



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY
E528126Z

CONSERVATION
STEWARDSHIP
PROGRAM

Prescribed grazing on pastureland that maintains/improves riparian and watershed function through minimizing sediment in surface water

Conservation Practice 528: Prescribed Grazing

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Pasture

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 reduce runoff, improve infiltration, provide for above ground water filtration and sustain applicable fish and wildlife species habitat.

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.
- Adjust the intensity, frequency, timing and duration of grazing and/or browsing of pastures in proximity to streams as needed and 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 and riparian/floodplain plant community structure and functions.
- Manage grazing and/or browsing so as to provide adequate ground cover and plant density to maintain or improve infiltration capacity and reduce runoff.
- Provide adequate ground cover and plant density to maintain or improve filtering capacity of the vegetation by moving livestock appropriately. Generally, riparian pastures and those with overland flow directly into streams will need to be smaller than other pastures in the grazing system in order to have shorter grazing periods and longer deferment periods than other pastures in the grazing system.
- Graze and rest pastures appropriately and with the right numbers, class, and kind of livestock so as to maintain adequate riparian community structure and function to sustain associated riparian, wetland, floodplain and stream species.

Documentation Requirements

- Livestock herd management records.
- Grazing intensity records for key grazing areas that accommodate the criteria above.
- A map delineating the location of the riparian area or watershed drainage locations improved or maintained by this management.