Plant Enhancement Activity – PLT02 – Monitoring key grazing areas to improve grazing management

Enhancement Description

Adjust grazing management based on monitoring data. Monitor key grazing areas to determine if current grazing management is meeting management goals and objectives. A key grazing area is a small area of a grazed field that is identified as being representative of the entire field.

Land Use Applicability

Pastureland, rangeland and forestland

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 enables managers to make decisions and adjust management strategies as needed

Criteria

1. Key grazing areas will be established for each grazed field
2. Each key grazing area will be monitored annually once established
3. Monitoring will include a photo for each pasture of key grazing area and use of one or more of the following techniques:
    a. Rangeland apparent trend
    b. Plant productivity determinations
    c. Measurements of key forage plant heights (before and after grazing)
    d. Locally applicable methods such as those described in the "Monitoring for Grasslands, Shrublands and Savanna Ecosystems http://usda-ars.nmsu.edu/monit_assess/monitoring.php

Documentation Requirements

1. A written grazing plan which meets the CSP eligibility requirements
2. A map showing the location of each key grazing area
3. Photographs from the fixed photo location points
4. Written documentation of the monitoring data collected
5. Written documentation of how monitoring data was used to adjust grazing management plans including modifications and objectives.

Wisconsin Supplement 1/11/2011 (PLT02: 2011 Ranking Period 1)

Follow Wisconsin NRCS Conservation Practice Standard 528 (Prescribed Grazing) and Pasture Condition Score Sheet:

http://efotg.nrcs.usda.gov/references/public/WI/528.pdf
ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/WI/grazing/pasture-score-sheet.pdf

Completing the Pasture Condition Score Sheet shall satisfy the Criteria #3 requirement.

Document the occupancy date, length and number of animals for each paddock being monitored.

Complete a Pasture Condition Score Sheet once a year.