



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

E528I

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Grazing management that protects sensitive areas-surface or ground water from nutrients

Conservation Practice 528: Prescribed Grazing

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Pasture, Range

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 protect sensitive areas such as sinkholes, streams, highly erodible areas, or locations with plants that cannot tolerate defoliation.

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 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: 1) Clear objectives, 2) A resource inventory including a forage inventory, structural improvements, and existing resource conditions, 3) Grazing plan, and 4) A contingency plan.
- 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.

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- Minimize concentrated livestock areas to enhance nutrient distribution and improve or maintain ground cover.
- Plan the intensity, frequency, timing and duration of grazing and/or browsing that will:
 - Minimize deposition or flow of animal wastes into water bodies or sinkholes,
 - Minimize animal impacts on stream bank or shoreline stability,
 - Provide adequate ground cover and plant density to maintain or improve infiltration capacity and reduce runoff, and
 - Provide adequate ground cover and plant density to maintain or improve filtering capacity of the vegetation.
- Livestock feeding and watering facilities will be located and designed/installed in a manner to improve livestock distribution and avoid overland flow to sensitive areas.
- When nutrients are applied on pastureland, soil testing and nutrient application will be done according to local land grant university guidance or the equivalent there of.



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Documentation and Implementation Requirements

Participant will:

- Prior to implementation, obtain a written grazing plan that identifies the following:
 - The goals and objectives of the plan
 - Forage/Animal Balance
 - A grazing plan narrative describing the basis for when livestock movement or rotation will occur.
 - Contingency plans for forage shortfalls.
 - Monitoring locations, key species, and monitoring techniques.
 - A map identifying all permanent pastures, water sources, and any riparian area or other sensitive areas improved or maintained by this management.
- Prior to implementation, a nutrient management plan will be developed if nutrients will be applied. The nutrient management plan will detail appropriate soil testing protocol and acceptable nutrient application amounts.
- Prior to implementation, a copy of the completed grazing plan will be submitted to NRCS for review and approval.
- During implementation, consult with NRCS or a qualified grazing professional to adjust and adapt the grazing plan to current conditions. Changes to the grazing plan will be documented in writing.
- After implementation, make all records available for review by NRCS to verify implementation of the enhancement.

NRCS will:

- Prior to implementation, assist the participant with development of a grazing plan and/or nutrient management plan, as requested.
- Prior to implementation, review the plan(s) if not developed by NRCS.
- Prior to implementation, review soil test analysis

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- During implementation, as requested, assist the participant with adapting the grazing strategy and plan to current conditions.
- After implementation, review written grazing records provided by the participant to determine if the grazing plan was adequately followed to protect or enhance riparian areas, wetland areas, or other sensitive areas.
- After implementation, review the nutrient management plan and application record to ensure nutrients were applied according to the plan.

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



SOUTH DAKOTA (SD) SUPPLEMENT TO CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

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Additional Criteria for SD:

In addition to the criteria specified in the national job sheet E528I, 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 4 to 8 inches of stubble height along riparian areas, and less than 50 percent (%) utilization to protect streambanks and property filter sediment.
- 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.
- Livestock use of a riparian area for extended periods of the winter (usually great than one month) will not meet the criteria of this enhancement due to potential nutrient deposition.

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.
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 2 weeks from year to year.



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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 E528I, 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 or similar form, and SD-CPA-16 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.
- Additional practice documentation (such as fence, watering facility, etc.) if required to improve grazing management of riparian areas.
- Monitoring technique will be developed to document key species and sites. (e.g., photo points showing sensitive areas that are targeted.)