



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Grazing Management System

Grazing Management Plan

A site specific conservation plan developed for a client that addresses one or more resource concerns on land where grazing related activities or practices will be planned and applied.

What is a resource concern?

A resource concern is an expected degradation of the soil, water, air, plant, or animal resource base to an extent that the sustainability or intended use of the resource is impaired.



The NRCS is dedicated to minimizing negative impacts on our natural resources.

We provide America's farmers and ranchers with technical and financial assistance to voluntarily put conservation on the ground to help the environment and agricultural operations.

There are many benefits to implementing a grazing management system. Benefits of good grazing land management include better air quality, improved water quality, improved wildlife habitats, and a quality recreational experience. There are various practices that can be implemented. They include but are not limited to:

- Brush Management
- Herbaceous Weed Control
- Fencing
- Forage Harvest Management
- Forage and Biomass Planting
- Prescribed Grazing
- Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment
- Range Planting

Contact your local office to learn more or be directed to an NRCS planner who can evaluate your land and start your grazing management plan. Protect and enhance the resources that support your operation.



What is it?

What does it do?

Brush Management

The management or removal of woody (non-herbaceous or succulent) plants including those that are invasive and noxious.



- Creates the desired plant community consistent with the ecological site
- Restores desired vegetative cover to protect soils, improve water quality or enhance stream flow
- Maintains fish and wildlife habitat
- Improves forage quality and quantity
- Manages fuel loads to achieve desired conditions

Herbaceous Weed Control

The removal or control of herbaceous weeds including invasive, noxious and prohibited plants.



- Enhances quantity, and quality of forage and browse
- Creates and restores desired plant communities and wildlife habitats
- Protects soils and controls erosion
- Reduces fire hazards and improves air quality

Fencing

A constructed barrier that controls the movement of animals and people.



- Reduces erosion and improves water quality
- Facilitates handling, movement, and feeding of livestock in the pasture environment
- Protects sensitive environmental areas and the safety of people, livestock, and wildlife
- Improves distribution and timing of livestock grazing

Forage Harvest Management

The timely cutting and removal of forages from the field such as hay, green-chop or ensilage.



- Optimizes yield and quality of forage
- Promotes vigorous plant re-growth
- Manages desired species composition
- Uses forage plant biomass as a soil nutrient uptake tool
- Controls insects, diseases and weeds
- Improves wildlife habitat

Forage and Biomass Planting

Establishing plants suitable for pasture, hay, or biomass production.



- Improves livestock nutrition/health
- Increases forage supply during periods of low forage production
- Improves soil and water quality
- Produces feedstock for biofuel or energy production

Prescribed Grazing

Managing the harvest of vegetation with grazing and/or browsing animals.



- Increases desired species of plant communities
- Maintains quantity and quality of forage grazing
- Improves water quality, quantity and riparian areas
- Reduces soil erosion
- Improves the quantity and quality of food and cover for wildlife
- Manages fuel loads

Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment

Modifying physical soil and/or plant conditions with mechanical tools.



- Fractures compacted soil layers and improves soil permeability
- Reduces water runoff and increases infiltration
- Breaks up root-bound conditions and thatch to increase plant vigor
- Renovates plant community for greater productivity and yield

Range Planting

Establishment of adapted perennial or self-sustaining vegetation.



- Restores a plant community
- Provides/improves forage, browse or cover for livestock and wildlife
- Reduces erosion by wind and water
- Improves water quality and quantity
- Increases carbon sequestration