

# Effects of NRCS Conservation Practices - National

## Prescribed Grazing

Managing the harvest of vegetation with grazing and/or browsing animals.

Code: 528

Units: ac.

AL-Aso Land  
 O-Other  
 W-Water  
 D-Developed  
 FS-Farmstead  
 Pr-Protected  
 P-Pasture  
 R-Range  
 F-Forest  
 C-Crop

Typical Landuse: C F R P Pr FS D W O AL

<u>Soil Erosion</u>	<u>Effect</u>	<u>Rationale</u>
Soil Erosion - Sheet and Rill Erosion	4	Improving the health and vigor of plant communities will increase vegetative cover and/or water infiltration and decrease erosion by water.
Soil Erosion - Wind Erosion	4	Improving the health and vigor of plant communities will increase vegetative cover and decrease erosion by wind.
Soil Erosion - Ephemeral Gully Erosion	3	Improving the vigor of plant communities will speed vegetative recovery when episodic storms cause erosion.
Soil Erosion - Classic Gully Erosion	1	Enhanced vegetation cover limits the speed of concentrated flow.
Soil Erosion - Streambank, Shoreline, Water Conveyance C	3	There will be enhancement of protective riparian vegetation.
<u>Soil Quality Degradation</u>		
Organic Matter Depletion	4	There will be an increase in vegetative cover, deeper root systems, increased soil organic material and biological activity, and improved nutrient cycling.
Compaction	2	Soil bulk density decreases on long-term basis because of an increase in vegetative cover, deeper root systems, and increased soil organic material. There may be a slight increase in bulk density in the short term on intensively managed grazing systems.
Subsidence	0	Not Applicable
Concentration of Salts or Other Chemicals	2	Bare Ground is covered by increased litter and plant bases. Cover reduces evaporative salt accumulation.
<u>Excess Water</u>		
Excess Water - Seeps	0	Springs and seeps can be utilized and maintained.
Excess Water - Runoff, Flooding, or Ponding	1	Runoff will be reduced and infiltration increased due to improved vegetative cover.
Excess Water - Seasonal High Water Table	0	Not applicable.
Excess Water - Drifted Snow	0	Not Applicable
<u>Insufficient Water</u>		
Insufficient Water - Inefficient Use of Irrigation Water	0	Not applicable.
Insufficient Water - Inefficient Moisture Management	2	There will be increased infiltration, increased available water, and extended interflow yield.
<u>Water Quality Degradation</u>		
Pesticides in Surface Water	2	Managing for desirable plant health and vigor reduces runoff, erosion, and the need for pesticide applications.
Pesticides in Groundwater	1	Managing for desirable plant health and vigor reduces the need for pesticide applications.
Nutrients in Surface water	1	The action increases plant vigor and uptake of nutrients.
Nutrients in Groundwater	1	The action increases plant vigor and uptake of nutrients.
Salts in Surface Water	2	The action reduces soil surface evaporation, increases infiltration and reduces runoff.
Salts in Groundwater	1	The action results in increased vigor of plant community which may increase contaminant uptake.
Excess Pathogens and Chemicals from Manure, Bio-solic	1	Reduced runoff, grazing management, and properly placed and designed watering facilities will reduce risk of movement of pathogens in surface waters.
Excess Pathogens and Chemicals from Manure, Bio-solic	1	The action may increase soil microbial activity enhancing competition with pathogens.

Excessive Sediment in Surface Water	2	Management will result in increased plant vigor and cover, decreasing sediment yields.														
Elevated Water Temperature	1	The action protects soil and water quality.														
Petroleum, Heavy Metals and Other Pollutants Transport	0	Toxic substances not grazed.														
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<u>Air Quality Impacts</u>																
Emissions of Particulate Matter (PM) and PM Precursors	2	Improved vegetative cover reduces the generation of particulates.														
Emissions of Ozone Precursors	0	Not Applicable														
Emissions of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs)	1	Improved vegetative cover removes CO2 from the air and stores it in the form of carbon in the plants and soil.														
Objectionable Odors	1	Proper management will spread livestock, reducing manure concentrations.														
<u>Degraded Plant Condition</u>																
Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health	5	Improved plant and animal management enhances growing conditions of the desired plant community.														
Inadequate Structure and Composition	4	Grazing management is implemented to create or maintain the desired plant community.														
Excessive Plant Pest Pressure	1	Management will increase health and vigor and competition by desirable plants which will decrease noxious and invasive plants.														
Wildfire Hazard, Excessive Biomass Accumulation	2	Management of plant communities reduces fuel loads.														
<u>Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat</u>																
Inadequate Habitat - Food	2	Management enhances production and diversity of the plant community including food species.														
Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter	2	Management enhances production and diversity of cover/shelter conditions/														
Inadequate Habitat - Water	4	Improved infiltration increases lag streamflow.														
Inadequate Habitat - Habitat Continuity (Space)	4	Management can restore desired habitats/space.														
<u>Livestock Production Limitation</u>																
Inadequate Feed and Forage	5	Livestock numbers are in balance with available feed and forage that meets nutritional and productive needs for the kinds and classes of livestock.														
Inadequate Shelter	2	Grazing management considers location of animals and available shelter(s) throughout the year.														
Inadequate Water	0	Not Applicable														
<u>Inefficient Energy Use</u>																
Equipment and Facilities	0	Not Applicable														
Farming/Ranching Practices and Field Operations	0	Not Applicable														
		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2"><u>CPPE Practice Effects:</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>5 Substantial Improvement</td> <td>0 No Effect</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4 Moderate to Substantial Improvement</td> <td>-1 Slight Worsening</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3 Moderate Improvement</td> <td>-2 Slight to Moderate Worsening</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2 Slight to Moderate Improvement</td> <td>-3 Moderate Worsening</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1 Slight Improvement</td> <td>-4 Moderate to Substantial Worsening</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>-5 Substantial Worsening</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<u>CPPE Practice Effects:</u>		5 Substantial Improvement	0 No Effect	4 Moderate to Substantial Improvement	-1 Slight Worsening	3 Moderate Improvement	-2 Slight to Moderate Worsening	2 Slight to Moderate Improvement	-3 Moderate Worsening	1 Slight Improvement	-4 Moderate to Substantial Worsening		-5 Substantial Worsening
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