

| National and State Resource Concerns and Quality Criteria | | | | | |
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| Natural Resource Concern | Description Of Concern | National Quality Criteria | State Quality Criteria | Assessment Tools For Quality Criteria Evaluation | Measurement Units |
| SOIL | | | | | |
| Soil Erosion – Sheet and Rill | Detachment and transport of soil particles caused by rainfall splash and runoff degrade soil quality. | Sheet and rill erosion does not exceed the Soil Loss Tolerance “T.” | Same as National | Current erosion prediction tool | Tons/Acre/Year – average annual tons of erosion reduced per acre for the field or planning area/unit. |
| Soil Erosion – Wind | Detachment and transport of soil particles caused by wind degrade soil quality and/or damage plants. | Wind erosion does not exceed the Soil Loss Tolerance “T” or, for plant damage, does not exceed Crop Damage Tolerances. | Same as National | Current erosion prediction tool | Tons/Acre/Year – average annual tons of erosion reduced per acre for the field or planning area/unit. |
| Soil Erosion – Ephemeral Gully | Small channels caused by surface water runoff degrade soil quality and tend to increase in size. On cropland, they can be obscured by heavy tillage. | Surface water runoff is controlled sufficiently to stabilize the small channels and prevent reoccurrence of new channels. | Same as National | Volume calculation | Tons/Year – average annual tons of erosion reduced for the field or planning area/unit. |
| Soil Erosion – Classic Gully | Deep, permanent channels caused by the convergence of surface runoff degrade soil quality. They enlarge progressively by head cutting and lateral widening. | Surface water runoff is controlled sufficiently to stop progression of head cutting and widening. | Same as National | Volume calculation Aerial photo trend analysis | Tons/Year – average annual tons of erosion reduced for the field or planning area/unit. |
| Soil Erosion – Streambank | Accelerated loss of streambank soils restricts land and water use and management. | Accelerated streambank soil loss does not exceed a level commensurate with upstream land use and normal geomorphologic processes onsite. | Assessment tool shows condition of stream is healthy or if offsite conditions cause the stream to be unhealthy, the landowner is not contributing to the problem. | Stream assessment tool, i.e., Stream Visual Assessment Protocol (SVAP), Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) | Tons/Year – average annual tons of erosion reduced for the field or planning area/unit. |
| Soil Erosion – Shoreline | Soil is eroded along shorelines by wind and wave action, causing physical damage to vegetation, limiting land use, or creating a safety hazard. | Shoreline erosion is stabilized to a level that does not restrict the use or management of adjacent land, water or structures. | Shoreline erosion is stabilized to a level that does not restrict the use or management of adjacent land, water, or structures. | Visual assessment Volume calculations | Tons/Year – average annual tons of erosion reduced for the field or planning area/unit. |

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| Soil Erosion – Irrigation-induced | Improper irrigation water application and equipment operation are causing soil erosion that degrades soil quality. | Irrigation-induced erosion does not exceed the Soil Loss Tolerance “T.” | Same as National | Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE) 2 | Tons/Acre/Year – average annual tons of erosion reduced per acre for the field or planning area/unit. |
| Soil Erosion – Mass Movement | Soil slippage, landslides, or slope failures, normally on hillsides, result in large volumes of soil and rock movement. | Shallow slumps, slides, or slips are prevented or minimized so that the mass movement of earth material does not exceed naturally occurring rates. | Same as National | Volume Calculation | Tons/Year – average annual tons of erosion reduced for the field or planning area/unit. |
| Soil Erosion – Road, Roadsides and Construction Sites | Soil loss occurs on areas left unprotected during or after road building and/or construction activities. | Sites are adequately protected from soil loss during and after road building and construction activities. | Same as National | Volume Calculation | Tons/Year – average annual tons of erosion reduced for the field or planning area/unit. |
| Soil Condition – Organic Matter Depletion | Soil organic matter has lowered or will diminish to a level that degrades soil quality. | Soil Conditioning Index is positive. | The calculation of the Soil Condition Rating Index will be greater than 0. | Soil Conditioning Index (SCI) | Soil Conditioning Index improvement – positive improvement in index for the field or planning area/unit. |
| Soil Condition – Rangeland Site Stability | The capacity to limit redistribution and loss of soil resources (including nutrients and organic matter) by wind and water. | Indicators of Rangeland Health Attribute rating for Soil/Site Stability show Slight to Moderate or less departure from Ecological Reference Sheet (ESD). | Same As National | Rangeland Health Evaluation SD-ECS-11 and Apparent Trend SD-ECS-12 | Departure from Ecological Reference Sheet (ESD) categories – amount of departure, by numeric value, from Ecological Reference Sheet for the field or planning area/unit. 1=None to Slight, 2=Slight to Moderate, 3=Moderate, 4=Moderate to Extreme, or 5=Extreme. |
| Soil Condition – Compaction | Compressed soil particles and aggregates caused by mechanical compaction adversely affect plant-soil-moisture relationships. | Mechanically compacted soils are renovated sufficiently to restore plant root growth and/or water movement. | Same as National | Bulk density test-Soil Quality Kit Visual Root Assessment | g/cm ³ or lbs./ft ³ |

