NRCS

Natural Resources Conservation Service

WASHINGTON

ANM09 – Grazing management to improve wildlife habitat

CSP Enhancement Washington State Supplement

Land Use Applicability: Pastureland, Rangeland, Forestland

January 2014

Client/Operating Unit:		Tract Number:	
Farm/Ranch Location:		Farm Number:	
Specifications Date:		Field Number(s):	
Planned Installation Date:		Proposed Treatment Acres:	

Enhancement Description:

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Implement a grazing management plan that will allow for rest periods to provide adequate residue for nesting and fawning cover and increase diversity of vegetation structure to benefit a variety of wildlife species.

Benefits

Wildlife habitat can be greatly improved through proper grazing management. Proper grazing management is essential to healthy wildlife populations because plants supply many species of birds and animals with food and cover for nesting, fawning, loafing, roosting, travel and escape from predators and adverse weather. These include song birds, quail, turkey, pheasants, deer, and rabbits to name just a few. Some species of ground nesting grassland birds are in decline and others have become uncommon. Healthy stands of forage can be managed to provide habitat for a wide array of wildlife.

Conditions Where Enhancement Applies

This enhancement applies to all pasture (including silvopasture), range or forest land use acres.

Criteria for Grazing management to improve wildlife habitat

1. Defer 33% of the grazing land on the land use from grazing during the nesting/fawning season each year.

2. Develop and implement a written grazing management plan that identifies the following:
   a. wildlife management objectives for grazing land,
   b. targeted wildlife species,
   c. nesting or fawning dates,
   d. the location and number of acres to be deferred each year,
   e. a schedule for the year of deferment, and
   f. stocking rates that will allow proper forage utilization while maintaining proper plant heights that provide food and shelter for wildlife and maintain plant health.

Additional criteria for silvopasture

1. Inventory the habitat condition of the silvopasture, the farm, and adjoining farms to determine habitat needs for the targeted wildlife.

2. Use one or more of the following methods to improve habitat for the targeted species.
   a. Establish additional understory vegetation (e.g., native grass, forbs and shrubs) that will improve habitat conditions for the targeted species.
   b. Establish clusters of other tree species if needed as a food source (e.g., oaks for mast).
   c. Manage tree canopy to achieve the desired understory plant community.
   d. Leave some dead or dying trees as snags if cavity nesting wildlife is targeted.
   e. Remove trees or invasive plants that do not provide the desired habitat.
   f. Replace removed trees by planting new trees or shrubs that will provide the desired habitat.
   g. Thin less desirable trees to encourage the growth of trees that will provide the desired wildlife habitat.

Layout Sketch & Drawing (Provide sketch, drawings, maps, and/or aerial photographs.)

- Geo-referenced field map with all delineated treatment areas where CSP Enhancement ANM09 is to be applied.

Adoption Requirements

This enhancement is considered adopted when a grazing management plan targeting selected wildlife species has been written and one-third of the grazing land is avoided during the nesting/fawning season each year as prescribed.

Documentation Requirements

1. A schedule of when grazing activities occurred documenting that grazing activities were deferred on a minimum of 33% of the available acreage.

2. A map showing the acreage where these activities are applied.

References*:

Holechek J. L., R. Valdez, S.D. Schemnitz, R.D. Pieper and C.A. Davis. 1982. Wildlife Society Bulletin Vol. 10, No. 3: 204-210.

Lyons, R.K. and B.D. Wright. 2003. Using Livestock to Manage Wildlife Habitat. Available electronically from:

http: / /hdl .handle .net /1969 .1 /87188

Nistler, C. M., J. Boren and D. Rollins. 2006. Proceedings – Symposia: Prescribed Livestock Grazing to Enhance Wildlife Habitat. 112 pages. Society for Range Management.

Undersander, D., S. Temple and J. Bartlet and L. Paine. 2000. Grassland Birds: Fostering Habitats using Rotational Grazing. University of Wisconsin-Extension Publication A3715.

USDA-NRCS. 2010. Conservation Practice Standard: Prescribed Grazing-Code 528.

Field Office Technical Guide:
eFOTG, http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/efotg/

*** Some online documents may take several minutes to download.**

State Supplemental Information

States need nesting/ fawning dates

The nesting and fawning period will be April 1st to August 1st.

Documentation Form

Producer: _____ **Date:** _____

Tracts: _____ **County:** _____

A schedule of when grazing activities occurred documenting that grazing activities were deferred on a minimum of 33% of the available acreage.

Year 1				
Pasture Number(s)	Acres	Check Box if Year 1 Deferred	Grazing Starting Date	Grazing Ending Date
		☐		
		☐		
		☐		
		☐		
		☐		
		☐		
		☐		
		☐		
		☐		
		☐		
		☐		
		☐		

Total Acres 0.0 _____ **Percent Deferred**

Year 2				
Pasture Number(s)	Acres	Check Box if Year 2 Deferred	Grazing Starting Date	Grazing Ending Date
		☐		
		☐		
		☐		
		☐		
		☐		
		☐		
		☐		
		☐		
		☐		
		☐		
		☐		
		☐		

Total Acres 0.0 _____ **Percent Deferred**

Year 3				
Pasture Number(s)	Acres	Check Box if Year 3 Deferred	Grazing Starting Date	Grazing Ending Date
		☐		
		☐		
		☐		
		☐		
		☐		
		☐		
		☐		
		☐		
		☐		
		☐		
		☐		
		☐		

Total Acres 0.0 **Percent Deferred**

Include a map showing the acreage where these activities are applied and a Grazing Plan.

Client's Acknowledgement (To be signed before the Enhancement is applied.)

By signing below, I acknowledge that I:

- **have reviewed and understand the site specific design, installation specifications and operation/maintenance requirements in this State Supplemental Sheet and have an understanding of the purpose(s) of this Enhancement;**
- **will install, operate, and maintain this Enhancement in accordance with the National Sheet, the Washington State Supplemental Sheet and the site specific specifications.**
- **will make no changes to the planned design and installation without prior written approval of the Natural Resources Conservation Service.**
- **will obtain all necessary permits and/or rights, and comply with all ordinances and laws pertaining to the installation, operation, and maintenance of this Enhancement, prior to the start of installation; and**
- **will assume responsibility for notifying all Utilities affected by the installation, operation and maintenance of this Enhancement.**

Signature **Date**

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