



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

E528L

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Prescribed grazing that improves or maintains riparian and watershed function-erosion

Conservation Practice 528: Prescribed Grazing

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Pasture, Range, Forest

RESOURCE CONCERN: Soil

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

- Must follow a written grazing plan for matching the forage quantity and quality produced with the grazing and/or browsing demand by livestock and wildlife.
- Enhance diversity of 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 of structural improvements, existing resource conditions, and forage
 - A monitoring plan
 - A contingency plan

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- Supplemental feed 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 or browsing so as to provide adequate ground cover and plant density to maintain or improve infiltration capacity and reduce runoff.
- Maintain adequate ground cover and plant density through monitoring to retain or improve filtering capacity of the vegetation by moving livestock appropriately.
- Adjust grazing strategy and rest as needed with the right numbers, class, and kind of livestock to maintain adequate riparian community structure and function to sustain associated riparian, wetland, floodplain and stream species.



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Documentation and Implementation Requirements

Participant will:

- Prior to implementation, obtain a written grazing plan with:
 - Inventory of structural improvements, existing resource conditions and forage
 - Guidelines and recommendations for matching the forage quantity and quality produced with the grazing and/or browsing demand of livestock
 - A contingency plan
 - A monitoring plan
- During implementation, keep pasture/herd in/out records and forage-animal balance sheet.
- During implementation, monitor riparian vegetation for use.
- After implementation, make the following items available for review by NRCS to verify implementation of the enhancement:
 - Written grazing plan
 - Pasture/herd in/out records
 - Documented utilization records
 - Monitoring plan

NRCS will:

- As needed/requested, provide technical additional assistance to the participant.
- Prior to implementation, provide and explain NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Prescribed Grazing (Code 528) as it relates to implementing this enhancement.



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- After implementation, verify implementation of the written grazing plan by reviewing plan and pasture/herd in/out records and forage-animal balance sheets kept during enhancement implementation.
- After implementation, review the monitoring plan.

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

North Dakota Sideboards: Eligible acres for this enhancement are only the riparian paddock acres. The USA Topo Maps in the base map gallery in CD can be used to identify those acres. Dotted and solid blue lines will be eligible as riparian corridors. Documentation requirements for meeting the 528 practice must be implemented to fulfill the requirements of this enhancement. Refer to the 528 specification and the Statement of Work for guidance on meeting practice specification. To meet this enhancement, riparian paddock residual stubble will be no less than 4." For monitoring instructions you can refer to Appendix A of the 528 specification as well as this link from NDSU.

<https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/publications/livestock/the-north-dakota-grazing-monitoring-stick-a-way-to-measure-range-and-pasture-utilization>

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