

### III - RESOURCE QUALITY CRITERIA

#### E. RESOURCE QUALITY CRITERIA FOR ANIMALS

Species of concern include wild and domestic animals, both terrestrial and aquatic, that the land user desires to manage, identified as Threatened or Endangered species, or species that are of significant economic or biological importance to the local area.

##### 1. Habitat for Animals

###### (a) Food

The quantity and quality of food such as forage, insects, seeds, and fruits on the site needed by the desired species are inadequate to meet their seasonal needs.

Criteria for Wildlife: Habitat is managed so that adequate quantity and quality of food is available to meet seasonal requirements, and interspersed with water and cover is adequate for the intended land use. (Use wildlife habitat appraisal guide (WHAG) for intended land use or habitat).

Criteria for Livestock: The quantity and quality of available food is provided to meet seasonal nutritional requirements.

###### (b) Cover or shelter

The types and amount of cover on the site do not meet the seasonal needs of the desired species. Cover/shelter are not provided within an adequate proximity to food and water.

Criteria for all Animals: Cover/shelter are available on or adjacent to the site to meet the needs of the desired species. (Use wildlife habitat appraisal guide (WHAG) for intended land use or habitat).

###### (c) Water

Water of adequate quality and quantity is not available to meet seasonal needs of desired species.

Criteria for all Animals: Adequate quantity and quality of water are available to meet the needs of the species of concern. (WHAG) for intended land use or habitat).

## 2. Management of Animals

### (a) Population and resource balance

Numbers of wildlife and/or domestic animals on the site are not in balance with food, water, cover, and space as required for the intended use by the desired species.

Criteria for all Animals: Wildlife and/or domestic animals are in balance with sustained use of the resource. (Appropriate levels will be assessed through Practice 528. Use wildlife habitat appraisal guide (WHAG) for intended land use or habitat. Use Grazing Lands Application methodology).

### (b) Animal health

Proper attention is not given to the health of desired species.

Criteria for all Animals: Animals are in a state of good health, generally free from afflictions such as stress, diseases, parasites, toxins and insect pests.

### (c) Other

Threatened and endangered species are present.

Criteria: Refer to California Endangered Species Handbook