

Checklist of Resource Concerns – NRCS Utah

**FOREST**

<b>CLIENT</b>		<b>LOCATION</b>	
<b>PLANNER</b>		<b>DATE</b>	
<b>LAND UNITS</b>		<b>TOOLS</b>	

This check sheet is designed to assist planners and clients in identifying resource concerns during the planning process. The planning criteria in Section III of the FOTG sets the minimum level of treatment needed. 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  No = Met Screening (Not a RC)  YES = Go to Assessment	Y E S	N O	Assessment Tools	Assessment Level Required to Meet Planning Criteria  YES = Meets Planning Criteria NO = Resource Concern	Y E S	N O
<b>SOILS RESOURCES</b>							
<b>1. SOIL EROSION: Sheet, rill and wind *</b>	Is soil surface organic residue cover < 80%?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Visual inspection</li> <li>➤ Include photos</li> </ul>	Is the site stable and without visible signs of erosion?		
<b>2.SOIL EROSION: Concentrated flow erosion *</b>	Are classic gullies present?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Field measurements</li> <li>➤ Planner observation</li> <li>➤</li> </ul>	Is classic gully management adequate to stop the progression of head cutting and widening and are offsite impacts are minimized by vegetation and/or structures?		
<b>3.SOIL EROSION: Excessive bank erosion from streams, shorelines or water conveyance channels</b>	Are streams or shoreline on or adjacent to site?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ SVAP2</li> <li>➤ PFC</li> <li>➤ BEHI</li> </ul>	For shorelines and water conveyance channels; Are banks stable or commensurate with normal geomorphological processes? <b>AND</b> For streambanks; Is SVAP2 bank condition element score >=5?		
	Is bank erosion from streams, shorelines or conveyance channels present?				<b>OR</b> If present, is bank erosion caused by upstream land use and beyond the client's control?		
<b>4. SOIL QUALITY DEGRADATION: Subsidence</b>	Are Histisol soils present?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Client input</li> <li>➤ Planner observation</li> <li>➤ Include photos</li> </ul>	Is subsidence adequately managed to meet client's objectives?		
	Are there Histisols present exhibiting subsidence?						
<b>5. SOIL QUALITY DEGRADATION: Compaction</b>	NONE			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Soil Quality Test Kit</li> <li>➤ Observation of soil and plant condition</li> <li>➤ Client input</li> <li>➤ Planner observation</li> <li>➤ Compaction Meter</li> <li>➤ Shovel</li> </ul>	Is compaction managed to meet Client's production and management objectives?		
<b>6. SOIL QUALITY DEGRADATION: Organic matter depletion</b>	NONE			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Client Input</li> <li>➤ Planner observation</li> <li>➤ Include photos</li> </ul>	Does ground cover meet state criteria specific to ecological site?		
					<b>OR</b> Is soil organic matter managed to meet Client objectives?		

Checklist of Resource Concerns – NRCS Utah

**FOREST**

Resource Concern  * required response	Screening Questions  No = Met Screening (Not a RC)  YES = Go to Assessment		Assessment Tools	Assessment Level Required to Meet Planning Criteria  YES = Meets Planning Criteria NO = Resource Concern	
	Y E S	N O		Y E S	N O
7. SOIL QUALITY DEGRADATION: Concentration of Salts or other chemicals	NONE		➤ Soil diagnostic evaluations	Are conservation practices and managements in place to mitigate on-site effects?	
<b>WATER RESOURCES</b>					
8. EXCESS WATER: Ponding, flooding, seasonal high water table, seeps and drifted snow	Is excess water a problem? <b>AND</b> Do activities cause ponding/flooding problems?		➤ Client Input ➤ Planner observation ➤ Include photos	Is excess water managed to meet Client's objectives?	
9. INSUFFICIENT WATER: Inefficient moisture management	Is Moisture Management a problem? <b>AND</b> Do activities cause inefficient moisture management?		➤ Client Input ➤ Planner observation	Are runoff and evapotranspiration levels minimized to meet Client's management objectives?	
10. INSUFFICIENT WATER: Inefficient use of irrigation water *	Is the PLU irrigated?		➤ IWI-Irrigated Water Index ➤ FIRI (see note)	Is IWI ≥ 85%? <b>NOTE:</b> This will be changed to FIRI nationally with the correct threshold determined by WNTC when the policy comes out.	
				<b>OR</b> Is State established criteria met?	
11. WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excess nutrients in surface and groundwater	Are water courses on or adjacent to the site and are not designated by a State Agency?		➤ Nutrient budget ➤ PCS	If nutrients are applied, are they based on a soil test, tissue tests or nutrient budget? <b>AND</b> 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? <b>AND</b> Are water courses on or adjacent to the site and are not designated by a State Agency?		➤ Client input ➤ Planner observation ➤ Include photos ➤ WinPST	Are pesticides stored, handled, disposed and managed to prevent runoff, spills, leaks and leaching? <b>AND</b> 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? <b>AND</b> Are water courses on or adjacent to the site and are not designated by a State Agency?		➤ Client input ➤ Planner observation ➤ Include photos ➤ UMARI	Are organic materials applied, stored, and/or handled to mitigate negative impacts to water sources?	

