

V. ANIMAL – Resource Quality Criteria

A. Habitat

1. Food – Quantity, quality and diversity of food are not provided to meet the seasonal requirements of the species of concern.

For wildlife, criteria are met when planned measures provide adequate quantity, quality, and diversity to meet the seasonal requirements of food and its interspersions with water and cover of the species of concern.

2. Cover or Shelter – Adequate wildlife cover for the species of concern is not provided. Domestic animals are not provided adequate shelter as needed.

For wildlife, criteria is met when planned measures provide adequate cover (nesting cover, escape, winter cover, etc.) and its interspersions with food and water for the species of concern and provide for adequate cover availability for the intended use. Domestic animals will be provided adequate cover or shelter as needed for overall health and condition.

3. Quantity and quality of drinking water – Adequate quantities of water of required quality are not provided for the species of concern.

Criteria are met when planned measures provide adequate drinking water and proper distribution related to cover and food for both wildlife and domestic livestock for the intended use. Where water is the limiting factor for the intended use, existing supplies will be maintained or improved, or proper distribution of new sources will be developed.

4. Threatened and endangered species – Site modification may cause loss or reduction of population.

Criteria are met when planned measures do not adversely impact critical habitats.

B. Management

1. Population and resource balance – Numbers and kinds of domestic animals or wildlife are not in balance with feed/food, forage, space, and habitat requirements.

Criteria are met when planned measures balance the feed, food, forage, water, cover, space, and other habitat requirements of the planned population numbers of wildlife or domestic animals for their intended use. The measures will be based upon such methods as animal forage and feed balance sheets; wildlife habitat inventories and indexes, confinement spacing; grazing management plans; and habitat management plans.

2. Animal health – Proper attention is not given to the health of the animal of concern. This includes such considerations such as diseases, parasites, and insects.

The criteria are met when measures and management are planned that reduce to an acceptable level the effects of over population, poisonous plants, diseases, parasites, and insects on the species of concern.