

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE CONSERVATION PRACTICE DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

PRESCRIBED GRAZING

(Ac.)
CODE 528

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

- A. Conservation Plan Map.
- B. Adequate inventory performed (SD-CPA-40), Conservation Planning Data. In addition, two key management areas will be established, and the following information will be recorded/collected:
 1. Rangeland:
 - a. An estimation or determination of similarity index (use SD-CPA-40, SD-ECS-13, Rangeland Similarity Index/Stocking Rate Determination, or SD-ECS-14, Determination of Similarity Index).
 - b. Conduct assessment Rangeland Health (SD-ECS-11) or Apparent Trend Determination (SD-ECS-12).
 2. Pasture: Complete Pasture Condition Score Sheet (SD-ECS-15). This assessment may be conducted at only one key management area if the pastures all have the same key species, similar production, and similar conditions.
- C. South Dakota (SD) Specification Sheet SD-CPA-39, Forage/Animal Inventory.
- D. SD Specification Sheet Time Control Grazing Worksheet (SD-CPA-15a), Planned Grazing System Schedule (SD-CPA-15b), or Daily Grazing System Scheduler (SD-CPA-15c) for all fields within the conservation management unit.
- E. Monitoring that verifies the intended result of positive or upward trend and/or that demonstrates that the producer's objectives are being met. This will include a record of livestock grazing (SD-CPA-16 or similar can be used) or a record of end-of-grazing season utilization, provided by the producer. Documentation can also be recorded in the assistance notes related to utilization targets or objectives being met. Documentation should be included for all fields within the conservation management unit. If possible, assist the producer in developing a monitoring plan, and utilize other objective-based monitoring protocols (see SD Range Technical Note #8).
- F. Provide Drought Management Plan to the producer (example located in the Appendix to the Prescribed Grazing (528) Conservation Practice Standard). If possible, use the South Dakota Drought Tool and assist the producer in developing a more detailed, individualized Drought Contingency Plan.

PLANNING REQUIREMENTS

"Plan Map" - complete the following:

- If applicable, delineate any significant changes in similarity index or trend (condition breaks).
- Designate land use and delineate all existing and planned improvements (fences, ponds, tanks, etc.).
- Individually delineate and label all ecological sites (rangeland) and forage suitability groups (pasture) or list the ecological sites/forage suitability groups found in each field with the percentage that each site occupies.
- Delineate the location of the key management sites where similarity index, rangeland health, trend, and/or pasture condition score were assessed. This item optional if locations determined using GPS.

SD-CPA-40

- Inventory all pastures within the conservation management unit to include but not limited to: soils, plants, animals (domestic and non-domestic), water resources, and all human management interactions (past and present grazing rotations, stocking rates, husbandry, and supplemental programs).

SD-CPA-39

- Complete all pertinent data on SD-CPA-39 to analyze grazing and/or feed resources.

ANALYSE all of your notes with the producer.

REVIEW forage balance sheet with the producer; discuss any concerns regarding forage surpluses or deficiencies.

PLAN with the producer addressing all identified resource concerns on pertinent grazing lands to include a SD-CPA-15a, SD-CPA-15b, or SD-CPA-15C that meets the producers' goals and objectives.

NOTE: Employees should clip at least one field (one three to five plot transect on the dominant ecological site) per ranch in order to be able to complete the ocular estimations with a reasonable degree of accuracy.

REFERENCES

National Planning Procedures Handbook, 600.11(b) – Definition of a conservation management unit.

High Plains Regional Climate Center (<http://www.hprcc.unl.edu/home.html>).

Drought Management on Range and Pastureland: A Handbook for Nebraska and South Dakota. 1991, Nebraska Cooperative Extension bulletin EC 91-123.