

Snohomish Conservation District's mission is to work cooperatively with others to promote and encourage conservation and responsible use of natural resources.

# Reseed, Renew, Rebound Your Pastures

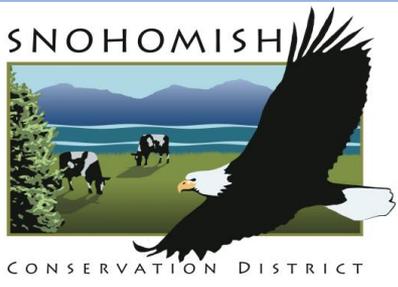
Bobbi Lindemulder  
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[www.snohomishcd.org](http://www.snohomishcd.org)

**425-337-7003**

Lake Stevens, WA

**“Local Solutions to Local Problems”**

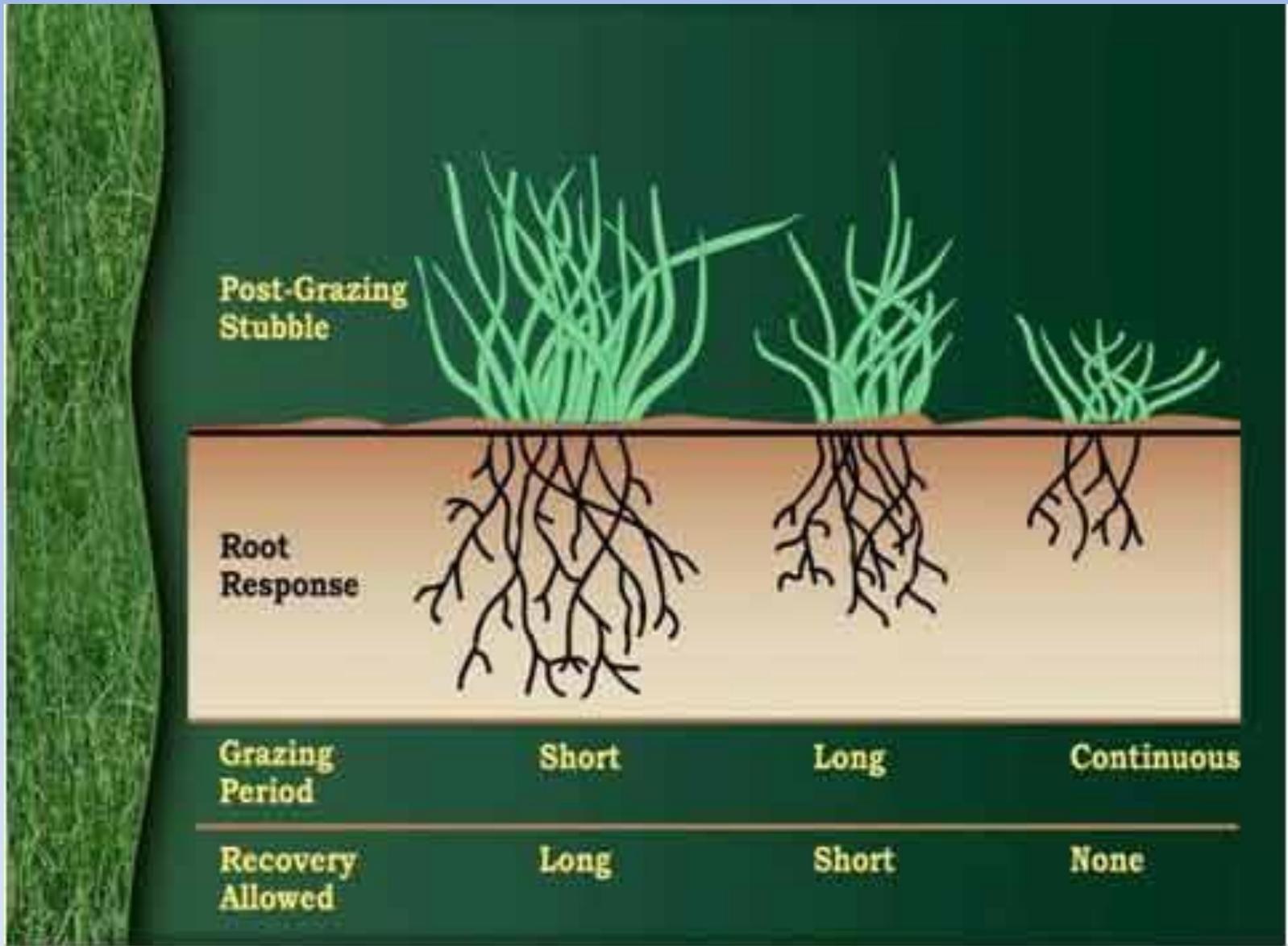


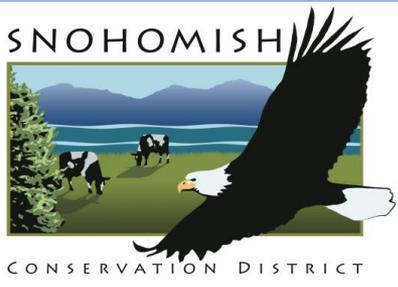
# Definition- what renovation means

- **Renovation** is defined as the complete destruction of and subsequent reestablishment of a **pasture**. This is best done when the **pasture** has been severely overgrazed and most of the grass has been lost. Usually, weed growth is dominant (i.e., 40% or less of grass in the **pasture**), and the weeds present are aggressive and not considered by animals to be palatable.





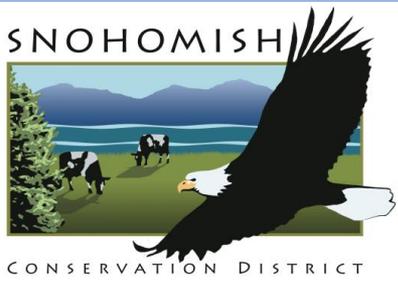




# Why renovation?

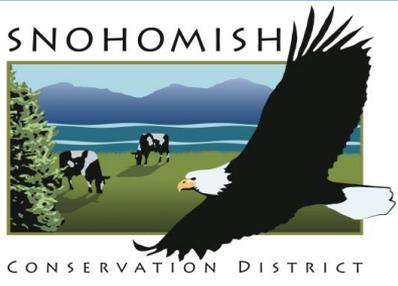
- What have you tried?
- Have you soil tested?
- Evaluated your management?
- Evaluated your soil TYPE?
- Are you over stocked?
- Are you willing to decrease animals or increase yields?
