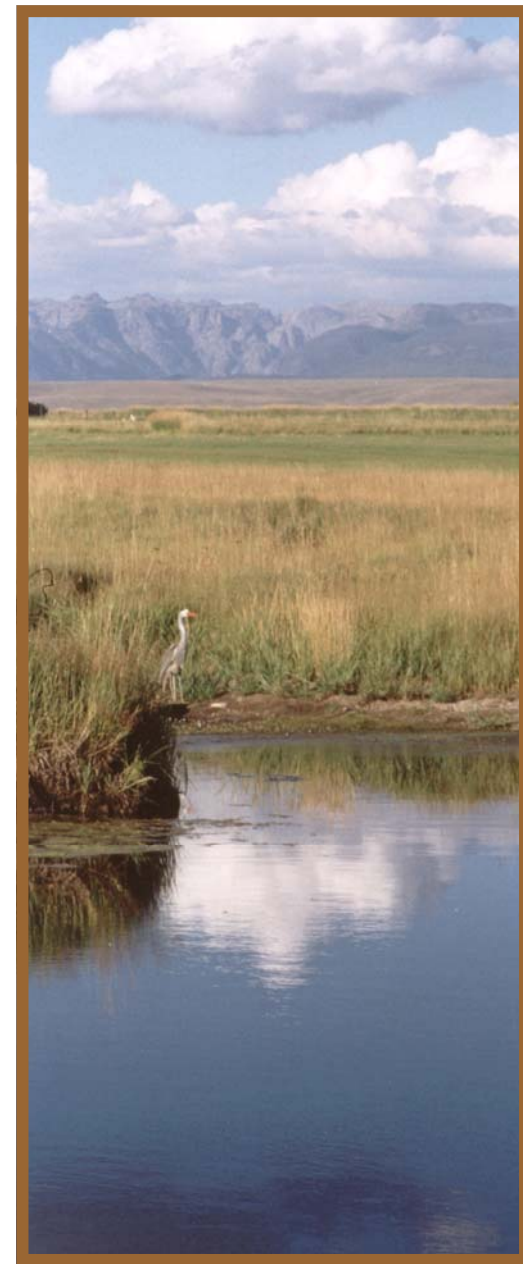
President – Sublette County Historical Society
Past President – Green River Cattlemen's Association
Precinct Committee Chairman and Chairwoman—Sublette Co.
Republican Party
Past Chairman of the Sublette County Central Committee
Green River Valley Cowbelles
Crisis Pregnancy Center, Board Member
Volleyball Mom and Booster Club Member
Homeschooling both children

David and Naomi Pape:

Member of various subcommittees of Green River Cattlemen's Association
Sublette County Recreation Board
Kickin' Cancer member

Articles

1976 – Pinedale Roundup – Yearbook of Agriculture
University of Wyoming Alumnus Profile – Barbara Pape
1993—Wyoming Travel Commission Brochure
1998 - Wyoming Livestock Roundup – Fall Cattlemen's Edition
1998 - The Fence Post August 10
2000 – Daniel, The First 100 years, history on Pape family
2001 – Pioneer Family Article – Pinedale Roundup
2005 - Wyoming Livestock Roundup
2007 – Hard and Noble Lives, Paul Jensen, Chapter on Norman Pape



5. Describe any unique or extraordinary information concerning your family or business that you think the media or other interest groups would enjoy learning about.

.....*Passion*.....

The Pape's have a commitment to the community and the youth of this county as evidenced by their participation in 4-H, long past the time their kids were participating. They open their home to 2nd grade classes in Pine-dale to view their extensive animal mount collection to share wildlife resources and discuss the conservation of important species.

A Plant Material Center Planting with the USDA was initiated in 1984 to evaluate spring grazing forage and determine it's adaptability to our climate. The NRCS has since accepted and recommended many of the species and varieties grown in that trial and are still learning from it today. Resource professionals can visit the Pape's fenced 20 acres and get a glimpse of how the various plants perform in our country. The family not only prepared the seedbed and provided equipment, they still maintain the fence and you can still see the drill rows today.

The longevity of hired hands on the Pape Ranches illustrates the commitment they have to the land and each other. One ranch hand was under the employment of Pape Ranches for 38 years, while another stayed on the ranch for 47 years.

