

Rangeland
Planning Resource Management Systems

Successful resource management on rangeland is the correct application of a combination of practices that will meet the needs of the total range ecosystem – the soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources and the objectives of the landuser.

In planning a Resource Management System (RMS) for rangeland, vegetation management (grazing management) is the foundation on which the RMS is built. Prescribed Grazing is essential to vegetation management. A grazing management plan that balances the forage and feed to the animal numbers, describes the animal movement through the pastures and meets the needs of the plants, animals, soil, water, and air is essential to the formulation of a RMS on rangeland.

All other practices planned on rangeland are either to: (1) facilitate the application of the grazing management plan and are identified as DESIRABLE practices, or, (2) cause or accelerate changes in the rangeland ecosystem and are identified as NEEDED practices. These NEEDED practices are planned when necessary to treat specific resource problems to meet the criteria for managing the soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources.

A RMS include combination of practices that are:

1. ESSENTIAL – Prescribed Grazing and livestock water are essential to successful management of rangeland and are always planned in the RMS.
2. NEEDED – These practices are planned when necessary to cause or accelerate changes in the rangeland ecosystem that cannot be achieved through application of vegetation management (ESSENTIAL) and facilitating (DESIRABLE) practices alone and are required to meet the RMS Quality Criteria.
3. DESIRABLE – These practices facilitate or enhance the vegetative management of rangeland.

An RMS is developed by selecting a combination of the ESSENTIAL, plus the DESIRABLE and/or NEEDED practices whose combined effects will meet the criteria established for each resource (soil, water, air, plants, and animals) and the objectives of the landuser. When multiple land use is an objective, the needs of each use and the effects of each practice must be considered in the selection and application design of each practice to ensure compatibility. The following is a list of practices applicable to rangeland:

ESSENTIAL PRACTICES -

Prescribed Grazing (528A)

NEEDED PRACTICES –

Brush Management (314)
Range Planting (550)
Prescribed Burning (338)
Firebreak (394)
Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment (548)
Critical Area Planting (342)
Diversion (362)
Grade Stabilization Structure (410)
Streambank and Shoreline Protection (580)
Structure for Water Control (587)
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)
Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (644)
Pest Management (595)

DESIRABLE PRACTICES –

Fence (382)
Animal Trails and Walkways (575)
Access Road (560)
Pipeline (516)
Pond¹ (378)
Pond Sealing or Lining (521 A-E)
Spring Development (574)
Watering Facility¹ (614)
WaterWell¹ (642)
Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
Land Clearing (460)

^{1/} one or more practices will be essential when no water exists in newly created pastures