

EXAMPLE 8 CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

LOCATION (MLRA AND NRD): Upper Loup and Middle Niobrara NRD's MLRA 65

RESOURCE SETTING: Rangeland Mid-grass plant community, Sandy, Sands, Choppy Sands range sites. Precipitation 16-19". Wildlife: Potential for sharp-tailed grouse, prairie chicken, pheasant, and deer. Domestic Livestock: Grazing by cow/calf and yearlings.

BENCHMARK RESOURCE PROBLEMS (EXISTING CONDITIONS)

Soil:	Excessive wind erosion visible in blowouts, trails and sacrifice areas. Soil capping, low organic matter (poor soil condition). On/off site deposition of wind blown material.
Water:	
Air:	Particulates from blowout erosion
Plants:	Reduced total annual production, low plant vigor, increase in shrub component (yucca), and noxious weeds.
Animals:	Reduced forage quality and quantity. Lack of wildlife habitat (residual cover). Water quantity is inadequate. Number of animals exceeds the carrying capacity.
Human:	Producer is interested in improving livestock distribution and forage quantity and quality. The family ranch operation wants to improve economic return, increase worth of land and improve and maintain quality of life.

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (list practices to be applied and maintained and where they are applicable)

Planned Practices	Practice Description
342 Critical Area Treatment of Blowouts	Stabilize worst blowout areas by seeding, mulching and temporary livestock exclusion. Most blowouts will be stabilized by Prescribed Grazing System and seeding will not be necessary
382 Fence	Cross Fence to make pastures of 640 acres or less when possible
516 Livestock Pipeline	Utilized to provide water to points that will be centrally located and no more than 3/8 mile from any point within pasture
528A Prescribed Grazing	Rotational grazing system with a minimum of 4 pastures rotated with altered grazing time in each pasture every year. Grazing distribution is good; % use is 60% or less of key species with a deferred period after utilization. Salting and mineral location is moved away from watering points. Grazing by spring calving crossbred cows from May 15 to Oct 15(5 months). Average AUE + 1.5 (1100 lb cow, 450 lb calf, prorated bull). Breeding ratio is 25:1 or less
595 Pesticide Management	Spot spray leafy spurge and manage other weeds by grazing system, minimal herbicide use
614 Watering Facility (tanks)	Adequate in storage volume numbers (see pipeline)
642 Well	Wells are adequate to provide water to pipeline system and/or tanks next to windmills. (see tank and pipeline)

RESULTS OF MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS	RESULTS OF MANAGEMENT ACTIONS
Planned grazing system; including deferred grazing, intensive rotating winter pastures, alternate start and end grazing times.	Improved plant composition and vigor, upward range trend, increased annual production, reduced erosion. Higher level of management required. Start-up costs for installation of fences.
More water locations and increase water storage.	Reduce trailing erosion, decrease size of sacrifice areas. Adequate water for grazing animal. Initial investment in installation of wells/tanks and/or pipelines.
Proper grazing use.	Improved plant composition and vigor, upward range trend, increased annual production, reduced erosion. Higher level of management required. Start-up costs for installation of fences. Improved range condition.
Move salting location.	Improved grazing distribution, more uniform utilization.
Proper stocking rates.	Upward range trend, improved plant vigor and productivity increased carrying capacity.
Deferred Grazing (rest pastures rest of season after 60% utilization of key species occurs).	Proper regrowth, improved health & vigor.

QUALITY CRITERIA DOCUMENTATION

RESOURCE CONCERN (refer to Section III quality Criteria and Exhibit 1 of NPPH for a list of concerns)	BEFORE CONDITIONS	AFTER CONDITIONS (refer to Section III quality criteria for more guidance)	QUALITY CRITERIA MET (Y or N)
Wind Erosion on blowout areas	13 ton/year	1 ton/ac/year or less	Y
Grazingland Productivity and Health Index	45%	65%	Y
Wildlife Habitat	Less than a 0.5 Index rating	0.5 or greater Index rating	Y