- Do you have the time, budget, or capacity to do it?
- **Total renovation is commonly done after all other attempts (cost, time, loss)**





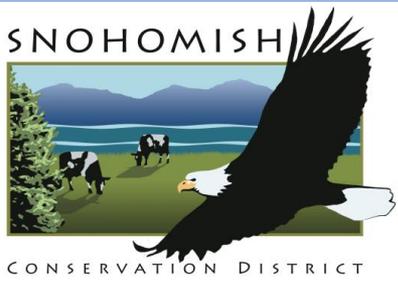
# Evaluate current management

- You don't like what's there
- What's there is there because its adapted to the site
- If management doesn't change but you reseed, it will revert back
- What management changes?(fencing, rotational grazing, matching soil types to fencelines, HUA!)



# 20% Rule

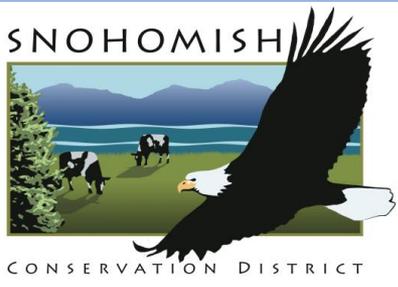
- Pasture/forage needs for the year
- Summer drought
- Flooding
- Cost/benefit
- Spring vs Fall



# Evaluate Current Soil Status

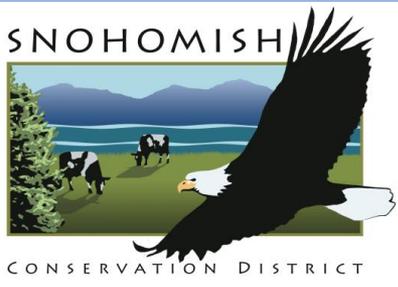
- Where/how/why?
- Soil test(N, P, K, OM, pH)
- Lime(dolomitic vs ag lime)
- Seed at recommended time  
(Drought, heat, wetness, frost)





# Species Selection

- Critical to long-term success
- Adapted to intended use
- Winter vs summer drainage
- Slopes greater than 15%
- Multiple species vs two-species mixes



# Seed tags

- Minimum germination and purity
  - Germination(% seed that will grow)
  - Purity(actual amount of species you want to buy)

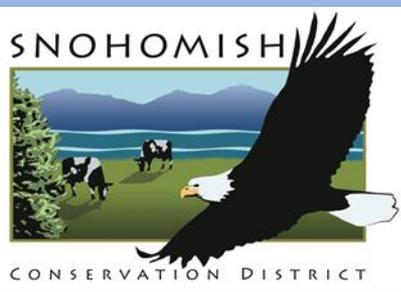
Chaff, dirt, weeds

Noxious weeds vs obnoxious weeds(dandelion, dock, lambsquarters, thistles)

