



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

E528C

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Incorporating wildlife refuge areas in contingency plans for wildlife

Conservation Practice 528: Prescribed Grazing

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Pasture; Range; Forest

RESOURCE CONCERN: Animals

ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN: 1 year

Enhancement Description

A prescribed grazing plan that includes 12 month (or longer) rest (non-grazing period equal or greater than one year) of a grazing unit that consists of native grasses and/or legumes and/or perennial forbs for the purpose of meeting the needs for drought/disaster contingency plans that will also provide wildlife habitat or wildlife access to water for a period of time.

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 of structural improvements, existing resource conditions, and forage inventory.
 - Grazing plan, and

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- A contingency plan
- A monitoring plan
- 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.
- Identify wildlife species of concern in the objectives of the prescribed grazing plan.
- An area that constitutes at least 15% of the planned enhancement acreage (or a minimum of ten acres, whichever is larger) that is predominantly native grasses and/or legumes and/or perennial forbs will be rested from all harvest by livestock or prescribed burning for a period of 12 months or longer.
- The rested area must be a grazing unit (or located in a grazing unit) that scores a minimum of 0.5 on the state NRCS Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG).
- The rested area can be used to stockpile forages to build reserves for livestock forage after the 12-month rest period.
- In the event the designated refuge area gets utilized by livestock during a drought/disaster emergency or other contingency situation, during the life of the contract, it must be restored or let recover or another pasture designated and rested for 12 months following the emergency utilization.
- Water must be made available for the wildlife species of concern designated in the grazing plan in the refuge area or nearby where the refuge provides needed cover for water access.



Documentation and Implementation Requirements

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Participant will:

- Prior to implementation, review NRCS Conservation Practice Standards Prescribed Grazing (Code 528) and Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 645), including any state approved job sheets or work sheets.
- Prior to implementation, work with NRCS to complete an assessment of the site using the state's approved NRCS Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG).
- Prior to implementation, provide locations of water access.
- Prior to implementation, obtain grazing/wildlife habitat management plan specifying what species the enhancement is targeting and how grazing management is being modified to benefit that species. The written grazing plan must describe the management and harvest of vegetation with grazing and/or browsing animals, what conditions create the need to implement a contingency plan, and what monitoring method(s) will be used.
 - The grazing plan will include a minimum of a 12-month rest period on 15% of enrolled acres incorporated into grazing strategy. Supporting documentation identifying baseline conditions will be based on state NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Prescribed Grazing (Code 528) specifications.
- During implementation, keep actual use records (dates, time, and number of head).
- During implementation, maintain water in the refuge area or nearby where the refuge provides needed cover for water access.
- During implementation, collect monitoring data used to determine contingency activation such as precipitation, drought, fire, and flooding or forage availability.
- During implementation, consult with NRCS to adjust and adapt the plan to current conditions to verify the changes meet enhancement criteria. Changes to the plan will be documented in writing.
- After implementation, make the follow items available for review by NRCS to verify implementation of the enhancement:
 - Grazing/wildlife habitat management plan.
 - Monitoring data and actual use records.

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- Any documented changes to the plan as result of contingency or monitoring data.

NRCS will:

- As needed, provide technical additional assistance to the participant as requested.
- Prior to implementation, provide and explain NRCS Conservation Practice Standards Prescribed Grazing (Code 528) and Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 645) as they relate to implementing this enhancement, including any state approved job sheets or work sheets.
- Prior to implementation, complete an assessment of the site with the participant using the state's approved NRCS Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG).

Species of Concern: _____

WHEG score before implementation: _____

WHEG score after implementation: _____

- 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.
- After implementation, review actual use and monitoring data used to implement grazing strategy and provide recommendations for adjustments, or additional practices to facilitate future improvements in wildlife habitat.
- During implementation, as requested, assist the participant with adapting the grazing strategy and plan to current conditions.
- After implementation, review grazing plan, records, and documentation to verify the enhancement was implemented to meet the criteria.
- After implementation, complete an assessment of the site with the participant using the state's approved NRCS Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG).

WHEG score after 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 _____

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



OREGON SUPPLEMENT TO CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT

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ACTIVITY E528C

Additional Documentation for Oregon

- In addition to the documentation requirements specified in the National job sheet E528C 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.
 - Document in the practice specification how this enhancement will maintain or enhance the habitat for the identified wildlife species.
 - 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.
 - This enhancement can be contracted in each of the 5 years as long as the 15% deferment requirements are met.
 - Use an Oregon Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide to determine general habitat condition.

Additional References and Information for Oregon

- Non-Affiliated Consultant Form – Available on the [OR SharePoint CSP Site](#)
[eFOTG: Section 3: Oregon Conservation Planning Documents: Wildlife Habitat Inventory Documents](#)

Use the Priority Oregon Wildlife Species Slicer or the Oregon Conservation Strategy Species to identify the species of concern.

[Slicer – Priority Oregon Wildlife Species](#)
[Oregon Conservation Strategy Species](#)

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