

Natural Resource Concern	Description of Concern	National Quality Criteria	State Quality Criteria	Assessment Tools for Quality Criteria Evaluation
PLANTS				
Plants not adapted or suited	Plants are not adapted and/or suited to site conditions or client objectives.	<p>Selected plants are adapted to the soil and climatic conditions or the site is modified to make it suitable for the desired plants. Plants are sustainable, do not negatively impact other resources, and meet client objectives. For specific land uses, additional criteria apply:</p> <p>Cropland: A healthy stand with vigorous growth. Yields 75% of client expectations.</p> <p>Rangeland: Plants on or planned for the site are listed in applicable Ecological Site Descriptions (ESD)</p> <p>Pastureland: Plants on or planned for the site have a site adaptation score greater than 3 using Pasture Condition Scoring (PCS) and are listed in applicable Forage Suitability Groups (FSG) reports.</p> <p>Hayland: Plants on or planned for the site are listed in applicable Forage Suitability Groups (FSG) reports.</p> <p>Forestland/Agroforest: Plants on or planned for the site are listed in Ecological Site Descriptions (ESD)</p>	<p>Selected plants are adapted to the soil and climatic conditions or the site is modified to make it suitable for the desired plants. Plants are sustainable, do not negatively impact other resources, and meet client objectives. For specific land uses, additional criteria apply:</p> <p>Cropland: Crop yield is 75% or more of the high management yield potential for the planning soil map unit based on the FOTG Section II , or U of I extension Bulletin 811 or if less, meets the objectives of the landuser and protects the resource base</p> <p>Rangeland: Plants on or planned for the site are listed in applicable Ecological Site Descriptions (ESD)</p> <p>Pastureland: Forage yield is 75% or more of the high management yield potential for the planning soil map unit based on the FOTG Section II , or U of I extension Bulletin 811 or if less, meets the objectives of the landuser and protects the resource base</p> <p>Hayland: Hay yield is 75% or more of the high management yield potential for the planning soil map unit based on the FOTG Section II , or U of I extension Bulletin 811 or if less, meets the objectives of the landuser and protects the resource base</p> <p>Forestland/Agroforest: Forest over story stocking levels and species composition are within 25% of the stocking guide for the forest site type. Trees within the stand are uniformly distributed. Bare mineral soil comprises 50% or less of ground surface area.</p> <p>Windbreak/Shelterbelt provides appropriate tree density to achieve intended purpose.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-site investigation and records • Forage Suitability Groups (FSG) • Pasture Condition Scoring (PCS) • Client interview • PLANTS database • VEGSPEC • Seeding and Planting Guide • Plant hardiness zone map • Soil pH, drainage class, sodium adsorption ratio (SAR) and electrical conductivity (EC) suitability ranges. • Soil interpretations – Section IV • Local agronomy guides • University Extension Service information • Soil survey manuscripts • Ecological Site Descriptions (ESD) • Conservation Tree and Shrub Groups (CTSG) • "Recommended Silvicultural and Management Practices for IL Hardwood Forest Types" • Silvics of North America Trees • NRCS Discipline Manuals/handbooks

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Plant – Condition – Productivity, Health and Vigor	Plants do not produce the yields, quality, and soil cover to meet client objectives.	<p>Selected plants on or planned for the site are sufficiently productive to meet or exceed client needs. For specific land uses, additional criteria apply:</p> <p>Cropland: A healthy stand with vigorous growth produces at least 75% of site potential.</p> <p>Rangeland: The plant community has a similarity index of at least 60% or an upward trend for similarity indices less than 60%.</p> <p>Pastureland: Forage yields are at least 75% of high management estimates cited in FSG reports.</p> <p>Hayland: Forage yields at least 75% of high mgt. estimates cited in Forage Suitability Groups (FSG) reports</p> <p>Forestland/Agroforest: Forests consist of healthy stands with vigorous growth having a stand density within 25% of optimum stocking on a stems/acre basis. Plants chosen for agroforest applications are consistent with Conservation Tree and Shrub Groups (CTSG) listings and height performance.</p>	Same as National	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local agronomy guides • Client interview • Plant tissue and harvest analysis • Crop scouting • NRCS discipline manuals/handbooks • National Range and Pasture Handbook • Ecological Site Descriptions • Rangeland Similarity Index Worksheet • Rising plate meter • Forage Suitability Groups (FSG) • Electronic probe calibrated for the forage mixture, or a clip and weigh sampling procedure. • Plot sampling of understory vegetation • Soil survey reports • Soil Testing • Crop/soil yield comparison in the vicinity • Pasture Condition Scoring • Keys for disease and insect symptoms • Keys for nutrient deficiencies, toxicities, and other conditions • Rangeland Health Assessment • Stocking rate of desired species • Plot sampling of understory vegetation • Stocking rate of preferred species in trees per acre and basal area per acre. • "Recommended Silvicultural and Management Practices for IL Hardwood Forest Types" http://ilvirtualforest.nres.uiuc.edu • Conservation Tree and Shrub Groups (CTSG)

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Plant Condition - Plant Communities Fragmentation	Natural plant communities have insufficient structure, extent, and connectivity to provide ecological functions and/or achieve management objectives.	Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG) scores for all lands are at least 0.3. Lands with wildlife as a primary management objective must be at least 0.7.	Illinois Wildlife Habitat Evaluation index of at least 0.4 for habitat types that comprise more than 25% of the area OR Wildlife habitat evaluation guide for the species of concern yields an index of 0.5 or greater for the land use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Illinois Wildlife Habitat Evaluation (Biology Technical Note IL-18) • Approved wildlife habitat evaluation guide index (e.g. Missouri Wildlife Habitat Appraisal Guide or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Habitat Suitability Index Model) • Stream Visual Assessment Protocol • Aquatic and terrestrial habitat evaluation procedures • Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG)
Plant Condition - Threatened or Endangered Plant Species	Plant populations and /or habitat quantity and quality have reached a level that one or more plant species are in danger of or threatened with extinction.	Threatened and endangered plant species and/or habitats they occupy are managed to avoid actions that would reduce their current population, health, or sustainability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as National 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Client interviews • Inventory site • General Manual, 190, Part 410 • US Fish and Wildlife Service county endangered species lists • Federal and state endangered species rules and regulations • Consultation with appropriate federal, state, and local agencies/groups • PLANTS Website
Plant Condition - Noxious and Invasive Plants	The site has noxious or invasive plants present.	The site is managed to control noxious and invasive plants and to minimize their spread.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as National 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Client interviews • Inventory site • Consult weed management associations • Consultation with appropriate federal, state, and local agencies/groups • State or local noxious weed list • PLANTS Website
Plant Condition - Forage Quality and Palatability	Plants do not have adequate nutritive value or palatability for the intended use	Forage plants are managed to produce the desired nutritive value and palatability for the intended use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as National 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NIRS Forage Quality Analysis (NUTBAL) • Plant tissue analysis

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Plant Condition – Wildfire Hazard	The kinds and amounts of fuel loadings (plant biomass) pose risks to human safety, structures, and resources should wildfire occur.	Fuel loadings are reduced and/or isolated to meet client needs in minimizing the risk and incidence of wildfire.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as National 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual assessment protocols • Site and flammable biomass inventories • Aerial photo analysis
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