

TABLE CSP: RESOURCE CONCERNS AND QUALITY CRITERIA FOR ALL CSP WATERSHEDS IN MONTANA-FY06

NATURAL RESOURCE CONCERN	NATIONAL QUALITY CRITERIA	STATE QUALITY CRITERIA	TOOLS FOR CSP	ELIGIBILITY (E) AND CATEGORIES (C) CRITERIA FOR CSP
SOIL				
Soil Erosion–Sheet and Rill	Sheet and rill erosion does not exceed the Soil Loss Tolerance “T”.	SAME AS NATIONAL	RUSLE2 -- Cropland	SCI > 0 E
Soil Erosion–Wind	Wind erosion does not exceed the Soil Loss Tolerance “T” or, for plant damage, does not exceed Crop Damage Tolerances.	SAME AS NATIONAL	WEQ -- Cropland	SCI > 0 E
Soil Erosion–Ephemeral Gully	Surface water runoff is controlled sufficiently to stabilize the small channels and prevent reoccurrence of new channels.	SAME AS NATIONAL	Ocular analysis or volume calculation.	Stabilize E
Soil Erosion–Classic Gully	Surface water runoff is controlled sufficiently to stop progression of headcutting and widening.	SAME AS NATIONAL	Ocular analysis or volume calculation.	Stabilize E
Soil Erosion–Streambank	Accelerated streambank soil loss does not exceed a level commensurate with upstream land use and normal geomorphological processes on site.	Assessment tool shows condition of stream is healthy or if off-site conditions cause the stream to be unhealthy, then landowner is not contributing to the problem.	Visual assessment or volume calculation. Stream Visual Assessment Protocol (SVAP) using first 10 criteria. Locate the national SVAP at: ftp://ftp.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/downloads/wgam/svapfnl.pdf	≥7.5 E
Soil Erosion–Irrigation-induced	Irrigation-induced erosion does not exceed the Soil Loss Tolerance “T”.	SAME AS NATIONAL	Water Use Index	≥ 50 E
Soil Condition–Organic Matter Depletion	Soil Conditioning Index is positive.	The calculation of the Soil Condition Rating Index Value will reflect a positive soil condition for cropland.	Soil Conditioning Index improvement – will reflect a positive soil condition for cropland.	SCI > 0 E

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SOIL				
Soil Condition – Rangeland Site Stability	Indicators of Rangeland Health Attribute rating for Soil/Site Stability show Slight to Moderate or less departure from Ecological Reference Sheet (ESD).	SAME AS NATIONAL	Producer answers in the National and Montana CSP Self-Assessment Books.	1. Animal demand and forage supply is in balance, or within 10 % of animal demand amount. 2. Livestock are properly distributed to allow for healthy plant communities. 3. Change in the timing of use for pastures/fields/grazing units within the identified grazing plant. 4. Manages livestock access to water courses. E
Soil Condition – Contaminants – Salts and Other Chemicals	Salinity levels cause less than a 10% decrease in plant yield. Other contaminants do not exceed plant tolerances or are below toxic levels for plants or animals.	SAME AS NATIONAL	Water Quality Index Tool (WQIT) http://www.mt.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/ecs/water/wqindextool.html	Yes on WQIT E
Soil Condition – Contaminants: Animal Waste and Other Organics – N	Nitrogen nutrient application levels do not exceed soil storage/plant uptake capacities based on soil test recommendations and risk analysis results.	SAME AS NATIONAL	Water Quality Index Tool (WQIT) http://www.mt.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/ecs/water/wqindextool.html	Yes on WQIT E
Soil Condition – Contaminants: Animal Waste and Other Organics – P	Phosphorus nutrient application levels do not exceed soil storage/plant uptake capacities based on soil test recommendations and risk analysis results.	SAME AS NATIONAL	Water Quality Index Tool (WQIT) http://www.mt.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/ecs/water/wqindextool.html	Yes on WQIT E
Soil Condition – Contaminants: Commercial Fertilizer – N	Soil nutrient levels of nitrogen do not exceed crop needs based on realistic yield goals and appropriate pH levels are maintained.	SAME AS NATIONAL	Water Quality Index Tool (WQIT) http://www.mt.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/ecs/water/wqindextool.html	Yes on WQIT E

