

Grazing Management Plan Conservation Activity Plan Code (110) (No.)

1. Definition

A grazing management plan is a site specific conservation plan developed for a client which addresses one or more resource concerns on land where grazing related activities or practices will be planned and applied.

The grazing management plan will:

- a) Meet NRCS quality criteria for soil erosion control, water quality, fish and wildlife, rangeland/pasture/grazed woodland health and productivity, and other identified resource concerns.
- b) Will be developed following the principle provided in Chapter 11 of the National Range and Pasture Handbook.
- c) Comply with federal, state, tribal, and local laws, regulations, and permit requirements.
- c) Meet the client's objectives.

2. Grazing Management Plan Technical Criteria

This section establishes the minimum criteria to be addressed in the development and implementation of grazing management plans.

A. General Criteria

1. National Environment Policy Act (NEPA) Documentation and other Environmental Compliance Documentation (including National Historic Preservation Act, Endangered Species Act, Environmental Justice, Air Quality compliance) —see comments below about using the Resource Concerns and Special Environmental Concerns worksheet (CPA-52) as a checklist. Reasons/justifications for data gaps or planning limitations and biases should be provided in a brief statement here.
2. Cultural Resources and other Resource Concerns and Special Environmental Concerns, extract from State's current CPA-52, Environmental Evaluation Worksheet (see National Environmental Compliance Handbook). CPA-52 includes benchmark conditions for all resource concerns and special environmental concern (e.g. soil, water, air, plants, animals, human (cultural resources, environmental justice, scenic resources and economic and social concerns). This is just a checklist and the level of resolution for inventory of these resource concerns may vary depending upon the nature, size, and intensity of possible positive and negative effects to these resources. If any are not considered, a short explanation for these data gaps should be given here.
3. A Grazing Management Plan shall be developed by NRCS, partners, and certified technical service providers. The specific criteria required for each

type of certification for Technical Service Providers (TSP) is located on the web site (TechReg) at: <http://techreg.usda.gov/>

If specific certifications are not available, a qualified individual or entity must assume liability through a mandated certification statement.

B. Background and site information

1. Landowner information – name, address, operation, size
2. Location and plan map of parcel

C. Identify Client Objectives such as:

1. Forage yield, quality, diversity, and persistence.
2. Meet livestock nutritional needs.
3. Maximize browse, forage and roughage pasture yields.
4. Improve cost efficiency.
5. Maintain or improve wildlife habitat.
6. Maintain or improve water quality
7. Prevent or reduce erosion
8. Others as appropriate

D. Existing Conditions

1. Consult Ecological Site Description as reference condition
2. Vegetative species, diversity, and condition by land use, ecological site and forage suitability group.
3. Animal types, (breed and species including wildlife) and number
4. Acres available
5. Waste handling and storage
6. Watering system
7. Fencing
8. Documentation of existing practices/history/grazing records
9. Current forage and roughage conditions
10. Current Animal demand/forage balance (livestock and wildlife)
11. All Resource concerns (not meeting Quality Criteria)

E. Desired Future Conditions

1. Record Keeping
2. Monitoring Plan
3. O & M for practices
4. Nutrient Management as applicable
5. Fencing
6. Animal Demand / Forage/Roughage Balance

7. Adequate Water Source(s)
8. Plant species composition

F. Grazing Land Planning Documentation

1. Conservation plan map –scale, north arrow, planned and existing boundaries, fields, paddocks, watering systems, fence, land use, appropriate map symbols, identification of forage suitability groups and/or ecological sites by field
2. Grazing distribution and key grazing sites and species
3. Soils map – legend, interpretations, forage suitability index for grazing activities, ecological site descriptions
4. Resource Concerns addressed by the conservation plan
5. Contingency plans for winter, drought, fire, flood mud, mortality, bio-security, etc.
6. Planned Animal demand /forage balance (livestock and wildlife)
7. Conservation plan (record of decisions) (*Utilizing Customer Service Toolkit – Plug-In or MsWord Document*) to address the resource needs for the “Grazing Management Plan”. The record of decisions shall include the planned practice, schedule for implementation, and site specific specifications to apply the conservation practice. The site specific specifications can be on an NRCS Jobsheet available for the conservation practice or in a narrative form for the non-engineering type practices. Planned engineering type practices shall include the conservation practice, schedule of implementation, and identified on the plan map. The plan may include, but are not limited to the conservation practices listed below:

* Essential practices

- Brush Management (314)
 - Fencing (382)*
 - Firebreak (394)
 - Forage Harvest Management (511)
 - Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment (548)
 - Nutrient Management (590)
 - Pasture and Hay Planting (512)
 - Prescribed Grazing (528)*
 - Range Planting (550)
 - Use Exclusion (472)
 - Watering Facility (614)*
8. Additional practices for consideration but not planned. Planning of these practices will be conducted by appropriately certified NRCS or TSP planners.
 - Channel Bank Vegetation (322)
 - Prescribed Burning (338)
 - Critical Area Planting (342)

- Pond (378)
- Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380)
- Silvopasture Establishment (381)
- Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
- Stream Habitat Improvement and Management (395)
- Pipeline (516)
- Heavy Use Area Protection (561)
- Spring Development (574)
- Animal trails and Walkways (575)
- Streambank and Shoreline protection (580)
- Pest Management (595)
- Water Well (642)
- Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (644)
- Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)
- Early Succession Habitat Development (647)
- Wetland restoration (657)
- Wetland Creation (658)
- Wetland Enhancement (659)