**Conservation Practice Effects**

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| **Prescribed Grazing (Ac) 528****Definition: Managing the harvest of vegetation with grazing and/or browsing animals.****Major Resource Concerns Addressed: Low plant/animal productivity and health.****Benchmark Condition: Native rangeland, poor livestock distribution, low forage yields.****Date: October, 2016 Developer/Location: Hal Gordon, OR** |
| **Positive Effects** | **Negative Effects** |
| **Soil*** **Sheet, rill, wind and gully erosion reduced by improving the health/vigor of plant communities with increased vegetative cover and water infiltration.**
* **Streambanks protected with an increase in riparian vegetation.**
* **Increase in vegetative cover, deeper root systems, increased soil organic material and biological activity, and improved nutrient cycling.**
* **Reduced soil compaction.**
* **Increased cover reduces evaporative salt accumulation.**

**Water*** **Spring and seep flows improved.**
* **Runoff, flooding, or ponding is reduced and infiltration increased with improved vegetative cover.**
* **Soil moisture improved, less irrigation.**
* **Reduced pesticides and fertilizer use with better plant health and vigor, improved surface and ground water.**
* **Reduced risk of movement of pathogens in surface waters with increase in soil microbial activity.**
* **Reduced sediment delivery to surface water.**
* **Reduced surface water temperatures.**

**Air*** **Improved vegetative cover reduces the generation of particulates and removes CO2 from the air and stores it as carbon in plants and soil.**
* **Objectionable manure odor reduced.**

**Plants*** **Improved plant and animal management enhances growing conditions of the desired plant community and reduces noxious and invasive plants.**
* **Improved forage yields and access.**
* **Reduced fuel loads and wildfire hazard.**

**Animals*** **Improved fish and wildlife habitat, cover, shelter, water, habitat continuity and space.**
* **Livestock numbers are in balance with feed and forage that meets livestock nutritional and productive needs.**
* **Grazing management considers animal shelter throughout the year.**

**Energy*** **Opportunity to reduce herding requirements and fuel use.**

**Human*** **Improved livestock distribution and management options.**
* **Increase yields/reduce costs as land becomes more productive.**
* **Create sustainability of natural resources that support your business.**
* **Increase the property value (real estate) of your property.**
* **Create open space and improve habitat for wildlife.**
* **Conserve soil and water for periods of drought and future use.**
* **Prevent off-site negative impacts.**
* **Comply with environmental regulations.**
* **Promote family health and safety.**
* **Make land more attractive and promote good stewardship.**
* **May be eligible for cost share.**
* **Increased profitability in the long run.**
 | **Land*** **Slight increase in land in production with better livestock distribution.**
* **Protect buried cultural resources.**

**Capital*** **Slight increase in equipment costs, some monitoring equipment may be required (camera, stakes, hoops, clippers, etc.)**
* **Minor increase in annual operation and maintenance costs for herding and forage monitoring.**

**Labor*** **Additional labor herding livestock between pastures.**

**Management*** **Increase in field scouting to determine when to move livestock and manage forage, minerals and water.**
* **Increase record keeping.**

**Risk*** **Possible foregone income from forage deferment during implementation.**
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| **Net Effect: improved forage productivity & water quality, reduce erosion at a minor cost.** |

**Commonly Associated Practices:** Access Control , Animal Trails and Walkways, Dust Control from Animal Activity on Open Lot Surfaces, Feed Management, Fence, Forage and Biomass Planting, Heavy Use Area Protection, Integrated Pest Management, Livestock Pipeline, Nutrient Management, Pond, Spring Development, Stream Crossing, Water Well, Watering Facility.

**Note:** This worksheet contains general talking points for the conservation planner to discuss with the land user. It is the first step towards an economic or financial analysis. The second step would include identifying a specific site for analysis at the farm or field level, editing the template for local conditions, adding units and quantities of farm inputs and outputs. The third step in the economic analysis is to place a dollar value on as many variables as possible, put all units in the same time frame, using amortization ($/Acres/Year) or net present value ($/Acre), so benefits and costs can be compared. The fourth and final step would be to combine several conservation practices into a conservation system, which is how most conservation practices are applied at the field level. Data for the worksheet comes from the land user, conservation planner, technical specialist and local agricultural supply vendors and contractors. See Economics Technical Note: TN 200-ECN-1, Basic Economic Analysis Using T-Charts (August 2013) for more information.