

E. ANIMALS

E.1. Habitat (Domestic Animals)

E.1.a. Food

DEFINITION: Quantity and quality of food are not provided to meet the seasonal requirements of domesticated animals.

Domestic Animal Food Field Application Indicator Tools	RMS Quality Criteria Level-Quantitative	RMS Quality Criteria Level-Qualitative
NRCS National Range and Pasture Handbook; NUTBAL	GanLab results meet or are above nutritional requirements of age and sex of animal	Nutritional requirements of animals are met so that health, growth, reproduction, lactation and general well being is maintained. Tools indicate domesticated animals are in adequate condition; indicating a satisfactory nutritive plane from supplied forages and roughages.
Client interview		
Visual inspection of animals	Body Condition Score: Cattle BCS >= 4, Sheep BCS >=3	
NRCS National Range and Pasture Handbook; Exhibit 5-2	Forage Inventory Worksheet is >=0 (positive) and animals are in good body and health condition.	

E.1.b Shelter (Domestic Animals)

DEFINITION: Domestic animals are not provided adequate shelter for protection.

Domestic Animal Shelter Field Application Indicator Tools	RMS Quality Criteria Level-Quantitative	RMS Quality Criteria Level-Qualitative
Client interview		Cover and shelter are adequate to protect livestock from inclement weather. Tools indicate animals are in adequate condition and mortality of adult and young animals is minimal during severe weather seasons and storms.
Visual inspection of animals		
Visual observation of mortality and weaning percentages		

E.1.c. Quantity and Quality of Drinking Water (Domestic Animals)

DEFINITION: Adequate quantities of water of required quality are not provided for domestic animals.

Quantity and Quality of Drinking Water for Domestic Animals Field Application Indicator Tools	RMS Quality Criteria Level-Quantitative	RMS Quality Criteria Level-Qualitative

**NRCS-Alaska Technical Guide
Section III
Quality Criteria - FOTG Referenced Tools - Animals**

Quantity and Quality of Drinking Water for Domestic Animals Field Application Indicator Tools	RMS Quality Criteria Level-Quantitative	RMS Quality Criteria Level-Qualitative
NRCS National Range and Pasture Handbook. Table 6-7 and Table 6-8.	Meet or exceeds daily use requirements for the age and sex of livestock.	Water supply is adequate, of sufficient quality, free of fecal contamination, and is properly distributed to meet daily needs of species of concern. Animal performance is not being negatively impacted during the year. Grazing utilization is not heavy-severe at watering points while significant areas of the field/pasture are not utilized. The other resources near the watering facility meet the pertinent quality criteria.
Observations of animal behavior		
Visual inspection of soil and vegetative conditions at water facilities		
Visual inspection of quantity and/or quality of water facilities		

E.1. Habitat (Wildlife)

a.-c. Food, Cover or Shelter, Quantity and Quality of Drinking Water.

DEFINITION:

Food-Quantity and quality of food are not available to meet the seasonal requirements of the species of concern.

Cover or Shelter-Adequate wildlife cover for the species of concern is not available.

Quantity and quality of drinking water-Adequate quantities of water of required quality are not available for the species of concern.

Wildlife Habitat Field Application Indicator Tools	RMS Quality Criteria Level-Quantitative	RMS Quality Criteria Level-Qualitative
		Planned area will meet minimum level of habitat quality relative to the potential set by the landuse of the area.
Cropland and Hayland	40%	
Pastureland	50%	
Rangeland	60%	
Woodland	60%	
Aquatic Habitats and Wildlifeland (Includes Riparian, Freshwater Wetlands, Ponds, Lakes, Reservoirs, Streams, Saltwater Wetlands, and Intertidal Zones, etc.)	75%	

E.1.d Threatened and Endangered Species (includes Federal listed species, State listed species, unique species, etc.)

DEFINITION: Federal listed or state species of concern occur on or near the site.

T&E Species Field Application Indicator Tools	RMS Quality Criteria Level-Quantitative	RMS Quality Criteria Level-Qualitative
T&E species map and databases FOTG Sect II		Actions and procedures will conform to laws and established policy for all officially listed species. Use observation and tools to determine if anthropogenic (human activities) inputs will impact known or potential species and/or their habitat needs. Engage Section VII consultation procedures found in Title 50, Chapter IV, Part 402 Interagency Cooperation – Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, where a project may impact federally listed endangered species. Engage avoidance, minimization or mitigation procedures for species identified on-site.
Field identification		

E.2. Management

E.2.a. Population/Resource Balance

DEFINITION: Numbers and kinds of domestic animals and wildlife are not in balance with feed, forage, space, and habitat requirements.

Population Resource Balance Field Application Indicator Tools	RMS Quality Criteria Level-Quantitative	RMS Quality Criteria Level-Qualitative
Interview ADF&G and USFWS biologists for corroboration of area/site species carrying capacities.		Numbers and kinds of domestic and wild animals do not exceed the habitat's carrying capacity unless the decision-maker does not have legal control of wild animal numbers. Tools indicate no readily discernible imbalance as indicated by overuse of the entire field/pasture/habitat, uneven utilization patterns, or by adversely impacted wildlife species.
Visual observation and client interview		
NRCS National Range and Pasture Handbook; Exhibit 5-5	Livestock Inventory and Forage Balance Worksheet ≥ 0 (positive) and animals are in good body and health condition	

NRCS-Alaska Technical Guide
Section III
Quality Criteria - FOTG Referenced Tools - Animals

FOTG. Section 4. Prescribed Grazing Standard and Specification	Current grazing utilization will be equal to or less than specified in Table 1, Prescribed Grazing Specification.	
NRCS National Range and Pasture Handbook;	Similarity index >60%	
FOTG Section II. Forage Suitability Groups and NRCS Pasture Condition Score Sheet.	Pasture Condition Score overall rating of >35 or individual rating >4.	

E.2.b. Animal Health

DEFINITION: Proper attention is not given to the health of the animal of concern. This includes such considerations as diseases, parasites, and insects.

Animal Health Field Application Indicator Tools	RMS Quality Criteria Level-Quantitative	RMS Quality Criteria Level-Qualitative
Visual inspection		A suitable domestic and wildlife habitat is provided for viable populations of animals of concern or interest and this meets life cycle and reproductive requirements as appropriate. The adverse effects of poisonous plants, disease, parasites, insects or adverse environmental conditions caused by management are at or below threshold levels of concern.
Animal productivity		
Client interview		