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| Soil Condition – Contaminants: Salts and Other Chemicals | Inorganic chemical elements and compounds such as salts, selenium, boron, and heavy metals restrict the desired use of the soil or exceed the soil buffering capacity. | Salinity levels cause less than a 10 percent decrease in plant yield. Other contaminants do not exceed plant tolerances or are below toxic levels for plants or animals. | Same As National | Soil Test Soil Quality Kit- EC meter Water Quality Test for Irrigated Induced Salinity – See SDSU-AES-13 | Electrical Conductivity (EC) – average reduction in EC for the field or planning area/unit. |
| Soil Condition – Contaminants: Animal Waste and Other Organics – N | Nitrogen nutrient levels from applied animal waste and other organics restrict desired use of the land. | Nitrogen nutrient application levels do not exceed soil storage/plant uptake capacities based on soil test recommendations and risk analysis results. | Same As National | Soil Test Nitrogen/Phosphorus Application Matrix Application Records Yield Records/History | Pounds/Acre/Year – average annual pounds of nitrogen (N) reduced per acre for the field or planning area/unit. |
| Soil Condition – Contaminants: Animal Waste and Other Organics – P | Phosphorus nutrient levels from applied animal waste and other organics restrict desired use of the land. | Phosphorus nutrient application levels do not exceed soil storage/plant uptake capacities based on soil test recommendations and risk analysis results. | Same As National | Soil Test Nitrogen/Phosphorus Application Matrix Application Records Yield Records/History | Pounds/Acre/Year – average annual pounds of phosphorus (P) reduced per acre for the field or planning area/unit. |
| Soil Condition – Contaminants: Commercial Fertilizer – N | Over application of nitrogen degrades plant health and vigor or exceeds the soil capacity to retain nutrients. | Soil nutrient levels of nitrogen do not exceed crop needs based on realistic yield goals and appropriate pH levels are maintained. | Same As National | Soil Test Application Records Yield Records/History | Pounds/Acre/Year – average annual pounds of nitrogen (N) reduced per acre for the field or planning area/unit. |
| Soil Condition – Contaminants: Commercial Fertilizer – P | Over application of phosphorus degrades plant health and vigor or exceeds the soil capacity to retain nutrients. | Soil nutrient levels of phosphorus do not exceed crop needs based on realistic yield goals and appropriate pH levels are maintained. | Same As National | Soil Test Application Records Yield Records/History | Pounds/Acre/Year – average annual pounds of phosphorus (P) reduced per acre for the field or planning area/unit. |
| Soil Condition – Contaminants: Residual Pesticides | Residual pesticides in the soil have an adverse effect on non-targeted plants and animals. | Pesticides are applied, stored, handled, and disposed of, so that residues in the soil do not adversely affect non-targeted plants and animals. | Same as National | Field Record of History – Pesticide Label Requirements | Rotational Restrictions and/or Bioassay. |

