



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

E528F

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Stockpiling cool season forage to improve structure and composition or plant productivity and health

Conservation Practice 528: Prescribed Grazing

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Pasture; Associated Agricultural Land; Crop (Perennial); Crop (Annual and Mixed)

RESOURCE CONCERN: Plants

ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN: 1 year

Enhancement Description

Grazing management employed will stop grazing events of selected paddock(s) to allow pasture forages to grow to maximum vegetative biomass accumulation before the end of the growing season.

Criteria

Additions to the current Prescribed Grazing Plan must include:

- A record of designated paddocks and acreages to exclude grazing for a stated specified time period.
- The acreage needed for stockpiled forage will be predetermined.
- Stockpiled acreage will be supplied nutrients according to a land grant university approved soil test to achieve adequate forage growth at the beginning of the stockpiling period.
- Stockpile will be grazed in a manner that maintains specified minimum forage heights in the grazing plan to avoid damage to soil or forage.

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- Do not allow livestock to access previously grazed stockpiled areas when spring regrowth begins until recommended forage heights exist.
- The NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Prescribed Grazing (Code 528) must be followed on all pasture each year this enhancement is in effect. Note - leaving recommended residual forage heights, even though plants are dormant, are needed for erosion control and wildlife.
- Certification recorded that practice requirements have been met after grazing of stockpiled forages is complete before the new growing season begins.

Documentation and Implementation Requirements

Participant will:

- Prior to implementation, develop a prescribed grazing plan including a plan map that delineates where forage stockpiling will occur. Make these materials available to NRCS for review.
- After implementation, make grazing records and photo documentation of stockpiling and level of use available to NRCS.

NRCS will:

- Prior to implementation, review grazing plan and maps provided by participant.
- During implementation, as requested, assist the participant with adapting the grazing strategy and plan to current conditions.
- After implementation, review records and photos provide to confirm adequate stockpiling and acceptable levels of grazing use.



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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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WASHINGTON SUPPLEMENT TO CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

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Practice 528 (Prescribed Grazing) References

To meet criteria for the Prescribed Grazing Enhancements utilize one or more of the the below references or Technical Notes:

- A list of **Certified Range Management Consultants** can be found on the Society for Range Management’s website under the Education Tab. <http://rangelands.org/>
- **National Range and Pasture Handbook**. Location: eDirectives,Handbooks,Title 190 – Ecological Sciences,Part 645 National Range and Pasture Handbook.
- **Ecological Site Descriptions** can be found in the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide <https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/#/state/WA/documents> in Section 2. For planning unit ecological sites see bullet below.
- **Ecological Sites** for planning unit soils can be found by using the **Web Soil Survey** <https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/HomePage.htm>
- **Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health**, Technical Reference 1734-6, Version 5 (*Range Technical Note 103 Rangeland Health Assessment*). Location: Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG), Section 1/Reference Lists/Technical Notes by Discipline/Range folder. [WA FOTG Range Folder](#)
- **Pasture Condition Scoring** (*Pasture Technical Note 104 Pasture Condition Scoring Guide*). Location: Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG), Section 1/Reference Lists/Technical Notes by Discipline/Pasture folder. [Washington | Field Office Technical Guide | NRCS - USDA](#)
- Information on native and non-native grass species critical growth periods can be found in **Range Technical Note 34**. Location: Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG), Section 1/Reference Lists/Technical Notes by Discipline/Range folder. [WA FOTG Range Folder](#)



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- **Prescribed Grazing (528) Design Worksheet/s.**
This document has several useful worksheets for developing grazing plans. Location: Section 4/Conservation Practice Standards & Support Documents/Prescribed Grazing (528) folder. [Washington | Field Office Technical Guide | NRCS - USDA](#)
- **Herbaceous Stubble Height as a Warning of Impending Cattle Grazing Damage to Riparian Areas.** Hall, Frederick C.; Bryant, Larry. 1995 Gen. Tech. Rep. PNW-GTR-362. USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station. 9 p.
<https://www.treesearch.fs.fed.us/pubs/3062>
- **Managing Grazing of Riparian Areas in the Intermountain Region.** Clary, Warren P.; Webster, Bert F.; 1989. Gen. Tech. Rep. INT-263. USDA Forest Service, Intermountain Research Station. 11 p. <https://www.fs.usda.gov/research/treesearch/24605>
- **Monitoring the Vegetation Resources in Riparian Areas.** Winward, Alma H. 2000. RMRS-GTR-47. USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station. 49 p.
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/research/treesearch/5452>
- Use the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) **Priority Habitats and Species (PHS) database** to identify priority wildlife and habitat in your area.
<http://wdfw.wa.gov/mapping/phs/>
- Washington State's Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG) is **Biology Technical Note 14 Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG)**. Location: Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG), Section 1/Reference Lists/Technical Notes by Discipline/Biology folder.
[WA FOTG Biology folder](#)
- For Washington State's **Sage Grouse Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG)** – contact State Sage Grouse lead (**NRCS State Biologist**) for the current evaluation guide.