Buy the purest seed you can afford







# Total Renovation

- Kill all existing vegetation
- Chemical vs mechanical
- Grass – to – grass
  - 4 week rule(kill plants)
- Compaction
- Winter grazing, pore space:nutrients/moisture, ponding
  - Aeration vs. subsoiling







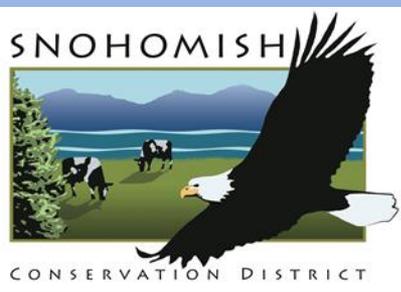


THIS AREA OF THE SOIL  
HAS BEEN ROUGHED UP AND  
IS NOW NICE AND LOOSE SO  
THE HYDROSEED WILL BIND.

THIS AREA OF THE SOIL IS MATTED  
DOWN AND COMPACTED. THIS IS NOT  
IDEAL AS THE HYDROSEED WILL  
NOT BIND WITH THE SOIL AND WILL  
MOST LIKELY WASH AWAY IN A HEAVY  
RAIN.



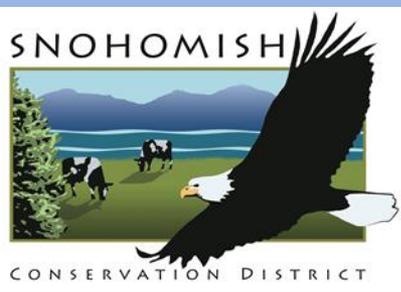




# Seed Bed

- Fluffy = dead
- Clumps + dead
- Packing with a roller is best
- Harrowing after Broadcasting
- Footprints =  $\frac{1}{4}$ "



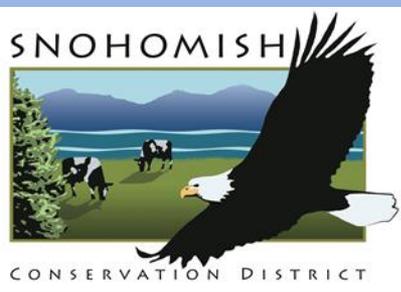


# Seeding depth

- Critical
- Only so much energy
- $\frac{1}{4}$  inch
- If in doubt seed shallow
- Cultipacker after seeding
  - Seed to soil contact
- Broadcast seeder followed by light harrowing

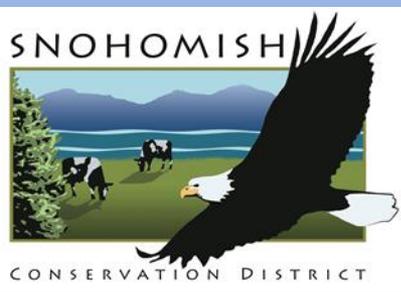
# No Till Direct Seed





# Benefits of No-Till

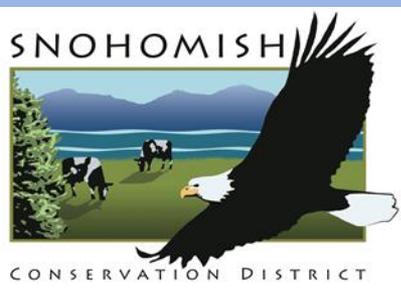
- Improved soil health
- Decreased equipment costs
- Reduced fuel costs
- Lower labor costs
- Lower dust levels
- Less erosion
- More water conservation



# Weed Control after planting

- Critical to a new seeding's success
- Continued tillage or mowing prior to seeding
- Herbicides(may not be compatible with planting such as legumes)
- Annual weeds typically grow faster than seedlings
- Strong root systems = greater competition
- Clip above growing forage to remove

