

# TECHNICAL NOTES

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U.S. Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

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TN – Range – CA-55

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## Understanding Prescribed Grazing (528) – Module I of III

This first module was developed by California State Rangeland Management Specialist, Jon Gustafson in consultation with Staff Forester, Jerry Reioux and assistance from Rangeland Management Specialist Todd Golder.

### Summary

This first module of the training series “Understanding Prescribed Grazing (528)” is a self-paced prerequisite to Modules II and III of the course. The purpose of the module is to help participants become more successful in applying conservation by demystifying conservation practice standards and associated documents as well as the basic parameters of Prescribed Grazing (528). Completion of this first module will provide a firm foundation for pursuing Modules II and III. The module is estimated to take about 2 hours and 20 minutes to complete.

The intent of the training series is for field practitioners to become thoroughly aware of the parameters of the Prescribed Grazing (528) conservation practice and thereby increase the likelihood of success when planning in grazed landscapes.

Users will need access to a printer and Microsoft PowerPoint (2003 SP3 or later). Those wishing to complete the first module by taking a post-test evaluation are strongly encouraged to pursue the two subsequent hosted modules which can be requested through the appropriate Area Office. Trainees can request a post-test from the State Rangeland Management Specialist.

Upon completion of this module the trainee will:

- Know the main differences between conservation practice standards and conservation practice specifications and the importance of the practice requirement sheet
- Be familiar with how standards and specifications are developed and revised
- Be able to differentiate between key practices, facilitating practices and accelerating practices and understand how they relate to one another
- Be able to determine if Prescribed Grazing (528) is the best conservation practice based on the land use, goals and objectives of the plan and resource concerns to be addressed
- Be able to select the appropriate Prescribed Grazing (528) specification to fit the planning needs
- Find more details on each of the planning requirements for Prescribed Grazing as described in the conservation practice standard
- Be well prepared to take Module II of “Understanding Prescribed Grazing”

## Background

NRCS has provided substantial guidance on the implementation of conservation practices through the development first and foremost of conservation practice. It could be said that Prescribed Grazing (528) as it is now, evolved in response to the agency's reduced capacity to fully apply a traditional apprenticeship approach when training employees; prior to 1996, NRCS was working with a conservation practice called Proper Grazing Use (528A) which provided only general guidance thus demanding a broader awareness of institutional knowledge. Now, several iterations later, Prescribed Grazing (528) spells out specific planning guidance closely tied to the art and science of planning within grazed environments, but still based on the principles implied under the old Proper Grazing Use (528A) conservation practice standard.

The three modules of "Understanding Prescribed Grazing (528)" are organized from general parameters to the most specific:

- I. *Basics: Standards and Specifications* – Foundational concepts showing planners how the conservation planning standard framework can support the development of successful conservation plans and explaining the planner's roles and responsibilities in refining state level standards and specifications
- II. *Strategic Application* – Conceptual planning parameters related to Prescribed Grazing (528); the links between the conservation planning process and Prescribed Grazing as a key practice; how to assess what planning intensity is needed; the relationship between the planning parameters and grazing lands science; traps to avoid and tricks to consider while seeking best results
- III. *Getting it (and Keeping It) Together* – Using a spreadsheet designed to help develop site-specific practice requirements in conjunction with the landowner goals and objectives

## Using this Module

Download and save a copy of Understanding\_528\_Module\_I.ppt from Section I of the eFOTG in the Technical Notes section under Range-TechNote-55 Understanding Prescribed Grazing (528) from the California eFOTG, Section I, Technical Notes folder, Range subfolder. After opening, print out a hard copy of the presentation using the Notes Pages option in the print screen. Read the instructions on the first slides and use the printed notes while following the PowerPoint presentation in slide show view.

Following completion of the module, request a copy of a post-test from your State Rangeland Management Specialist.