

PRESCRIBED GRAZING

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service—Practice Code 528



PRESCRIBED GRAZING

Prescribed grazing is the controlled harvest of vegetation with grazing animals managed with the intent to achieve a specific objective.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

Prescribed grazing may be applied on all lands where grazing and/or browsing animals are managed. A prescribed grazing schedule is prepared for all fields and pastures to be grazed. Removal of herbage by the grazing animals is in conformity with realistic yield goals, plant growth needs, and management goals. Duration and intensity of grazing is based on desired plant health and expected productivity of the forage species to meet management objectives. In all cases, enough vegetation is left to prevent accelerated soil erosion.

Application of this practice manipulates the intensity, frequency, duration, distribution, and season of grazing to:

- Improve water infiltration and use
- Maintain or improve riparian and upland area vegetation

- Protect streambanks from erosion
- Manage for uniform deposition of manure away from water bodies
- Promote ecologically and economically stable plant communities which meet landowner objectives

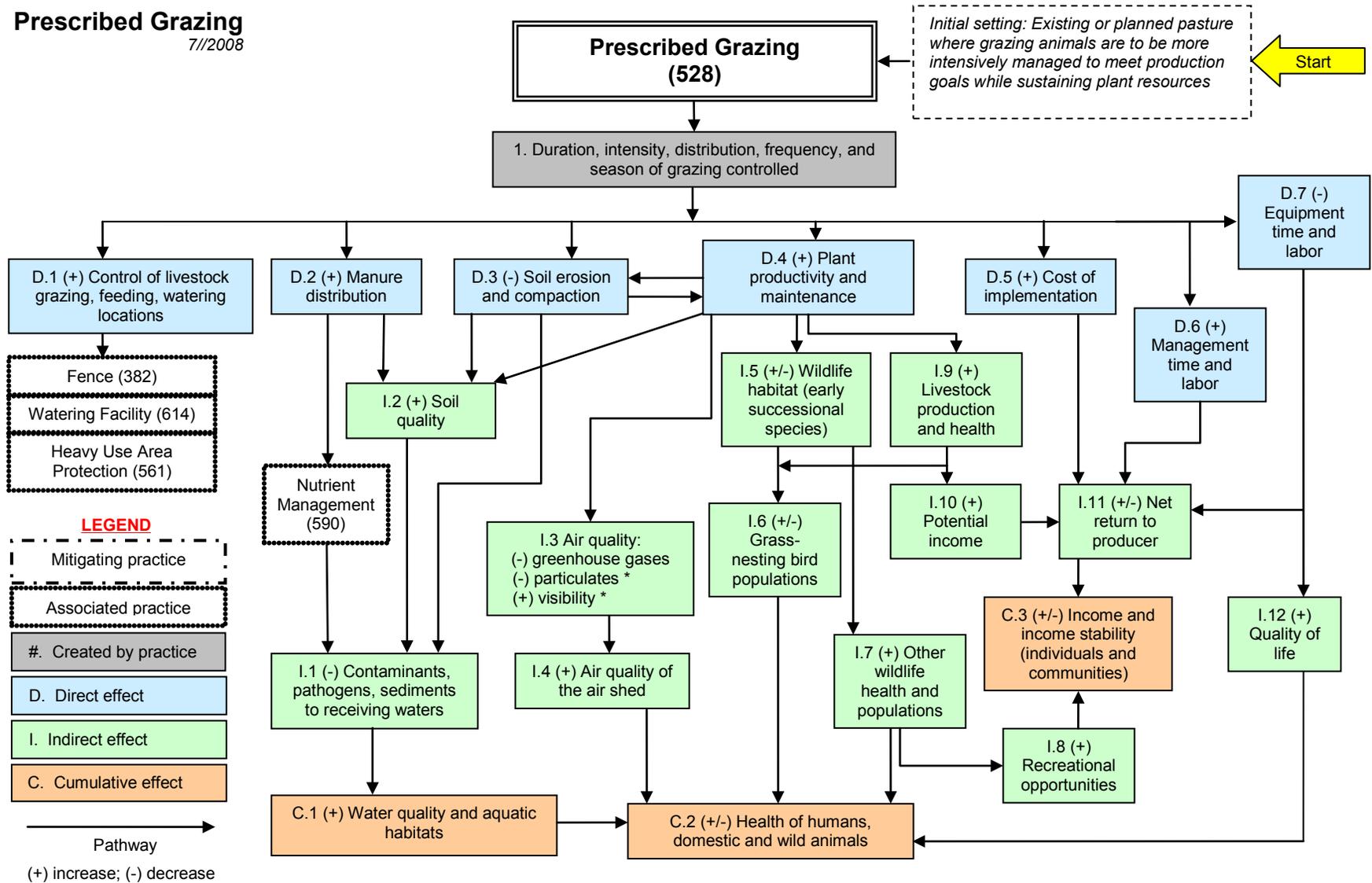
COMMON ASSOCIATED PRACTICES

Prescribed Grazing is commonly used in a Conservation Management System with the following practices: Pasture and Hay Planting (512), Feed Management (592), Fence (382), Watering Facility (614), Heavy Use Area Protection (422), Pipeline (516), Water Well (642), Pond (378), Spring Development (574), Nutrient Management (590), Pest Management (595), Use Exclusion (472), Animal Trails and Walkways (575), and Stream Crossing (589).

Refer to the practice standard in the local Field Office Technical Guide and associated specifications and Job Sheets for further information.

The following page identifies the effects expected to occur when this practice is applied. These effects are subjective and somewhat dependent on variables such as climate, terrain, soil, etc. All appropriate local, State, Tribal, and Federal permits and approvals are the responsibility of the landowners and are presumed to have been obtained. Users are cautioned that these effects are estimates that may or may not apply to a specific site.

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Note: Effects are qualified with a plus (+) or minus (-). These symbols indicate only an increase (+) or a decrease (-) in the effect upon the resource, not whether the effect is beneficial or adverse.

The diagram above identifies the effects expected to occur when this practice is applied according to NRCS practice standards and specifications. These effects are subjective and somewhat dependent on variables such as climate, terrain, soil, etc. All appropriate local, State, Tribal, and Federal permits and approvals are the responsibility of the landowners and are presumed to have been obtained. All income changes are partially dependent upon market fluctuations which are independent of the conservation practices. Users are cautioned that these effects are estimates that may or may not apply to a specific site.