



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY
E528136Z2

CONSERVATION
STEWARDSHIP
PROGRAM

Incorporating wildlife refuge areas in contingency plans for wildlife food

Conservation Practice 528: Prescribed Grazing

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Range

RESOURCE CONCERN ADDRESSED: Fish & Wildlife Inadequate Habitat

PRACTICE LIFE SPAN: 1 year

Enhancement Description

A prescribed grazing plan that includes 18 month (or longer) deferment of a pasture that consists of native grasses and/or legumes and/or perennial forbs for the purpose of meeting the needs for drought/disaster contingency plans that will also provide wildlife habitat for a period of time.

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.
- Identify species of concern in the objectives of the prescribed grazing plan.
- An area that constitutes at least 15% of the enrolled acreage (or a minimum of ten acres, whichever is larger) that is predominantly native grasses and/or legumes and/or perennial forbs will be deferred from any and all harvest or prescribed burning for a period of 18 months or longer. The deferment area must be a pasture (or located in a pasture) that scores a minimum of 0.5 on the state NRCS Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG).
- In the event of the utilization of the wildlife refuge area as a drought/disaster contingency for prescribed grazing during the life of the contract, it must be restored or recovered or another pasture designated and deferred for 18 months following the emergency utilization.

Documentation Requirements

- Written prescribed grazing plan with livestock herd management records for the contract period.
- WHEG evaluation score of 0.5 or greater.
- Map showing the location of, and records indicating the maintenance of the wildlife refuge area/contingency plan deferment for 18 months during the course of the contract period.