

USDA GRAZING LAND MECHANICAL TREATMENT

Conservation Practice Jobsheet

548

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

March 2009

Landowner _____



WHAT IS GRAZING LAND MECHANICAL TREATMENT?

Grazing land mechanical treatment is the process of modifying the physical soil and/or plant conditions with mechanical tools. Examples of tools may include disking, chiseling, ripping, subsoiling, and aeration.

PURPOSE

Grazing land mechanical treatment utilizes mechanical tools to fracture compacted soil layers, reduce water runoff and increase infiltration, break up sod bound conditions and thatch to increase plant vigor, and renovate and stimulate plant communities.

HOW IT HELPS THE LAND

The major roles of grazing land mechanical treatment are to improve soil permeability, reduce water runoff and increase infiltration, increase desirable plant vigor, reduce undesirable plant competition, and improve productivity and yield.

WHERE THE PRACTICE APPLIES

Grazing land mechanical treatment is applicable to pastureland, hayland, rangeland, grazed forest, and native pastures where one or more of the above purposes have been identified as a resource concern.

WHERE TO GET HELP

For assistance in planning some type of grazing land mechanical treatment, contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Service or your local Conservation District office.

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

Grazing land mechanical treatment is recommended as part of a resource management system that addresses all natural resource concerns and the objectives of the landowner or operator. For this practice to be fully effective, prescribe grazing, range planting, pasture and hayland planting, pest management, nutrient management, and other grazing lands practices should be considered.

NRCS, LA
MARCH 2009

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

For the long-term operation and maintenance of grazing land mechanical treatment, the implementation of a good prescribed grazing plan is essential. The practice may need to be repeated if the desired effects of this practice are lost over time.

SPECIFICATIONS

Site-specific requirements and provisions are listed on the specifications sheet. Specifications included in this job sheet are based on guidance contained in the local Field Office Technical Guide.

GRAZING LAND MECHANICAL TREATMENT – SPECIFICATIONS SHEET

Landowner/Cooperator _____

Field Office _____

Plan Number _____ Location _____

Purpose/Objective of the Practice (Check all that apply)

	Fractures compacted soil layers and improve soil permeability
	Reduce water runoff and increase infiltration
	Break up sod bound conditions and thatch to increase plant vigor
	Renovate and stimulate plant community for greater productivity and yield
	Other: _____

Site Information

Field Number (s) _____ Acres _____ Date _____

Soils _____

Signs of Compaction _____

Planned Treatment Type or Method

	Chiseling (Compaction and/or Restrictive Layers Concern)
	Chiseling (Vegetative Composition Concern)
	Subsoiling
	Ripping
	Disking
	Aeration

Specific Equipment Planned for the Type or Method Elected:

Design/Planned Information

Aeration

Average Dept of Treatment _____

Estimated Percent Disturbance _____

Disking

Number of Operations _____

Depth _____

% of Vegetation Destroyed _____

Chiseling/Subsoiling (Vegetative Composition Concern)

Depth _____
Spacing _____
% of Vegetation Destroyed _____

Chiseling/Subsoiling (Compaction and/or Restrictive Layers Concern)

Depth _____
Spacing _____

Deep Ripping

Depth _____
Spacing _____

Livestock Deferment

From _____
To _____

Operation and Maintenance

Implementation of a good prescribed grazing plan is essential for the long-term operation and maintenance of this practice. If the desired effects of this practice are lost over time, the practice may need to be repeated.

Additional Specifications and Notes

Client's Acknowledgement (To be signed after jobsheet completed and before practice installation)

By signing below, I acknowledge that I:

- have reviewed the site specific installation, operation and maintenance requirements in this jobsheet and have an understanding of them;
- will install, operate, and maintain the conservation practice in accordance with the requirements;
- will make no changes to the requirements, without prior written approval of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS);
- will obtain all necessary permits and/or rights, and comply with all ordinances and laws pertaining to the installation, operation, and maintenance of the conservation practice, prior to the start of installation; and
- will assume responsibility for notifying all utilities affected by the installation, operation, and maintenance of the conservation practice.

Signature _____ **Date** _____

Practice Design Certification (To be completed after jobsheet is complete and before practice installation)

By signing below, I certify that:

- the site specific requirements for the installation, operation, and maintenance of the practice on the client's treatment unit, as recorded in this jobsheet, have been prepared in accordance with the 548 Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment Standard and the guidance in the 548 Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment Practice Specification

Signature _____

Date _____

Practice Installation Certification (To be completed after practice installation and check out)

By signing below, I certify that:

- The practice has been installed according to the site specific installation requirements

Signature _____

Date _____

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