



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY
New Mexico Supplement

CONSERVATION
STEWARDSHIP
PROGRAM

Prescribed Grazing (528) practice and enhancements

Conservation Practice 528: Prescribed Grazing

APPLICABLE LAND USE: All land where livestock are used to manage vegetation

RESOURCE CONCERN: Animals

ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN: 1 Year

Prescribed Grazing

Prescribed grazing is the process of managing the harvest of vegetation with grazing and/or browsing animals to meet a desired purpose. The Grazing Management Plan (GMP) requirements are outlined in the NM Prescribed Grazing practice standard summarized below. The practice standard, grazing management plan template and New Mexico forms can be found at the following link: <https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/public/NM/528std-2011.pdf>.

Basic Grazing Management Plan Requirements:

The practice standard is broken into several criteria based on the participant’s identified goals and objectives (purpose). The “general criteria applicable to all purposes” is the requirement for a basic grazing management plan. The standard identifies the following requirements to be met with the NM Grazing Management Plan (GMP) template and associated forms/attachments.

History:

This portion often tells us why things are the way they are. This portion is to be completed by the participant.

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Goals and Objectives:

This is participant driven and needs to be in line with the selected CSP enhancements/EQIP practices. NOTE: Goals and objectives come with additional criteria within the standard and the selected CSP Enhancement/EQIP Practice criteria/documentation requirements. To be completed by the participant.

Resource Inventory:

NRCS and the participant will work together to identify resource concerns (SWAPA). Participant presence is mandatory. NRCS will work with the participant to identify/locate existing range improvements such as fences, corrals, etc. NRCS will assist in the first year. It is the responsibility of the participant to inventory any changes in subsequent years.

Forage/Ecological Inventory:

NRCS will generally spend 1 day in the field collecting/training forage inventory and ecological inventory with the participant in the first year. Participant presence is mandatory.

Forage – Animal Balance:

NRCS will assist/teach the participant in calculating forage/animal balance and filling out the proper forms in the first year.

Grazing Plan/Schedule:

This will be completed by the participant. In the first year, NRCS will provide assistance as needed ensuring that grazing schedule/management addresses the resource concerns. Participant will document the planned schedule at the beginning of the year and the actual schedule at the end of the year (NM 528-6 or equivalent).

Contingency Plan:

This is to be completed by the participant. NRCS can provide a template plan for the participant modify to his/her needs.

Monitoring Plan:

NRCS staff will work with the participant to identify the monitoring locations and methods. In the first year scheduled, NRCS will complete certification monitoring with the participant providing training on

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methods and documents (NM 528-5). Subsequent years will be the responsibility of the participant.

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Other:

Specific enhancement requirements such as WHEG. NRCS will assist as needed.

Certification of Prescribed Grazing (528):

When certifying the practice/enhancement, the NRCS planner must review enough documentation to establish that the general criteria of the practice standard have been met. To meet the requirement of Prescribed Grazing (528), the documents below must be documented by participant and accepted by NRCS each year after the enhancement or practice has been applied. A field check by NRCS is at the discretion of the district conservationist who approves the payment. The NM Prescribed Grazing Certification form (NM 528-8) will be completed in all years that 528 practice or 528 enhancement is scheduled to be certified.

- The grazing management plan will be signed and implemented in the first year the practice/enhancement is planned.
 - If the practice/enhancement is planned in the first year of the contract it is the responsibility of the participant to ensure the plan is written and implementation is started within the shorter timeframe.
 - If planned in subsequent years, the plan shall be signed by January 1 to ensure sufficient time is allowed for full implementation.
 - Unless the operation is undergoing major changes, a new grazing management plan is not needed every year.
- Trend (NM 528-4)- Only required in first year and last year a 528 practice or enhancement is scheduled.
- Utilization Data (NM 528-5) is required every year the practice enhancement is scheduled.
- Planned and Actual Use Grazing Schedule (NM 528-6) is required every year the practice enhancement is scheduled.

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