

Table 1 National and State of Nebraska Resource Concerns and Quality Criteria					
Natural Resource Concern	Description of Concern	National Quality Criteria	State Quality Criteria	Measurement Units	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>	Plants and varieties are adapted to the site according to appropriate guidance in Nebraska FOTG or other appropriate references.	Non Measurable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecological Site Descriptions • Forage Suitability Groups • Section II of FOTG Pasture and Hayland Interpretations (Table 2 Pure Live Seeding Rates and MLRA Adaptation and Certified Perennial Grass Varieties Recommended for Nebraska) • Section II of FOTG Windbreak Interpretations (Conservation Shrub and Tree Site/Species Guidance • Range Planting Standard • Pasture Planting Standard • Restoration of Declining Habitats Standard • Plants Database http://plants.usda.gov/ • Biology Tech Note 65 Terrestrial Natural Plant Communities of Nebraska

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<p>Plant – Condition – Productivity, Health and Vigor</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: Cropland: A healthy stand with vigorous growth produces at least 75% of site potential. Rangeland: The plant community has a similarity index of at least 60% or an upward trend for similarity indices less than 60%. Pastureland: Forage yields are at least 75% of high management estimates cited in Forage Suitability Groups (FSG) reports. Hayland: Forage yields at least 75% of high mgt. estimates cited in Forage Suitability Groups (FSG) reports. 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>	<p>Cropland – A healthy, vigorous stand that meets the producer’s yield goals given the yield potential for the soil map unit. Rangeland – Maintaining a plant community with a similarity index of 60% or more or having an upward trend for plant communities with a similarity index of less than 60% of the historic climax plant community. Pastureland: same as National Standard</p>	<p>Non Measurable</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 Condition Rating • 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
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			<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.</p> <p>Understory plant community is comprised of 50% or more, by weight, of expected species for the site and is proportionate with overstory canopy.</p> <p>Bare mineral soil comprises 25% or less of ground surface area.</p>		
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Plant Condition – Threatened or Endangered Plant Species: Plant Species Listed or Proposed for Listing under the Endangered Species Act	The site includes individuals, habitat or potential habitat for one or more plant species listed or proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act.	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	Non Measurable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Manual, 190, Part 410 • US Fish and Wildlife Service county endangered species lists • Federal endangered species rules and regulations • US Fish and Wildlife Service Recovery Plans • FOTG, Section II, Threatened and Endangered Species List
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 Endangered Species Act.	Populations and/or habitats of plant species of concern are managed to maintain, increase or improve current populations, health, or sustainability.	Same as National	Non Measurable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Manual, 190, Part 410 • US Fish and Wildlife Service county endangered species lists • State endangered species rules and regulations • US Fish and Wildlife Service Recovery Plans
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.	Refer to Nebraska Noxious Weed Act	Non Measurable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State or local noxious weed list

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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	Non Measurable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NIRS Forage Quality Analysis (NUTBAL) • Plant tissue analysis
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.	NA	Acres/Year – average annual acres protected from wildfire for the field of planning area/unit	NA