



**CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY**

**E528118Z2 - Colorado**

**CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM**

**Grazing management that protects sensitive areas-surface water from nutrients**

**Conservation Practice 528: Prescribed Grazing**

**APPLICABLE LAND USE: Range**

**RESOURCE CONCERN ADDRESSED: Water Quality Degradation**

**ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN: 1 year**

**Enhancement Description**

Grazing management employed will provide cover and density needed in the watershed in order to protect sensitive areas such as sinkholes, streams, highly erodible areas, or locations with plants that cannot tolerate defoliation.

**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:
  - o Clear objectives,
  - o A resource inventory with ecological site description or reference sheet and structural improvements and existing resource conditions,
  - o Grazing plan, and



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- A contingency plan.
- 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.
- Minimize concentrated livestock areas to enhance nutrient distribution and improve or maintain ground cover.
- Plan the intensity, frequency, timing and duration of grazing and/or browsing that will:
  - Minimize deposition or flow of animal wastes into water bodies or sinkholes,
  - Minimize animal impacts on stream bank or shoreline stability,
  - Provide adequate ground cover and plant density to maintain or improve infiltration capacity and reduce runoff, and
  - Provide adequate ground cover and plant density to maintain or improve filtering capacity of the vegetation.
- Livestock feeding and watering facilities will be located and designed/installed in a manner to improve livestock distribution and avoid overland flow to sensitive areas.



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### Documentation and Implementation Requirements

Participant will:

- Prior to implementation, obtain a written grazing plan that identifies the following:
  - Goals and objectives of the plan
  - Forage/Animal Balance
  - A grazing plan narrative describing the basis for when livestock movement or rotation will occur.
  - Contingency plans for forage shortfalls.
  - Monitoring locations, key species, and monitoring techniques.
  - Map identifying all permanent pastures, water sources, and any riparian area or sensitive area improved or maintained by this management.
- Prior to implementation, a copy of the completed grazing plan will be submitted to NRCS for review and approval.
- During implementation, consult with NRCS or a qualified grazing professional to adjust and adapt the grazing plan to current conditions. Changes to the grazing plan will be documented in writing.
- After implementation, make all records available for review by NRCS to verify implementation of the enhancement.

NRCS will:

- Prior to implementation, assist the participant with development of a grazing plan if requested to do so. If NRCS does not assist with plan development, the plan will be reviewed by NRCS for approval prior to implementation.
- During implementation, as requested, assist the participant with adapting the grazing strategy and plan to current conditions.



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- After implementation, review written grazing records provided by the participant to determine if the grazing plan was adequately followed to protect or enhance riparian areas, wetland areas, or other sensitive areas.

**NRCS Documentation Review:**

I have reviewed all required participant documentation and have determined the participant has implemented the enhancement and met all criteria and requirements.

Participant Name \_\_\_\_\_ Contract Number \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Applied \_\_\_\_\_ Fiscal Year Completed \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
NRCS Technical Adequacy Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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