



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY
E528133Z2

CONSERVATION
STEWARDSHIP
PROGRAM

Grazing management for improving quantity and quality of plant structure and composition for wildlife

Conservation Practice 528: Prescribed Grazing

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Pasture; Range; Associated Ag Land

RESOURCE CONCERN ADDRESSED: Degraded Plant Condition

PRACTICE LIFE SPAN: 1 year

Enhancement Description

Managing the harvest of vegetation with grazing and/or browsing animals for the purpose of improving or maintaining the structure and composition of the plant community that is available for wildlife.

Criteria

- A written plan for matching the forage quantity and quality produced with the grazing and/or browsing demand will be followed.
- Removal of herbage will be in accordance with site production limitations, rate of plant growth, the physiological needs of forage plants, and the nutritional needs of the animals.
- Deferment (non-grazing period less than one year) and/or rest (non-grazing period equal or greater than one year) will be planned for critical periods of plant needs (such as post-planting or renovation, severe drought, etc.).
- Manage grazing and/or browsing animals to maintain adequate cover on sensitive areas (such as riparian areas, wetlands, habitats of concern, karst areas, etc.)
- Manage livestock movements based on rate of plant growth, available forage, and allowable utilization target. Develop and follow contingency plans to deal with episodic disturbance events.



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- The specie(s) of concern will be identified in the objectives of the prescribed grazing plan.
- Plan the intensity, frequency, timing and duration of grazing and/or browsing to provide for the development and maintenance of the plant structure, density and diversity needed for the desired fish and wildlife species of concern.
- Manage the afore-mentioned aspects of grazing events so as to maintain a minimum score of 0.60 when evaluated with the state NRCS Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG).

Documentation Requirements

- Pasture/herd in/out records.
- Forage utilization jobsheet (528-Prescribed Grazing) annually certified by NRCS.
- WHEG evaluation before implementation and after implementation of this enhancement. Minimum score after implementation is to be 0.60 or greater.