



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

E528H with Montana Supplement

CONSERVATION
STEWARDSHIP
PROGRAM

Prescribed grazing to improve/maintain riparian and watershed function-elevated water temperature

Conservation Practice 528: Prescribed Grazing

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Range, Pasture, Forest

RESOURCE CONCERN: Water

ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN: 1 year

Enhancement Description

Grazing management employed will provide cover and density needed in the watershed in order to reduce runoff, improve infiltration, provide for above ground water filtration and sustain applicable fish and wildlife species habitat.

Criteria

- A written plan for matching the forage quantity and quality produced with the grazing and/or browsing demand by livestock and wildlife will be followed.
- Enhance 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:
 - Clear objectives,
 - A resource inventory with ecological site description or reference sheet and structural improvements and existing resource conditions,
 - Grazing plan, and
 - A contingency plan.

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- 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.
- Minimize concentrated livestock areas to enhance nutrient distribution and improve or maintain ground cover and riparian/floodplain plant community structure and functions.
- Manage grazing and/or browsing so as to provide adequate ground cover and plant density to maintain or improve infiltration capacity and reduce runoff.
- Provide adequate ground cover and plant density to maintain or improve filtering capacity of the vegetation by moving livestock appropriately.
- Graze and rest pastures appropriately and with the right numbers, class, and kind of livestock so as to maintain adequate riparian community structure and function to sustain associated riparian, wetland, floodplain and stream species.
- **MT: Use Environmental Technical MT-2 Riparian Assessment - *Using the NRCS Riparian Assessment Method.***

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Documentation and Implementation Requirements

Participant will:

- Prior to implementation, obtain a written grazing plan with guidelines and recommendations for matching the forage quantity and quality produced with the grazing and/or browsing demand.
- During implementation, keep pasture/herd in/out records and grazing utilization records for key grazing areas.
- After implementation, make the follow items available for review by NRCS to verify implementation of the enhancement:
 - Written grazing plan
 - Pasture/herd in/out records
 - Documented forage utilization levels

NRCS will:

- As needed, provide technical additional assistance to the participant as requested.
- Prior to implementation, provide and explain NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Prescribed Grazing (Code 528) as it relates to implementing this enhancement.
- Prior to implementation, verify a grazing plan has been developed, which includes written objectives.
- After implementation, verify implementation of the written grazing plan by reviewing plan, pasture/herd in/out records, and utilization records kept during enhancement implementation.

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NRCS Documentation Review:

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

Participant Name _____ Contract Number _____

Total Amount Applied _____ Fiscal Year Completed _____

NRCS Technical Adequacy Signature

Date



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