

National and State Resource Concerns and Quality Criteria				
Natural Resource Concern	Description of Concern	National Quality Criteria	State Quality Criteria	Assessment Tools for Quality Criteria Evaluation
AIR				
Air Quality - Particulate matter less than 10 micrometers in diameter (PM 10)	Particulate matter less than 10 micrometers in diameter are suspended in the air causing potential health hazards to humans and animals.	Land use and management operations comply with PM 10 requirements of the State or Federal Implementation Plan and all applicable Federal, Tribal, State, and Local regulations	Same as National	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specific guidelines contained in State or Federal Implementation Plan; or other approved NRCS tool. Air quality analysis
Air Quality - Particulate matter less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter (PM 2.5)	Particulate matter less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter are suspended in the air causing potential health hazards to humans and animals.	Land use and management operations comply with PM 2.5 requirements of the State or Federal Implementation Plan and all applicable Federal, Tribal, State, and Local regulations.	Same as National	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specific guidelines contained in State or Federal Implementation Plan; or other approved NRCS tools
Air Quality - Excessive Ozone	High concentrations of ozone (O ₃) are adversely affecting human health, reducing plant yields, and leading to the creation of smog.	Land use and management operations comply with requirements of the State or Federal Implementation Plan and all applicable Federal, Tribal, State, and Local regulations.	Same as National	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specific guidelines contained in State or Federal Implementation Plan; or other approved NRCS tools
Air Quality - Excessive Greenhouse Gas – CO₂ (carbon dioxide)	Increased CO ₂ concentrations are adversely affecting ecosystem processes.	Land use and management operations comply with requirements of the State or Federal Implementation Plan and all applicable Federal, Tribal, State, and Local regulations.	Same as National	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Model simulations (Century, EPIC, CQUESTER); sampling for soil carbon or International Panel on Climate Change methodology; or other NRCS approved tools
Air Quality - Excessive Greenhouse Gas – N₂O (nitrous oxide)	Increased N ₂ O concentrations are adversely affecting ecosystem processes.	Land use and management operations comply with requirements of the State or Federal Implementation Plan and all applicable Federal, Tribal, State, and Local regulations.	Same as National	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NRCS approved tools NLEAP OR OTHER MODELS DO NOT SIMULATE GREENHOUSE GASES ACCURATELY
Air Quality - Excessive Greenhouse Gas – CH₄ (methane)	Increased CH ₄ concentrations are adversely affecting ecosystem processes. .	Land use and management operations comply with requirements of the State or Federal Implementation Plan and all applicable Federal, Tribal, State, and Local regulations.	<p>Livestock intake is balanced to reduce amount of methane produced in rumen.</p> <p>Land use and management operations comply with requirements of the State or Federal Implementation Plan and all applicable Federal, Tribal, State, and Local regulations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IPCC methodology; or other NRCS approved tools Nutritional Balancing Program

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Air Quality - Ammonia (NH3)	Animal waste and inorganic commercial fertilizers emit ammonia that contributes to odor, is a PM2.5 precursor, and contributes to acid rain.	Land use and management operations comply with requirements of all applicable Federal, Tribal, State, and Local regulations.	Same as National	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved NRCS technical guidance and tools
Air Quality - Chemical Drift	Materials applied for pest control drift downwind and contaminate/injure non-targeted fields, crops, soils, water, animals and humans.	Land use and management operations comply with all applicable Federal, Tribal, State, and Local regulations, and applicable label directions.	<p>Chemicals applied according to label directions and in compliance with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations. Airborne drift will be minimal outside target area.</p> <p>Land use and management operations comply with all applicable Federal, Tribal, State, and Local regulations, and applicable label directions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved NRCS technical guidance and tools
Air Quality - Objectionable Odors	Land use and management operations produce offensive smells.	Odor-producing facilities and activities are planned and sited to mitigate potential nuisance impacts and meets all applicable Tribal, State, and Local regulations.	<p>Airborne odors are minimized to avoid adverse affect on community relations and in compliance with federal, state, or local laws and regulations.</p> <p>Odor-producing facilities and activities are planned and sited to mitigate potential nuisance impacts and meets all applicable Tribal, State, and Local regulations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Olfactory assessment Agricultural Waste Management Field Handbook (AWMFH) NRCS approved tools

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Air Quality - Reduced Visibility	Sight distance is impaired due to airborne particles causing unsafe conditions and impeded viewing of natural vistas especially in Class I viewing areas (primarily national parks and monuments).	Land use and management operations comply with all applicable Federal, Tribal, State, and Local regulations including state and local smoke and/or burn management plans.	Excessive airborne particulates are not emitted during normal weather conditions and do not adversely affect human, animal or plant health, visibility on public roads is in compliance with federal, state, or local laws and regulations. Soil particulates subject to wind erosion are managed according to guidance for soil textures, field width and residue amounts in Section I, FOTG. Smoke is not generated during unfavorable weather conditions Land use and management operations comply with all applicable Federal, Tribal, State, and Local regulations including state and local smoke and/or burn management plans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual assessment • Regional air partnership recommendations and/or state guidance for smoke management • On-site and Off-site visual • Current wind erosion prediction technology
Air Quality - Undesirable Air Movement	Wind velocities (too little or too much) reduce animal or plant productivity, impact human comfort and increase energy consumption.	Devices and practices are sited and planned to mitigate excess or deficient air movement.	Same as National	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual assessment • Anemometers • Approved NRCS technical guidance and tools
Air Quality - Adverse Air Temperature	Air temperatures (too cold or too hot) reduce animal or plant productivity, impact human comfort and increase energy consumption.	Devices and practices are planned and sited to mitigate temperature extremes.	Same as National	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chill factor indices; heat indices • Air temperature assessment
Air Quality - Fungi, Molds, Pollen, other.	Airborne fungi, molds, and pollen that adversely affect human or animal health.		Airborne fungi, molds, and pollen are minimized during normal weather conditions through management decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-site visual and olfactory. • All applicable air quality standards