



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY
E528119Z

CONSERVATION
STEWARDSHIP
PROGRAM

Grazing management that protects sensitive areas-ground water from nutrients

Conservation Practice 528: Prescribed Grazing

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Pasture, Range

RESOURCE CONCERN ADDRESSED: Water Quality Degradation

PRACTICE 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 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 a planning process that includes:
 - Clear objectives,
 - A resource inventory with ecological site description or reference sheet and structural improvements and existing resource conditions,
 - Grazing plan, and
 - A contingency plan.



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- 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.
- 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.

Documentation Requirements

- Livestock herd management records.
- Grazing intensity records for key grazing areas that accommodate the criteria above, indicating the protective nature of the grazing system to the sensitive areas.
- A map delineating sensitive areas to be protected.