

Background and Site Information:

This segment can be as brief or elaborate as desired but at a minimum should briefly cover topics such as the following:

- General background/history of the ranch
- General Location referencing an attached map
- General description of current management (grazing system, class and type of livestock, stocking levels/rates, supplemental feed programs, etc.)
- Land ownership (Forest Service, BLM, Lease, etc.)

Resource Inventory and Existing Condition:

This segment should document both structural improvements and ecological condition of the pastures.

Structural Improvements: Often structural improvements are best shown in a list or table. A short discussion of general conditions of improvements in this location of the plan might work well when referencing an attachment with a more detailed table.

Ecological Condition: An important and often overlooked portion of Grazing Management plans. Take some extra time for developing this section of inventorying the range. At a minimum the following should be included:

- Ecological Site Descriptions (ESD) and Soils across the ranch with attached maps showing these delineations.
- Range inventories of these sites using Similarity Index transects. If Similarity Index Scores have not been generated correlating current condition to an ESD, then a general discussion of observations should be written down discussing topics such as forage production, utilization, species diversity and plant community trend and condition.

Other items that should be considered for inclusion in this plan include:

- Rangeland Health Assessment
- Trend Data and Interpretation
- Forage Production Summary for carrying capacity
- Feed and Forage Balance worksheet (include livestock and wildlife needs)

Resource Concerns:

This portion should be a general discussion of resource concerns across the ranch. *Note:* A watering trough with a hole in it, in of itself, is not a resource concern. Rather, a concern would be; potential over utilization of forage and excessive trampling of soil in a small area due to poor distribution across

the pasture, or over utilization of forage creating excessive bare ground, leading to active head-cutting on an arroyo etc.

Goals and Objectives:

Goals and objectives can be as simple as to maintain the current operation or can address very specific items. Remember, goals and objectives should be both quantifiable, measurable, and often tie directly back to identify resource concerns. An example might be: Increase forage species diversity across the ranch as to reduce the need to supplement from 5 months of the year to 4 months by year 2018.

Management:

This segment should show the planned management actions designed to consider and address the resource concerns and help meet the identified goals and objectives. Items that are critical for this segment include:

Planned Scheduled Rotation: A rotation plan can be placed in this segment of the plan or a general discussion concerning the grazing system referencing an attachment with the actual rotation (NRCS "Prescribed Grazing Schedule Jobsheet 528(6)" is often used). A method for tracking the actual rotation on a yearly basis should also be written down in this segment.

Monitoring Plan: When developing a monitoring plan it is important to consider the how, why, what, when, and where of monitoring. Different methods are designed to collect different data and should be matched with what data is desirable/useful for the operation. Pictures can be included in this section and are valuable to document changes over time. A map needs to be attached to record monitoring locations.

Contingency Plan or Adaptive Management Considerations: In this portion, discuss potential management actions in the event of drought, heavy winter, market changes etc. Often it is beneficial to think about potential trigger points. An example of a trigger point might be: If utilization rates across a pasture extend above xx% use, I need to consider options for moving livestock into another pasture.

Is this plan a requirement under CSP? If this plan supports a Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) contract, annual documentation covering each enhancement should also be attached, and preferably tabbed by the enhancement number.

Method for Reviewing This Plan: Develop a method for reviewing this plan, annually or bi-annually. Create a document and attach to this plan showing monitoring data, actual pasture usage, stocking rates, etc. and how this information will be used to determine management actions for the upcoming year.

Other items for consideration might include:

- Marketing strategies
- Scheduled maintenance for structural improvements
- Supplemental feed program
- Any other management actions important to your operation

Useful links for this information are:

<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/HomePage.htm>

<http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/treemenuFS.aspx>

NM FOTG Section II 2003 Ecological Site Descriptions

NM FOTG Section II 2003 Ecological Site Descriptions/Rangeland Health Reference Sheets

NM FOTG Section IV Conservation Practices/528 Prescribed Grazing:

-Similarity Index Worksheet 528(1)

-Grazing Lands Inventory Summary Sheet 528(2)

-Livestock Forage and Feed Worksheet 528(3)

-Trend Worksheet 528(4)

-Proper Grazing Use Worksheet 528(5)

-Prescribed Grazing Schedule Job Sheet 528(6)