



**CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY**

**E528M**

**CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM**

**Grazing management that protects sensitive areas from gully erosion**

**Conservation Practice 528: Prescribed Grazing**

**APPLICABLE LAND USE: Pasture, Range**

**RESOURCE CONCERN: Soil**

**ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN: 1 year**

**Enhancement Description**

Grazing management employed will provide vegetative cover and density needed in the watershed in order to protect sensitive areas such as sinkholes, streams, highly erodible areas, or locations that cannot tolerate plant defoliation.

**Criteria**

- Must follow a grazing written plan matching the forage quantity and quality produced with the grazing and/or browsing demand by livestock and wildlife.
- 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.
- Enhance diversity of rangeland 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 an erosion control planning process that includes:
  - Clear objectives,
  - A resource inventory of structural improvements, existing resource conditions, and forage.

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- A monitoring plan
- A contingency plan
- Minimize concentrated livestock areas to enhance nutrient distribution and improve or maintain ground cover.
- Minimize deposition or flow of animal wastes into water bodies or sinkholes,
- Minimize animal impacts on stream bank or shoreline stability,
- Maintain adequate ground cover and plant density to maintain or improve infiltration capacity and reduce runoff, and
- Maintain 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.



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### Documentation and Implementation Requirements

#### Participant will:

- Prior to implementation, obtain a written grazing plan with guidelines and recommendations for matching the forage quantity and quality produced with the grazing and/or browsing demand. Plan will include a contingency plan for potential events that trigger adverse results, such as concentrated flow and gully erosion.
- Prior to implementation, develop a map delineating potential sensitive areas to be protected.
- During implementation, keep livestock herd management records during seasonally important periods of soil erosion potential.
- During implementation, keep grazing utilization records for key grazing areas that accommodate the criteria above, indicating the protective nature of the grazing system to the sensitive areas.
- 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.

#### 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.
- Prior to implementation, as needed, assist participant with the development of map delineating potential sensitive areas to be protected.



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- Prior to implementation, verify a grazing plan has been developed, which includes written objectives.
- After implementation, verify implementation of the written grazing plan, by reviewing plan and records and utilization records kept during kept during enhancement implementation.
- After implementation, verify the protection and condition of the sensitive areas.

**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>