United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Plant Enhancement Activity – PLT02 – Grazing management to improve wildlife habitat

Enhancement Description
Adjust grazing management based on monitoring data. Monitor key grazing areas to determine if current grazing management is meeting management goals and objectives. A key grazing area is a small area of a grazed field that is identified as being representative of the entire field.

Land Use Applicability
Pastureland, rangeland and forestland

Benefits
Proper grazing management will maintain and improve vegetation and soil conditions, improve water quality, and enhance wildlife habitat. Monitoring can be utilized to determine if current grazing management actions are having the desired effect on natural resources. Monitoring enable managers to make decisions and adjust management strategies as needed

Criteria

1. Key grazing areas will be established for each grazed field
2. Each key grazing area will be monitored annually once established
3. Monitoring will include a photo for each pasture of key grazing area and use of one or more of the following techniques:
    a. Rangeland apparent trend
    b. Plant productivity determinations
    c. Measurements of key forage plant heights (before and after grazing)
    d. Locally applicable methods such as those described in the "Monitoring for Grasslands, Shrublands and Savanna Ecosystems http://usda-ars.nmsu.edu/monit_assess/monitoring.php

Documentation Requirements

1. A written grazing plan which meets the CSP eligibility requirements
2. A map showing the location of each key grazing area
3. Photographs from the photo point locations
4. Written documentation of the monitoring data collected
5. Written documentation of how monitoring data was used to adjust grazing management plans including modifications and objectives.