**Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources**

 **Reinvest in Minnesota**

**Vegetative Enhancement Haying/Grazing Agreement**

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| **County:** | **Easement #:** **Easement Type:** |
| **Name:****Address:** | **Ph. #:** |

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| **Management Purpose:**[ ] Spring event (May – June) to suppress cool season grasses, trees, and sweet clover. Promotes more rapid growth of native warm season grasses.Note Specific site issue:[ ]  Mid-Summer (July – August) to enhance warm season grass tillering. Goal should be to reduce litter layer with mechanical raking or intensive grazing.Note specific site issue: |
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| **Grazing:**To achieve the intensive disturbance required in this management plan it is recommended that 1-2 animal units/ac. over 30-day period be implemented. Grazing period may be shortened by increasing A.U.Animal Type\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Animal Units Available \_\_\_\_\_ (See Animal Unit chart if unsure of conversion rate)

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| **AREA** | **YEAR** | **ACRES** | **A.U. (1-2/ac.)** | **START DATE** | **END DATE** |
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| **Haying – Limited to one cutting annually:**

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| **AREA** | **YEAR** | **ACRES** | **START DATE** | **END DATE** |
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| **IMPORTANT: Attach Aerial Photo outlining practice area to be hayed or grazed by year. Include any relevant temporary watering for fencing utilized.** |
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| **For lands enrolled in both state and federal programs, BWSR will defer to federal guidelines for emergency or mid contract management. For state RIM easements only, BWSR established the following policy:*** Managed Haying/Grazing to enhance quality of grassland planting on RIM easement types and/or partnership easements are limited to a **single event** rotated over the site unless recommended in an approved grazing plan. BWSR policy found at this link: <http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/grassland-management-haying-and-grazing>. This activity will require BWSR approval and signature below. Management activities typically required every five years and will be monitored for need.
* Tree plantings, food plots, water control structures, and stream banks shall be excluded.
* Exterior fence utilizing NRCS standard 382 Implementation Guide to Wildlife Friendly Fence should be used. Temporary fence should be used for all interior fencing. No supplemental feeding areas.
* Where practical, mowing will begin in the center of the harvested area to allow wildlife escape routes.
* Haying will be limited to August 1 – Sept.1 to protect ground nesting wildlife unless management objectives can only be achieved during a short period within the May 15 – August 1 nesting season. Grazing within the nesting season is allowed if recommended in an approved grazing plan to manage cool season grasses.
* Graze grasses no shorter than 4" in height to assure regrowth. Stocking rate for grazing will be based upon current NRCS standards and documented.
* The SWCD reserves the right to modify or terminate this agreement based upon site conditions or actions not consistent with enhancement of the easement area. Ten days written notice will be provided.
* Bales and other materials removed by Sept. 30 each year. Any damage to the easement shall be corrected at the landowner’s expense.
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| Questions regarding implementation of this policy can be directed to john.voz@state.mn.us. SWCD and BWSR authorization are required prior to management activity. Retain original signed document in RIM easement file. |
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| **SWCD Representative:****Date:** | **BWSR Representative:****Date:** |
| **Landowner Signature:****Date:** | **Cooperator Signature:****Date:** |
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| **Actual Response:** Complete after management activity conducted, record inspection dates and vegetative response.**REVIEWER: Date:** |