NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
WASHINGTON CONSERVATION PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

PRESCRIBED GRAZING – Pasture (ACRE)

CODE 528

PRACTICE NAME

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

PRACTICE INFORMATION

The purposes and benefits of Prescribed Grazing are to improve, protect or maintain the following resources:

- The health, vigor and productivity of key plants and plant communities
- Animal health and productivity
- Watershed function – the capture, storage and release of rain and snow
- Water quality of springs, ponds, lakes, streams and rivers
- Soil health and productivity
- Riparian function – streambank stability, filtering sediment, water storage and release, aquifer recharge, energy dissipation

Prescribed Grazing is a learning-tool: Plan the grazing – Manage the grazing – Monitor and evaluate the results – Adjust the grazing schedule.

With Prescribed Grazing two variables are controlled:

A. Stock density – the numbers and class of livestock
B. Timing of grazing periods and recovery periods (Season of use (when); Duration or length of grazing periods (how long); Frequency of grazing periods (how often).)

To successfully implement Prescribed Grazing the following is expected:

1. Work with NRCS to develop a grazing schedule
2. Manage stock numbers and the duration of grazing periods for each pasture.
3. Manage grazing periods and recovery periods
4. Keep records throughout the grazing season
   a. Livestock use records on each pasture – dates in and out, numbers of animals, weight or class of animals
   b. Precipitation and the type of growing season
5. Monitor the results
   a. Select for each pasture a key area and key species to manage.
   b. Monitor utilization or stubble height of key species at key areas.
   c. Keep a record of observations and supporting photographs.
6. Evaluate and adjust the next year's grazing schedule.
   a. What was the utilization or stubble height of key species for each pasture?
   b. What adjustments are needed?

Additional information including practice jobsheets and supporting technical notes are available in the local NRCS Field Office Technical Guide

NRCS, WA

November 2009

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NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

WASHINGTON CONSERVATION PRACTICE JOB SHEET

PRESCRIBED GRAZING - Pastures

(Ac.)

CODE 528

PRODUCER	FARM NO.	TRACT	FIELD NO.

CONTRACT NO.	CIN	ACRES	DATE

SCOPE

This is a basic summary of the more inclusive Washington NRCS, Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG), Standard and Specification for Prescribed Grazing (Code 528). A specific "Grazing Schedule" is attached as part of this agreement.

GRAZING LANDS OBJECTIVE

Maintain an adequate forage base to meet the producer's objectives, yet maintain the productivity and vigor of the desireable forage species according to professional discipline standards. Grazing will be managed to promote desired conditions for upland and riparian area health and function.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

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REQUIREMENTS

The Prescribed Grazing Schedule will, at a minimum, require:

1. Planned use of key herbaceous forage species will not be below the stated minimum stubble heights on WA-RGE-26 or WA-RGE-26A.
2. Livestock forage requirements, wildlife use and pest damage (if significant) will be balanced with forage availability.
3. If irrigation water is applied, the field will be allowed to dry to at least water holding capacity before animal turn-out.
4. Recovery periods will be designed and applied during the season of active growth.
5. Winter feed areas will be selected away from riparian areas. Manure will be spread or scattered if build-up is likely to cause contaminated run-off or inhibit plant growth. Stocking rates and time of use will be selected as needed to prevent physical damage to herbaceous and woody plant species.
6. A monitoring plan developed for uplands and riparian areas.
7. Contingency plan for the entire grazing unit, which includes drought, fire, hail, insect infestations and other catastrophic events that have the potential to be detrimental to the forage resource.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

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ADDITIONAL PRACTICES NEEDED TO COMPLETE GRAZING LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

☐	Fence (Code 382)		Water Developments (various practices)
☐	Access Control (Code 472)	☐	
☐	Wildlife Upland Habitat Management (Code 548)	☐	
☐	Range Planting (Code 550)	☐	Other
☐	Pasture and Hay Planting (Code 512)		
☐	Brush Management (Code 314)		

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SPECIFIC SUPPORT DATA ATTACHED (USE THE SUGGESTED FORMS OR APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTATION

☐	Goals, Objectives and Resource Concerns Clearly Stated
☐	Similarity Index, Trend, and Rangeland Health Worksheets
☐	Pasture Inventory Worksheets
☐	Grazing Lands Inventory Summary Sheet
☐	Forage Balance Worksheet
☐	Planned Utilization Levels (ECS-414)
☐	Monitoring Plan Worksheet
☐	Contingency Plan
☐	Riparian Assessment
☐	Wildlife Habitat (Biology TN-14)
☐	Detailed Grazing Schedule

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Client's Acknowledgement (To be signed after Job sheet is completed and before practice installation.)

By signing below, I acknowledge that I:

- have reviewed and understand the site specific design, installation specifications and operation/maintenance requirements in this Job Sheet and have an understanding of purposes and criteria for use of this conservation practice;
- will install, operate, and maintain this conservation practice in accordance with the site specific Job Sheet.
- will make no changes to the planned design and installation without prior written approval of the Natural Resources Conservation Service.
- will obtain all necessary permits and/or rights, and comply with all ordinances and laws pertaining to the installation, operation, and maintenance of this conservation practice, prior to the start of installation; and
- will assume responsibility for notifying all Utilities affected by the installation, operation and maintenance of this conservation practice.

Signature	**Date**

Required Job Approval Authority or TSP Certification Category

NRCS Job Approval Authority:
(Job Class required for design and installation). (I, II, III, IV, or V).

Design:		**Installation:**	
Practice Units / Description:			
Required Certification Categories for Technical Service Providers		**Category for this Practice:**	**Grazing/Forages**

Practice Design Certification: (To be completed after Job Sheet is complete and before practice installation.)

By signing below, I certify that:

- The conservation practice planning and design outlined in this Job Sheet Specification meet the purposes, associated criteria, appropriate site conditions and client objectives; and
- I have the required Job Approval Authority or TSP certification required for this conservation practice design.

Signature	**Date**
Print Name	**Title**

Practice Installation Certification (To be completed after practice installation and check out)

By signing below, I certify that:

- the practice has been installed according to the site specific installation requirements and specifications,
- required operation and maintenance requirements are being met; and
- I have the required Job Approval Authority or TSP Certification for this conservation practice installation

Signature	**Date**
Print Name	**Title**

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