



**CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY**

**E528L**

**CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM**

**Prescribed grazing that improves or maintains riparian and watershed function-erosion**

**Conservation Practice 528: Prescribed Grazing**

**APPLICABLE LAND USE: Pasture, Range, Forest**

**RESOURCE CONCERN: Soil**

**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**

- Must follow a written grazing plan for matching the forage quantity and quality produced with the grazing and/or browsing demand by livestock and wildlife.
- 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:
  - Clear objectives,
  - A resource inventory of structural improvements, existing resource conditions, and forage.
  - A monitoring plan
  - A contingency plan

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- Supplemental feed 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 or browsing so as to provide adequate ground cover and plant density to maintain or improve infiltration capacity and reduce runoff.
- Maintain adequate ground cover and plant density through monitoring to retain or improve filtering capacity of the vegetation by moving livestock appropriately.
- Adjust grazing strategy and rest as needed with the right numbers, class, and kind of livestock 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:

- Prior to implementation, obtain a written grazing plan with:
  - Inventory of structural improvements, existing resource conditions and forage
  - Guidelines and recommendations for matching the forage quantity and quality produced with the grazing and/or browsing demand of livestock
  - A contingency plan and
  - A monitoring plan
- During implementation, keep pasture/herd in/out records and forage-animal balance sheet.
- During implementation, monitor riparian vegetation for use
- After implementation, make the follow items available for review by NRCS to verify implementation of the enhancement:
  - Written grazing plan
  - Pasture/herd in/out records
  - Documented utilization records
  - Monitoring plan

### NRCS will:

- As needed, provide technical additional assistance to the participant as requested.
- Prior to implementation, provide and explain NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Prescribed Grazing (Code 528) as it relates to implementing this enhancement.



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- After implementation, verify implementation of the written grazing plan, by reviewing plan and pasture/herd in/out records and forage-animal balance sheets kept during enhancement implementation.
- After implementation, review the monitoring 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

## CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

### E528L

#### **Additional Criteria for SD:**

In addition to the criteria specified in the National job sheet E528L, the following additional criteria apply in SD:

- Salt, mineral, and feeding locations will not be located near 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 properly 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 and facilitate grazing management improvements.

#### **Requirements:**

- 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.
- 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. On pasture provide a minimum of 30 consecutive days of growing season recovery between grazing events. The growing season is approximately April 1 through October 1.
- Alter timing of grazing in each pasture by at least 2 weeks from year to year.
- For additional information see the SD Prescribed Grazing Standard (528) and the appropriate SD Range Technical Note.



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### **Additional Documentation Requirements for SD:**

In addition to the documentation requirements specified in the National job sheet E528L, 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 9.
- Additional practice documentation (such as fence, watering facility, etc) if required to improve grazing management of riparian areas.