



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY
E528132Z3

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PROGRAM

Improved grazing management for plant productivity and health through monitoring activities

Conservation Practice 528: Prescribed Grazing

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Range

RESOURCE CONCERN ADDRESSED: Degraded Plant Condition

PRACTICE LIFE SPAN: 1 year

Enhancement Description

Three predominant key grazing areas are evaluated utilizing the Rangeland Health Assessment protocols to determine how well the ecological processes of the site(s) are functioning. Departure from reference categories will be determined, justified, and ratings described for soil and site stability, hydrologic function, and biotic integrity. Utilizing knowledge learned from this as a part of the ranch resource assessment, a Certified Range Management Consultant, Certified Professional in Range Management, NRCS Technical Service Provider approved for CAP 110, or a non-affiliated consultant with a bachelor or higher level degree in range science or other closely-related plant science discipline and a minimum of five years' experience in rangeland conservation planning, monitoring, and consulting regarding use of rangeland improvement practices, will provide recommendations or follow-up evaluations toward mitigating some of the degradation risks that are initially identified.

Criteria

- A written plan for matching the forage quantity and quality produced with the grazing and/or browsing demand will be followed.
- Maintain 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:



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- Clear objectives,
- A resource inventory with ecological site description or reference sheet and structural improvements and existing resource conditions,
- Grazing plan, and
- All potential contingency plans.
- 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.
- Secure the services of an experienced, knowledgeable Certified Range Management Consultant, Certified Professional in Range Management, NRCS Technical Service Provider approved for CAP 110, or a non-affiliated consultant with a bachelor or higher level degree in range science or other closely-related plant science discipline and a minimum of five years' experience in rangeland conservation planning, monitoring, and consulting regarding use of rangeland improvement practices to select monitoring sites needed (three are required for this enhancement activity), assess rangeland health at these locations, provide all measured data collected, and assist in determining any areas that are potentially at risk of degradation.
- Consider site vulnerability as determined by the rangeland health assessment when planning out future monitoring activities toward the goal of assessing range trend and management needs to secure long-term, desirable range trend.

Documentation Requirements

- Ecological Site Description is provided or Reference Sheet is completed, and Rangeland Health Evaluation Sheet is completed per Technical Reference 1734-6 by a Certified Range Management Consultant, Certified Professional in Range Management, NRCS Technical Service Provider approved for CAP 110, or a non-affiliated consultant with a bachelor or higher level degree in range science or other closely-related plant science discipline and a minimum of five years' experience in rangeland conservation planning, monitoring, and consulting regarding use of rangeland improvement practices, and any recommendations or follow-up evaluations toward mitigating some of the degradation risks that are initially identified.



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