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| Soil Condition – Damage from Sediment Deposition | Sediment deposition damages or restricts land use/management or adversely affects ecological processes. | Sediment deposition is sufficiently reduced to maintain desired land use/management and ecological processes. | Same As National | Volume Calculation | Acres/Year – average annual acres of sediment deposition reduced for the field or planning area/unit. |

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| Water | | | | | |
| Water Quantity – Rangeland Hydrologic Cycle | The capacity to capture, store, and safely release water from rainfall, run-on, and snowmelt (where relevant). | Indicators of Rangeland Health Attribute rating for Hydrologic Cycle is slight to moderate or less departure from ESD. | Same As National | Rangeland Health Evaluation SD-ECS-11 | Departure from Ecological Reference Sheet (ESD) categories – amount of departure, by numeric value, from Ecological Reference Sheet for the field or planning area/unit. 1=None to Slight, 2=Slight to Moderate, 3=Moderate, 4=Moderate to Extreme, or 5=Extreme. |
| Water Quantity – Excessive Seepage | Subsurface water oozing to the surface restricts land use and management. | Subsurface water is managed to limit periods of saturation that are unfavorable to the present or intended land use. Management complies with wetland policies. | Same As National | Visual assessment of affected areas | Acres/Year – average annual acres of seep reduced for the field or planning area/unit. |
| Water Quantity – Excessive Runoff, Flooding, or Ponding | The land becomes inundated, restricting land use and management. | Excess water amounts and/or rates of flow are controlled, consistent with desired present or intended land use goals and wetland policies. | Same as National | Visual assessment of affected areas | Acres/Year – ave. annual acres of reduced flooding for the field or planning area/unit. |
| Water Quantity – Excessive Subsurface Water | Water saturates upper soil layers, restricting land use and management. | Subsurface water is managed to limit periods of saturation compatible with the present or intended land use and wetland policies. | Same as National | HGM | Functional Capacity Units (FCU's) |
| Water Quantity – Drifted Snow | Wind-blown snow forms deposits and accumulates around and over surface structures, restricting ingress, egress, and conveyance of humans and animals. | Snowdrifts are reduced or prevented so as to allow ingress, egress, and conveyance of humans and animals. | Same As National | Depth and area measurements | Feet and/or acres/year – average annual acres of reduced snow accumulations for the planning area. |
| Water Quantity – Inadequate Outlets | Natural or constructed outlets are too small to remove excess water in a timely manner. | Outlets are designed, installed, upgraded or maintained to adequately convey water for present or intended uses. | Same As National | National Engineering Field Handbook, Part 650 (EFH – Chapters 2,3,7) Hydrologic models, EFH-2, TR-20, TR-55, HECRAS | CFS |

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| Water | | | | | |
| Water Quantity – Inefficient Water Use on Irrigated Land | Limited water supplies are not optimally utilized. | Land and water management is planned and coordinated to provide optimal use of natural and applied moisture. | Irrigation water is applied according to an irrigation water management plan, which considers plant consumptive use requirements, soil water holding capacity, and minimizes losses to surface and groundwater to the extent feasible. A minimum on-farm seasonal irrigation efficiency of 30 percent for flood and 70 percent sprinkler will be met regardless of the type of system. | Farm Irrigation Rating System (FIRS) Use of Surface Irrigation Model (SRFR) to model infiltration and length of runs. | Acre-Inches/Acre/Year – average annual acre-inches of water per acre used more beneficially for the field or planning area/unit. |
| Water Quantity – Inefficient Water Use on Nonirrigated Land | Natural moisture is not optimally utilized. | Management provides optimum use of natural moisture for the present or intended land use. | Same As National | Soil Moisture Management Tool | Acre-Inches/Acre/Year – average annual acre-inches of water per acre used more beneficially for the field or planning area/unit. |
| Water Quantity – Reduced Capacity of Conveyances by Sediment Deposition | Sediment deposits in ditches, canals, culverts, and other water conveyances reduce the desired flow capacity. | Conveyance structures are upgraded or maintained to adequately convey water for present or intended uses. | Same as National | Visual assessment and soils investigation | Cubic yards – volume of sediment in cubic yards removed to maintain water conveyances for the field or planning area/unit. |
| Water Quantity – Reduced Storage of Water Bodies by Sediment Accumulation | Sediment deposits in water bodies reduce the desired volume capacity. | Water bodies and contributing source areas are treated to allow sufficient water storage for present and intended uses. | Water bodies and contributing source areas are treated to allow sufficient water storage for present and intended uses. | Chapter 11 – EFH Sediment Survey RUSLE2 | Acre-Inches/Year – average annual reduction in acre-inches in sediment deposition within water bodies for the field or planning area/unit. |

