



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY
E338134Z

CONSERVATION
STEWARDSHIP
PROGRAM

Strategically planned, patch burning for grazing distribution and wildlife habitat (undesirable plant pressure)

Conservation Practice 338: Prescribed Burning

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Range

RESOURCE CONCERN ADDRESSED: Degraded Plant Condition

PRACTICE LIFE SPAN: 1 year

Enhancement Description

Patch burn grazing is the application of prescribed fires on portions of an identified grazing unit at different times of the year. Patch burn grazing allows grazing animals to select where they want to graze creating a mosaic of vegetation structures and diversity that will maintain or enhance the wildlife habitat desired for the identified wildlife species and maintain livestock production.

Criteria

Each burn event will cover 10% to 50% of any pasture’s acreage. Subsequent individual burn events will occur during different seasons (as defined by the state NRCS office), whether conducted during the same year or a subsequent year as the prior burn event.

The following examples are to be used for illustration purposes only:

- Pasture A is burned in March. Another part of Pasture A is burned in August of the same year.
- Pasture A is burned in March. Pasture B is burned in August two years later.
- Pasture A is burned in March. Pasture C is burned in August of the same year.

At least two burn applications will be applied during the contract period.

- Annual application by burning different patches each year or different patches in different seasons in one year is acceptable and desirable for many wildlife species.



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- Prescribed burning will be planned and applied in a manner to meet the habitat requirements for wildlife species of concern as determined by the state's NRCS Wildlife Habitation Evaluation Guide (WHEG).
- Conduct treatments during periods of the year that accommodate reproduction and other life-cycle requirements of target wildlife and pollinator species.
- Evaluate wildlife habitat with the state NRCS Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG) and manage for a WHEG value of 0.75 or greater.
- A written prescribed burn plan for each burn that meets or exceeds NRCS prescribed burning standard and specifications criteria.

Documentation Requirements

- Grazing management plans that clearly identify the wildlife species of concern for the area and stocking rates needed to allow for proper forage utilization.
- Prescribed Burning (CPS 338) state specific, farm specific job sheet.
- Written prescribed burn plan identifying pasture, acres, and dates of prescribed burn
- Map delineating the areas that will be treated and when.
- Grazing records that document stocking rates and duration.
- WHEG evaluation before implementation and after implementation of this enhancement. Minimum score after implementation is to be 0.75 or greater.