Pape Ranch has occasionally hosted the annual St. Andrews Ranch Mass. Norman delivered the sermon during the 2003 event. He spoke these words and are recorded in Paul Jensen's book "Hard and Noble Lives": "We move through vast fields of opportunity on a road built by our own choices, interests and talents. It is the gift of the journey and how you choose to travel that forms the essence and purpose of life."

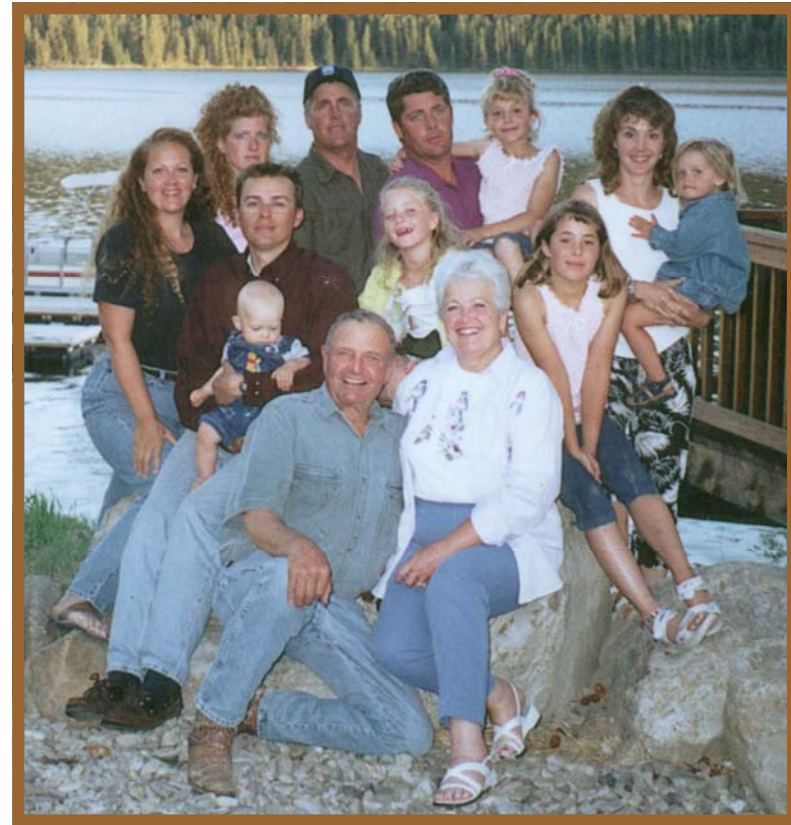
Norman has enjoyed the journey and given the gift to others, including his family and community.

"We move through vast fields of opportunity on a road built by our own choices, interests and talents. It is the gift of the journey and how you choose to travel that forms the essence and purpose of life."
- Norman Pape, 2003



2. Provide an overall description of your ranch. Please include the date it was established, the type and number of livestock you have, and the names of any family members actively involved in the business

.....*Family*.....



Family, love, God, land ethic, wildlife, cattle and hard work are a few words that sum up Pape Ranches. The ranch was started in 1917 when Norman's grandfather purchased the first piece of land that is now part of the Home Place. Norman has lived in

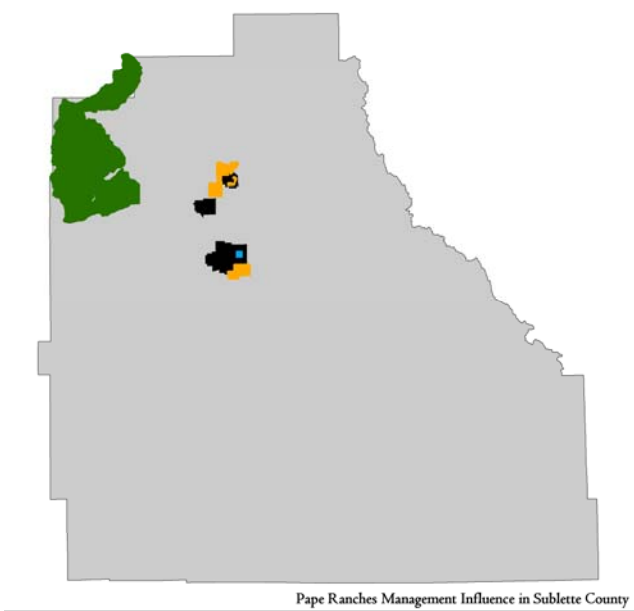
his current house his entire life. The walls of their house were built in 1919 (at least that is the date on the newspapers used to insulate the walls of the living room). Norman and Barbara Pape live on the ranch as well as their son Fred, his wife Michelle and their two daughters, Logan and Sydney. Their youngest son, David lives on the same headquarters with his daughter Hadley. Naomi, David's wife, until her untimely death after a 13-year bout with cancer earlier this year, lives on through wonderful memories here on the ranch. Sublette County is naming the new bike path in honor of Naomi Pape in recognition of her contributions to the county.



