



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

E528A

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Maintaining quantity and quality of forage for animal health and productivity

CONSERVATION PRACTICE: 528 - Prescribed Grazing

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Pasture; Range; Forest; Associated Ag Land

RESOURCE CONCERN: Animals

ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN: 1 year

Enhancement Description

Managing the harvest of vegetation with grazing and/or browsing animals for the purposes of maintaining desired plant composition/plant vigor and improving/maintaining quantity and quality of forage for the animals' health and productivity. Follow the recommendations of a qualified professional, as detailed in the documentation and implementation requirements.

Criteria

- A written plan matching the forage quantity and quality produced with the grazing and/or browsing demand will be followed.
- Removal of herbage will be in accordance with site production limitations, rate of plant growth, the physiological needs of forage plants, and the nutritional needs of the animals.
- Deferments will be planned and implemented for critical periods of plant needs (such as post-planting or renovation, severe drought, etc.).
- Manage grazing and/or browsing animals to maintain adequate cover on sensitive areas (such as riparian areas, wetlands, habitats of concern, karst areas, etc.).
- Manage livestock movements based on rate of plant growth, available forage, and allowable utilization target. Develop and follow contingency plans to deal with episodic disturbance events.

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- Plan grazing and/or browsing to match forage quantity and quality goals of the producer within the capability of the resource to respond to management. Plan the intensity, frequency, timing, and/or browsing to reduce animal stress and mortality from toxic and poisonous plants.
- 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.
- The qualified professional's provided recommendations (see documentation requirements) will be based on the National Research Council's Nutrient Requirements of Domestic Animals.

Documentation and Implementation Requirements

Participant will:

- Prior to implementation, make initial target livestock performance goals and mediation actions taken available to NRCS; including reasons for no action.
- Prior to implementation, obtain a written plan for collecting samples, sample analysis, and corresponding management recommendations as developed and provided by a Certified Range Management Consultant, Certified Professional in Range Management, Certified Forage and Grassland Professional, NRCS Technical Service Provider certified for development of a DIA 159, or a non-affiliated consultant with a bachelor or higher level degree in forage agronomy, range science, animal science, animal nutrition or other closely-related plant science discipline or a minimum of three years' experience in grazing lands conservation planning and grazing animal nutrition.
- During implementation, keep records to annually document prescribed grazing requirements are met.
- After implementation, make available documentation of protein and energy of consumed forages/browse based on a land grant university laboratory analysis, including corresponding management recommendations. The analysis be based on collected sample of the forage available to the livestock or fecal samples analyzed with appropriate Near-infrared spectroscopy (NIRS). ON FOREST LAND USE, fecal samples can only be analyzed in Arizona and New Mexico at this time. This analysis needs to illuminate shortfalls and/or excessive amounts of protein and energy. **Samples must be submitted in a timely manner to allow for appropriate adjustments in management and/or supplementation.**



- After implementation, make grazing and supplementation records available for review by NRCS.

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NRCS will:

- Prior to implementation, assist the participant with development of a grazing plan if requested to do so.
- During implementation, as requested, assist the participant with adapting the grazing strategy and plan to current conditions, as it relates to sample analysis results.
- After implementation, review forage or fecal sampling schedule and corresponding management actions taken to determine if a supplementation plan was reasonably followed.
- After implementation, annually review documentation provided indicating that prescribed grazing specifications have been met and to verify the enhancement has been implemented.

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



WASHINGTON SUPPLEMENT TO CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

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Practice 528 (Prescribed Grazing) References:

- A list of **Certified Range Management Consultants** can be found on the Society for Range Management’s website: <http://rangelands.org/> (Type “Certified” in the Search function to locate list.)
- **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 [WA FOTG](#) 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](#)
- **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. [WA FOTG](#)
- 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](#)



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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. [WA FOTG](#)
- **WSU Forage Testing .** [WSU - Animal Sciences How to sample forages for testing](#)
- **Forage Testing - WSU Laboratory Service and Prices.** <https://environment.wsu.edu/Laboratory-Services-Prices>
- 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](#)
- Idaho Forage Handbook (third edition) BUL0547, January 2005. A comprehensive information source for anyone who grows forage in Idaho or neighboring states. <https://www.uidaho.edu/extension/publications/publication-detail?id=bul0547>