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WATER

Water Quantity – Rangeland Hydrologic Cycle	Indicators of Rangeland Health Attribute rating for Hydrologic Cycle is Slight to Moderate or less departure from Ecological Reference Sheet (ESD).	SAME AS NATIONAL	Producer answers in the National and Montana CSP Self-Assessment books.	1. Animal demand and forage supply is in balance, or within 10% of animal demand amount. 2. Livestock are properly distributed to allow for healthy plant communities. 3. Change in the timing of use for pastures/fields/ grazing units within the identified grazing plan. 4. Manages livestock access to water courses. E
Water Quantity– Inefficient Water Use on Irrigated Land	Land and water management is planned and coordinated to provide optimal use of natural and applied moisture.	SAME AS NATIONAL	Water Use Index. (IEI)	≥ 50 C
Water Quality– Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Groundwater	Nutrients and organics are stored, handled, disposed of, and applied such that groundwater uses are not adversely affected.	SAME AS NATIONAL	Water Quality Index Tool (WQIT) http://www.mt.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/ecs/water/wqindextool.html	Yes on WQIT E
Water Quality– Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water	Nutrients and organics are stored, handled, disposed of, and managed such that surface water uses are not adversely affected.	SAME AS NATIONAL	Water Quality Index Tool (WQIT) http://www.mt.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/ecs/water/wqindextool.html	Yes on WQIT E
Water Quality– Excessive Salinity in Groundwater	Salts are stored, handled, disposed of, applied, and managed such that groundwater uses are not adversely affected.	SAME AS NATIONAL	Water Quality Index Tool (WQIT) http://www.mt.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/ecs/water/wqindextool.html	Yes on WQIT E
Water Quality– Excessive Salinity in Surface Water	Salts are stored, handled, disposed of, applied, and managed such that surface water uses are not adversely affected.	SAME AS NATIONAL	Water Quality Index Tool (WQIT) http://www.mt.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/ecs/water/wqindextool.html	Yes on WQIT E

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PLANTS

<p>Plant-Condition-Productivity, Health, and Vigor</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:</p> <p>Cropland: A healthy stand with vigorous growth produces at least 75% of site potential.</p> <p>Rangeland: The plant community has a similarity index of at least 60% or an upward trend for similarity indices less than 60%.</p> <p>Pastureland: Forage yields are at least 75% of high management estimates cited in FSG Reports, or Soil Survey Report.</p> <p>Hayland: Forage yields at least 75% of high mgt. estimates cited in Forage Suitability Groups (FSG) reports.</p> <p>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/Shrub Suitability Groups (CTSG) listings and height performance.</p>	<p>Cropland-A healthy, vigorous stand that meets the producer's yield goals given the yield potential for the soil map unit. Organic matter percent is 50% of native condition or if less than 50%, organic matter is improving; Electrical conductivity (EC) below 4 MMHOS.</p> <p>Grazingland- Maintaining a plant community with a Biotic Integrity Attribute Score of slight to moderate (2) or less.</p> <p>Pastureland-A healthy, vigorous stand that meets the livestock nutrition and forage needs, is adapted to the site for long-term production and protects the soil. Pasture Condition Score Sheet rating of "4" for plant vigor.</p>	<p>Producer answers in the National and Montana CSP Self-Assessment books.</p>	<p>SCI > 0</p> <p>1. Animal demand and forage supply is in balance, or within 10% of animal demand amount. 2. Livestock are properly distributed to allow for healthy plant communities. 3. Change in the timing of use for pastures/fields/ grazing units within the identified grazing plan. 4. Manages livestock access to water courses.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">E</p>
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PLANTS

<p>Plant-Condition-Productivity, Health and Vigor (CONTINUED)</p>		<p>Hayland-A healthy, vigorous stand of desired, adapted species that meets the producer's yield goals given the yield potential for the species for the given forage suitability group, or species listed on the Montana Desired Species List.</p> <p>Forestland-Forest overstory stocking levels are within 25% of the "D+X" spacing guide (See Practice 666-Forest Stand Improvement) or equivalent for the particular site and stand composition; trees within the stand are uniformly distributed. Understory plant community is comprised of 50% or more, by weight, of expected species for the site and is proportionate with over story canopy. Bare mineral soil comprises 25% or less of ground surface area.</p>	<p>SCI</p>	<p>SCI > 0</p> <p style="text-align: right;">E</p>
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PLANTS

Plant Condition- Noxious and Invasive Plants	The site is managed to control noxious and invasive plants and to minimize their spread.	SAME AS NATIONAL – PLANTS ARE LISTED ON STATE NOXIOUS WEED LIST.	Written plan to control noxious weeds.	Documentation that they are controlling and minimizing the spread of state-listed noxious weeds.* C
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*Third resource concern to be addressed in Judith River Watershed to meet requirements for Tier II.

