

RIM HAYING AND GRAZING AGREEMENT FORM

PURPOSE

Haying and grazing are valuable tools for managing and enhancing the quality of grasslands. Both are economically friendly options for landowners and can be used in areas where prescribed burns are difficult to conduct, and can also be effective for woody species control and managing early-successional habitat.

This form should be used when landowners are requesting approval for the use of haying and/or grazing as a management tool. Approval will depend on current site conditions, soil type, topography, site history, timing, and landowner interest/abilities. Grazing is not allowed on CREP III easements with an active CRP contract. Cost-share from BWSR is **not** available for these activities.

This form should be submitted to the RIM inbox (bwsr.rim@state.mn.us) for approval by BWSR staff.

By signing this Haying and/or Grazing Form, I understand that:

1. Cost-share from BWSR is not available for this work. All associated costs are at my expense.
2. Land under an active CRP contract or WRP easement must include written approval from FSA and/or NRCS.
3. Following BWSR approval of this form, any modifications to the Haying Plan and/or Grazing Plan must be approved by the SWCD and BWSR. This includes complications due to weather or other on-site conditions.
4. I **must** report the completion of the haying/grazing activity to the SWCD each year of the Agreement.
5. The SWCD and BWSR reserve the right to modify or terminate this Agreement based upon site conditions or actions not consistent with management of the easement. Ten days written notice will be provided.
6. I understand there is no guarantee for continued use of the RIM easement for haying and grazing purposes. These activities are for habitat management purposes only and must not be depended on as income. Once this Agreement ends or if the land is sold, a new Agreement must be approved prior to any future activities.
7. I am responsible for all work included in this Agreement, regardless of use of contractor or cooperator. Any damage to the easement shall be corrected at my expense.
8. All terms of the RIM easement must continue to be followed.
9. Approval from BWSR is required before implementation.

Landowner signature and date	Cooperator signature and date (if applicable)
SWCD signature and date	BWSR approval

MANAGED HAYING

1. Haying is limited to a single event for every year of the approved timeline. Consideration will be given to management concerns that may require multiple instances of management in one year.
2. Three-year Agreements are typically used. However, for landowners/cooperators that have completed Haying Agreements on RIM acres previously, six-year Agreements can be considered. These six-year Agreements will especially be considered for landowners varying management timing and type.
3. Haying should generally be completed outside of the [primary nesting season](#) to protect ground nesting wildlife. Consideration will be given to management objectives that require activity during the nesting season.
4. Refuge areas must be available.
5. Where practical, hay cutting will begin in the center of the harvest area to allow wildlife escape routes.
6. Stubble height for native vegetation is 6 to 8 inches; stubble height for introduced vegetation is 4 inches. Consideration will be given for specific management concerns that require shorter vegetation heights.
7. Operators have 30 days to complete haying activity. Bales and other materials must be removed within 30 days of completion of haying, no later than September 30.
8. Map(s) of planned management activity must be attached on a separate page.

Easement number		Landowner name		
Practice area(s) and Practice type(s)			Currently enrolled in CRP	
Has this easement ever been hayed or grazed?	Yes	No	If yes, when?	
Management purpose: <i>List site conditions, concerns, and goals.</i> 				
Management area	Acres	Start Date (mm/dd/yy)	End Date (mm/dd/yy)	
BWSR comments:				

MANAGED GRAZING

1. Grazing is limited to a single event every year of the approved timeline. Consideration will be given to management concerns that may require multiple instances of management in one year.
2. Three-year Agreements are typically used. However, for landowners/cooperators that have completed Grazing Agreements on RIM acres previously, six-year agreements can be considered. These six-year Agreements will especially be considered for landowners varying management timing and type.
3. Stocking rate and grazing period will be based upon current NRCS standards. Generally, stocking rates should be 1 to 2 animal units/acre over a 30-day period.
4. Grazing during the [primary nesting season](#) is allowed if necessary to meet management objectives.
5. Tree plantings, fall grazing of food plots, and other sensitive areas will not be grazed.
6. Exterior fencing should utilize [NRCS Practice Standard 382 Wildlife Friendly Fence Material and Standard Considerations](#). Interior fencing must be temporary.
7. No supplemental feeding areas within the RIM easement are allowed.
8. Livestock must not be treated with insecticides while on site.
9. Stubble height for native vegetation is 6 to 8 inches; stubble height for introduced vegetation is 4 inches. Consideration will be given for specific management concerns that require shorter vegetation heights.
10. Map(s) of planned management activity must be attached on a separate page.

Easement number			Landowner name		
Practice area(s) and Practice type(s)				Currently enrolled in CRP	
Has this easement ever been hayed or grazed?		Yes	No	If yes, when?	
Management purpose: <i>List site conditions, concerns, and goals.</i>					
Management area	Acres	Animal type and units		Start date (mm/dd/yy)	End Date (mm/dd/yy)
BWSR comments:					

POST-MANAGEMENT SITE REVIEW

Post-management site reviews should ideally be done immediately following the haying or grazing activity as well as the during the growing season following management. These reviews ensure the landowner is following the terms of the Agreement as well as provide an assessment of the vegetative response.

This form should match the planned Management Area, Acres, and Start/End dates as listed above.

Easement number		Inspection date(s)	
Management area	Acres	Start date (mm/dd/yy)	End Date (mm/dd/yy)
Vegetative response:			

Attach site pictures below as needed.