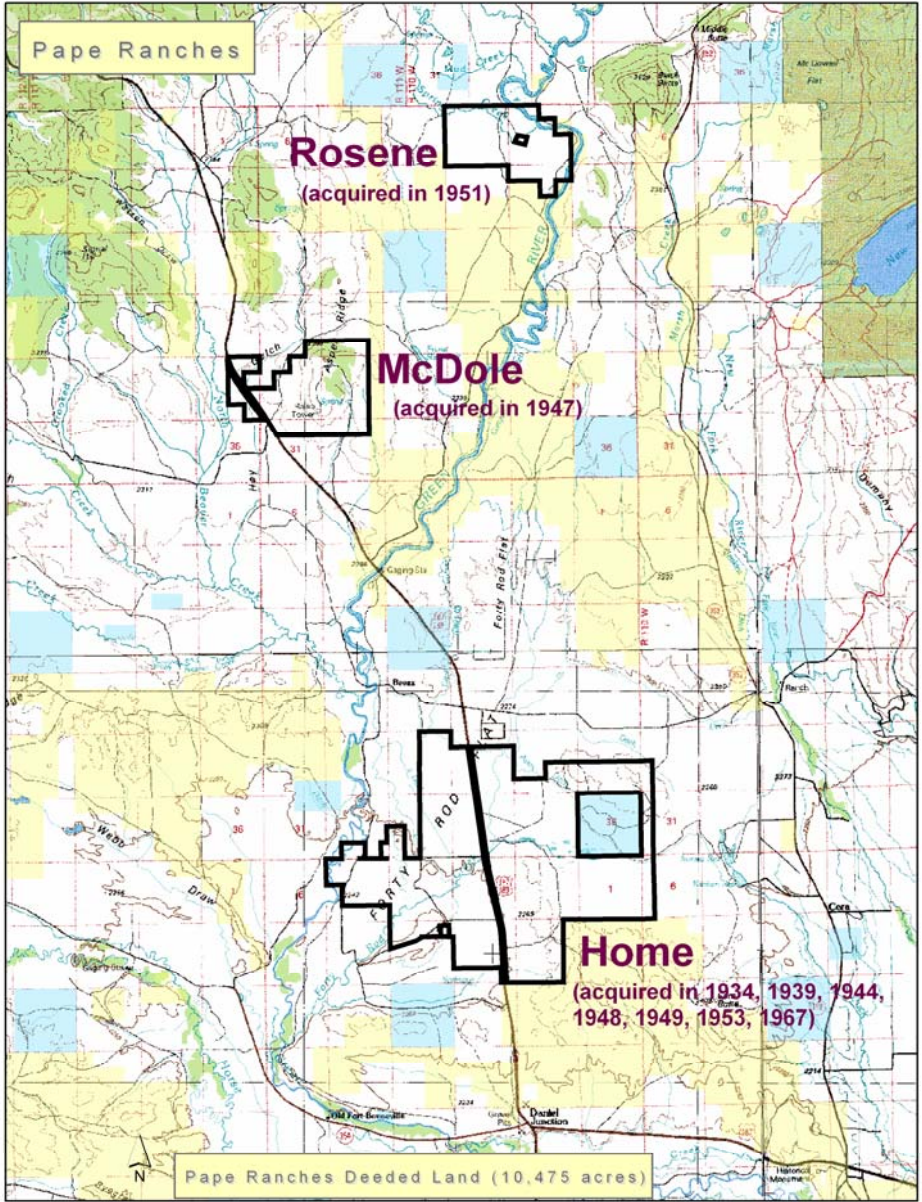
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.....Ranch.....

