



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

E528H

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Prescribed grazing to improve/maintain riparian and watershed function-elevated water temperature

Conservation Practice 528: Prescribed Grazing

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Range, Pasture, Forest

RESOURCE CONCERN: Water

ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN: 1 year

Enhancement Description

Grazing management employed will provide cover and density needed in the watershed in order to reduce runoff, improve infiltration, provide for above ground water filtration and sustain applicable fish and wildlife species habitat.

Criteria

- A written plan for matching the forage quantity and quality produced with the grazing and/or browsing demand by livestock and wildlife will be followed.
- Enhance diversity of rangeland plants to optimize delivery of nutrients to the animals by incorporating the intensity, frequency, timing and duration of grazing and/or browsing needed as determined by a planning process that includes:
 - Clear objectives,
 - A resource inventory with ecological site description or reference sheet and structural improvements and existing resource conditions,
 - Grazing plan, and
 - A contingency plan.

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- Supplemental feed and/or minerals will be balanced with the forage consumption to meet the desired nutritional level for the kind and class of grazing and/or browsing livestock.
- Minimize concentrated livestock areas to enhance nutrient distribution and improve or maintain ground cover and riparian/floodplain plant community structure and functions.
- Manage grazing and/or browsing so as to provide adequate ground cover and plant density to maintain or improve infiltration capacity and reduce runoff.
- Provide adequate ground cover and plant density to maintain or improve filtering capacity of the vegetation by moving livestock appropriately.
- Graze and rest pastures appropriately and with the right numbers, class, and kind of livestock so as to maintain adequate riparian community structure and function to sustain associated riparian, wetland, floodplain and stream species.



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Documentation and Implementation Requirements

Participant will:

- Y Prior to implementation, obtain a written grazing plan with guidelines and recommendations for matching the forage quantity and quality produced with the grazing and/or browsing demand.
- Y During implementation, keep pasture/herd in/out records and grazing utilization records for key grazing areas.
- Y After implementation, make the follow items available for review by NRCS to verify implementation of the enhancement:
 - o Written grazing plan
 - o Pasture/herd in/out records.
 - o Documented forage utilization levels

NRCS will:

- Y As needed, provide technical additional assistance to the participant as requested.
- Y Prior to implementation, provide and explain NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Prescribed Grazing (Code 528) as it relates to implementing this enhancement.
- Y Prior to implementation, verify a grazing plan has been developed, which includes written objectives.
- Y After implementation, verify implementation of the written grazing plan by reviewing plan, pasture/herd in/out records, and utilization records kept during enhancement implementation.

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NRCS Documentation Review:

I have reviewed all required participant documentation and have determined the participant has implemented the enhancement and met all criteria and requirements.

Participant Name _____ Contract Number _____

Total Amount Applied _____ Fiscal Year Completed _____

NRCS Technical Adequacy Signature

Date



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SOUTH DAKOTA (SD) SUPPLEMENT TO CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

E528H

Prescribed grazing that improve/maintains riparian and watershed function-elevated water temperature

Additional Criteria for SD:

In addition to the criteria specified in the national job sheet E528H, the following additional criteria apply in SD:

- Salt, mineral, and feeding locations will not be located near surface waters or riparian areas.
- Livestock grazing use will result in a minimum of four to eight inches of stubble height along riparian areas, less than 50 percent (%) utilization to protect streambanks and properly filter sediment and provide a vigorous plant community with optimum adapted herbaceous and woody cover along stream banks.
- Timing of grazing will be during times of low impact to riparian areas and water bodies, such as periods when banks are firm and dry, or when temperatures are cool, and livestock are well distributed. Avoid hot season grazing to minimize times when livestock congregate in water bodies and riparian areas. If woody species such as shrubs or trees are a management goal and are a potential part of the plant community, site-specific grazing prescriptions may be required.
- Grazing intensity will be increased from the current level. For example, occupation periods will be significantly reduced and/or recovery periods longer than current management.
- Additional fencing may be required to adequately protect riparian areas or water bodies and facilitate grazing management improvements.

Requirements:

1. Maximum 50% utilization. Ocular methods on key or representative areas are adequate, but utilization methods such as landscape appearance or key species should be used to calibrate field estimates. Exceptions include dormant season grazing (60% utilization) and grazing prescriptions on rangeland that are designed to alter the present plant community through intensive grazing by livestock (i.e., suppression of invasive species). In these cases, the desired degree of use of management species should be documented within the grazing plan and/or assistance notes.



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2. Adequate plant recovery periods must be provided. On rangelands provide a minimum of 45 days of growing season recovery between grazing events during the growing season. The growing season is approximately April 1 through October 1.
3. Alter timing of grazing in each pasture by at least two weeks from year to year.
4. For additional information see the SD Prescribed Grazing Standard (528) and the appropriate SD Range Technical Note.

Additional Documentation Requirements for SD:

In addition to the documentation requirements specified in the national job sheet E528H, the following additional documentation requirements apply in SD:

- Complete the SD Grazing Tool (SD-CPA-39 Forage/Animal Inventory, Grazing Schedule using the SD-CPA-15 a-d or similar form, and SD-CPA-16, Record of Livestock Grazing, or similar grazing records document).
- Complete a drought contingency plan using the SD Drought Tool or provide the participant with a copy of the example drought contingency plan located within the SD Prescribed Grazing Technical Note 9.
- Additional practice documentation (such as fence, watering facility, etc.) if required to improve grazing management of riparian areas.