



**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



## WASHINGTON SUPPLEMENT TO CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

## CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

### Practice 528 (Prescribed Grazing) References

- 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 Sites and Forage Suitability Groups** 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. <https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/#/state/WA/documents>
- Pasture Technical Note No. 105. **The Western Oregon and Washington Pasture Calendar**, A Pacific Northwest Extension Publication PNW 699. Oregon State University, University of Idaho, Washington State University. <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/catalog/files/project/pdf/pnw699.pdf>
- 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 usefull worksheets for developing grazing plans. Location: Section 4/Conservation Practice Standards & Support Documents/Prescribed Grazing (528) folder. <https://efotg.sc.gov.usda.gov/#/state/WA/documents>

**Pasture and Hay** (pasture) species, with seeding rates, for **Western Washington** can be found in the Extension Publication **EB1870, Pasture and Hayland Renovation** for Western Washington and Oregon. Also provides guidance on site preparation, seeding and when livestock grazing can resume.

[EB1870, Pasture and Hayland Renovation for Western WA](#)

- **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.

- **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>