

# PRODUCER PROFILES...

## Howell Ranch



**Matt Barnes manages native mountain rangeland.**

**Name:** Matt Barnes

**Telephone:** 970-724-9326

**Ranch:** Howell Ranch, Blue Creek Unit, Cimarron, Colorado. I'm there from May through September. The rest of the time I'm in San Luis, Colorado.

**Business Name:** Shining Horizons Land Management, LLC

**E-mail:** Matt@ShiningHorizons.com

**Address:** PO Box 191, San Luis, CO 81152

**Acres in pasture:** About 7,000, of which 400 is irrigated and the rest is native mountain rangeland.

**How long grass farming:** three years on the ranch and five years as a rangeland conservationist

**SGF Subscriber:** About eight years

**Paddocks:** 25 permanent (25 to 700 acres), variable number of temporary subdivisions

**Forages:** Native rangeland dominated by cool-season grasses (Thurber fescue, Kentucky bluegrass, western wheatgrass, mountain brome, Letterman needlegrass) and irrigated pasture (timothy, smooth brome, slender wheatgrass, Nebraska sedge, red and alsike clovers)

**Centerpiece Operation:** Summer custom grazing

**Additional Activities:** Consulting (grazing planning, implementation and monitoring for whole-systems resilience)

**Blog:** [www.ShiningHorizons.com](http://www.ShiningHorizons.com)

**Goals/Vision:** To improve rangeland health, diversity, and resilience, including wildlife habitat, while running a viable livestock enterprise; to help others accomplish similar goals across western rangelands.

**Family involvement:** Ranch owner, Jim Howell, and his daughter, Savanna, run a nearby grazing management unit, and we swap labor often.

**Other activities/interests:** I provide rangeland and grazing planning and monitoring services in the western USA through my company, Shining Horizons Land Management. I am also President-elect of the Colorado Section Society for Range Management, and am organizing a symposium on Strategic Grazing Management at Colorado State University, Nov. 29-30.

**Resources:**

Most important are scientific and experiential knowledge, gained not only from ranching but also from the Society for Range Management and the Quivira Coalition, reading *Rangelands*, *Stockman Grass Farmer*, and *Resilience* and working with universities. My only equipment is a pickup, an ATV, and a couple of horses; fencing materials, including Premier IntelliTwine, HoriSmart chargers, and a few solar panels; binoculars and camera for the wildlife; and all manner of cold-weather gear. I have a rope that I almost never use because my animals are so healthy.