In the beginning, the ranch consisted of 160 acres and initially operated 800 head of ewes. As finances became more stable and risk lessened, the Pape's decided it was time to convert to a cow-calf operation. As surrounding neighbors sold and moved from the area, the Pape's were often approached to buy that land due to their land ethic and commitment to family. Every so often, a land acquisition would occur, forming today's land base. To honor those past owners of the land, the Pape's have kept the original names of the landowners with those areas. This map illustrates the area in Sublette County the Pape's manage.

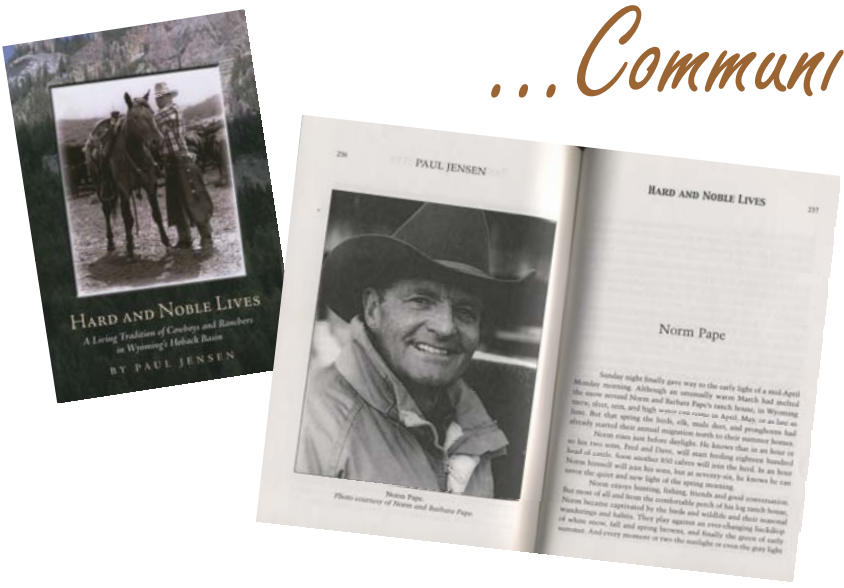


Pape Ranches Management Influence in Sublette County



5. Describe any unique or extraordinary information concerning your family or business that you think the media or other interest groups would enjoy learning about.

...Community Minded...



The family has provided historical information for two major publications about Sublette County during the past 7 years – Daniel – The First 100 Years and Hard and Noble Lives, of which the Pape family has a prominent place. In the second book mentioned, the Hoback Stock Association is chronicled which shows that Norman has been the Secretary since 1975, a position which he took upon his father's death. Lester Pape was in that position for nearly 40 years. To

add to that tenure, Norman's Granddad (Fred) was a charter member of the Association. The family's span and use of the Forest can rival the very origin of that federal agency.

The Pape's always have enough hay and wood to help out neighbors in need. That's the way that people take care of their own. However, let's not let that hit the newspapers for fear of people taking them up on it!



They drive yearlings in the fall, 20 miles from the Hoback Basin to home. The use of motorcycles (some of the first in our county) assists greatly in this chore, reducing the amount of people needed. The neighborhood joke is that if you horseback, you better be making motor-like sounds, to get those yearlings moved!

Brandings can be work or a social affair. The Pape branding, a social event in the Bronx Valley, is hosted annually for 135 of the family's closest friends. Barbara, Family and friends feed them all! Five states can be represented by those in attendance as well as people from other countries. One New Zealand man saw Norman's depiction in a 1993 Wyoming Travel Commission Brochure he received in the mail. He thought Norman looked like a nice man and gave him a call. A friendship was born as well as an 8-year attendee at the Pape Ranches Branding!

Norman has been on the Lifetime Member Committee of the Green River Valley Cattlemen's Association for over 30 years. During that time, when he became eligible to be nominated, he declined his award in order to honor fellow ranchers rather than himself. For years, he has had the honor of reading and researching ranches deserving of this special award which they finally succeeded in granting him in 2003.

Not many women would drive a swather every day just to get a jar of fresh cut wildflowers, but then there's not many women made like Barbara Pape. Norman would place a fresh bouquet of flowers on the seat of her swather every morning she assisted in putting up the hay. That's something not heard of every day!

....Stewardship and Conservation....

