

Resource Concern Checklist

FARMSTEAD & ASSOCIATED AGRICULTURE LANDS

CLIENT		LOCATION	
PLANNER		DATE	
LAND UNITS		TOOLS	

This check sheet is designed to assist planners and clients in identifying resource concerns during the planning process. The planning criteria outlined in Section III of the FOTG sets the minimum level of treatment. If a screening question is **NO**, this indicates no resource concern exists and no assessment is required. If a screening question is **YES**, the assessment must be completed to evaluate if there is a resource concern. If the Assessment is **YES**, Planning Criteria is met. If the Assessment is **NO**, the Planning Criteria is not met and a Resource Concern exists.

Resource Concern * required response	Screening Questions			Assessment Tools	Assessment and Determination		
	NO = Met Screening (Not a RC) YES = Go to Assessment	YES	NO		Assessment Level Required to Meet Planning Criteria YES = Meets Planning Criteria NO = Resource Concern	YES	NO
SOIL RESOURCES							
1. SOIL EROSION: Sheet, rill and wind *	Are permanent ground cover < 90% and slope > 10%?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ RUSLE2 ➤ WEPS 	Water erosion rate ≤T?		
					Wind erosion rate ≤T?		
2. SOIL EROSION: Concentrated flow erosion *	Are classic gullies present?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Field measurements ➤ Observations 	Is classic gully management adequate to stop the progression of head cutting and widening and are offsite impacts minimized by vegetation and/or structures?		
3. SOIL EROSION: Excessive bank erosion from streams, shorelines or water conveyance channels*	Are streams or shoreline on or adjacent to site?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ SVAP2 ➤ PCS-Pasture Condition ➤ Score 	For shorelines and water conveyance channels; are banks stable or commensurate with normal geomorphological processes? AND For streambanks; is SVAP2 bank condition element score ≥5?		
	OR Is bank erosion from streams, shorelines or conveyance channels present?				OR If present, is bank erosion caused by upstream land use and beyond the client's control?		
4. SOIL QUALITY DEGRADATION: Subsidence	Are Histisol soils present?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Client input ➤ Planner observations 	Is subsidence adequately managed to meet client's objectives?		
	OR If Histosols are present, are the soils exhibiting subsidence?						
5. SOIL QUALITY DEGRADATION: Compaction	Is soil compaction a problem? AND Do activities cause soil compaction problems?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Client input ➤ Planner observations ➤ Penetrometer ➤ PCS 	Is compaction managed to meet Client's production and management objectives?		
7. SOIL QUALITY DEGRADATION: Concentration of Salts or other chemicals	Do activities cause salinity/sodicity problems?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Soil diagnostic evaluations 	Are conservation practices and managements in place to mitigate on-site effects?		

Associated Agriculture Land is defined as 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.

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WATER RESOURCES							
8. EXCESS WATER: Ponding, flooding, seasonal high water table, seeps and drifted snow	Is excess water/snow a problem? AND Do activities cause ponding/flooding/drifting problems?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Client input ➤ Planner observations 	Is excess water/snow managed to meet Client's objectives?		
9. INSUFFICIENT WATER: Inefficient moisture management	Is moisture management a problem? AND Do activities cause inefficient moisture management?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Client input ➤ Planner observations 	Are runoff and evapotranspiration levels minimized to meet Client's management objectives?		
10. INSUFFICIENT WATER: Inefficient use of irrigation water *	Is the PLU irrigated?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ FIRI-Farm Irrigation Water Index 	Is FIRI ≥ 85% of system potential?		
11. WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excess nutrients in surface and groundwater *	Are organic or inorganic nutrients applied? OR Is the PLU grazed? OR Are there confined livestock areas?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Client input ➤ Planner observation ➤ PCS ➤ Nutrient budget 	Are nutrients applications based on soil or tissue tests, and nutrient budgets for realistic yields or nutrient budget? AND Are conservation practices and managements in place to minimize offsite impacts?		
12. WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Pesticides transported to surface and groundwaters	Are pest control chemicals applied?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Client input ➤ Planner observation ➤ WinPST 	Are pesticides stored, handled, disposed and managed to prevent runoff, spills, leaks and leaching? AND Are conservation practices and managements in place to minimize offsite impacts?		
13. WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excess pathogens and chemicals from manure, biosolids or compost applications*	Are potential sources of pathogens or pharmaceuticals applied on the land?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Client input ➤ Planner observation 	Are organic materials applied, stored, and/or handled to mitigate negative impacts to water sources?		
14. WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excessive salts in surface and groundwater	Is salt concentration a limiting factor?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Client input ➤ Planner observation 	Are salt concentrations managed to mitigate off- site transport to surface or ground waters?		

