



**Plant Enhancement Activity – PLT02 – Monitor key grazing areas to improve grazing management**

**State Criteria**

Implementation of this enhancement **requires** monitoring key grazing areas to improve grazing management. A key grazing area is a small area of a pasture that is identified as being representative of the entire pasture. Complete the 5 steps listed below:

1. Key grazing areas will be established for each pasture. Identify a key grazing area in each pasture on an aerial photo.
2. Key grazing areas/monitoring sites will be established in each pasture and monitored each year.
3. Annual monitoring in each pasture will include a landscape view photo during the growing season of the area identified in step 1, refer to: [http://efotg.nrcs.usda.gov/references/public/NE/NE-ECS-2\\_\(Instructions\).pdf](http://efotg.nrcs.usda.gov/references/public/NE/NE-ECS-2_(Instructions).pdf). In addition to the landscape view photo use of **one or more** of the following techniques:
  - a. **Rangeland Apparent Trend**
    - i. [http://efotg.nrcs.usda.gov/references/public/NE/NE-ECS-12\\_\(Instructions\).pdf](http://efotg.nrcs.usda.gov/references/public/NE/NE-ECS-12_(Instructions).pdf)
    - ii. [http://efotg.nrcs.usda.gov/references/public/NE/NE-ECS-12\\_Apparent\\_Trend\\_Worksheet.pdf](http://efotg.nrcs.usda.gov/references/public/NE/NE-ECS-12_Apparent_Trend_Worksheet.pdf)
  - b. **Rangeland Health Assessment (for rangeland)**
    - i. <http://www.blm.gov/nstc/library/pdf/1734-6.pdf>
    - ii. [http://efotg.nrcs.usda.gov/references/public/NE/NE-ECS-11\\_Range\\_Health\\_Evaluation\\_Worksheet.pdf](http://efotg.nrcs.usda.gov/references/public/NE/NE-ECS-11_Range_Health_Evaluation_Worksheet.pdf)
  - c. **Pasture Condition Scoring (for pastureland)**
    - i. [http://efotg.nrcs.usda.gov/references/public/NE/NE-ECS-13\\_\(Instructions\).pdf](http://efotg.nrcs.usda.gov/references/public/NE/NE-ECS-13_(Instructions).pdf)
    - ii. [http://efotg.nrcs.usda.gov/references/public/NE/NE-ECS-13\\_Pasture\\_Condition\\_Score\\_Sheet.pdf](http://efotg.nrcs.usda.gov/references/public/NE/NE-ECS-13_Pasture_Condition_Score_Sheet.pdf)
  - d. **Plan productivity determinations**
    - i. [http://efotg.nrcs.usda.gov/references/public/NE/NE-ECS-60\\_Forage\\_Inventory\\_Example.pdf](http://efotg.nrcs.usda.gov/references/public/NE/NE-ECS-60_Forage_Inventory_Example.pdf)
    - ii. [http://efotg.nrcs.usda.gov/references/public/NE/NE-ECS-60\\_Forage\\_Inventory.pdf](http://efotg.nrcs.usda.gov/references/public/NE/NE-ECS-60_Forage_Inventory.pdf)
  - e. **Measurements of key forage plant heights (before and after grazing)**
    - i. **Example Data Collection Form For Key Forage Plant Heights Before and After Grazing**

Pasture	Key Forage Plant	Livestock In Date	Key Forage Plant Height Before	Livestock Out Date	Key Forage Plant Height After

- f. **SanDRIS monitoring system is an acceptable method for monitoring for CSP, however, this is only applicable for Sandhills ESDs.**
  - i. [http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov//references/public/NE/Sandhills\\_Defoliation\\_Response\\_Index\\_System\\_Text-Table.pdf](http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov//references/public/NE/Sandhills_Defoliation_Response_Index_System_Text-Table.pdf)
  - ii. [http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov//references/public/NE/NE-ECS-65\\_UNL\\_Sandhills\\_Defol\\_Response\\_Index.xlsm](http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov//references/public/NE/NE-ECS-65_UNL_Sandhills_Defol_Response_Index.xlsm)
  - iii. [http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov//references/public/NE/EXAMPLE\\_PLT02\\_Sept\\_2010\\_Weaning\\_Pasture.pdf](http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov//references/public/NE/EXAMPLE_PLT02_Sept_2010_Weaning_Pasture.pdf)



- 4. A gps point or fixed marker such as a disk blade or other permanent marker will be established in each pasture in order to return to the same monitoring site each year.
- 5. A written documentation of how monitoring data was evaluated and utilized to adjust grazing management plans.

**Documentation Requirements:**

- Aerial photo or map of each pasture with the key grazing area clearly identified.
- Annual photograph landscape view of each pastures identified key grazing area (photo point).
- Written documentation of the monitoring data collected, **one or more of the following:**
  - a. Rangeland Apparent Trend, [NE-ECS-12](#) or equivalent.
  - b. Rangeland Health Assessment (for rangeland), [NE-ECS-11](#) or equivalent.
  - c. Pasture Condition Scoring (for pastureland), [NE-ECS-13](#) or equivalent.
  - d. Plan Productivity Determinations, [NE-ECS-60](#) or equivalent.
  - e. Measurements of key forage plant heights (before and after grazing). See example data collection form on page 1 of this document.
- Written documentation of how monitoring data was evaluated and utilized to adjust grazing management plans.

**I certify that the following information meets specifications and has been provided to NRCS:**

- 1. Aerial photo/map of each pasture with the key grazing area/monitoring site clearly identified on each pasture.
- 2. Annual landscape view photo of key grazing area during the growing season on each pasture.
- 3. Written documentation of the monitoring data collected, **one or more** of the following:
  - a. Rangeland Apparent Trend, [NE-ECS-12](#) or equivalent.
  - b. Rangeland Health Assessment (for rangeland), [NE-ECS-11](#) or equivalent.
  - c. Pasture Condition Scoring (for pastureland), [NE-ECS-13](#) or equivalent.
  - d. Plan Productivity Determinations, [NE-ECS-60](#) or equivalent.
  - e. Measurements of key forage plant heights (before and after grazing). See example data collection form on page 1 of this document.
- 4. A gps point or fixed marker such as a disk blade or other permanent marker will be established in each pasture in order to return to the same monitoring site each year.
- 5. Written documentation of how monitoring data was evaluated and utilized to adjust grazing management plans.

I understand that it is my responsibility to obtain all necessary permits and to comply with all laws, regulations and ordinances pertaining to the application of these activities.

**Certified by:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_