

Guidance Documents

Resource Management System Guide Sheet

For: IRRIGATED HAYLAND

STATE: Montana
F.O.: Broadus
Date: August 2001

RESOURCE SETTING: The resource area is valley bottom land seeded to alfalfa in Powder River County with pump irrigation from the Powder River. Hayfields are also used as places to feed and winter livestock. Soils are deep, silty loams formed from alluvium and lacustrine sediments. Annual precipitation is 10–14 inches.

IDENTIFIED PROBLEMS: A shortage of irrigation water exists. Part of the irrigated land has been leveled or smoothed. The remaining part is uneven and needs leveling. Crop production is not uniform. Irrigation systems need repair and new water control structures. Erosion occurs around water control structures. Optimum levels of fertilizer application are often not determined prior to the growing season. Pests include noxious weeds.

ESSENTIAL PRACTICES: Practice standards considered to be essential to meet a RMS are 449–Irrigation Water Management and 511–Forage Harvest Management.

RMS OPTIONS:

RMS #1 Practices (Limited Irrigation)

328	Conservation Crop Rotation	Crop rotation of alfalfa or grass/alfalfa 5 years, small grain 2 years.
443	Irrigation System, Surface	To improve distribution of irrigation water by surface means.
449	Irrigation Water Management	Manage for timely uniform water distribution while efficiently meeting plant needs.
511	Forage Harvest Management	Maintain productive stands of alfalfa.
512	Pasture and Hayland Planting	Plant adapted species.
587	Structure for Water Control	To reduce erosion and improve control of water.
590	Nutrient Management (Deficient)	Manage nutrients for optimum crop production.
595	Pest Management (Chemical)	Control pests including noxious weeds in fields and adjacent areas..

RMS #2 Practices (Limited Irrigation with Land Leveling)

328	Conservation Crop Rotation	Crop rotation of alfalfa or grass/alfalfa 5 years, small grain 2 years.
443	Irrigation System, Surface	To improve distribution of irrigation water by surface means.
449	Irrigation Water Management	Manage for timely uniform water distribution while efficiently meeting plant needs.
464	Irrigation Land Leveling	Provide more efficient irrigation and water conservation.
511	Forage Harvest Management	Maintain productive stands of alfalfa.
512	Pasture and Hayland Planting	Plant adapted species.
587	Structure for Water Control	To reduce erosion and improve control of water.
590	Nutrient Management (Deficient)	Manage nutrients for optimum crop production.
595	Pest Management (Chemical)	Control pests including noxious weeds in fields and adjacent areas..

EXAMPLE RMS GUIDE SHEET - To be discarded after local guide sheet is developed.