**Prescribed Grazing (Range/Pasture) Implementation Log**

([USDA NRCS CPS 528](https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/api/CPSFile/26472/___))

Project Agreement No: Recorded by:

County(ies) where the ranch located:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Grazing Field** | **Field Size** | **Grazing Started** | | **Grazing Ended** | | **Head Counts** | **Livestock** | **Post Grazing Record** | | **Notes** |
| APN/Field Name | Acres | Date | Stubble height (inch) | Date | Stubble height (inch) | Number of livestock grazed | Animal Class | Geotagged photos | Residue Dry Matter (lbs/acre)\* | Any supplements such as hay feeding (how much, dates, type, etc.), or wildlife inventory |
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\*Instructions are on the next page.

**Definitions and Instructions for the Log**

# **Definitions**

1. Grazing Field ‐ Assessor Parcel Number and/ field name being grazed.
2. Field Size - Size of the field grazed in acres.
3. Period of Grazing ‐ Beginning and end date the herd was in the field, with recorded stubble height (in inches).
4. Head Counts ‐ Number of livestock grazed in the field.
5. Livestock / Animal Class ‐ Animal class categories used in prescribed grazing.

Dry Cow, Cow with calf, Bull – mature, Cattle – 1 yr old, Cattle – 2 yr old, Horse – Mature, Sheep – mature, Lamb – 1 yr old, Goat – mature

1. Post Grazing Record
   1. Geotagged photos: take 2-3 geotagged photos of the landscape and soil surface of the field on the date when animal was moved out. Please check [Instructions on How to Take Geotagged Photos](https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/healthysoils/docs/InstructionsOnHowToTakeGeotaggedPhotos.pdf) as needed. Indicate “Yes” or “No” in this cell if photos have been submitted separately, and provide additional notes about the photos, if relevant.
   2. Residue dry matter: the amount of plant materials retained on the field after the animals were moved out, in pounds per acre. Check [Measurement Procedures](#_Residual_Dry_Matter).
2. Notes
   1. Supplements or hay ‐ Dates of feeding, how much per head, for what duration (anything you feel is important).
   2. Wildlife Inventory - Estimation of how many deer, elk, or other grazing wildlife present on the property during the average month.
3. If multiple grazing periods occur on the same APN/field during the same project year, enter information for each period, one grazing period per row.

## **Residual Dry Matter Measurement Procedures**

# When to take measurements

Residual Dry Matter (RDM) is mulch that provides good germination conditions for plants, helps prevent erosion and assists in moisture retention after rains have fallen. Residual Dry Matter measurements are taken in the fall before the first rain, ideally between September and early October. Measuring RDM is best done with a combination of clipping/weighing and visual estimation.

# Materials needed to conduct RDM evaluations:

Hanging scale in ounce, 2‐3 bags per transect (paper lunch bags work well), clippers, square foot frame/hoop, camera, marker, evaluation form, and notepad. Always take a photo of the landscape and soil surface of the sample area.

# Standard Methods

1. Place a square foot quadrat hoop on the ground surface.
2. Remove from the area within the quadrat all summer annuals such as tarweed, yellow star-thistle and turkey mullein.
3. Remove any tree leaves.
4. Clip the remaining plant material within the quadrat as close to the ground as you can without disturbing the soil surface.
5. Rapidly collect as much of the clipped plant material as is practical without inadvertently including bits of soil.
6. Weight the plant material. The plant material should be dry in September or early October unless there has been unusually early rain.
7. From the clipped measurements subtract the weight of the bag.
8. A minimum of 5 clippings should be done within each field/ecological site.
9. Average the results of each sample.
10. Convert the average weight from ounce per sqft to lbs per acre and record in the table.

# **Reference**

* UC Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources. 2006. California Guidelines for Residual Dry Matter (RDM) Management on Coastal and Foothill Annual Rangelands or California NRCS Annual Grassland Residual Dry Matter Evaluation Guide. [Publication 8092 - Rangeland Monitoring Series](https://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu/pdf/8092.pdf).
* USDA NRCS. 2017. Conservation Practice Standard – [Prescribed Grazing (CPS 528)](https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/api/CPSFile/26472/___).
* [528 CA GD Prescribed Grazing – Grazing Record Worksheet 2015](https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/api/CPSFile/26475/___). USDA NRCS Field Office Technical Guide, CA.