

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS**

PRESCRIBED GRAZING

(Ac.)
CODE 528

Management Intensity I

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

- A. Conservation Plan Map.
- B. Adequate inventory performed (SD-CPA-40).
- C. SD Specification Sheet SD-CPA-39, Feed and Forage Balance Sheet.
- D. SD Specification Sheet SD-CPA-15a and/or SD-CPA-15b, Grazing Management Schedules and Plans (all pastures within the conservation management unit).
- E. SD Specification Sheet SD-CPA-16, Record of Livestock Grazing or similar record system provided by the producer (all pastures within the conservation management unit).
- F. Provide example Drought Management Plan to the producer (example located in the Specification Guide Sheet for this practice).

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.).

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, Feed and Forage Balance Sheet

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

ANALYZE 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 Grazing Schedule (SD-CPA-15b), or Time Control Grazing Sequence (SD-CPA-15a) 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.

Management Intensity II

All items from Management Intensity I Plus:

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

- A. For rangeland - SD Specification Sheets SD-ECS-12, Apparent Trend Determination, or SD-ECS-11, Rangeland Health.
- B. For rangeland - SD Specification Sheets SD-ECS-13, or SD-ECS-14, Determination of Similarity Index (all fields).
- C. For pastureland – SD Specification Sheets SD-ECS-15, Pasture Condition Score Sheet.

PLANNING REQUIREMENTS

INVENTORY on either the “Plan Map” or “Resource Inventory Map” complete the following:

- Individually delineate and label all ecological sites (rangeland) and forage suitability groups (pasture) or list the ecological sites and forage suitability groups found in each field with the percentage that each site occupies.
- Delineate the location of the key management sites where trend, similarity indexes, pasture condition score, and rangeland health were measured.
- For pastureland, indicate the management specie(s) for each field on the plan map.
- For rangeland, determine a similarity index rating (SD-ECS-13 or SD-ECS-14) and a Rangeland Health (SD-ECS-11) or Apparent Trend (SD-ECS-12) determination at a minimum of two key management sites. The interpretive (historic climax) plant community will be used to determine similarity index and trend.
- For pastureland, complete the Pasture Condition Score Sheet (SD-ECS-15) at a minimum of two key management sites UNLESS all pastures have the same key species and are similar in production. Then one key management site will be sufficient.

ANALYSE all of your notes along with the SD-ECS-12 or SD-ECS-11, SD-ECS-13, or SD-ECS-14, and SD-ECS-15 with the producer.

PLAN with the producer addressing all identified resource concerns on pertinent grazing lands (Arc View Map) to include a Grazing Schedule (SD-CPA-15b or Time Control Grazing Sequence (SD-CPA-15a) that meets the producers’ goals and objectives.

PERFORMANCE

FOLLOW-UP with the producer on an annual basis on all identified resource concerns to include utilization rates and grazing rotations. Complete SD-CPA-16, Record of Livestock Grazing and adjust accordingly.

Management Intensity III

All items from Management Intensity I & II Plus:

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

- A. Assist the client to develop and document a Drought Management Plan.
- B. Assist the client to develop a Monitoring Plan which may include data collection such as cage plots, photographs, point intercept cover, production, species composition, weather data and/or utilization data.

PLANNING REQUIREMENTS

COLLECT data as outlined in the monitoring plan developed with the client at a minimum of two key management areas. Establish permanent monitoring points at these key management areas. On small grazing units which are very homogeneous, one point may be acceptable. In order to compare weather data to historical averages, the historical climate data for a climate station nearest the client will need to be assessed. This data is available at the High Plains Regional Climate Center (<http://www.hprcc.unl.edu/home.html>).

ANALYSE data collected as outlined in the monitoring plan to determine if the client's objectives are being met, or if the management is having the desired results.

PLAN with the producer addressing all identified resource concerns on pertinent grazing lands (Arc View Map) to include a client-developed Drought Management Plan based on annual weather records and historical climatic data.

PERFORMANCE

FOLLOW-UP on an annual basis to determine if the Drought Management Plan and the Monitoring Plan are helping to meet the client's objectives.

- Annually complete all data requirements of the monitoring plan.
- Every five years, complete a new Similarity Index rating (SD-ECS-13 or SD-ECS-14), a new Trend Rating (SD-ECS-12), or Rangeland Health Assessment (SD-ECS-11), and a new Pasture Condition Score (SD-ECS-15) at the same location(s) as the original measurements.

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.