

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

**PRESCRIBED GRAZING  
SUPPLEMENT**

**RIPARIAN GRAZING MANAGEMENT  
(Acre)**

**Code 528**

**DEFINITION**

To convert presently grazed riparian areas to a managed livestock grazing system.

**PURPOSE**

To stabilize streambanks, help protect water quality, and improve forage production.

**CRITERIA**

- Grass height will be a minimum of 8 inches (tall grass) and 5 inches (bluegrass) at the beginning of a grazing period.
- Any grazed period will not exceed 3 days or minimum grass height of 4 inches for tall grasses and 3" for bluegrass.
- The grazing season will extend from May – October.
- Stocking density will not exceed 75% of carrying capacity of the riparian area. (Appendix 1–Worksheet 2)
- Stream or other water bodies will be used for watering livestock only if no alternative method is feasible.
- Temporary or permanent electric fencing and solar charger can be used to limit livestock access to streambank.
- Only livestock trained to electric fence will be released into paddock(s) with temporary electric fence.
- Apply soil amendments according to a soil test every 3 years.

- No manure will be spread within 50 feet of top of streambank.
- Livestock will be excluded from streambank on slopes greater than 5% and/or slopes with less than 50% ground cover.
- The minimum width of a grazed riparian area is 50 feet to help insure distribution of manure away from streams and water bodies.

**CONSIDERATIONS**

Consider using portable watering systems to minimize cost.

On severely eroding or unstable streams consider establishing riparian forest (391) to protect adjacent land from downstream meander migration.

For absent livestock produce consider grazing schedule for weekends.

For pasture subject to repeated flooding consider use of temporary fence.

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**

Remove livestock and temporary fence if threat of flooding is evident.

Check livestock water sources, temporary fence and grass height daily. Maintain a record keeping system to support a case study report.

Conservation practice standards are reviewed periodically, and updated if needed. To obtain the current version of this standard, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

**NRCS-WV**

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