Checklist of Resource Concerns – NRCS Utah

**FOREST**

Resource Concern  * required response	Screening Questions		Assessment Tools	Assessment Level Required to Meet Planning Criteria  YES = Meets Planning Criteria NO = Resource Concern	YES	NO
	No = Met Screening (Not a RC)  YES = Go to Assessment	YES NO				
<b>14. WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excessive salts in surface and groundwater</b>	Is salt concentration a limiting factor?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Client input</li> <li>➤ Planner observation</li> <li>➤ Include photos</li> </ul>	Are salt concentrations managed to mitigate off-site transport to surface or ground waters?		
	<b>OR</b> You are not part of the Colorado River <b>AND</b> Are water courses on or adjacent to the site and are not designated by a State Agency?					
<b>15. WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Petroleum, heavy metals and other pollutants transported to receiving waters</b>	Do activities present the potential for contamination?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Client input</li> <li>➤ Planner observation</li> <li>➤ Include photos</li> </ul>	Are petroleum, heavy metals or other potential pollutants stored and handled to avoid runoff or leaching?		
	<b>AND</b> Are water courses on or adjacent to the site and are not designated by a State Agency?					
<b>16. WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excessive sediment in surface waters*</b>	Are there untreated sources of erosion?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Client input</li> <li>➤ Planner observation</li> <li>➤ Include photos</li> <li>➤ SVAP2</li> </ul>	Do upslope treatment and buffer practices address concentrated flows to water bodies?		
	<b>AND</b> Are streams or shoreline on or adjacent to site? <b>AND</b> Are water courses on or adjacent to the site and are not designated by a State Agency?					
<b>17. WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Elevated water temperature</b>	Is there a water course on or adjacent to the site with State Agency identified temperature impairment?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ SVAP 2</li> <li>➤ Client Input</li> <li>➤ Planner observation</li> </ul>	Is SVAP2 – riparian area quality element score ≥ 5?		
	<b>AND</b> Is SVAP2 – riparian are quantity quality element score ≥ 5? <b>AND</b> Is SVAP2 – canopy cover element score ≥ 6?					
	<b>OR</b> Is water course temperature a client concern? <b>AND</b> Are water courses on or adjacent to the site and not designated by a State Agency?			<b>OR</b> Are existing practices in place to address water temperature?		

