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Yunhua Zhang

*Development Research Center of the State Council, China*

Rui Liu

*China Agriculture University, China*

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## **Protecting Hulun Buir rangeland requires improving the awareness of the importance of the ecological status-based on an investigation in Chen Baerhu banner**

Zhang Yunhua<sup>1</sup> and Liu Rui<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Rural Economics Research Department, The Development Research Center of the State Council, No. 225, Chaoyangmen Nei Dajie, Dongcheng District, Beijing, 100010, China, E-mail: zhangyunhua@drc.gov.cn, <sup>2</sup>Economics and Management Department, China Agriculture University, No. 2, Yuanmingyuan Xilu, Haidian District, 10094, China

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Hulun Buir Grassland , one of the world's largest meadow steppe in good conditions , but also faces problems of serious deterioration in some areas . The height and density of herbage is decreased in some parts of the grassland . At present , the central and local government has put a lot of effort into protecting the steppe ecology and dealing with the deterioration , but some problems still exist . So ,this paper suggest the importance for initially establishing the need for ecological awareness , improving the management of the grassland and the protection of steppe ecology , and implementing the contractual system , in order to protect Hulun Buir Grassland as soon as possible .

Chen Baerhu banner grassland is the essence of the Hulun Buir Grassland , it is also the only natural meadow grassland with good growing conditions , with natural grasslands , rivers and lakes , cattle and sheep flocks compatible with the rangelands and good ecological status . But in recent years it has experienced degrees of degradation such as desertification , and salinization . Survey results of grassland ecology in 2005 showed , the degraded area in Chen Baerhu Banner totals 1070 ha , or 47 % of the total area . This phenomenon is closely related with climate warming and drought . Since 2000 the average annual precipitation decreased 77.9 mm compared to the 1980's , a decline of about 23% ; while evaporation was 33.4 mm more than in the 1980's , an increase of 2.6% . In addition , grassland ecological degradation is aggravated by human factors , such as the over and unreasonable use of the grasslands .

Chen Baerhu banner has implemented a series of ecological management projects , including seasonal herding , rational grazing , restoration techniques to recover degraded grassland , seeding grasslands , etc . Those projects have achieved some results . However there are still some problems in understanding the importance of ecological status . However , government , business or herders need to be more aware of grassland protection . Secondly , grassland ecological status needs to be improved . Most implementation of the project has not really gone well . Thirdly , it is a big problem that grassland is occupied by non-livestock , which causes a lot of conflict and breaks the ecological balance . Fourthly , grassland supervision of the users is inadequate .

Some suggestions for improving the grassland management include : improve grassland contract policy in order to arouse the herdsmen's enthusiasm for protecting the grassland ; implement "grass-livestock balance" policy and make good use of the grassland ; strengthen the vocational training and children's education ; and improve the social security system and promote sustainable development in pastoral areas .