



Prescribed Grazing Conservation Practice Job Sheet

ID-528-JS-02

Natural Resources Conservation Service, Idaho

April 2008

Definition

Manage the controlled harvest of vegetation with grazing animals, managed with the intent to achieve a specific objective.

Purposes

This practice may be applied as part of a resource management system to accomplish one or more of the following purposes.

- Improve or maintain desired species composition and vigor of plant communities.
- Improve or maintain quantity and quality of forage for grazing and browsing animals' health and productivity.
- Improve or maintain surface and/or subsurface water quality and quantity.
- Improve or maintain riparian and watershed function.
- Reduce accelerated soil erosion, and maintain or improve soil condition.
- Improve or maintain the quantity and quality of food and/or cover available for wildlife.
- Manage fine fuel loads to achieve desired conditions.

This practice applies to all lands where grazing animals are managed.

Resource Management System

Prescribed Grazing is the key component of a resource management system for grazing lands. A well-planned grazing system is the key to maintaining or improving productivity, health, vigor, and ecological condition. Other facilitating and accelerating practices may be utilized in the system to address natural resource concerns identified during the conservation planning process and to ensure the success of the grazing prescription.

Plans and Specifications

The prescribed grazing plan shall conform to all applicable federal, state, and local laws. Seek measures to avoid adverse affects to endangered, threatened, and candidate species and their habitats. Prepare a prescribed grazing plan for all management units where grazing will occur according to state standards and specifications.

Certification

I certify that I have received and understand the requirements of Conservation Practice Specification 528, Prescribed Grazing, and agree to apply this practice in accordance with a Prescribed Grazing Plan that is provided.

Producer: _____
Date: _____

Conservationist: _____
Date: _____

The prescribed grazing plan will include:

- **Goals and Objectives** clearly stated.
- **Resource Inventory** i.e. resource condition/concern, ecological site(s), existing structures, facilities, soil, animal numbers by type and class.
- **Forage Inventory** of the expected forage quality, quantity and species of forage in each management unit(s) during the grazing period.
- **Analysis of Resource Conditions** identifying probable causes and potential enhancements/remedies.
- **Forage-Animal Balance** developed as a sustainable grazing plan for the management units, which ensure forage produced or available meets forage demand of livestock and/or wildlife of concern.
- **Grazing Plan** developed for livestock that identifies periods of grazing, rest, and other treatment activities for each management unit.
- **Contingency plan** developed that details potential problems (i.e., severe drought, flooding) and serves as a guide for adjusting the grazing prescription to ensure resource management and economic feasibility without resource degradation.
- **Monitoring plan** developed with appropriate records to assess whether the grazing strategy is meeting objectives. Identify the key areas and key plants that the manager should evaluate in making grazing management decisions.

Operation and Maintenance

Operation: Prescribed Grazing will be applied on a continuing basis throughout the occupation period of all grazing units. Adjustments will be made as needed to ensure that the goals and objectives of the prescribed grazing strategy are met.

Maintenance: Monitoring data and grazing records will be used on a regular basis within the prescribed grazing plan to ensure that objectives are being met. All facilitating practices (i.e., fence, watering facilities, etc.) that are needed to effect adequate grazing distribution as planned by this practice standard will be maintained in good working order.