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| Water | | | | | |
| Water Quantity – Aquifer Overdraft | Water withdrawals exceed the safe yield for the aquifer. | Land and water management are coordinated to balance aquifer recharge and withdrawals to maintain the safe yield for the aquifer. | Same As National | If the producer is applying an irrigation water management plan, the quality criteria is considered met. Applicable State Laws | Acre-Inches/Year – average annual reduction in acre-inches of groundwater overdraft for the field or planning area/unit. |
| Water Quality – Harmful Levels of Pesticides in Groundwater | Residues resulting from the use of pest control chemicals degrade groundwater quality. | Pesticides are applied, stored, handled, disposed of, and managed so that groundwater uses are not adversely affected. | Pesticides are applied, stored, handled, disposed of, and managed so that groundwater uses are not adversely affected. | WIN_PST Pesticide Screening Spreadsheet | Reduction in pesticide loss potential. |
| Water Quality – Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Groundwater | Pollution from natural or human-induced nutrients such as N, P, S (including animal and other wastes) degrades groundwater quality. | Nutrients and organics are stored, handled, disposed of, and applied so that groundwater uses are not adversely affected. | Same As National | Soil Tests Water Quality Test Ag Waste Management Field Handbook (AWMFH) | Lbs./acre or Parts per million (PPM). |
| Water Quality – Excessive Salinity in Groundwater | Pollution from salts such as Ca, Mg, Na, K, HCO ₃ , CO ₃ , Cl, and SO ₄ degrades groundwater quality. | Salts are stored, handled, disposed of, applied, and managed so that groundwater uses are not adversely affected. | Same As National | Water Quality Test for Salinity | Electrical Conductivity (EC) – average reduction in EC for the field or planning area/unit. |
| Water Quality – Harmful Levels of Pathogens in Groundwater | Kinds and numbers of viruses, protozoa, and bacteria are present at a level that degrades groundwater quality. | Materials that harbor pathogens are stored, handled, disposed of, applied, and managed so that groundwater uses are not adversely affected. | Same As National | Water Quality Tests | Presence or absence of fecal coliform bacteria and/or counts. |
| Water Quality – Harmful Levels of Pesticides in Surface Water | Pest control chemicals present in toxic amounts degrade surface water quality. | Pesticides are applied, stored, handled, disposed of, and managed so that surface water uses are not adversely affected. | Same As National | WIN_PST PSS | Reduced pesticide loss potentials. |
| Water Quality – Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water | Pollution from natural or human induced nutrients such as N, P, S (including animal and other wastes) degrades surface water quality. | Nutrients and organics are stored, handled, disposed of, and managed so that surface water uses are not adversely affected. | Same As National | AWMFH Nitrogen/Phosphorous Application Matrix | PPM |

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| Water | | | | | |
| Water Quality – Excessive Suspended Sediment and Turbidity in Surface Water | Pollution from mineral or organic particles degrades surface water quality. | Movement of mineral and organic particles is managed such that surface water uses are not adversely affected. | Same As National | Water Quality Test for Total Suspended Solids (TSS) or Secchi disk transparency | PPM or Trophic State Index |
| Water Quality – Excessive Salinity in Surface Water | Pollution from salts such as Ca, Mg, Na, K, HCO ₃ , CO ₃ , Cl, and SO ₄ degrades surface water quality. | Salts are stored, handled, disposed of, applied, and managed so that surface water uses are not adversely affected. | Same As National | Water Quality Test for Salinity | Electrical Conductivity (EC) – average reduction in EC for the field or planning area/unit. |
| Water Quality – Harmful Levels of Heavy Metals in Surface Water | Natural or human induced metal pollutants are present in toxic amounts that degrade surface water quality. | Materials containing heavy metals are stored, handled, disposed of, applied, and managed such that surface water uses are not adversely affected. | Same As National | Water Quality Test | PPM |
| Water Quality – Harmful Temperatures of Surface Water | Undesired thermal conditions degrade surface water Quality | Use and management of land and water are coordinated to minimize impacts on surface water temperature. | Same As National | Water Quality Test for Temperature | Degrees Fahrenheit/Celsius |
| Water Quality – Harmful Levels of Pathogens in Surface Water | Kinds and numbers of viruses, protozoa, and bacteria are present at a level that degrades surface water quality. | Materials that harbor pathogens are stored, handled, disposed of, applied, and managed so that surface water uses are not adversely affected. | Same As National | Water Quality Test | Presence or absence of fecal coliform bacteria and/or counts. |

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| Air | | | | | |
| Air Quality – Chemical Drift | Materials applied to control pests drift downwind and contaminate/injure non-targeted fields, crops, soils, water, animals, and humans. | Land use and management operations reduce chemical drift into the atmosphere and comply with all applicable federal, Tribal, state, and local regulations, and applicable label directions. | Same As National | Visual Assessment or lab analysis | Percent damaged or defoliated and/or PPM |
| 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 meet all applicable Tribal, state, and local regulations. | Same As National | Human nose | Reduction in objectionable odor or distance (miles). |
| 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 reduce particle emission into the atmosphere and comply with all applicable federal, Tribal, state, and local regulations, including state and local smoke and/or burn management plans. | Same As National | Visual assessment Regional air partnership recommendations and/or state guidance for smoke management. | Visible distance in miles. |

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| 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.</p> <p>For specific land uses, additional criteria apply: Cropland - A healthy stand with vigorous growth. Yields 75 percent of client expectations.</p> <p>Rangeland: Plants on or planned for the site are listed in applicable ESDs.</p> <p>Pastureland - Plants on or planned for the site have a site adaptation score greater than three 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 FSG's reports.</p> <p>Forestland/Agroforest: Plants on or planned for the site are listed in ESDs.</p> | Same As National | NRCS Technical Notes and/or eFOTG. | Assessment is: Pass/Fail Appropriate or not Appropriate. |

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| Plants | | | | | |
| <p>Plant Condition – Productivity, Health, and Vigor</p> | | <p>Selected plants on or planned for the site are sufficiently productive to meet or exceed client needs.</p> <p>For specific land uses, additional criteria apply: Cropland: A healthy stand with vigorous growth produces at least 75 percent of site potential.</p> <p>Rangeland: The plant community has a similarity index of at least 60 percent or an upward trend for similarity indices less than 60 percent. Pastureland: Forage yields are at least 75 percent of high management estimates cited in FSG reports.</p> <p>Hayland: Forage yields are at least 75 percent of high management estimates cited in FSG reports. Forestland/Agroforest: Forests consist of healthy stands with vigorous growth having a stand density within 25 percent 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> | <p>Cropland – A healthy, vigorous stand that meets the producer’s yield goals given the yield potential for the soil map unit.</p> <p>Rangeland – A plant and animal community where ecological processes are functioning within the normal range of variability and that has an apparent rangeland or planned trend rating of “Not Apparent” or “Toward” and Prescribed Grazing is being implemented. Productivity is 75 percent of potential for the ESD.</p> <p>Pastureland – A healthy, vigorous stand of desired specie(s) with average annual production falling within the range cited in the FSG Description</p> <p>Hayland - A healthy, vigorous stand of desired specie(s) with average annual production falling within the range cited in the FSG Description.</p> | <p>Client interview</p> <p>Plant tissue and harvest analysis</p> <p>NRCS discipline manuals/handbooks</p> <p>National Range and Pasture Handbook</p> <p>Ecological Site Descriptions</p> <p>Rangeland Similarity Index Worksheet</p> <p>FSGs</p> <p>Soil survey reports</p> <p>Soil Condition Rating</p> <p>Soil Testing</p> <p>Crop/soil yield comparison in the vicinity</p> <p>Pasture Condition Scoring</p> <p>Rangeland Health Assessment</p> <p>Stocking rate of desired species</p> <p>Plot sampling of understory vegetation</p> <p>Stocking measurement for the tree stands</p> <p>Trend Worksheets</p> | <p>Bu/Acre or Tons/Acre</p> |

