



**CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY
E383135Z**

**CONSERVATION
STEWARDSHIP
PROGRAM**

**Grazing-maintained fuel break to
reduce the risk of fire**

Conservation Practice 383: Fuel break

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Forest/Range

RESOURCE CONCERN ADDRESSED: Degraded Plant Condition

PRACTICE LIFE SPAN: 10 Years

Enhancement Description:

The area has existing fuel break(s) of 30 to 60 feet in width, supporting a mixture of woody sprouts and some herbaceous vegetation. Warm-season perennial vegetation will be established on the fuel breaks, and will be over-seeded with cool-season annual forages in the fall. Grazing will be managed on the fuel breaks to remove or modify the fine fuel vegetation, thus reducing the risk of fire spread from ground fires. Ground cover will be maintained to control soil erosion and facilitate prescribed burning.

Criteria:

States will apply general criteria from the NRCS National Conservation Practice Standard (CPS) 383 as listed below, and additional criteria as required by the NRCS State Office.

- A fuel break has been constructed around the property or around the targeted site to minimize the risk of damaging wildfires and to enhance the ability to conduct prescribed burning.
- Fuel breaks will be planted with desirable warm-season perennial vegetation as prescribed by local grazing land specialists. Over-seeding with desirable cool season annual forages will take place in the fall.
- The vegetation on the fuel break will be managed using a prescribed grazing plan. Animal stocking levels and rotation periods are designed to manage vegetation and avoid harm to sensitive plants.



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- Manage grasses and forbs to minimize fine fuels.
- If trees or shrubs are not sufficiently controlled through grazing management, single-tree treatment with saws or chemicals will be applied.
- If herbicides are used, refer to criteria in NRCS Conservation Practice Standard (CPS) Integrated Pest Management (Code 595).

Documentation Requirements:

- Evidence that fuel breaks are installed on the property.
- A prescribed grazing plan is in place.
- Documentation describing the vegetation established on the fuel break.
- Documentation or notes on timing of grazing on the fuel break.
- If prescribed burning is used, a prescribed burn plan is prepared and followed along with applicable state, local and federal laws. Documentation will include a completed post-burn evaluation as required within the burn plan.
- Additional documentation as required by NRCS State Office.