

**Indiana FIELD OFFICE TECHNICAL GUIDE**

**Section III - Resource Management Systems and Quality Criteria**

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**Quality Criteria**

**Quality Criteria is a quantitative or qualitative statement of treatment level required to achieve a Resource Management System (RMS) for an identified resource considerations for a particular land area. It is established in accordance with local, state, and federal programs and regulations in consideration of ecological, economic, and social effects.**

**Quality Criteria establishes the minimum treatment level necessary to adequately address the natural resource concerns and human considerations that are identified during the planning process for the development of an Resource Management System (RMS). The RMS criteria are met when treatment has been planned that, when applied, will resolve all of the identified resource problems according to the Quality Criteria. The RMS will be considered applied when all of the conservation practices that make up the system have been installed, implemented or applied according to Practice Standards and Specifications in FOTG Section IV.**

**In some instances, individual decisionmaker action cannot solve an existing conservation problem in accordance with these criteria. In these instances, an opportunity exists for group planning, project measures or multi-program activities to meet the respective quality criteria. In cases where the decisionmaker cannot solve the problem as an individual, the criteria will be met when the land under the control of the decision maker does not adversely contribute to the problem.**

**The use and implementation of this criteria will be consistent with federal, tribal, state and local laws and regulations.**

**In instances where management of water is restricted because of policy and laws, such as those pertaining to wetlands, the criteria will be met if policy and laws are followed.**

**Quality criteria has been developed for most of the resource problems encountered during resource investigations. To determine what the current quality criteria for a specific resource problem is, simply click on one of the resource concerns listed below.**

**Resource - Soil**

<b>Consideration</b>	<b>Problem/Concern</b>
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<b>Erosion</b>	<b>Sheet and Rill</b> <b>Wind</b> <b>Ephemeral Gully - Concentrated Flow</b> <b>Gully</b> <b>Streambank</b> <b>Irrigation Induced</b> <b>Soil Mass Movement</b> <b>Road Banks, Construction, Scarred Areas</b>
<b>Condition</b>	<b>Tilth, Crusting, Water Infiltration,</b> <b>Organic Matter</b> <b>Compaction</b> <b>Contaminants - Excess Fertilizers,</b> <b>Pesticides, Chemicals, Animal Waste or</b> <b>Other Organics</b> <b>pH Levels</b>
<b>Deposition</b>	<b>On-Site, Off-Site Damage</b> <b>On-Site, Off-Site Safety</b>

**Resource - Water**

<b>Consideration</b>	<b>Problem/Concern</b>
<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Excess Amounts - Seeps</b> <b>Excess Amounts - Runoff/Flooding</b> <b>Excess Amounts - Subsurface Water</b> <b>Inadequate Outlets</b> <b>Water Management for Irrigated Land</b> <b>Water Management - Non-Irrigated Land</b> <b>Restricted capacity due to sediment - On-Site / Off-Site</b> <b>Restricted capacity due to sediment - Water bodies, streams, lakes</b>
<b>Quality</b>	<b>Ground Water - Pesticides</b> <b>Ground Water - Nutrients / Organics</b> <b>Salt - Heavy Metals - Pathogens</b> <b>Surface Water - Pesticides</b> <b>Surface Water - Nutrients / Organics</b> <b>Suspended sediments / turbidity</b> <b>Low dissolved oxygen</b> <b>Salt - Heavy Metals - Temperature</b> <b>Pathogens</b> <b>Aquatic habitat suitability</b>

**Resource - Air**

<b>Consideration</b>	<b>Problem/Concern</b>
<b>Quality</b>	<b>Airborne sediment &amp; smoke - on and off site</b> <b>Airborne chemical drift - on and off site</b> <b>Airborne odors</b>
<b>Condition</b>	<b>Air Temperature</b> <b>Air Movement</b> <b>Humidity</b>

**Resource - Plants**

<b>Consideration</b>	<b>Problem/Concern</b>
<b>Suitability</b>	<b>Adaptability to site</b> <b>Plant suitability for intended use</b>
<b>Condition</b>	<b>Productivity</b> <b>Health and Vigor</b> <b>Plant damage by wind</b>
<b>Management</b>	<b>Establishment, growth, and harvest</b> <b>Nutrient Management</b> <b>Pest Management</b> <b>Threatened or Endangered plant species</b>

**Resource - Animals**

<b>Consideration</b>	<b>Problem/Concern</b>
<b>Habitat</b>	<b>Domestic Food</b> <b>Domestic Cover or shelter</b> <b>Domestic Water</b> <b>Wildlife Food</b> <b>Wildlife Cover or shelter</b> <b>Wildlife Water</b> <b>Threatened and Endangered Species</b>
<b>Management</b>	<b>Population/Resource Balance</b> <b>Animal Health</b>

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