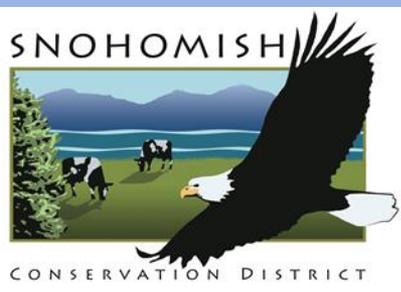




# The Pull Test

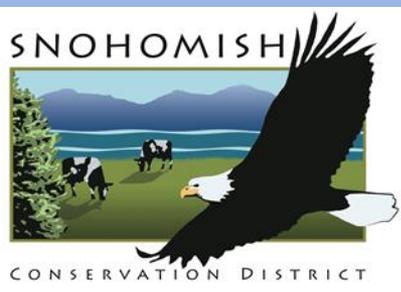


**“Local Solutions to Local Problems”**

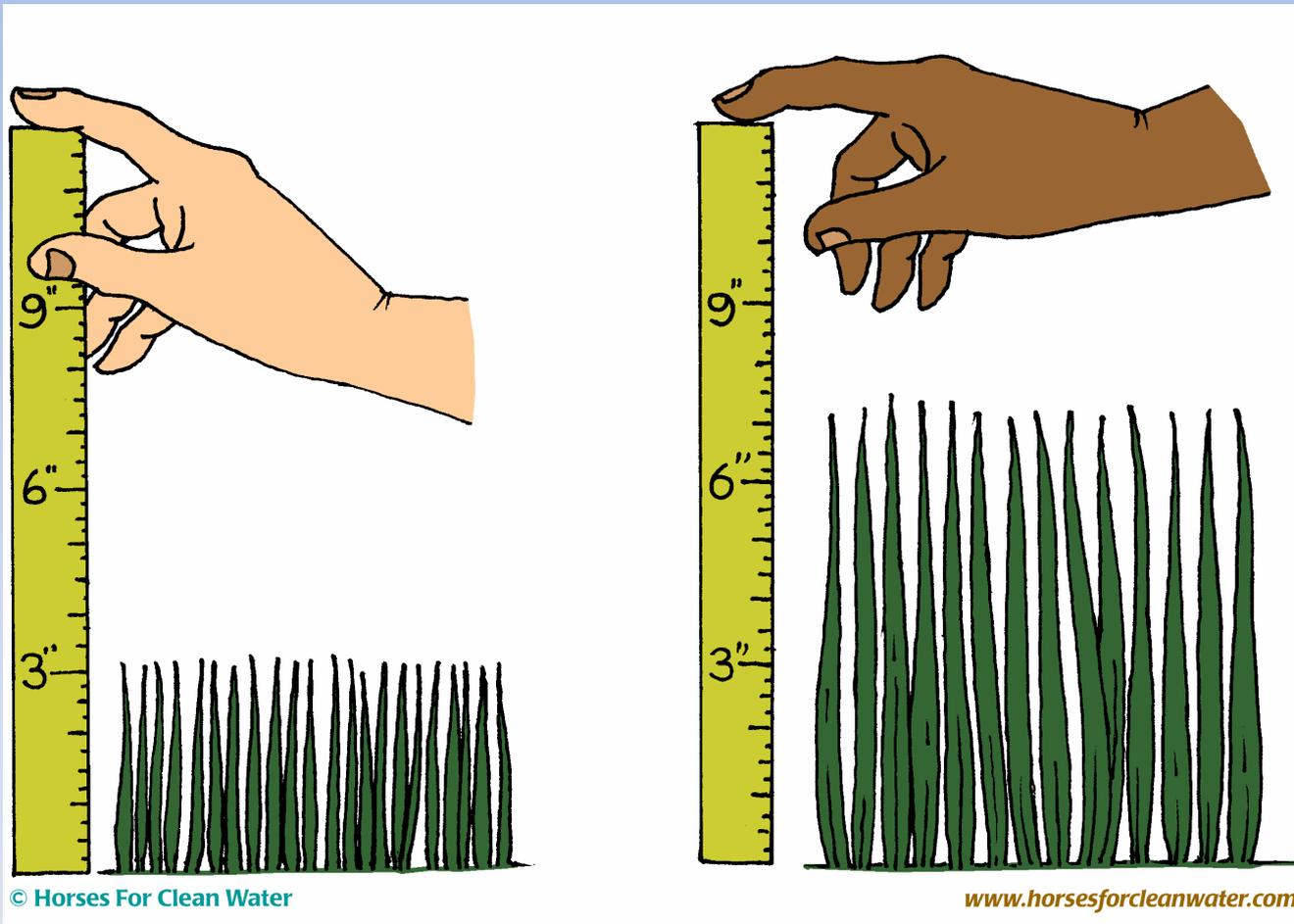


# The Pull Test Continued

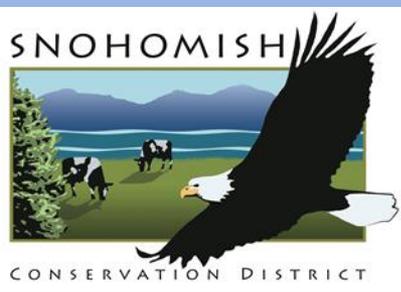
- Grab single plant
- No grazing until plant passes
- When passed: light grazing next 90 days
- Rotate
- Fine to mow or green chop
- Retain stubble height at 4"



