

Plant Enhancement Activity – PLT02 – Grazing management to improve wildlife habitat

PLT02 Washington NRCS Guidance May 18, 2010

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 (*Photos can be a close-up of a specific plot in the key area or a landscape photo that includes a landmark so the photo can be repeated annually*) and use of one or more of the following techniques:
 - a. Rangeland apparent trend
 - *Using WA-RGE-5 TR-RHA Field Sheet (attached Appendix 2)*
 - b. Plant productivity determinations
 - *Using the methods and forms in Chapter 9 Plant production “Monitoring for Grasslands, Shrublands and Savanna Ecosystems*
http://usda-ars.nmsu.edu/monit_assess/monitoring.php
 - c. Measurements of key forage plant heights (before and after grazing)
 - **Rangeland** *using one of the utilization methods available in Utilization-2009_version_1.xls available on the eFOTG-Section IV -WA 528 Prescribed Grazing*
 - **Pastureland or Rangeland** *use Appendix 1 Stubble Height Methodology (attached)*
 - 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 photo point locations
 - *Labeled to show key area identification and date*
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.
 - *Using WA-RGE-30 Annual Evaluation and WA-RGE-27 Pasture Record available in Prescribed_Grazing_(528)_Worksheets_(Inventory_Design).xls available on the eFOTG-Section IV -WA 528 Prescribed Grazing*

Appendix 1 Stubble Height Methodology

Determine how many paces (2 steps) will give the selected sample interval and begin pacing along the predetermined transect course. Stop at each sample interval and do the following:

- Locate the individual plant nearest the toe of your boot for each identified key species. The nearest plant may not be immediately at your toe.
- Record the average stubble height (leaf length) for each key species. Where it is difficult to tell where one plant starts and another stops, visualize a 3-inch circle and sample the plants within that circle. Estimate and record the average stubble height within the 3-inch circle.
- A stubble height will be recorded for each key species previously agreed to. There will be a minimum of 36 stubble height measurements for each species. Additional readings can be taken if the variability on the site warrants.
- After a minimum of 36 samples have been recorded, total the measurements for each column, and divide by the number of plants sampled for each species to calculate the average stubble height.

SAMPLE STUBBLE HEIGHT

Unit Name East Fork Pasture Name Willow Spring
 Transect ID #2 Date 08/04/2000 Observer R. Werf
 Animal Kind/Class Cow/calf Season of Use 7/15 to 8/15 Sample Interval 30 ft

Record at least 36 stubble heights for each species or species group. More readings can be taken if desired.

Species (Group) <u>beaked sedge</u>		Species (Group) <u>Kentcky blue</u>		Species (Group)							
Column A	Column B	Column A	Column B	Column A	Column B						
1	4	26	7	1	3	26	6	1		26	
2	7	27	7	2	5	27	4	2		27	
3	6	28	5	3	6	28	4	3		28	
4	8	29	6	4	4	29	7	4		29	
5	2	30	9	5	2	30	9	5		30	
6	5	31	9	6	1	31	6	6		31	
7	3	32	4	7	7	32	5	7		32	
8	6	33	4	8	4	33	3	8		33	
9	9	34	6	9	3	34	3	9		34	
10	4	35	7	10	3	35	2	10		35	
11	4	36	6	11	5	36	1	11		36	
12	3	37		12	6	37		12		37	
13	2	38		13	4	38		13		38	
14	5	39		14	2	39		14		39	
15	4	40		15	4	40		15		40	
16	2	41		16	4	41		16		41	
17	3	42		17	3	42		17		42	
18	6	43		18	6	43		18		43	
19	2	44		19	6	44		19		44	
20	7	45		20	8	45		20		45	
21	4	46		21	6	46		21		46	
22	5	47		22	2	47		22		47	
23	3	48		23	4	48		23		48	
24	6	49		24	3	49		24		49	
25	5	50		25	3	50		25		50	
Sub	115	Sub	70	Sub	104	Sub	50	Sub		Sub	
	Grand Total		185		Grand Total		154		Grand Total		
	Average Height (Tot/#)		5.1		Average Height (Tot/#)		4.3		Average Height (Tot/#)		

STUBBLE HEIGHT

Unit Name _____

Pasture Name _____

Transect ID _____

Date _____

Observer _____

Animal Kind/Class _____

Season of Use _____

to _____

Sample Interval _____

Record at least 36 stubble heights for each species or species group. More readings can be taken if desired.

Species (Group) _____		Species (Group) _____		Species (Group) _____	
Column A	Column B	Column A	Column B	Column A	Column B
1	26	1	26	1	26
2	27	2	27	2	27
3	28	3	28	3	28
4	29	4	29	4	29
5	30	5	30	5	30
6	31	6	31	6	31
7	32	7	32	7	32
8	33	8	33	8	33
9	34	9	34	9	34
10	35	10	35	10	35
11	36	11	36	11	36
12	37	12	37	12	37
13	38	13	38	13	38
14	39	14	39	14	39
15	40	15	40	15	40
16	41	16	41	16	41
17	42	17	42	17	42
18	43	18	43	18	43
19	44	19	44	19	44
20	45	20	45	20	45
21	46	21	46	21	46
22	47	22	47	22	47
23	48	23	48	23	48
24	49	24	49	24	49
25	50	25	50	25	50
Sub		Sub		Sub	
Grand Total		Grand Total		Grand Total	
Average Height (Tot#)		Average Height (Tot#)		Average Height (Tot#)	

TREND DETERMINATION					
Attribute	Click to Enter Assessment				
Vigor	Good		Fair		Poor
Seedlings	Many		Some		None
Decadant Plants	None		Some		Many
Litter/Residue	More		OK		Less
Invasive Plants	None		Some		Many
Soil Erosion	Slight		Mod		Severe
Soil Crusting	Slight		Mod		Severe
Soil Compaction	Slight		Mod		Severe
Bare Ground	Less		OK		More
Gullies/Rills	None		Few		Many
Soil Degradation	Slight		Mod		Severe

WRITE-UP Number: _____
 Key Area ID: _____
 Ranch/Operator: _____
 Date: _____

TREND SUMMARY			
	Toward	N/A	Away
Trend			

Range Trend (Toward or Away from Historic climax plant community)

Toward Not Apparent Away From

Planned Trend (Toward or away from desired plant community)

Positive Not Apparent Negative

RANGELAND HEALTH EVALUATION

Indicator	E-T	M-E	M	S-M	N-S	SSS	HF	BI
	Extreme to Total	Moderate to Extreme	Moderate	Slight to Moderate	None to Slight	Soil - Site Stability	Hydrologic Function	Biotic Integrity
1 Rills								
2 Water Flow								
3 Peds/Terrs								
4 Bare Ground								
5 Gullies								
6 Wind Scour								
7 Litter Movement								
8 Soil Resistance								
9 Soil Loss								
10 Infiltr & Runoff								
11 Compaction								
12 F/S Groups								
13 Mortality								
14 Litter Amount								
15 Annual Prod								
16 Invasive Plants								
17 Reproduction								
Sum (10,10,9)								

Attribute Rating Frequency

SSS		HF		BI	
E-T		E-T		E-T	
M-E		M-E		M-E	
M		M		M	
S-M		S-M		S-M	
N-S		N-S		N-S	

RATING:

NOTES: