Grazing the Delleboersterheide

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IAH Larenstein 1994
Ecologist
It Fryske Gea (IFG)
The Frisian conservation organization
Delleboersterheide

- Reservate on the southside of the creek the Tjonger, near Oldeberkoop
- Grazed for centuries, as “common pastures” first
- Since 1951 is IFG the owner from - at this moment -
- 196 hectares heath- and woodland, meadows, fens and creeks
- Of which 177 hectares are grazed
- Three kinds of animals, in varying numbers:

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grazing season</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>20+15</td>
<td>60+15</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>animals from</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Horse spec.</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drenthe heather sheep</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>31</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exmoor ponies</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Highlandcow</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>19</td>
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Evaluation 2015

- High nature-value, many rare species
- Various landscape, high experience / amenity
- Healthy and happy animals 😊
- Different effects for each terrain type and kind of animal, but
- Less big and heavy animals would probably improve some values, like reptiles, wet nature, forest edges ....
- Dryer and eutrophic parts can have more grazing pressure or should be mowed also
The advice

• Reduce the highlandcows from 17 to 10 (and less) due to a natural decay
• Exmoorponies stays a breeding herd of 16 animals and foals, which are removed every year
• The sheep herd can grow from 30 to 50 animals

Success factors will be:
< eutrophic parts
< felting toplayer
< trampling vulnerable locations
< youg trees in the heather
> vegetation structure
> characteristic flora and fauna

To measure and evaluate!
• The end
• For the experts ......
Vegetation
Quality-determining breeding birds
Quality-determining butterflies

Delleboersterheide

Legenda
Kwalificerende dagvlindersoorten
- Bruin zandoogje
- Bruine vuurvlinder
- Geelsprietdikkopje
- Groentje
- Groot dikkopje
- Heideblauwije
- Hevvlinder
- Hooibeestje
- Kommavlinder
- Zilveren maan
- Zwartsprietdikkopje