

Animal Enhancement Activity – ANM62 – Deferred Grazing to improve Lesser Prairie-chicken (LPC) habitat



Enhancement Description

Implement a grazing management plan that will include year-long deferments to insure that adequate standing residue is available to meet the nesting and brood rearing cover requirements for lesser prairie-chickens (LPC).

Land Use Applicability

Pastureland, Rangeland

Benefits

LPC habitat, range condition and soil health will be greatly improved through a process of rotational deferment. Including a year-long deferment into a planned grazing system will enhance habitat, range and soil conditions and create cover heterogeneity across the landscape. Cover for LPC nesting and brood-rearing, the most common limiting factor, will become more available with some certainty.

Conditions Where Enhancement Applies

This enhancement applies to all pasture and range grazing lands where at least 66 percent of the grazing units are modeled LEPC Crucial Habitat categories 1- 3 according to the Southern Great Plains Assessment Tool (CHAT) <http://kars.ku.edu/maps/sgpchat/>.

Criteria

- 1) Defer 33 percent of the grazing land used for grazing from April 1 – March 31 of each year.
- 2) Deferment is on a three year rotation
 - a) The same pasture or acres shall not be deferred twice in any 3 year period.
- 3) Develop and implement a written grazing management plan that:
 - a) Identifies LPC management objectives for grazing land,
 - b) Identifies location and number of acres to be deferred each year,
 - c) Identifies method of deferment (i.e., fence or restricted water access),

Note: When utilizing fence be aware of conservation measures identified in the Biological Opinion (referenced in “f” below)

- d) Includes a schedule for the year of deferment, and
- e) Is developed in accordance with NRCS practice standard (528) Prescribed Grazing to ensure that stocking rate is in balance with forage supply on grazed acres.
- 4) This enhancement will be implemented in accordance with all Conservation Measures in the Biological Opinion for the Lesser Prairie Chicken. A copy of the Biological Opinion is



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available online at “LPCI website link”.

Adoption Requirements

This enhancement is considered adopted when a grazing management plan has been written and one-third of the grazing land is deferred during April 1 – March 31 of each year.

Documentation Requirements

1. A schedule of grazing activities documenting that grazing was deferred on 33 percent of the grazing acres, including the number of grazing animals
2. A written grazing plan as described in criteria “e” above and actual use records
3. A map showing the 33 percent of the acreage that were deferred from grazing
4. Picture(s) of residual grass cover in deferred acres.

References

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Lyons, R.K. and B.D. Wright. 2003. Using Livestock to Manage Wildlife Habitat.

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Nistler, C. M., J. Boren and D. Rollins. 2006. Proceedings – Symposia: Prescribed Livestock Grazing to Enhance Wildlife Habitat. 112 pages. Society for Range Management.

Undersander, D., S. Temple and J. Bartlet and L. Paine. 2000. Grassland Birds: Fostering Habitats using Rotational Grazing. University of Wisconsin-Extension Publication A3715.

USDA-NRCS. 2010. Conservation Practice Standard: Prescribed Grazing-Code 528.

USFWS. 2014. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Biological Opinion for the Natural Resources Conservation Service’s Lesser Prairie-Chicken Initiative. 160pp.