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ANIMALS

Fish and Wildlife–Inadequate Food	Food availability meets the life history requirements of the species or guild of species of concern.	≥ .5 on the WHAG	WHAG ≥ .5	Yes on Self Assessment Questions.* C
Fish and Wildlife–Inadequate Cover/Shelter	The ecosystem or habit types support the necessary plant species in adequate diversity, abundance, and physical structure; and the connectivity of fish and wildlife cover is adequate to support, over time, the species or guild of species of concern.	≥ .5 on the WHAG	WHAG ≥ .5	Yes on Self Assessment Questions.* C
Fish and Wildlife–Inadequate Water	The quantity and quality of water meets the life history requirements of the species or guild of concern.	≥ .5 on the WHAG	WHAG ≥ .5	Yes on Self Assessment Questions. C
Fish and Wildlife–Inadequate Space	Area is adequate to meet life history requirements of the species or guild of species of concern. (Examples: staging areas for rest and feeding, lek areas for breeding, migratory movement corridors.)	≥ .5 on the WHAG	WHAG ≥ .5	Yes on Self Assessment Questions.* C
Fish and Wildlife–Habitat Fragmentation	Fish and wildlife habitats are connected and are maintained sufficiently to support the species or guild of species of concern.	≥ .5 on the WHAG	WHAG ≥ .5	Yes on Self Assessment Questions.* C

*Third resource concern to be addressed in the Gallatin and Prairie-Elk-Wolf Watersheds to meet requirements for Tier II.

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ANIMALS

Fish and Wildlife– Threatened and Endangered Fish and Wildlife Species – Fish and Wildlife Species Listed or Proposed for Listing under the Endangered Species Act.	Populations and/or habitats of Threatened and endangered fish and wildlife species and/or habitats they occupy are managed to maintain, increase or improve current populations, health, or sustainability.	SAME AS NATIONAL	Fish and Wildlife– Threatened and Endangered Fish and Wildlife Species – Fish and Wildlife Species Listed or Proposed for Listing under the Endangered Species Act.	C
Fish and Wildlife – Threatened and Endangered Species, Declining Species, and Species of Concern	Populations and/or habitats of fish and wildlife species of concern are managed to maintain, increase or improve current populations, health, or sustainability.	SAME AS NATIONAL	Fish and Wildlife – Threatened and Endangered Species, Declining Species, and Species of Concern	C
Domestic Animals– Inadequate Quantities and Quality of Feed and Forage	Feed and forage, including supplemental nutritional requirements, are provided to meet production goals for the kinds and classes of livestock. Native grazers are factored into the total feed and forage balance computations.	Domestic animals are provided adequate food of sufficient quality and quantity with supplements to meet their nutritional requirements.	Forage and Animal Balance Worksheet (MT-CSP-01).	Adequate and balanced. Within 10% of animal demand amount. C

Any other resource concerns identified must be addressed, please refer to Table I, National and State Resource Concerns and Quality Criteria, Section III Field Office Technical Guide.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA AND TOOL FOR EVALUATION OF HEADQUARTERS AREA (production areas and storage areas, including dairy, poultry, feeding operations, etc.) **FOR CSP- TIER III.**

Instructions: Check off components for each criterion to document that the resource issue has been visually reviewed and is adequately addressed. Use photos as needed to document conditions, especially if adverse conditions are noted. Reviewer to sign and date and then file in operating unit folder.

Name or identifier for the Parcel or Unit _____ Field Office _____
 Watershed _____ Legal Location (Section/Township/Range _____)

1. Runoff from confinement area in livestock handling and feed areas (AFO or CAFO) is managed; i.e. clean water is physically separated from "dirty" water. "Dirty" water from manure pit, pond, pile does not contact state water through a pipe, channel, or other direct flow means.

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Diversion, berm, or other physical feature separates clean water from "dirty" water.
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Runoff is managed from loafing and feeding area (AFO or CAFO).
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Runoff is managed from manure storage area (AFO or CAFO).
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Runoff is managed from feeding area (AFO or CAFO).
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Runoff is managed from feed storage area (silage bin, pit, and/or liquid tank).
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Livestock do not have direct contact with state surface water.
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	No leaks observed in pipelines, manure storage, and transfer facilities or equipment.

2. Livestock mortalities are disposed of in a manner that decomposing bodies do not add to potential surface or ground water contamination or create an attractive nuisance for endangered species.

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Mortalities are hauled away from the parcel and are properly disposed of offsite <u>or</u> mortalities disposed of onsite are buried at least 2 feet deep and at a distance of 200 yards from headquarters, floodplain, public highways, roads, or public property.
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Observed no open bone yards or garbage dumps.

3. Wells are at least 100 feet from livestock confinement areas.

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Livestock concentration/manure storage areas are at least 100 feet from downgradient wells.
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	All wells (used or abandoned) are properly sealed and completed.

4. Wells and surface water are located a safe distance from a fertilizer/pesticide storage site and/or mixing/loading areas including waste oil or petroleum product storage areas?

Yes No N/A Fertilizer/pesticide storage and preparation sites are located a safe distance from downgradient wells or surface water or sites are in a designed containment area.

Yes No N/A Waste oil/petroleum product storage areas are located a safe distance from down gradient wells or surface water or sites are in a designed containment area.

5. Pesticide containers are properly disposed of; i.e. triple-rinsed and stored in a safe manner.

Yes No N/A Empty containers are hauled away or properly disposed of on the parcel.

Reviewer _____ Date _____

Note: Tier III requires all Yes or N/A answers. Explain all negative answers, or note corrective actions to be made prior to Tier III eligibility approval.
