



528 – Prescribed Grazing Conservation Practice Job Sheet

528 OR-JS

Natural Resources Conservation Service, Oregon

September 2007

Client: _____



NRCS Photo

Definition

Manage the controlled harvest of vegetation with grazing animals.

Purposes

This practice may be applied as part of a conservation management system to accomplish one or more of the following purposes.

- Improve or maintain desired species composition and vigor of plant communities.
- Improve or maintain quantity and quality of forage for grazing and browsing animals' health and productivity.
- Improve or maintain surface and/or subsurface water quality and quantity.
- Improve or maintain riparian and watershed function.
- Reduce accelerated soil erosion, and maintain or improve soil condition.
- Improve or maintain the quantity and quality of food and/or cover available for wildlife.
- Manage fine fuel loads to achieve desired conditions.

Where Used

This practice applies to all lands where grazing animals are managed.

Conservation Management System

Prescribed Grazing is the key component of a conservation management system for grazinglands. A well-planned grazing system is the key to maintaining or improving productivity, health, vigor, and ecological condition. Other facilitating and accelerating practices may be utilized in the system to address natural resource concerns identified

during the conservation planning process and to ensure the success of the grazing prescription.

Plans and Specifications

The prescribed grazing plan shall conform to all applicable federal, state, and local laws. Seek measures to avoid adverse affects to endangered, threatened, and candidate species and their habitats. Prepare a prescribed grazing plan for all management units where grazing will occur according to state standards and specifications.

The prescribed grazing plan will include:

- Goals and Objectives clearly stated.
- Resource Inventory (i.e., resource condition/concern, ecological site(s), existing structures, facilities, soil).
- Analysis of Resource Conditions identifying probable causes and potential enhancements/remedies.
- Forage Inventory of the expected forage quality, quantity and species of forage in each management unit(s) during the grazing period.
- Forage-Animal Balance developed as a sustainable grazing plan for the management units, which ensure forage produced or available meets forage demand of livestock and/or wildlife of concern.
- Grazing Plan developed for livestock that identifies periods of grazing, rest, and other treatment activities for each management unit.
- Contingency plan developed that details potential problems (i.e., severe drought, flooding) and serves as a guide for adjusting the grazing prescription to ensure resource management and economic feasibility without resource degradation.
- Monitoring plan developed with appropriate records to assess whether the grazing strategy is meeting objectives. Identify the key areas and key plants that the manager should evaluate in making grazing management decisions.

Operation and Maintenance

Operation: Prescribed Grazing will be applied on a continuing basis throughout the occupation period of all grazing units. Adjustments will be made as needed to ensure that the goals and objectives of the prescribed grazing strategy are met.

Maintenance: Monitoring data and grazing records will be used on a regular basis within the prescribed grazing plan to ensure that objectives are being met. All facilitating practices (i.e., fence, watering facilities, etc.) that are needed to effect adequate grazing distribution as planned by this practice standard will be maintained in good working order.

PRESCRIBED GRAZING SPECIFICATION SHEET

Client		Date	
Farm/Tract		Field(s)	
Location		Acres	
Planner		County/SWCD	

Design Approval:

Practice Code No.	Practice	Lead Discipline	Controlling Factor	Units	Job class				
					I	II	III	IV	V
528A	Prescribed Grazing	BCSD Graz Land Spec	Area	Acres	All	All	All	All	All
			Animal Units	AUE	25	100	250	350	All
This practice is classified as Job Class (check one):									

Design Approved by: /s/ _____ Date: _____

Job title: _____

Client's Acknowledgement Statement:

The Client acknowledges that:

- a. They have received a copy of the specification and understand the contents and requirements.
- b. It shall be the responsibility of the client to obtain all necessary permits and/or rights, and to comply with all ordinances and laws pertaining to the application of this practice.

Accepted by: /s/ _____ Date: _____

Certification:

I have completed a review of the information provided by the client (or checked in the field) and certify this practice has been applied.

Certification by: /s/ _____ Date: _____

Job title: _____

Refer to the Following Conservation Practice Specifications [X]			
Use Exclusion 472		Prescribed Burning 338	
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management 645		Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management 644	
Brush Management 314		Critical Area Seeding 342	
Fence 382		Watering Facility 614	
Pipeline 516		Spring Development 574	
Range Planting 550		Other:	

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PRESCRIBED GRAZING SPECIFICATION SHEET

1. Management Objectives:

Balance forage supply with livestock and wildlife demand annually. Increase ecological condition, cover, function, and structure of the plant community.

Additional Narrative:

2. Resource Inventory:

Identify existing resource conditions and concerns, ecological sites or forage suitability groups for each management unit. Include opportunities to enhance resource conditions in notes on inventory forms or other appropriate documentation. Locate structural improvements such as fences and water developments on maps and describe their condition and any use limitations (seasonal availability, water quality, water quantity, age, etc.).

Additional Narrative:

3. Forage Supply:

Management Unit (M.U.)	M.U. Acres	M.U. AUMs Available	M.U. Species	Acre/AUM	AUM/Acre
TOTALS					

4. Livestock Demand:

Animal Type	No.	AUE Ea.	Total AUE	Days Grazed	AUMs Needed
TOTALS					

5. Balance:

Total AUMs Available	Total AUMs Needed	Forage Balance

6. Prescribed Grazing System

Grazing is designed to use 25% (Harvest Efficiency) of annual air-dry growth on native rangelands, up to 35% on seeded range or pastures, and from 10% to 35% on crop and hay aftermaths. Allocated forage amounts are not exceeded. Plant communities receive adequate rest before being grazed again. Timing, intensity, frequency, and duration of use are modified as needed to meet vegetation objectives. Specify remaining stubble heights and/or percent utilization as needed (see Monitoring Plan).

See attached grazing schedules and plan for more information.

Additional Narrative:

PRESCRIBED GRAZING SPECIFICATION SHEET

7. Special Considerations:

Provide additional specifications for grazing in unique and/or sensitive areas (riparian areas, critical habitat, grazed woodland, crop aftermaths, supplemental feeding, cultural resource sites, etc.).

Additional Narrative:

8. Wildlife Considerations:

Grazing leaves enough standing forage for resident and transient wildlife use (harvest efficiency for livestock is not exceeded).

Additional Narrative:

9. Threatened & Endangered Species Considerations:

Grazing considers and is integrated with the needs of T&E species.

Additional Narrative:

10. Contingency Plan / Options

Provide for alternative sources of forage and/or roughage during periods of drought, flood, or other occurrence to prevent overuse of plant communities, degradation of ecological condition, or adverse effects to animal health.

Additional Narrative:

11. Monitoring Plan

Maintain photo point(s); take photos at a fixed site annually before and after grazing (see Range Technical Note #9; Photo Plots). Keep actual use records (unit, dates used, number of animals) and analyze results annually as needed (see Grazing Records booklet, or Exhibit 4-19, OR Amendment 1; National Range & Pasture Handbook). If needed, measure utilization or stubble height using methods in NRPH, Oregon Amendment 1, Exhibits 4-14 or 4-17.

Additional Narrative:

12. Additional Specifications:

Additional Narrative: