

Natural Resource Concern	Description of Concern	Virginia Quality Criteria	Assessment Tools for Quality Criteria Evaluation	Measurement Unit
<p><b>Plants – Not Adapted or Suited</b></p>	<p>Plants are not adapted and/or suited to site conditions or client objectives.</p>	<p><b>SAME AS NATIONAL without Rangeland</b>                      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><b>Cropland:</b> A healthy stand with vigorous growth. Yields 75% of client expectations.</p> <p><b>Pastureland:</b> 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><b>Hayland:</b> Plants on or planned for the site are listed in applicable Forage Suitability Groups (FSG) reports.</p> <p><b>Forestland/Agroforest:</b> Plants on or planned for the site are listed in Ecological Site Descriptions (ESD)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On-site investigation and records</li> <li>• Forage Suitability Groups (FSG)</li> <li>• Pasture Condition Scoring (PCS)</li> <li>• Client interview</li> <li>• PLANTS database</li> <li>• VEGSPEC</li> <li>• VA Plant Establishment Guide</li> <li>• Plant hardiness zone map</li> <li>• Soil pH, drainage class, sodium adsorption ratio (SAR) and electrical conductivity (EC) suitability ranges.</li> <li>• Soil interpretations – Section II</li> <li>• Local agronomy guides</li> <li>• University Extension Service information</li> <li>• Soil survey manuscripts</li> <li>• Ecological Site Descriptions (ESD)</li> <li>• Conservation Tree and Shrub Groups (CTSG)</li> <li>• Silvics of North America Trees</li> <li>• NRCS Discipline Manuals/handbooks</li> <li>• National Range and Pasture Handbook</li> <li>• Practice Standards – Section IV</li> <li>• Botanical Guides</li> </ul>	<p>Non Measurable</p>

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<p><b>Plant Condition – Productivity, Health and Vigor</b></p>	<p>Plants do not produce the yields, quality, and soil cover to meet client objectives.</p>	<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><b>Cropland:</b> A healthy stand with vigorous growth produces at least 75% of site potential.</p> <p><b>Pastureland:</b> Forage yields are at least 75% of high management estimates cited in FSG reports or meets forage animal balance required in Prescribed Grazing standard.</p> <p><b>Hayland:</b> Forage yields at least 75% of high mgt. estimates cited in Forage Suitability Groups (FSG) reports.</p> <p><b>Forestland/Agroforest:</b> 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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local agronomy guides</li> <li>• Client interview</li> <li>• Plant tissue and harvest analysis</li> <li>• Crop scouting</li> <li>• NRCS discipline manuals/handbooks</li> <li>• National Range and Pasture Handbook</li> <li>• Ecological Site Descriptions</li> <li>• Rangeland Similarity Index Worksheet</li> <li>• Rising plate meter</li> <li>• Forage Suitability Groups (FSG)</li> <li>• Electronic probe calibrated for the forage mixture, or a clip and weigh sampling procedure.</li> <li>• Plot sampling of understory vegetation</li> <li>• Soil survey reports</li> <li>• Soil Testing</li> <li>• Crop/soil yield comparison in the vicinity</li> <li>• Pasture Condition Scoring</li> <li>• Keys for disease and insect symptoms</li> <li>• Keys for nutrient deficiencies, toxicities, and other conditions</li> <li>• Rangeland Health Assessment</li> <li>• Stocking rate of desired species</li> <li>• Plot sampling of understory vegetation</li> <li>• Stocking measurement for the tree stands</li> <li>• Conservation Tree and Shrub Groups (CTSG)</li> </ul>	<p>Non Measurable</p>

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<b>Plant Condition - Threatened or Endangered Plant Species: Plant Species Listed or Proposed for Listing under the Endangered Species Act</b>	The site includes individuals, habitat or potential habitat for one or more plant species listed or proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act.	<b>SAME AS NATIONAL</b> Populations and/or habitats of Threatened and Endangered plant species are managed to maintain, increase or improve current populations, health, or sustainability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Client interviews</li> <li>• Inventory site</li> <li>• General Manual, 190, Part 410</li> <li>• US Fish and Wildlife Service county endangered species lists</li> <li>• Federal and state endangered species rules and regulations</li> <li>• Consultation with appropriate federal, state, and local agencies/groups</li> <li>• PLANTS Website</li> <li>• Virginia Department of Natural Heritage and VDACS Data Bases</li> </ul>	Non Measurable
<b>Plant Condition - Noxious and Invasive Plants</b>	The site has noxious or invasive plants present.	<b>SAME AS NATIONAL</b> The site is managed to control noxious and invasive plants and to minimize their spread.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Client interviews</li> <li>• Inventory site</li> <li>• Consultation with appropriate federal, state, and local agencies/groups</li> <li>• DNH or local noxious weed list</li> <li>• PLANTS Website</li> </ul>	Non Measurable
<b>Plant Condition - Forage Quality and Palatability</b>	Plants do not have adequate nutritive value or palatability for the intended use	<b>SAME AS NATIONAL</b> Forage plants are managed to produce the desired nutritive value and palatability for the intended use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NIRS Forage Quality Analysis (NUTBAL)</li> <li>• Plant tissue analysis</li> </ul>	Non Measurable
<b>Plant Condition – Wildfire Hazard</b>	The kinds and amounts of fuel loadings (plant biomass) pose risks to human safety, structures, and resources should wildfire occur.	<b>SAME AS NATIONAL</b> 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"> <li>• Visual assessment protocols</li> <li>• Site and flammable biomass inventories</li> <li>• Aerial photo analysis</li> <li>• Department of Forestry website</li> </ul>	Acres/Year – average annual acres protected from wildfire for the field of planning area/unit