Explanation Sheet

RESOURCE CONCERNS & PLANNING CRITERIA FOR CONSERVATION PLANNING

10/1/2012

Resource Concern - Cause	Description of Concern	Land Use	Planning Criteria		Measurement & Assessment Tools
A resource concern (RC) is an expected degradation of the soil, water, air, plant, or animal resource base to an extent that the sustainability or intended use of the resource is impaired. Because NRCS quantifies or describes resource concerns as part of a comprehensive conservation planning process that includes client objectives, human and energy resources are considered components of the resource base. The "Cause" is the specific reason or threat to the resource that results in the resource concern.		* Required Assessment	A planning criterion is a quantitative or qualitative method to assess the existing condition of the natural resources on a site to determine whether additional treatment is needed to address a specific potential resource concern. **Planning Consideration** A planning consideration is a description of potential actions or activities that should be considered to help address an identified resource concern and/or to address unintended consequences of an action. Planning considerations are identified for resource concerns when it is not appropriate or technologically feasible to identify specific criteria or a threshold for treatment.		Description of the technology or process for determining if assessment criteria are met.
			Screening Level Screening level criteria are defined, when appropriate, to identify sites with conditions that have little or no probability of needing additional treatment to address the specific resource concern. If the site meets the screening level criteria, then no other assessment is needed to document that planning criteria are met on this site. States can delete or edit nationally identified screening criteria to address localized conditions.	***Basic Assessment Level*** Basic assessment level criteria are used when a site does not meet screening level criteria, or when no screening level criteria are defined. Assessment levels are also used when formulating and evaluating alternatives. National criteria establish the minimum for all sites. States may add state-specific criteria to address local conditions.	

Animal

ANIMAL

- 22 INADEQUATE HABITAT FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE – Habitat degradation	Quantity, quality or connectivity of food, cover, space, shelter and/or water is inadequate to meet requirements of identified fish, wildlife or invertebrate species	All with "wildlife" modifier - (Required when Land Use has a wildlife modifier) •		[WHSI rating ≥ 0.5 **AND (when surface stream present)** SVAP2 – barriers to movement element score ≥ 7 **AND** SVAP2 – fish habitat complexity element score ≥ 7 **AND** SVAP2 – aquatic invertebrate habitat element score ≥ 7] **OR** Conservation practices and management are in place that meet or exceed species or guild-specific habitat model thresholds **OR** [Food, water, space and cover is of available quality and extent to support habitat requirements for the species of interest **AND** The connectivity of habitat components is adequate to support stable populations of targeted species]	Species-specific wildlife habitat assessment tools SVAP2 Generalized WHS Index finalized by States, and detailed models by selected species and habitat type
- 23 LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION LIMITATION – Inadequate feed and forage	Feed and forage quality or quantity is inadequate for nutritional needs and production goals of the kinds and classes of livestock	• All with "grazed" modifier (Applicable when Land Use is grazed)		Livestock forage, roughage and supplemental nutritional requirements are addressed	Client input / planner observation GRAS - Grassland Resource Analysis System
- 24 LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION LIMITATION – Inadequate livestock shelter	Livestock lack adequate shelter from climatic conditions to maintain health or production goals	• All with "grazed" modifier (Applicable when Land Use is grazed)		Artificial or natural shelters meets animal health needs and client objectives	Client input / planner observation
- 25 LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION LIMITATION – Inadequate livestock water	Quantity, quality and/or distribution of drinking water are insufficient to maintain health or production goals for the kinds and classes of livestock	• All with "grazed" modifier (Applicable when Land Use is grazed)		Water of acceptable quality and quantity is adequately distributed to meet animal needs	Client input / planner observation GRAS - Grassland Resource Analysis System - Tool for water distribution