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| Plants | | | | | |
| Plant Condition – Threatened or Endangered Plant Species: Listed or Proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) | The site includes individuals, habitat or potential habitat for one or more plant species listed or proposed for listing under the ESA. | Populations and/or habitats of threatened and endangered plant species are managed to maintain, increase, or improve current populations, health, or sustainability. | Same As National | General Manual, 190, Part 410 United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) county endangered species lists Federal and state endangered species rules and regulations USFWS Recovery Plans SD NRCS and USFWS Programmatic Agreement | Pass/Fail Appropriate/Not Appropriate |
| Plant Condition – Threatened or Endangered Plant Species, Declining Species, Species of Concern | The site includes individuals, habitat, or potential habitat for one or more plant species that the state or Tribal government with jurisdiction, or the state technical committee, has identified as a species of concern. This includes plant species which have been identified as candidates for listing under the ESA. | Populations and/or habitats of plant species of concern are managed to maintain, increase, or improve current populations, health, or sustainability. | Same As National | General Manual, 190, Part 410 USFWS county endangered species lists Federal and state endangered species rules and regulations USFWS Recovery Plans SD NRCS and USFWS Programmatic Agreement | Pass/Fail Appropriate/Not Appropriate |
| 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. | Same As National | State and local noxious weed list. Visual assessment. | Acres/year of affected area. |

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| Plants | | | | | |
| 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. | Same As National | National Range and Pasture Handbook (NRPH) NIRS fecal analysis and Nutritional Balance Program (NUTBAL) NRCS Technical Notes, Guides and Practice Standards Plant tissue analysis | Pass/Fail. |
| 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. | Same As National | Visual Assessment | Acres/Year – average annual acres protected from wildfire for the field of planning area/unit. |

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| Animals | | | | | |
| Fish and Wildlife – Inadequate Food | Quantity and quality of food are unavailable to meet the life history requirements of the species or guild of species of concern. | Food availability meets the life history requirements of the species or guild of species of concern. | Wildlife Habitat Rating index is 0.5 or higher. | Quality Criteria Rating System for Habitat for Wild Animals | Rating based on habitat evaluation guide. |
| Fish and Wildlife – Inadequate Cover/Shelter | Cover/shelter for the species or guild of species of concern is unavailable or inadequate. This includes lack of hiding, thermal, and/or refuge cover. | The ecosystem or habit types support the necessary plant species in adequate diversity, abundance, and physical structure; and the connectivity of fish and wildlife cover is adequate to support, over time, the species or guild of species of concern. | Wildlife Habitat Rating index is 0.5 or higher. | Quality Criteria Rating System for Habitat for Wild Animals | Rating based on habitat evaluation guide. |
| Fish and Wildlife – Inadequate Water | The quantity and quality of water is unacceptable for the species or guild of species of concern. | The quantity and quality of water meets the life history requirements of the species or guild of species of concern. | Wildlife Habitat Rating index is 0.5 or higher. | Quality Criteria Rating System for Habitat for Wild Animals | Rating based on habitat evaluation guide. |
| Fish and Wildlife – Inadequate Space | Lack of required areas disrupts the life history of the species or guild of species of concern. | Area is adequate to meet life history requirements of the species or guild of species of concern. (Examples: staging areas for rest and feeding, lekking areas for breeding, migratory movement corridors.) | Wildlife Habitat Rating index is 0.5 or higher. | Quality Criteria Rating System for Habitat for Wild Animals | Rating based on habitat evaluation guide |
| Fish and Wildlife – Habitat Fragmentation | Habitat has insufficient structure, extent, and connectivity to provide ecological functions and/or achieve management objectives. | Fish and wildlife habitats are connected and are maintained sufficiently to support the species or guild of species of concern. | Wildlife Habitat Rating index is 0.5 or higher. | Quality Criteria Rating System for Habitat for Wild Animals | Rating based on habitat evaluation guide. |

