



**CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY**

**E528M**

**CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM**

**Grazing management that protects sensitive areas from gully erosion**

**Conservation Practice 528: Prescribed Grazing**

**APPLICABLE LAND USE: Pasture, Range**

**RESOURCE CONCERN: Soil**

**ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN: 1 year**

**Enhancement Description**

Grazing management employed will provide vegetative cover and density needed in the watershed in order to protect sensitive areas such as sinkholes, streams, highly erodible areas, or locations that cannot tolerate plant defoliation.

**Criteria**

- Must follow a written grazing plan matching the forage quantity and quality produced with the grazing and/or browsing demand by livestock and wildlife.
- 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.
- 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 an erosion control planning process that includes:
  - Clear objectives
  - A resource inventory of structural improvements, existing resource conditions, and forage

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- A monitoring plan
- A contingency plan
- Minimize concentrated livestock areas to enhance nutrient distribution and improve or maintain ground cover.
- Minimize deposition or flow of animal wastes into water bodies or sinkholes.
- Minimize animal impacts on stream bank or shoreline stability.
- Maintain adequate ground cover and plant density to maintain or improve infiltration capacity and reduce runoff.
- Maintain adequate ground cover and plant density to maintain or improve filtering capacity of the vegetation.
- Livestock feeding and watering facilities will be located and designed/installed in a manner to improve livestock distribution and avoid overland flow to sensitive areas.



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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. Plan will include a contingency plan for potential events that trigger adverse results, such as concentrated flow and gully erosion.
- Prior to implementation, develop a map delineating potential sensitive areas to be protected.
- During implementation, keep livestock herd management records during seasonally important periods of soil erosion potential.
- During implementation, keep grazing utilization records for key grazing areas that accommodate the criteria above, indicating the protective nature of the grazing system to the sensitive areas.
- 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

#### 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.
- Prior to implementation, as needed, assist participant with the development of map delineating potential sensitive areas to be protected.



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- 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 and utilization records kept during enhancement implementation.
- After implementation, verify the protection and condition of the sensitive areas.

### 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:** 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. Consult the reference worksheet for the ecological site that the gully is present on to be sure a gully is not part of the natural range of variability for the site. Acres for the enhancement are limited to the paddock(s) where the gullies are present and the adjacent upslope paddock(s). Utilization levels will not exceed 50% and there must be a reduction in grazing days for those paddocks.