

Grazing Plan Template

Rangeland is an important resource for grazing livestock. Rangelands provide many ecosystem functions and, if not managed carefully, can become irreversibly degraded. A grazing plan assesses and documents the current condition of the rangeland, identifies vulnerable areas within the system, and proposes management actions to maintain or improve range health and to address current issues. The development of the grazing plan is unique to each operation, as each ranching operation has a different resource base and different operating conditions.

General Guidelines

- The applicant must provide a rangeland health assessment(s) and a grazing management plan completed by a professional agrologist trained in the subject of range management and grazing plan development.
- The intent of this grazing plan is that the landowner and/or land manager has been involved in the development of the plan and agrees to the proposed management actions and monitoring.
- If the project area is located on Crown lands, the applicant must contact the [Ministry of Agriculture land management specialist](#) responsible for the area.

Rangeland Grazing Management Plan

Name of landowner and/ or land manager:

Date of plan:

Plan prepared by:

Legal land locations of project:

1. Background/Introduction

- Basic description of the operation:
 - type (i.e., cow/calf)
 - herd size
 - animal size
 - current and previous grazing history
 - labour ability (number of people, skills, time available)
 - winter feeding site location and management
- Aerial imagery clearly marked with existing fence lines, proposed infrastructure, watering sites and relevant landmarks.

2. Goals

Clearly describe the goals of the project.

- Improved rangeland health and its components (i.e., invasive species, species at risk, litter, vigor, production)
 - Through changes in grazing timing, frequency, intensity, duration, forage supply, distribution and rest.
- Improved productivity to increase economic sustainability.

3. Inventory

- Infrastructure on the pastures (use aerial imagery)
 - Fencing, stream crossings, watering sites, forage types (native, tame, riparian).
 - New cross fences constructed on Crown lands may be subject to wildlife friendly fencing requirements. If applicable, guidelines for construction of [wildlife friendly fences are available online](#).
 - Aerial imagery clearly outlining forage types, ecosites and soils.
- Soils and ecosites
 - [Saskatchewan Soil Survey reports and maps are available online](#)
 - [Saskatchewan Soil Information System](#)
 - [Saskatchewan Rangeland Ecosystems: Ecosite Guide \(Thorpe 2007\) is available online](#).
- Current applicable health assessments (native, tame, riparian) with monitoring photos and GPS coordinates.
 - For native range, at least one assessment should be done per ecosite. Ecosites making up less than 10 per cent of the project area do not require assessments. For tame forage, at least one assessment should be done per field.
 - Native, Forest and Riparian Health Assessment workbooks and field sheets [are available from PCAP](#).
 - Tame Health Assessment worksheet and field sheets can be accessed [online from the Government of Alberta](#).
 - Separate health assessments should be done for each type of site included in the project area (native, tame, forested, and riparian).
- Forage resources for the project area should be included to ensure that there is sufficient forage to meet the demands of the livestock.

Table 1: Forage Inventory

Field	Forage Type	Range Health	Ecosite	Acres	Stocking Rate AUM/AC	Total AUMs per field
Field 1	Tame	Healthy	Loam	170	1.0	170
Field 2	Tame	Healthy	Loam	60	1.0	60
Field 3	Riparian	Healthy with problems	Loam	30	0.50	15
Field 4	Native	Unhealthy	loam	60	0.17	15
TOTAL				320		255

The values in the above table are examples. Please complete using information from the project area.

- Recommended stocking rates should be calculated using:
 - [Saskatchewan Rangeland Ecosystems: Ecosite Guide](#) (Thorpe 2007).
 - Initial Stocking Rate Recommendations for Seeded Pastures in Saskatchewan (Tremblay and Kirychuk 2008).
 - Stocking rates for cattle, bison, horses, and sheep can be found in: [Grazing Management Adjustments for Healthy Rangelands \(2008\)](#).
 - If stocking rates cannot be determined using the above resources, the following can be used: A Practical Guide to Planning for Management and Improvement of Saskatchewan Rangeland: Range Plan Development (Abouguendia 1990)
- A comparison of forage demand (total required AUMs) should be made against the inventory of forage resources. Forage demand should account for stock type and animal size.

Table 2: Forage Demand

Type and Number of Livestock	Weight (lb)	Animal Unit Equivalent	Grazing Period	AUMs Required
Cow/Calf Pairs (30)	1,400	1.4	5 months	210
Bulls (1)	2,000	2.0	5 months	9
Yearling Cattle (3)	750	0.75	5 months	11.25
Bison Pairs (#)				
Yearling Bison (#)				
TOTAL AUMs needed				230.25

The values in the above table are examples. Please complete using information from the project area.

4. Management Actions

Analyze the information and develop the plan. If management actions in the grazing plan include fencing or other infrastructure development (ex: water sources), clearly describe what will be done. Be sure to indicate if the project requires wildlife friendly fencing. Provide a description of what management actions will be taken to achieve the project goals. Provide a timeline for the plan.

5. Monitoring and Updating the Plan

Monitoring and updating the plan are necessary to assess the effectiveness of management changes and determine if additional changes are necessary to help meet the goals of the land manager. Visual monitoring should occur at the end of each grazing season to determine if plan modification is required. The grazing plan should include a process for monitoring rangeland health and assessing effectiveness of management (i.e., every two to three years).

6. Appendix

- Range health assessment sheets (or summary table)
- Additional site photos (i.e., bare soil, erosion, weeds, patchy litter or grazing distribution, brush encroachment, tame species encroachment, poisonous plants)
- GPS coordinates for weeds of concern

Declaration

This grazing management plan was prepared and developed by a professional agrologist. The landowner has provided feedback on the management plan and plans to implement recommended management actions and monitor accordingly.

Signed by agrologist and landowner