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| Animals | | | | | |
| Fish and Wildlife – Threatened and Endangered Fish and Wildlife Species – Fish and Wildlife Species Listed or Proposed for Listing under the ESA | The site includes individuals, habitat or potential habitat for one or more fish or wildlife species listed or proposed for listing under the ESA. | Populations and/or habitats of Threatened and endangered fish and wildlife species and/or habitats they occupy are managed to maintain, increase or improve current populations, health, or sustainability. | Same As National | General Manual, 190, Part 410 USFWS county endangered species lists USFWS recovery plans Federal and state endangered species rules and regulations SD NRCS and USFWS Programmatic Agreement | Pass/Fail Appropriate/Not Appropriate. |
| Fish and Wildlife – Threatened and Endangered Species, Declining Species, and Species of Concern | Populations and/or habitat quantity and quality have reached a level that one or more species are officially recognized as species of concern. | Fish or wildlife, and/or habitats they occupy, are managed to increase their current populations, health, or sustainability. | Same As National | General Manual 190, Part 410 USFWS county endangered species lists USFWS recovery plans Federal and state endangered species rules and regulations SD NRCS and USFWS Programmatic Agreement | Pass/Fail Appropriate/Not Appropriate. |
| Domestic Animals – Inadequate Quantities and Quality of Feed and Forage | Total feed and forage are insufficient to meet the nutritional and production needs of the kinds and classes of livestock. | Feed and forage, including supplemental nutritional requirements, are provided to meet production goals for the kinds and classes of livestock. Native grazers are factored into the total feed and forage balance computations. | Domestic animals are provided adequate food of sufficient quality and quantity with supplements to meet their nutritional requirements. | National Range and Pasture Handbook (NRPH) NIRS fecal analysis and Nutritional Balance Program (NUTBAL) Forage quality laboratory analysis Forage Balance Worksheet NRCS Technical Notes, Guides, and Standards | Forage balance is positive or negative – Tons or AUM's. |

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 | Measurement Units |
|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Animals | | | | | |
| Domestic Animals – Inadequate Shelter | Livestock are not protected sufficiently to meet the production goals for the kinds and classes of livestock. | Artificial and/or natural shelter is provided to meet production goals for the kinds and classes of livestock. | Domestic animals are provided adequate shelter and cover. | NRPH Appropriate NRCS Guides and Tools Client interview | Pass/Fail Appropriate/Not Appropriate. |
| Domestic Animals – Inadequate Stock Water | The quantity, quality and distribution of drinking water are insufficient to meet the production goals for the kinds and classes of livestock. | Sufficient water of acceptable quality is provided and adequately distributed to meet production goals for the kinds and classes of livestock. To reduce potential for water contamination, watering facilities are constructed or modified to minimize mortality to indigenous wildlife. | Domestic animals are provided sufficient quantity and quality of water to meet their daily needs. | National Range and Pasture Handbook (NRPH) Appropriate NRCS Guides, Worksheets, Technical Notes and Tools University Fact Sheets and Reports | Total storage, gallons inadequate/sufficient. |
| Domestic Animals – Stress and Mortality | Animals exhibit illness or death from disease, parasites, insects, poisonous plants, or other factors. | Land and water use and management are consistent with activities conducted to alleviate stress and mortality factors. | Same As National | Visual Assessment | Pass/Fail. |