At a glance, the goals of Pape Ranches center on these five ideals: keep the ranch as a working cattle ranch, provide a place for family to live and work, preserve open spaces, continue to provide resources for the wildlife and provide public access so that everyone can enjoy the beauty of our county. There is no doubt that having wildlife on this ranch is equal to their desire to produce quality beef. They want to maintain herd numbers while maximizing forage production and maintain aesthetics which ultimately improves the profitability of the ranch. The sincere desire of this family is to have as much wildlife on their private land as they can afford to sustain. They have large ungulates: moose, elk, pronghorn and deer as well as cranes, many types of waterfowl, including ducks and geese, sage grouse, beaver and other fur bearing animals. During drought, their hayfields and green areas are critical for pronghorn and this family doesn't mind sharing during environmental hardships.

Do the Pape's worry or calculate the amount of AUM's their ranch is providing to wildlife? The answer is no, they are just happy to provide the habitat for wildlife and for the residents of the county to enjoy. A recent help to the deer population was the fencing of a stack yard. The deer eating on the haystack were not impacting

their hay or their operation however, the stack yard was drawing deer across the highway and causing deer losses through vehicular accidents. Other stack yards have also been constructed to assist with wildlife management, dispersion and brucellosis concerns in concert with Wyoming Game and Fish. The Hunter Management Program is also a program they participate in. They allow one side of the ranch only for Pioneer hunters (well aged) and handicapped hunters. They believe public access to our vast wildlife resource is important and they openly share their pri-

vate lands through three different public fishing access points. Norman has provided a Walking Easement for fisherman which means they can step onto the land staying within the high water mark. This is no longer a common type of easement.

The underlying principal spoken by the family is about keeping the perpetual resource healthy and sustainable, for now and the future. If the rangelands are intact and cared for, the operation will remain viable. The Pape's land ethic also considers treating the public land the same as their own. Stewardship and sustainability are key management issues that can be discussed during their morning cup of coffee while planning their day's strategy. The allotment of their time dispersed amongst ranch chores illustrate the family's commitment to a lifetime on the land: fix some fence, move some cows, make sure the yard and equipment are clean and visit while casting a line into the water.



The Home Place



The McDole Place



The Rosene Place

Today, 10,475 acres of rangeland and irrigated hayland comprise the private portion of the land used to produce Hereford Angus Crossbred cattle. Three separate pieces of land are the foundation of the Pape operation: The Home Place, the McDole Place and the Rosene Place. The Pape family manages for 1,000 mother cows, sells yearlings and keeps replacement heifers. They have about 2700 total head when all livestock are on the ranch.

The replacement program consists of replacing 20% of their mother cows each year and maintaining an active culling program to promote herd health and superior genetics. They purchase registered Hereford bulls for the cows and registered Angus bulls for the heifers to aid in calving; maintaining just over fifty bulls to service the entire herd.

In a county where public lands are important to any operation (Sublette County has only 21% private land ownership), Pape Ranches utilize 1538 AUM's on a United States Forest Service Grazing Allotment, through the Hoback Stock Association, on four of the Bureau of Land Management Allotments, which provide 510 AUM's, and a state section located in the middle of their private land which accounts for 96 AUM's. In all, the Pape family share responsibility for the stewardship of 116,490 acres of State and Federal Lands.

Pape Ranches also lease private ground, which allows the flexibility to raise more hay and leave some pastures in rest. This additional land allows them to rest private pastures to accomplish conservation practices.

In a land which has strife over split estate issues, the ranch shareholders own the mineral rights. Leasing of gravel and other mineral resources has helped the operation to get ahead of the financial curve and keep ahead.

Multiple use on their private land has allowed them flexibility in management decisions. This decision has been important to the current success of the ranch and its ability to support three families. The success of this ranch is accredited with the wise management of natural and financial resources.

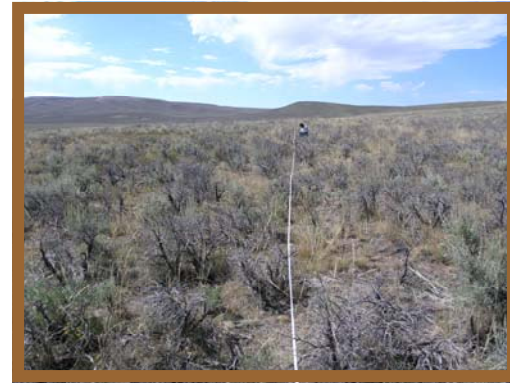
3. Describe three innovative stewardship practices that have had the most impact on your ranch.

