

| National and State Resource Concerns and Quality Criteria | | | | | |
|---|------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| Natural Resource Concern | Description of Concern | National Quality Criteria | California State Quality Criteria | Measurement Units | Assessment Tools for Quality Criteria Evaluation |
| PLANTS | | | | | |

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| <p>Plants not adapted or suited</p> | <p>Plants are not adapted and/or suited to site conditions or client objectives.</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: Cropland: A healthy stand with vigorous growth. Yields 75% of client expectations. Rangeland: Plants on or planned for the site are listed in applicable Ecological Site Descriptions (ESD) 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. Hayland: Plants on or planned for the site are listed in applicable Forage Suitability Groups (FSG) reports. 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. Plants should meet the Vegetation requirements of the Conservation Practice Standards & Specifications. For specific land uses, additional criteria apply: Cropland: A healthy stand with vigorous growth. Yields 85% of client expectations. Meets the vegetation requirement of the Conservation Practice Standard. Rangeland: Plants on or planned for the site are listed in applicable Ecological Site Descriptions (ESD) 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. Hayland: Plants on or planned for the site are listed in applicable Forage Suitability Groups (FSG) reports. Forestland/Agroforest: Plants on or planned for the site are listed in Ecological Site Descriptions (ESD)</p> | <p>Non Measurable</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-site investigation and records • Forage Suitability Groups (FSG) • Pasture Condition Scoring (PCS) • Client interview • PLANTS database • Vegetative 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) • Silvics of North America Trees • NRCS Discipline Manuals/handbooks • Field Planting Evaluations |
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Resource Quality Criteria – Plants
 Natural Resources Conservation Service
 Davis, California
 September 10, 2007

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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 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>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 85% 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 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>Non Measurable</p> | <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 • Stocking measurement for the tree stands • Vegetative Guide • Conservation Tree and Shrub Groups (CTSG) |
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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. | Threatened and endangered plant species and/or habitats that they occupy are managed in way that would not reduce their current population, health, or sustainability. | Non Measurable | <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 |
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| 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"> • 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 |
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| 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 | Non Measurable | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Client interviews • Inventory site • Consult weed management associations/ Areas • Consultation with appropriate federal, state, and local agencies/groups • State or local noxious weed list • PLANTS Website • Field Planting Evaluations • Vegetative Guide |
| 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 |

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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. | Same As National | Acres/Year – average annual acres protected from wildfire for the field of planning area/unit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual assessment protocols • Site and flammable biomass inventories • Aerial photo analysis |
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