

Plant Enhancement Activity – *PLT02 – Monitor Key Grazing Areas to Improve Grazing Management*

Monitoring Key Grazing Areas to Improve Grazing Management



Monitor key grazing areas on pastureland and rangeland to determine if current grazing management is meeting management goals and objectives. A key grazing area is a small area of a pasture that is identified as being representative of the entire pasture.

Land Use Applicability: This enhancement is applicable to pastureland, rangeland and forest.

Benefits

Proper grazing management will maintain and improve vegetation and soil conditions, improve water quality, and enhance wildlife habitat. Monitoring can be utilized to determine if current grazing management actions are having the desired effect on natural resources. Monitoring enable managers to make decisions and adjust management strategies as needed

Criteria for Monitoring Key Grazing Areas to Improve Grazing Management

1. Key grazing areas will be established for each pasture.
2. Key grazing areas in each pasture will be monitored each year.
3. Monitoring will include a photo point for each pasture of key grazing area and use of one or more of the following techniques:
 - a. Rangeland Apparent Trend
 - b. Rangeland Health Assessment (for rangeland)
 - c. Pasture Condition Scoring (for pastureland)
 - d. Plant productivity determinations
 - e. Measurements of key forage plant heights (before and after grazing)
4. A written grazing management plan that outlines specific goals and objectives.

Documentation Requirements for Monitoring Key Grazing Areas to Improve Grazing Management

- A map showing the location of each key grazing area.
- Photographs from the photo point locations.
- Written documentation of the monitoring data collected.
- Written documentation of how monitoring data was evaluated and utilized to adjust grazing management plans.



United States Department of Agriculture
 Natural Resources Conservation Service

NE-PLT02

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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 4 steps listed below:

1. Key grazing areas will be established for each pasture. Identify a key grazing area in each pasture on an air photo and optionally with GPS coordinates.
2. Key grazing areas in each pasture will be monitored each year.
3. Annual monitoring will include a landscape view photo 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
 - 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
 - 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
 - d. **Plan productivity determinations**
 - i. 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
 - 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

4. A written documentation of how monitoring data was evaluated and utilized to adjust grazing management plans.



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Documentation Requirements:

- Air 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. Air photo/map of each pasture with the key grazing area clearly identified.
2. Annual photograph landscape view of each pastures identified key grazing area (photo point).
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. 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:** _____