

CASE STUDY - MOUNT DENISON

Using satellite data to manage the impacts of wildfire on pastoral operations

Who: Terry Martin, Mount Denison

Mt Denison facts: 2,702 km², mix of country types: desert sandplains, watercourses, mulga plains, hills and ranges



Wildfires can have a devastating impact on pastoral operations. As well as the time and money spent on fighting fires, the loss of feed can have dire effects for our business, especially in the long term. Wildfire is a constant threat to pastoralists.

The risks are present throughout the year and we sometimes experience multiple fires every month. The risk and extent of fires is also dependent on seasonal conditions - receiving above-average rainfall for at least two seasons in a row greatly increases the risk of wildfire in central Australia, while multiple seasons of below-average rainfall means that recovery after fires can be very slow.

Impacts of wildfires on our operation

Wildfires early in the year right after our wet months can result in a 10-month wait (or longer) until we receive enough rain to trigger grass growth. As a result, we may have to reduce cattle numbers to make the remaining feed last until the next significant rainfall. The reduction of cattle numbers at any time, but especially during high rainfall seasons, can take years for the business to recover from and rain is never guaranteed in central Australia.



FARMING FOR THE FUTURE

This project contributes to the NT NRM Plan



For more information:

☎ 08 8942 8300

@ info@territorynrm.org.au

🌐 www.territorynrm.org.au

CASE STUDY - MOUNT DENISON

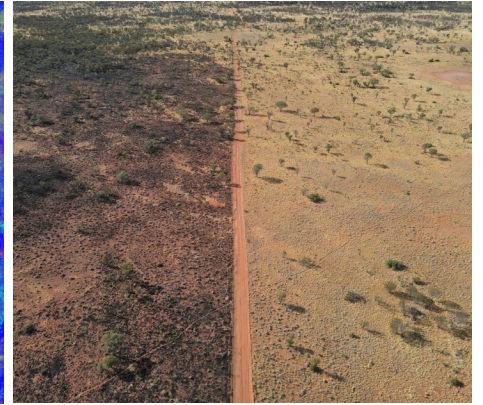
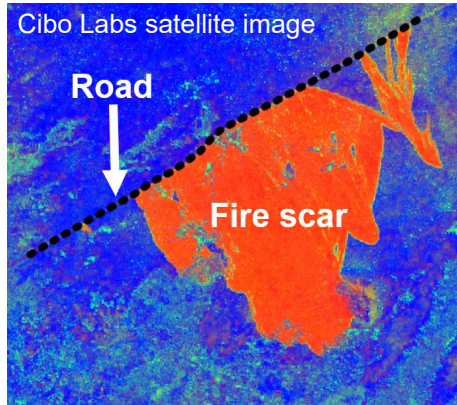
How Cibo Labs data helps us assess the impact of wildfire on our business

There is great potential for satellite feed estimates to assist us - the ability to accurately calculate feed levels before and immediately after a fire will allow pastoralists to know how much feed has been lost due to a fire, which will greatly assist police in the case of arson. It is also now possible to assign a dollar value to the lost pasture and potentially insure for pasture loss.

How Cibo Labs data can help us to manage the after-effects of fires

The ability to calculate the feed left after fires allows us to determine appropriate stocking rates in areas affected by fire. This ensures that remaining feed isn't overgrazed, leading to long-term benefits for the land and business, as well as the cattle. The Cibo Labs data will enable us to know when feed levels have regenerated enough in areas affected by fire to be able to reintroduce cattle. This is critical for long-term management and planning in the business - reintroducing cattle too early will slow the recovery of the pasture, and reintroducing cattle too late leads to loss of production.

Well-managed pasture is more productive, ensuring greater and more efficient production for the business.



Area burnt	Total biomass lost	Forage lost
4,500 ha	6 million kilograms	2 million kilograms dry matter

Enough to feed **900** adult cattle for **9** months

Replacement value of native pasture burnt

\$514,000



Photo credits: Terry Martin

FARMING FOR THE FUTURE

This project contributes to the NT NRM Plan



For more information:

☎ 08 8942 8300

@ info@territorynrm.org.au

🌐 www.territorynrm.org.au