



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

E528B

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Grazing management that improves Monarch butterfly habitat

Conservation Practice 528: Prescribed Grazing

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Range, Pasture, Forest

RESOURCE CONCERN: Animals

ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN: 1 year

Enhancement Description

Implement a grazing management plan that will increase the abundance and diversity of monarch nectar-producing perennial forbs, including milkweed, while maintaining ecosystem benefits for other wildlife and livestock.

Criteria

- Evaluate habitat in the enhanced, delineated Monarch areas with the state NRCS Monarch Butterfly Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG) and manage delineated Monarch areas to improve the WHEG score at least one category (e.g. from poor to fair, or from good to excellent).
- Enhance diversity of rangeland plants to optimize delivery of nutrients to domestic grazing 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,

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- A contingency plan, and
- Monitoring and needed adjustments for Monarchs, domestic grazing animals, and other wildlife (including pollinators).
- Defer, rest, or graze the enhanced, delineated Monarch areas to meet the nectar-producing forbs, including milkweed, needs of Monarch Butterflies when the Monarchs will be migrating through the area (e.g. spring and fall for the southern Great Plains, summer and fall for the Midwest, northern Great Plains and east, and spring through fall for the west.
- Delineate Monarch area(s) within the planned enhancement area/acres, comprising at least 5 acres or at least 5% of the planned enhancement area/acres, whichever is most.
- 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.
- 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.



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Documentation and Implementation Requirements

Participant will:

- Y Prior to implementation, develop a map delineating the areas where the Monarch habitat will be implemented.
- Y Prior to implementation, obtain a written grazing plan (NRCS can provide assistance as needed). Plan must include:
 - o Clear goals and objectives of the plan, including identification of the specie(s) of concern and the plant functional groups providing structure and composition.
 - o Map identifying all permanent pastures, water sources, and any riparian area or watershed drainage locations improved or maintained by this management.
 - o Forage inventory
 - o Forage-animal balance sheet
 - o A grazing plan narrative describing the basis for when livestock movement or rotation will occur, including deferment plans.
 - o Contingency plans for forage shortfalls and for events that trigger adverse results.
 - o Monitoring locations, key species, and monitoring techniques.
- Y Prior to implementation, work with NRCS to complete an assessment of the site using the state's approved NRCS Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG).
- Y During implementation, keep the following documentation:
 - o Livestock herd management records with seasonally important phenological stages of plant growth relative to species of concern.
 - o Annually complete a forage utilization worksheet, such as NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Prescribed Grazing (Code 528) job sheet.
 - o Grazing intensity records for all key grazing areas that accommodate the criteria.
- Y During implementation, defer, rest, or graze the enhanced, delineated Monarch areas to meet the nectar-producing forbs, including milkweed, needs of Monarch Butterflies when the Monarchs will be migrating through the area (e.g. spring and fall for the



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southern Great Plains, summer and fall for the Midwest, northern Great Plains and east, and spring through fall for the west.

- Y During implementation, consult with NRCS to adjust and adapt the grazing plan to current conditions to verify the changes meet enhancement criteria. Changes to the grazing plan will be documented in writing.
- Y After implementation, make all records available for review by NRCS to verify implementation of the enhancement.
- Y After implementation, complete an assessment of the site with NRCS using the state's approved NRCS Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG).

NRCS will:

- Y As needed, provide technical additional assistance to the participant as requested.
- Y Prior to implementation, verify there are at least two delineated Monarch areas within the enrolled area, comprising at least 5 acres or 5% of the enrolled area, whichever is most.
- Y Prior to implementation, provide and explain NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Prescribed Grazing (Code 528) as it relates to implementing this enhancement, including any state approved job sheets or work sheets.
- Y Prior to implementation, complete an assessment of the site with the participant using the state's approved NRCS Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG). Minimum score after implementation will be one category higher than initial score when specifically rated for Monarch Butterflies.

WHEG score before implementation: _____

WHEG score after implementation: _____

- Y Prior to implementation, assist the participant with development of a grazing plan, if requested. If NRCS does not assist with plan development, the plan(s) will be reviewed by NRCS for approval prior to implementation to confirm the written objectives meet the criteria of the enhancement.
- Y During implementation, as requested, assist the participant with adapting the grazing strategy and plan to current conditions.



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Y After implementation, review grazing plan, records, and documentation to verify the enhancement was implemented to meet the criteria.

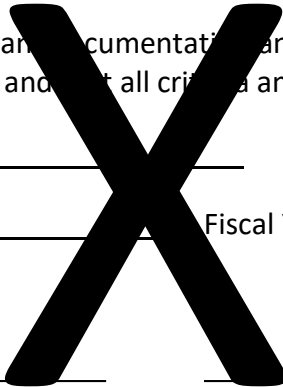
Y After implementation, complete an assessment of the site with the participant using the state's approved NRCS Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG). Minimum score after implementation will be one category higher than initial score when specifically rated for Monarch Butterflies. **WHEG score after implementation:** _____

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

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



OREGON SUPPLEMENT TO CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT

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ACTIVITY E528B

Additional Documentation for Oregon

- In addition to the documentation requirements specified in the National job sheet E528B 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](#)



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ACTIVITY E512B

Additional Criteria for Oregon

- In addition to the criteria specified in the National job sheet E512B the following additional criteria apply in Oregon:

Additional Wildlife Documentation Requirements for Oregon

[eFOTG: Section 3: Oregon Conservation Planning Documents: Wildlife Habitat Inventory Documents:](#)

- Use the Western Monarch Butterfly WHEG or the Oregon Pollinator WHEG to determine pre and post-enhancement condition. Direct any additional questions regarding this WHEG guidance to your basin or state wildlife biologist.
- Document in the practice specification how this enhancement will maintain or enhance the habitat for the Monarch butterflies, pollinators, or beneficial insects.

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