

Animal Enhancement Activity – ANM09 – Grazing management to improve wildlife habitat



Enhancement Description

Implement a grazing management plan that will allow for rest periods to provide adequate residue for nesting and fawning cover and increase diversity of vegetation structure to benefit a variety of wildlife species.

Land Use Applicability

Pasture, Range, Forest

Benefits

Wildlife habitat can be greatly improved through proper grazing management. Proper grazing management is essential to healthy wildlife populations because plants supply many species of birds and animals with food and cover for nesting, fawning, loafing, roosting, travel and escape from predators and adverse weather. These include song birds, quail, turkey, pheasants, deer, and rabbits to name just a few. Some species of ground nesting grassland birds are in decline and others have become uncommon. Healthy stands of forage can be managed to provide habitat for a wide array of wildlife.

Conditions Where Enhancement Applies

This enhancement applies to all pasture (including silvopasture), range or forest land use acres.

Criteria

1. Defer 33% of the grazing land on the land use from grazing during the nesting/fawning season each year.
2. Develop and implement a written grazing management plan that identifies the following:
 - a. wildlife management objectives for grazing land,
 - b. targeted wildlife species,
 - c. nesting or fawning dates,
 - d. the location and number of acres to be deferred each year,
 - e. a schedule for the year of deferment, and
 - f. stocking rates that will allow proper forage utilization while maintaining proper plant heights that provide food and shelter for wildlife and maintain plant health.

Additional criteria for silvopasture

1. Inventory the habitat condition of the silvopasture, the farm, and adjoining farms to determine habitat needs for the targeted wildlife.
2. Use one or more of the following methods to improve habitat for the targeted species.
 - a. Establish additional understory vegetation (e.g., native grass, forbs and shrubs) that will improve habitat conditions for the targeted species.



- b. Establish clusters of other tree species if needed as a food source (e.g., oaks for mast).
- c. Manage tree canopy to achieve the desired understory plant community.
- d. Leave some dead or dying trees as snags if cavity nesting wildlife is targeted.
- e. Remove trees or invasive plants that do not provide the desired habitat.
- f. Replace removed trees by planting new trees or shrubs that will provide the desired habitat.
- g. Thin less desirable trees to encourage the growth of trees that will provide the desired wildlife habitat.

Adoption Requirements

This enhancement is considered adopted when a grazing management plan targeting selected wildlife species has been written and one-third of the grazing land is avoided during the nesting/fawning season each year as prescribed.

Documentation Requirements

1. A schedule of when grazing activities occurred documenting that grazing activities were deferred on a minimum of 33% of the available acreage.
2. A map showing the acreage where these activities are applied.

References

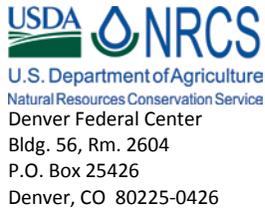
Holechek J. L., R. Valdez, S.D. Schemnitz, R.D. Pieper and C.A. Davis. 1982. Wildlife Society Bulletin Vol. 10, No. 3: 204-210.

Lyons, R.K. and B.D. Wright. 2003. Using Livestock to Manage Wildlife Habitat. Available electronically from <http://hdl.handle.net/1969.1/87188>

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. Bartlett 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.



Colorado Supplement

to

National CSP 2013 Enhancement Activity Job Sheet: ANMO9

Grazing management to improve wildlife habitat

Criterion #2

Identify the targeted wildlife species and management objectives in a Colorado [Upland and Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management 644/645 - Targeted Species Job Sheet](#).

Fawning/nesting dates: March 15 – July 15.

Complete the following Prescribed Grazing worksheets to plan proper forage utilization.

Colorado [Prescribed Grazing 528 Inventory Worksheet](#)

Colorado [Prescribed Grazing 528 Livestock Forage and Feed Worksheet](#)

Colorado [Prescribed Grazing 528 Schedule Worksheet](#)

Additional Documentation Requirements

Provide copies of the following to certify practice application.

Upland and Wetland Wildlife Habitat 644/645 Targeted Species Job Sheet

Prescribed Grazing 528 Inventory Worksheet

Prescribed Grazing 528 Livestock Forage and Feed Worksheet

Prescribed Grazing 528 Schedule Worksheet