



**MONTANA SUPPLEMENT TO  
CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY  
E528136Z2**

**CONSERVATION  
STEWARDSHIP  
PROGRAM**

**Incorporating wildlife refuge areas in contingency plans for wildlife  
Food**

**Montana Clarification**

Rangeland will be managed under a rest rotation grazing system to create refuge areas for a species of concern, improve rangeland health, and provide a source of forage for drought or contingency plan use. Each year, rested fields must constitute at least 15% of the enrolled rangeland acreage and rest periods must be at a minimum of 18 months long (two growing seasons). Rested acres must be rotated within the grazing plan.

The grazing contingency plan can include use of the rested fields, but the Feed and Forage Balance worksheet must show that at conservative stocking levels the operation can support the livestock's forage requirements without use of the rested fields under normal circumstances. If a rested field is used, NRCS will certify that use of the rested field was necessary and that the ranch is continuing to follow the rest rotation system and ranch contingency plan.

Species of concern are those identified by Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks and the Natural Heritage Program.

This enhancement will be contracted for three years in order to address identified resource concern(s).

**Documentation Requirements:**

- Producer/Ranch Objectives
- A Resource inventory with:
  - Ecological Site Descriptions or Rangeland Health Reference Sheets
  - Map of structural improvements (for example, fences and livestock water)
  - Map or narrative of existing resource conditions
- A written prescribed grazing plan that meets Montana NRCS Prescribed Grazing (528) Standards and Specifications and includes:
  - Map of the planned grazing rotation and acres to be rested each year.
  - A Forage, Roughage, and Livestock Balance Sheet (MT-CPA-18B, or equivalent) showing that available feed and forage are balanced with livestock demands.
  - A WHEG complete with benchmark and planned scores. Planned score must be .5 or higher.
  - A Contingency Plan, and



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- A Monitoring Plan in accordance with Montana Prescribed Grazing (528) Standards and Specifications and documentation of installed permanent Monitoring Site(s).
- Grazing Records that show that the applied grazing management met Montana Prescribed Grazing (528) Standards and Specifications and this enhancement. Include map of rested areas.
- Monitoring Data collected from the installed site(s) as per the Monitoring Plan, and, if apparent, how the monitoring data will or was used to adjust the grazing plan in order to meet the identified objectives.

### **Montana Specifications and References:**

NRCS [Montana Standard, Specification, and Job Sheet 528](#) at: Montana, County, Section IV, Conservation Practices folder, Prescribed Grazing folder.

Montana Soil Survey or [Web Soil Survey](#)

[Ecological Site Descriptions](#) and/or Range Health Reference Sheets (if available) or Consult the NRCS Area Rangeland Management Specialist if an Ecological Site Description is not available.

Natural Heritage Program – [Species of Concern Lists](#)

[Montana NRCS WHEG](#) (Biology Technical Note MT-19)

The following [Range and Pasture forms](#) on MT NRCS website:

- Forage, Roughage, and Livestock Balance Worksheet (MT-ECS-18B)
- Rangeland Monitoring Worksheet (MT-ECS-118)
- Monitoring Study Location and Documentation Worksheet (MT-ECS-118A)
- Rangeland Utilization Estimates (MT-ESC-119)

### **Incompatible Enhancements**

All other 528 Associated Enhancements

### **Applicable Amount**

Applies to grazed rangeland



# CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

I acknowledge that I have read and understand all that is required for the implementation of this CSP Enhancement Activity.

\_\_\_\_\_   
Contract participant

\_\_\_\_   
Date