

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
INTERIM SPECIFICATION**

**PRESCRIBED GRAZING**

**Expires September 30, 2005**

**CODE 528**

This Interim Specification supplements the December 2003 Colorado Prescribed Grazing (528) Conservation Practice Standard.

**GRAZING PLAN SPECIFICATIONS**

NRCS field offices can develop plans based on minimum stubble height or stocking rates (AUMs), based on staffing and time constraints.

**Timing of Grazing Operations**

- Grazing will not commence until July 16.
- Grazing operations will be suspended on or before November 12.

**Minimum Stubble Height Grazing Plans**

- Minimum grazing starting height will be achieved on CRP fields hayed or grazed the year prior to ensure plant vigor. Once the starting height for the first grazing period is achieved the subsequent grazing periods will begin at the minimum starting height.
- Minimum stubble heights will be maintained for each key forage species or combination of species occurring in the field.
- Minimum stubble heights for each species will be based on the amount of live, above-ground plant material that is required to assure plant health and the desired level of erosion control.
- Stubble height is based on the average height of both grazed and ungrazed key forage species in the field.
- Stubble height and grazing dates will be recorded on the grazing plan, or any acceptable job sheet or form provided to the client. NRCS will maintain a copy of the plan. Stocking Rate (AUM) Grazing Plans
- Calculate stocking rate based on ocular estimates or actual clipping data.
- Maintain adequate stubble height or ground cover to protect soil from erosion and maintain plant health.
- Record stocking rates on the Animal/Forage Balance Sheet or other acceptable job sheet or form. NRCS will maintain a copy of the grazing plan.

**OPERATION and MAINTAINENCE**

Maintain the minimum prescribed stubble heights through the date determined by the FSA State Committee.

CRP cover shall be re-established, at CRP participant's expense, if the cover fails as a result of managed grazing.