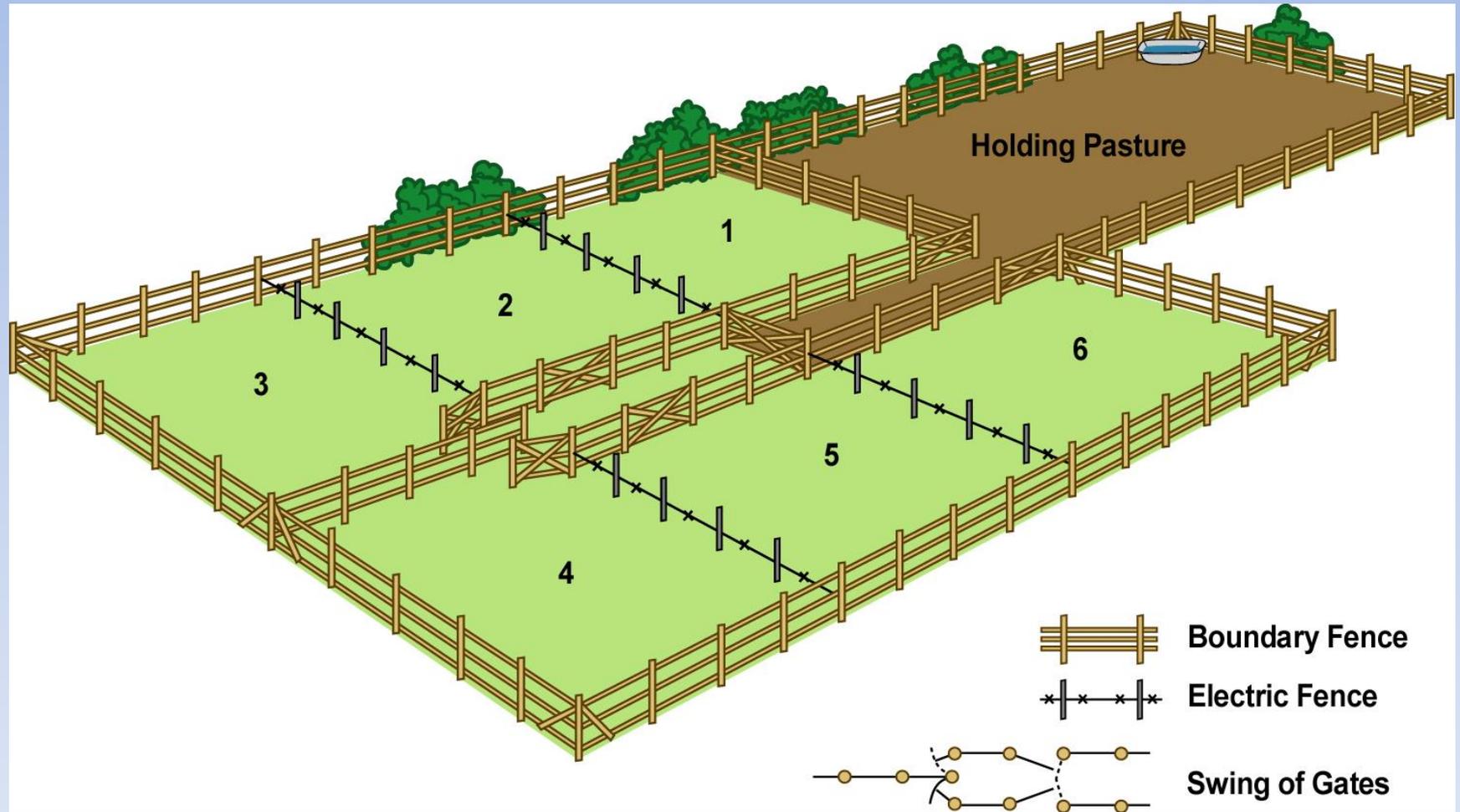
# Your New Field



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# Your New Field, Cont.

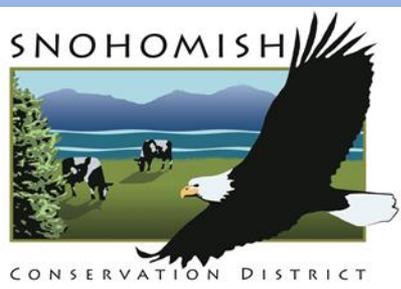


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# Any Questions?

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