....Land Ethic....

Brush Management

Brush management has been an integral part of the Pape Family's operation. According to the technology of the day, they have used various methods of chemical, biological and mechanical methods to have influence on the type of plant community on their property. The goal in manipulating sagebrush is to increase forage production for both cattle and wildlife. They don't have a goal of eradication as they realize sagebrush is an important and much needed component of our ecosystem. When asked when they feel they need to treat the brush, they respond with knowledge about their land and behavior of their cattle and instinct. The Pape's also believe management after manipulation is important to protect the resource and financial investment of the ranch. They lease additional fields to let areas rest during treatment periods. They also use the land lightly when starting to graze after treatment. Tebuthion has been applied on 2,000 acres in the past four years with input taken from the Wyoming Game and Fish to address both migration routes and sage grouse habitat needs in the area.

Adaptations to fencing techniques were employed as well as a mosaic pattern was applied as a treatment to leave some edge, shade and cover for sage grouse as well as snow catchment for water storage in the soil profile. Norman's dad Lester once told a pilot spraying chemical to "Leave some of that brush in rows for the chickens." The sage grouse was an important part of the ranch before it was popular to have that priority. If land is improved for cattle, the Pape's have seen that wildlife benefit as well.



Grazing Management

Grazing Management for cattle and wildlife is the highest priority for this operation for the current cattle year and the future. Rotation through pastures, being flexible in length and timing of use, inventorying how much feed has been utilized and what is left are just a few techniques that the ranch uses before moving on. The system is built to handle modifications since they stock for the drought and not the market or rainfall. They have used fencing as a tool to dissect larger fields into smaller fields for greater uniformity in use and the ability to allow some pastures full rest.

Plants in the field serve as major indicators of where the cattle should move to next. Depending on rainfall, sometimes the fields can be utilized twice in a season. On their wet subirrigated areas that can not be hayed, land is utilized instead of trying to manipulate the water table. Often, grass is utilized in the fall after it freezes which allows the myriad of waterfowl to nest undisturbed. There is one field that has no grazing during the growing season at all. This pasture is used in spring with the previous year's growth for the first calf heifers. Hay is supplemented on the ground for increased conception rates and healthier breeding stock. This illustrates one of their many priorities of excellent animal husbandry. They ship dry and culled cows early so they don't have to maintain the resource for those animals that won't stay on the property. These producers voluntarily used their BLM lands fewer days than allowed to protect the public land resource as well.



They have implemented a monitoring program on a recent chemical treatment to gauge the effects of the treatment and provide a snapshot of the range. The Pape's value wildlife just as much as the cattle on their land. For years, they have fenced off areas that have naturally occurring windbreaks - woody species growing along ditch banks. Fences are the main tool used to promote grazing management. Fences strive to contain cattle but allow for the passage of wildlife. The family just completed a voluntary program with the Wyoming Game and Fish and the Wyoming Department of Transportation to install wildlife friendly fencing all along Highway 191 that dissects the Home place.

3. Describe three innovative stewardship practices that have had the most impact on your ranch.

Irrigation Improvements

While completed long ago, the preparation and layout of irrigated fields is of critical nature to the success of this operation. With long, cold winters that seem to occur concurrently with drought, the ability to put up hay in order to have cattle year round is a major investment to all ranchers in southwest Wyoming. In today's economy, it would not be feasible to layout fields with leveling and planting operations that the family invested in during the 40's and 50's. The ditch infrastructure has served them well and only slight modifications are completed today. David fabricated his own water control structure that makes use of tail water from one field by creating a large storage reservoir that allows them further control over application of water, timing of water, provides waterfowl habitat and provides a winter source of water that does not freeze.

In addition to annual operation and maintenance of their flood irrigated fields, they strongly believe in fencing different land use for use in different seasons and proper grazing distribution over their lands. Over 75 miles of fence on the Pape Ranch requires annual attention and inspection. In addition to the hay that is put up for winter feed, wildlife benefit from the diverse habitat that subirrigated lands provide in this

sagebrush steppe ecosystem. Forbs, insects and the grasses in the area provide diverse habitat for many different species. Diverting water away from the river and increasing the green belt for irrigation, riparian areas have been enhanced. Through the practice of mountain meadow flood irrigation, the entire area acts as an aquifer which stores water, fills springs and allows water to flow through the winter.

