

## Plant Enhancement Activity – *PLT02 – Monitor Key Grazing Areas to Improve Grazing Management*

### ***Monitoring Key Grazing Areas to Improve Grazing Management***



Monitor key grazing areas on pastureland and rangeland to determine if current grazing management is meeting management goals and objectives. A key grazing area is a small area of a pasture that is identified as being representative of the entire pasture.

***Land Use Applicability:*** This enhancement is applicable to pastureland, rangeland and forest.

### **Benefits**

Proper grazing management will maintain and improve vegetation and soil conditions, improve water quality, and enhance wildlife habitat. Monitoring can be utilized to determine if current grazing management actions are having the desired effect on natural resources. Monitoring enable managers to make decisions and adjust management strategies as needed

### **Criteria for Monitoring Key Grazing Areas to Improve Grazing Management**

1. Key grazing areas will be established for each pasture.
2. Key grazing areas in each pasture will be monitored each year.
3. Monitoring will include a photo point for each pasture of key grazing area and use of one or more of the following techniques:
  - a. Rangeland Apparent Trend
  - b. Rangeland Health Assessment (for rangeland)
  - c. Pasture Condition Scoring (for pastureland)
  - d. Plant productivity determinations
  - e. Measurements of key forage plant heights (before and after grazing)
4. A written grazing management plan that outlines specific goals and objectives.

### **Documentation Requirements for Monitoring Key Grazing Areas to Improve Grazing Management**

- A map showing the location of each key grazing area.
- Photographs from the photo point locations.
- Written documentation of the monitoring data collected.
- Written documentation of how monitoring data was evaluated and utilized to adjust grazing management plans.

