Conservation Planning

Land Uses and Resource Concerns

Land Uses

Crop—Land used primarily for the production and harvest of annual or perennial field, forage, food, fiber, horticultural, orchards, vineyards, or energy crops.

Forest—Land on which the primary vegetation is tree cover (climax, natural or introduced plant community) and use is primarily for production of wood products or non-timber forest products.

Pasture—Land composed of introduced or domesticated native forage species that is used primarily for the production of livestock. Pastures receive periodic renovation and/or cultural treatments, such as tillage, fertilization, mowing, weed control, and may be irrigated. Pastures are not in rotation with crops.

Farmstead—Land used for facilities and supporting infrastructure where farming, forestry, animal husbandry, and ranching activities are often initiated. This may include dwellings, equipment storage plus farm input and output storage and handling facilities. Also includes land dedicated to the facilitation and production of high-intensity animal agriculture in a containment facility where daily nutritional requirements are obtained from other lands or feed sources.

Designated Protected Area—Land or water used for the preservation, protection, and observation of the existing resources, archaeological or historical interpretation, resource interpretation, or for aesthetic value. These areas are officially designated by legislation or other authorities. Examples: legislated natural or scenic areas and rural burial plots.

Developed Land—Land occupied by buildings and related facilities used for residences, commercial sites, public highways, airports, and open space associated with towns and cities.

Water—Geographic area whose dominant characteristic is open water or permanent ice or snow. This may include intermingled land, including tidal influenced coastal marsh lands.

Associated Agriculture Lands—Land associated with farms and ranches that are not purposefully managed for food, forage, or fiber and are typically associated with nearby production or conservation lands. This could include incidental areas, such as idle center pivot corners, odd areas, ditches and watercourses, riparian areas, field edges, seasonal and permanent wetlands, and other similar areas.

Other—Land that is barren, sandy, rocky, or that is impacted by the extraction of natural resources, such as minerals, gravel or sand, coal, shale, rock, oil, or natural gas.

Land-Use Modifiers

The following land use modifiers are used to differentiate level(s) of land use specificity and help describe how land is managed.

Irrigated—Modifier used when an operational irrigation system is present and managed to apply water.

Wildlife—Modifier used when the client plans to actively manage for wildlife; and, conservation plan decisions include application of conservation practices beneficial to wildlife.

Grazed—Modifier used when grazing animals impact land management and influence conservation plan decisions.

Resource Concerns

SOIL	Soil Erosion	Sheet, Rill, & Wind Erosion
		Concentrated Flow Erosion
		Excessive Bank Erosion from streams, shoreline and water conveyance channels
	Soil Quality Degradation	Subsidence
		Compaction
		Organic matter depletion
		Concentration of salts and other chemicals
WATER	Excess / Insufficient Water	Ponding, flooding, seasonal high water table, seeps and drifted snow
		Inefficient moisture management
		Inefficient use of irrigation water
	Water Quality Degradation	Excess nutrients in surface and ground waters
		Pesticides transported to surface and ground waters
		Excess pathogens and chemicals from manure, bio-solids or compost applications
		Excessive salts in surface waters and ground waters
		Petroleum, heavy metals and other pollutants transported to receiving waters
		Excessive Sediment in surface waters
		Elevated Water Temperature
AIR	Air Quality Impacts	Emissions of Particulate Matter (PM) – Coarse PM, Fine PM and PM Precursors
		Emission of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) – Primarily CO_2, CH_4 & N_2O
		Emissions of Ozone Precursors – VOC's and NO_X's
		Objectionable Odors – VOC's, NH_3 & Sulfur compounds
PLANTS	Degraded Plant Condition	Undesirable plant productivity and health
		Inadequate structure and composition
		Excessive plant pest pressure
		Wildfire hazard, excessive biomass accumulation
ANIMALS	Inadequate Habitat for Fish and Wildlife	Inadequate Cover
		Inadequate Food
		Inadequate Water
	Livestock Production Limitation	Inadequate Feed and Forage
		Inadequate Livestock Shelter
		Inadequate Livestock Water
ENERGY	Inefficient Energy Use	Equipment and Facilities
		Farm/Ranching practices and field operations