

Conservation Security Program Priority Resource Concerns
 Minimum Treatment Requirements
 Lower Laramie and Upper Lodgepole Watersheds (WY, NE, & CO)

Resource Concerns and Quality Criteria			
Natural Resource Concern	State Quality Criteria	Assessment Tools for Quality Criteria Evaluation	Evidence Quality Criteria is met for Conservation Security Program
Soil			
Soil Erosion - Sheet and Rill	Sheet and rill erosion does not exceed the Soil Loss Tolerance "T".	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current erosion prediction tool 	For Cropland and Hayland, calculated Sheet and Rill erosion is less than or equal to the Soil Loss Tolerance – T. <i>Not a priority resource concern on Rangeland and Pasture land.</i>
Soil Erosion - Wind	Wind erosion does not exceed the Soil Loss Tolerance "T" or, for plant damage, does not exceed Crop Damage Tolerances.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current Erosion prediction tool 	Calculated wind erosion of less than or equal to the Soil Loss Tolerance – T. <i>Not a priority resource concern on Rangeland and Pasture land.</i>
Soil Erosion - Ephemeral Gully	Surface water runoff is controlled sufficiently to stabilize the small channels and prevent reoccurrence of new channels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volume calculation • Visual observation 	No active ephemeral gullies. (Verified during field visit) <i>Not a priority resource concern on Rangeland and Pasture land.</i>
Soil Condition (Soil Quality) – All types	See the specific Soil Condition resource concerns for Organic Matter Depletion, Compaction, Subsidence, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Producer Records • RUSLE2 • WEQ • Soil Conditioning Index 	For Cropland and Hayland, a positive (greater or equal to zero) Soil Conditioning Index (SCI). On Rangeland and Pasture land, a grazing management plan is implemented.
Soil Erosion – Irrigation-induced	Sprinkler application rates and furrow irrigation flow rates are within values recommended in the National Irrigation Guide.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Irrigation Guides • IWM Index • Producer Yield Records • Producer Tillage Records • Producer Irrigation Records • RUSLE2 • WEQ • Soil Conditioning Index 	An Irrigation Water Management Rating Index equal to or greater than 50 <u>and</u> a positive (greater or equal to zero) Soil Conditioning Index (SCI). <i>Not a priority resource concern on Rangeland or Pasture land.</i>

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WATER			
Water Quantity – All Types	See the specific Water Quantity resource concerns for Inefficient Water Use on Irrigated Land and Aquifer Overdraft.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IWM Index • Producer Records 	<p>On irrigated Cropland, Pasture land or Hay land, an Irrigation Water Management Rating Index equal to or greater than 50.</p> <p><i>Not a priority resource concern on High Mountain Meadow irrigated Pasture land or Hay land.</i></p> <p><i>Not a priority resource concern on Rangeland.</i></p>
Water Quality - Harmful Levels of Pesticides in Groundwater	Pesticides are applied, stored, handled, disposed of, and managed so that groundwater uses are not adversely affected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WIN-PST (Windows Pesticide Screening Tool – USDA-NRCS) • NAPRA (National Agricultural Pesticide Risk Analysis – USDA/NRCS) • Pesticide Application Records 	On Cropland and Hayland, pesticides with an Extra High (X) WIN-PST rating are not used and pesticides with High and Intermediate ratings are appropriately mitigated. (Document with WY-ECS-46) <u>and</u> abandoned or inactive wells are capped or decommissioned.
Water Quality - Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Groundwater	Nutrients and organics are stored, handled, disposed of, and applied such that groundwater uses are not adversely affected.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nitrate Leaching Index • Phosphorus Leaching Index 	On Cropland and Hayland, applications of Nutrients, including manure, do not exceed recommended amounts to meet expected yields. (Document with WY-ECS-44)
Water Quality - Harmful Levels of Pesticides in Surface Water	Pesticides are applied, stored, handled, disposed of, and managed such that surface water uses are not adversely affected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WIN-PST (Windows Pesticide Screening Tool – USDA-NRCS) • NAPRA (National Agricultural Pesticide Risk Analysis – USDA/NRCS) • Pesticide Application Records 	On Cropland and Hayland, pesticides with an Extra High (X) WIN-PST rating are not used and pesticides with High and Intermediate ratings are appropriately mitigated (Document with WY-ECS-46) <u>and</u> abandoned or inactive wells are capped or decommissioned.
Water Quality - Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water	Nutrients and organics are stored, handled, disposed of, and managed such that surface water uses are not adversely affected.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nitrate Leaching Index • Phosphorus Leaching Index 	On Cropland and Hayland, applications of Nutrients, including manure, do not exceed recommended amounts to meet expected yields. (Document with WY-ECS-44)

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Water Quality - Excessive Suspended Sediment and Turbidity in Surface Water	Movement of mineral and organic particles is managed such that surface water uses are not adversely affected.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual assessment • RUSLE2 	On Cropland and Hayland, Sheet and Rill erosion is less than or equal to T (Soil Erosion - Sheet and Rill quality criteria is met) <u>and</u> there exists no ephemeral or classic gully concern <u>and</u> all perennial surface waters adjacent to tilled cropland are buffered by a strip of perennial vegetation at least 10 feet wide (for slopes exceeding 1% use the Filter Strip standard design width)
Water Quality on Rangeland and Pasture land- All Types	See the specific Water Quality resource concerns for Nutrients and Organics and Excessive Suspended Sediment and Turbidity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual assessment • Producer Records 	Livestock access to streams is managed through one or more of the following: - Utilize a rotational grazing plan that minimizes continuous or season-long grazing of pastures that contain streams or other surface water. - Utilize water gaps that limit livestock access - Exclude or minimize livestock use of streams through fencing or herding. - Minimize livestock use of streams by having dependable off-stream water facilities at distances of between 100 to 1000 yards from the stream.

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AIR			
NO PRIORITY AIR RESOURCE CONCERNS IDENTIFIED IN THIS WATERSHED			

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PLANTS			
<p>Plant – Condition – Productivity, Health and Vigor</p>	<p>Cropland – A healthy, vigorous stand that meets the producer’s yield goals given the yield potential for the soil map unit. Organic matter percent is 50% of native condition or if less than 50%, organic matter is improving; determined by Electrical conductivity (EC) is below 4 MMHOS.</p> <p>Grazing land – Maintaining a rangeland plant community with a similarity index of 65% or more or having an upward trend for plant communities with a similarity index of less than 65% of the potential plant community. Pasture Inventory Worksheet rating of “Good” or Pasture Condition Score Sheet rating of “4” for all categories.</p> <p>Hayland – A healthy, vigorous stand of desired species that meets the producer’s yield goals given the yield potential for the species for the given forage suitability group.</p> <p>Forestland – Forest over story stocking levels are within 25% of the “D+X” spacing guide or equivalent for the particular site and stand composition; trees within the stand are uniformly distributed. Understory plant community is comprised of 50% or more, by weight, of expected species for the site and is proportionate with over story canopy. Bare mineral soil comprises 25% or less of ground surface area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Client interview • Plant tissue and harvest analysis • NRCS discipline manuals/handbooks • National Range and Pasture Handbook • Ecological Site Descriptions • Rangeland Similarity Index Worksheet • Forage Suitability Groups (FSG) • Soil survey reports • Soil Conditioning Index • Soil Testing • Crop/soil yield comparison in the vicinity • Pasture Condition Scoring • Rangeland Health Assessment • Stocking rate of desired species • Plot sampling of understory vegetation • Stocking measurement for the tree stands 	<p>For Cropland and Hayland, a positive (greater or equal to zero) Soil Conditioning Index (SCI).</p> <p>For Pasture land, a Pasture Condition Index score of at least 4.</p> <p>For Rangeland, a Rangeland Health Assessment score of 2.5 or lower (Slight to moderate or None to Slight) for Biotic Integrity, on 90% or more of area.</p>

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Plant Condition - Threatened or Endangered Plant Species	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"> • General Manual, 190, Part 410 • US Fish and Wildlife Service county endangered species lists • Federal and state endangered species rules and regulations 	Within Colorado Butterfly plant critical habitat, (uncultivated flood plains adjacent to Tepee Ring Creek, Bear Creek, Little Bear Creek, Horse Creek, Lodgepole Creek, Diamond Creek, and Lone Tree Creek in Platte and Laramie Counties) and known Ute ladies'-tresses locations, noxious and invasive weeds are controlled by spot herbicide treatment or non-chemical means <u>and</u> a grazing management plan is being followed. <i>Not a priority resource concern on Cropland.</i>
Plant Condition - Noxious and Invasive Plants	The site is managed to control noxious and invasive plants and to minimize their spread.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State or local noxious weed list • Producer Records • Visual assessment 	Noxious weeds are being actively controlled. (Verified during field visit) <u>and</u> pesticides with an Extra High (X) WIN-PST rating are not used and pesticides with High and Intermediate ratings are appropriately mitigated. (Document with WY-ECS-46)

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ANIMALS			
Fish and Wildlife – All Habitat Components	Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide index is 0.5 or higher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil, Water, Plant, & Air Quality Criteria • Land use maps • Visual assessment 	All priority Soil, Water, Plant, & Air Resource Concerns are treated to meet Quality Criteria <u>and</u> , <u>for cropland and hayland</u> , areas of permanent cover within ¼ mile and under the producer's control equals at least 2% of the cropland and hayland acreage. Permanent cover includes grazing lands, riparian areas, wetlands, ponds, lakes, streams, rivers, shelterbelts, irrigation ditches, roadsides, and odd areas provided any mechanical harvesting activity occurs only post-nesting season.