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15. WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Petroleum, heavy metals and other pollutants transported to receiving waters	Do activities present the potential for contamination?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Client input ➤ Planner observation 	Are petroleum, heavy metals or other potential pollutants stored and handled to avoid runoff or leaching?		
16. WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excessive sediment in surface waters*	Are permanent ground cover < 90% and slope > 10%? OR Are classic gullies present? OR Are streams or shoreline on or adjacent to site?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ RUSLE2 ➤ WEPS ➤ Client input ➤ Planner observation ➤ SVAP2 	Do upslope treatment and buffer practices address concentrated flows to water bodies? AND SVAP2 - bank condition ≥ 5. AND Are livestock and vehicle water crossings stable? AND		
	Is Water erosion rate ≤T? AND Is Wind erosion rate ≤T?						
17. WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Elevated water temperature	Is there a water course on or adjacent to the site with State Agency identified temperature impairment?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ SVAP2 ➤ Client input ➤ Planner observation 	Is SVAP2 - riparian area quantity element score ≥ 5? AND Is SVAP2 - riparian area quality element score ≥ 5? AND Is SVAP2 - canopy cover element score ≥ 6?		
	OR Is water course temperature a client concern?				OR Are existing practices in place to address water temperature?		
PLANT RESOURCES							
18. DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION: Undesirable plant productivity and health*	Are plant production and health a client concern? OR Is an RMS alternative being developed?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ PCS ➤ Client input ➤ Planner observation 	Are plants adapted to the site, meet production goals and do not negatively impact other resources? AND Is plant damage from wind erosion below Crop Damage Tolerance levels?		
19. DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION: Inadequate structure and composition	Will changes to the plant community structure or composition better support the desired ecological functions and intended land use?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ecological Site Descriptions 	Do plant communities contain adequate diversity, composition and structure to support desired ecological functions?		
20. DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION: Excessive plant pest pressure*	Is plant productivity limited from pest pressure?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ PCS ➤ Client input ➤ Planner observation 	Is pest damage to plants below economic or environmental thresholds or client-identified criteria? AND Are plant pests, including noxious and invasive species managed to meet client objectives?		

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21. DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION: Wildfire hazard, excessive biomass accumulation	Is wildfire hazard a concern?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Client input ➤ Planner observation 	Are fuel loads and fuel ladders managed to provide defensible space and meet client objectives?		
ANIMAL RESOURCES							
22. INADEQUATE HABITAT FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE- Habitat degradation	Does the Client want to actively manage for wildlife? OR Is an RMS alternative being developed?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Biology Tech Note 18 ➤ Species-specific wildlife habitat assessment tools. ➤ SVAP2 	Is TN 18 rating ≥ 0.5 ? AND (when surface stream present and fish habitat is a concern) Is SVAP2 – barriers to movement element score > 7 ? AND Is SVAP2 – fish habitat complexity element score > 7 ? OR Are conservation practices and management in place that meet or exceed species or guild-specific habitat model thresholds?		
23. LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION LIMITATION: Inadequate feed and forage	Client is actively grazing animals. (Grazing Modifier)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Client input ➤ Planner observation ➤ Livestock Inventory Worksheet ➤ Graze 4 Worksheet 	Are livestock forage, roughage and supplemental nutritional requirements addressed?		
24. LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION LIMITATION: Inadequate livestock shelter	Client is actively grazing animals. (Grazing Modifier)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Client input ➤ Planner observation ➤ Livestock Inventory Worksheet ➤ Graze 4 Worksheet 	Do artificial or natural shelters meet animal health needs and client objectives?		
25. LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION LIMITATION: Inadequate livestock water	Client is actively grazing animals. (Grazing Modifier)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Client input ➤ Planner observation ➤ Livestock Inventory Worksheet ➤ Graze 4 Worksheet 	Is water of acceptable quality and quantity adequately distributed to meet animal needs?		
ENERGY RESOURCES							
26. INEFFICIENT ENERGY USE- Equipment and facilities	Is the Client interested in improving equipment and facilities energy efficiency? OR Is an RMS Alternative being developed?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Client input ➤ Planner observation ➤ USDA approved energy audit ➤ NRCS energy estimator 	Has a USDA approved energy audit been implemented that address equipment and facilities to meet client objectives? OR Are on- farm renewable energy and/or energy conserving practices been implemented to meet client objectives?		
27. INEFFICIENT ENERGY USE- Farming/ ranching practices and field operations.	Is the Client interested in improving energy use in farm and ranch field operations? OR Is an RMS Alternative being developed?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Client input ➤ Planner observation ➤ USDA approved energy audit ➤ NRCS energy estimator ➤ RUSLE2 	Has a USDA approved energy audit been implemented that address field operations to meet client objectives? OR Are on- farm renewable energy and/or energy conserving practices been implemented to meet client objectives?		

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AIR RESOURCES							
28. AIR QUALITY IMPACTS: Emissions of Particulate Matter PM and PM precursors	<p>Do activities contribute to agricultural source PM or PM precursor emissions? Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prescribed Burn is conducted • Travel ways are unpaved or not treated with binding agents • Engines (combustion source) • Tillage • Pesticides are applied • Fertilization (manure/commercial) • CAFO/manure management <p>AND Have episodes or complaints of emissions of PM (dust, smoke, exhaust, etc.), or chemical drift occurred?</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Client Input ➤ Planner observation ➤ Rusle2 	Are PM and PM Precursor emissions managed to meet client objectives?		
29. AIR QUALITY IMPACTS: Emissions of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs)	<p>Do activities produce GHGs emissions? Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fertilization (manure/commercial) • CAFO/manure management • Engines (combustion source) • Tillage <p>AND Are GHGs regulated in this planning area?</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Client Input ➤ Planner observation ➤ RUSLE2 ➤ COMET – Farm ➤ COMET – Energy ➤ COMET 2.0 	Emissions of greenhouse gases meet client objectives.		

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30. AIR QUALITY IMPACTS: Emissions of Ozone Precursors	Do operations produce ozone precursor emissions? Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engines (combustion source) Pesticide application Burning CAFO/manure management Fertilization (manure/commercial) 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Client Input Planner observation RUSLE2 COMET – Energy COMET - Farm 	Are ozone precursor emissions managed to meet client objectives?		
31. AIR QUALITY IMPACTS: Objectionable odors	Do activities contribute to nuisance air quality conditions? Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pesticide application CAFO / manure management Composting is conducted <p>AND</p> Are odor sources regulated in this planning area?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Client Input Planner observation 	Are odors managed to meet client objectives?		

NOTES: