



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

E528N

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Improved grazing management through monitoring activities

CONSERVATION PRACTICE: 528 - Prescribed Grazing

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Range

RESOURCE CONCERN: Soil, Water, Plants

ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN: 1 years

Enhancement Description

Three predominant key grazing areas are evaluated utilizing the Rangeland Health Assessment (where reference material is developed) or Describing Indicators of Rangeland Health protocols (where reference material is not developed) to determine how well the ecological processes of the site(s) are functioning. Utilizing knowledge learned from this as a part of the ranch resource assessment, a qualifying professional, as detailed in the enhancement criteria, will provide recommendations or follow-up evaluations toward mitigating some of the degradation risks that are initially identified.

Criteria

- A written plan for matching the forage quantity and quality produced with the grazing and/or browsing demand will be followed.
- Maintain diversity of rangeland plants to optimize delivery of nutrients to the animals by incorporating the intensity, frequency, timing and duration of grazing and/or browsing needed as determined by a planning process that includes: 1) Clear objectives, 2) A resource inventory including forage inventory, structural improvements and existing resource conditions, 3) Grazing plan, and 4) All potential contingency plans.
- Supplemental feed and/or minerals will be balanced with the forage consumption to meet the desired nutritional level for the kind and class of grazing and/or browsing livestock.
- Secure the services of an experienced, knowledgeable Certified Range Management Consultant, Certified Professional in Range Management, NRCS Technical Service Provider

E528N - Improved grazing management through monitoring activities	April 2022	Page 1
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CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

approved for a DIA 159, or a non-affiliated consultant with a bachelor or higher-level degree in range science or other closely-related plant science discipline and a minimum of five years' experience in rangeland conservation planning, monitoring, and consulting regarding use of rangeland improvement practices to:

- 1) Select monitoring sites needed (three are required for this enhancement activity)
 - 2) Assess rangeland conditions using Rangeland Health Assessment (RHA) or Describing Indicators of Rangeland Health (DIRH) at these locations
 - 3) Provide all measured data collected
 - 4) Assist in determining any areas that are potentially at risk of degradation
 - 5) Develop a written recommendation identifying strategies for mitigating some of the degradation risks identified during the assessments
- RHA is used, departure from reference categories will be determined, justified, and ratings described for soil and site stability, hydrologic function, and biotic integrity in Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health (IIRH) Version 5 (Technical Reference 1734-6).
 - DIRH is used, guidance must be followed in the procedure of Appendix 7 of Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health (IIRH) Version 5 (Technical Reference 1734-6) and the information and data will be compared to established NRCS state criteria guidance.

Documentation and Implementation Requirements

Participant will:

- Prior to implementation, acquire a Grazing Management Plan with all the following components (provide plan to NRCS for review and approval):
 - Producer goals, objectives, and resource concerns
 - Location and condition of structural improvements
 - Watering sites with availability, quantity, and quality
 - Forage inventory
 - Forage-animal balance sheet
 - Grazing plan for livestock movement
 - Contingency plan
 - Monitoring plan
- During implementation, secure a Certified Range Management Consultant, Certified Professional in Range Management, NRCS Technical Service Provider approved for DIA 159, or a non-affiliated consultant with a bachelor or higher-level degree in range science or other closely-related plant science discipline and a minimum of five years' experience in



CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

rangeland conservation planning, monitoring, and consulting regarding use of rangeland improvement practices to:

- 1) Select 3 monitoring sites to assess rangeland health.
 - 2) Conduct Rangeland Health Assessments (RHA) on these sites using the Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health Version 5. (Technical Reference 1734-6) or
 - 3) Conduct Describing Indicators of Rangeland Health (DIRH), on these sites using Appendix 7 of the Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health Version 5. (Technical Reference 1734-6).
 - 4) Develop a written recommendation identifying strategies for mitigating degradation risks identified during the assessment.
- During implementation, identify key grazing areas, key forage species, and monitor pastures for grazing utilization.
 - During implementation, keep pasture/herd in/out records.
 - During implementation, complete NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Prescribed Grazing (528) Trend worksheet.
 - During implementation, complete forage utilization job sheet at the end of the grazing season for NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Prescribed Grazing (528).
 - After implementation, provide the following items for review by NRCS:
 - Assessment Sheets with all field notes and locations.
 - Written documentation of range professional's follow-up actions and recommendations.
 - Records of pasture/herd in/out dates.
 - Completed Trend worksheet.
 - Completed forage utilization job sheet.
 - Written modifications to the grazing management and monitoring plan which address the resource concerns identified during the assessments.

NRCS will:

- As needed, provide technical assistance to participant as requested.
- Prior to implementation, provide and explain NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Prescribed Grazing (Code 528) as it relates to implementing this enhancement, including Trend worksheet and forage utilization job sheet.



CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

- Prior to implementation, provide Ecological Site Descriptions and the ESD map and soil- ecological site correlation as requested for the Range Health Assessment (RHA) or NRCS state criteria guidance for Describing Indicators of Range Health (DIRH).
- After implementation, review assessment evaluation sheets and written recommendations made by range professional.
- After implementation, verify implementation of the grazing management plan by reviewing grazing/herd in/out records, forage utilization job sheet, trend worksheet, and changes made to the plan to address resource concerns identified during the RHA or DIRH assessments.

NRCS Documentation Review:

I have reviewed all required participant documentation and have determined the participant has implemented the enhancement and monitoring criteria and requirements.

Participant Name _____ Contract Number _____

Total Amount Applied _____ Fiscal Year Completed _____

_____ Date _____

NRCS Technical Adequacy Signature

*Sign and certify in the Oregon-Acknowledgment & Certification supplement below.



OREGON SUPPLEMENT TO CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

ACTIVITY E528N

Additional Documentation for Oregon

- In addition to the documentation requirements specified in the National job sheet E528N the following additional documentation requirements apply in Oregon.
 - Planner or Non-Affiliated Consultant must complete an Oregon Prescribed Grazing Implementation Requirement (528 IR) to accompany this enhancement.
 - Monitoring will include actual use records, permanent photo points, and will be provided to NRCS annually.
 - Document adjustments to grazing plan as result of monitoring and assessment data.

Additional References and Information for Oregon

Non-Affiliated Consultant Form – Available on the [OR SharePoint CSP Site](#)

The Rangeland Health, Rangeland Trend, Forage Utilization, and Photo Plot Monitoring forms can be found at the following locations:

Rangeland Health:

[eFOTG: Section 3: Oregon Conservation Planning Documents: Grazing Land Inventory Documents: INTERPRETING INDICATORS OF RANGELAND HEALTH, CURRENT VERSION](#)

Rangeland Trend:

[eFOTG: Section 3: Oregon Conservation Planning Documents: Grazing Land Inventory Documents: RANGE INVENTORY TOOLBOS 2016: RANGELAND TREND](#)

More information and forms on Key Species Forage Utilization and Photo-Point monitoring can be found in the following links:

[Key Species Utilization](#)

[Photo Plot Monitoring Guide](#)

Design Approvals & Acknowledgements:

Design Approval	Date	Job Approval Authority
Designed by:		
Approved by:		

Client's Acknowledgement Statement:

The client acknowledges:

- I have received a copy of the specification and understand the contents and requirements.
- It is my responsibility to obtain all necessary permits and/or rights and to comply with all ordinances and laws pertaining to the application of this practice.
- I will not begin installation of this practice until I have received appropriate approval to do so. I understand NRCS also has Federal and state laws to comply with that may take some time to address (e.g. cultural resources).

Client's Signature	Date

Certification Documentation:

	Field Evaluation: Post-treatment inventory, measurements, notes, as-built, and supporting documentation (document completion in conservation plan), as required.
	Map(s): Including field numbers, fields treated, and units treated (may document on conservation plan map), as required.
	Photos or other supporting documentation (e.g., seed tags, soil tests, receipts, invoices, spray records, fertilizer records, etc.)
Brief Description of Work Accomplished (types of equipment used, date of application, extents and quantities installed, etc.)	

Certification Statement:

The employee certifies the implementation of this conservation practice:

- Meets the purpose, general criteria, and any required additional criteria as documented in the conservation practice standard and/or enhancement sheet.
- Meets the specifications contained herein and is complete.
- Conforms to my existing Job Approval Authority controlling factors and levels.

Name	Date	Job Approval Authority

Field Level Certification – For multiple applications of this design.				
Land Unit/ Contract Item Number	Date	Unit(s)	Amount Installed	Certifier