

NRCS 528A: Prescribed Grazing Standards

4 Native Bunchgrass Guidelines:

- Every pasture is deferred from grazing at least every third year. Deferral means no grazing of the key species during the growing season (approximately March 1st through July 15th)
- Every pasture is grazed no more than 1 in 3 years during the critical period. The critical period is when the key species are in boot stage through seed formation
- No pasture is grazed more than half the growing season.
- The intensity of grazing for every pasture is within proper use standards – no more than 50% use during the growing season, no more than 60% use during the dormant season. Percent use is measured on a weight basis.

Contingency Planning:

- Drought: Reduce numbers – sell older cows (10%)
- Fire: Plan on 2 year rest and potentially re-seeding depending on intensity

Monitoring Plan:

- Keep records of animal use by pasture including numbers, dates of use
- Establish key grazing areas and key species for each pasture
- Monitor grazing use using grazed class method by pasture annually & keep records
- It is recommended to set up photo monitoring points or nested frequency plots for trend monitoring