Checklist of Resource Concerns – NRCS Utah

**FOREST**

Resource Concern  * required response	Screening Questions  No = Met Screening (Not a RC)  YES = Go to Assessment	Y E S	N O	Assessment Tools	Assessment Level Required to Meet Planning Criteria  YES = Meets Planning Criteria NO = Resource Concern	Y E S	N O
<b>PLANT RESOURCES</b>							
<b>18. DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION: Undesirable plant productivity and health</b>	NONE			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Client input</li> <li>➤ Planner Observation</li> <li>➤ Include photos</li> <li>➤ Forest inventory</li> <li>➤ Transect forms</li> </ul>	Are forest species adapted to site? <b>AND</b> Do composition and stand density meet Client's objectives and production goals?		
<b>19. DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION: Inadequate structure and composition</b>	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"> <li>➤ Client input</li> <li>➤ Planner Observation</li> <li>➤ Include photos</li> <li>➤ Ecological Site Descriptions</li> <li>➤ WHEG</li> </ul>	Do plant communities contain adequate diversity, composition and structure to support desired ecological functions?  <b>OR</b> WHEG score ≥.5		
<b>20. DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION: Excessive plant pest pressure*</b>	Is plant productivity limited from pest pressure?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Client input</li> <li>➤ Planner observation</li> <li>➤ Include photos</li> <li>➤ Utah Invasive Species List</li> <li>➤ Similarity Index Worksheet</li> </ul>	Is pest damage to plants below economic or environmental thresholds or client-identified criteria? <b>AND</b> Are plant pests, including noxious and invasive species managed to meet client objectives?		
<b>21. DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION: Wildfire hazard, excessive biomass accumulation</b>	Is wildfire hazard a concern?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Client input</li> <li>➤ Planner observation</li> <li>➤ Include photos</li> <li>➤ Guide for quantifying fuels in the Sagebrush Steppe and Juniper Woodlands of the Great Basin</li> </ul>	Are fuel loads and fuel ladders managed to provide defensible space and meet client objectives?		
<b>LIVESTOCK RESOURCES</b>							
<b>22. LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION LIMITATION: Inadequate feed and forage*</b>	NONE			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Client input</li> <li>➤ Planner observation</li> </ul>	Are fuel loads and fuel ladders managed to provide defensible space and meet client objectives?		
<b>23. LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION LIMITATION: Inadequate livestock shelter*</b>	NONE			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Client input</li> <li>➤ Planner Observation</li> <li>➤ Include photos</li> <li>➤ Wind Factor Map</li> </ul>	Do artificial or natural shelters meet animal health needs and client objectives?		
<b>24. LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION LIMITATION: Inadequate livestock water*</b>	Is PLU grazed?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Client input</li> <li>➤ Planner Observation</li> <li>➤ Include photos</li> <li>➤ GRAS</li> <li>➤ Tool for water distribution</li> </ul>	Is water of acceptable quality and quantity adequately distributed to meet animal needs?		

Checklist of Resource Concerns – NRCS Utah

**FOREST**

Resource Concern  * required response	Screening Questions  No = Met Screening (Not a RC)  YES = Go to Assessment			Assessment Tools	Assessment Level Required to Meet Planning Criteria  YES = Meets Planning Criteria NO = Resource Concern		
		Y E S	N O			Y E S	N O
<b>WILDLIFE RESOURCES</b>							
<b>25. INADEQUATE HABITAT FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE: Habitat degradation</b>	NONE			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Species or habitat-specific WHEG T&amp;E and sensitive species list</li> <li>➤ SVAP 2</li> </ul>	IS WHEG rating $\geq 0.5$ ? or wildlife modifier $\geq .75$ ? <b>AND when surface stream present</b> Is SVAP2 – barriers to movement element score $\geq 7$ ? <b>AND</b> Is SVAP2 – fish habitat complexity element score $\geq 7$ ? <b>AND</b> Is SVAP2 – aquatic invertebrate habitat element score $\geq 7$ ?		
					<b>OR</b> Are conservation practices and management in place that meet or exceed species or guild-specific habitat model thresholds?		
					<b>OR</b> Does available quality and extent of food, water, space, and cover support habitat requirements for the species of interest? <b>AND</b> Is connectivity of habitat components adequate to support stable populations of targeted species?		
<b>ENERGY RESOURCES</b>							
<b>26. INEFFICIENT ENERGY USE: Equipment and facilities</b>	Is the Client interested in improving equipment and facilities energy efficiency?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Client input</li> <li>➤ Planner observation</li> <li>➤ Include photos</li> <li>➤ USDA approved energy audit</li> <li>➤ NRCS energy estimator</li> </ul>	Has a USDA approved energy audit been implemented that address equipment and facilities to meet client objectives?		
					<b>OR</b> Are on-farm renewable energy and/or energy conserving practices been implemented to meet client objectives?		
<b>27. INEFFICIENT ENERGY USE: Farming/ranching practices and field operations</b>	Is Client interested in improving energy use in farm and ranch field operations?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Client input</li> <li>➤ Planner observation</li> <li>➤ Include photos</li> <li>➤ USDA approved energy audit</li> <li>➤ NRCS energy estimator</li> <li>➤ Conservation on the Farm Checklist</li> </ul>	Has a USDA approved energy audit been implemented that address equipment and facilities to meet client objectives?		
					<b>OR</b> Are on-farm renewable energy and/or energy conserving practices been implemented to meet client objectives?		

Checklist of Resource Concerns – NRCS Utah

**FOREST**

Resource Concern  * required response	Screening Questions  No = Met Screening (Not a RC)  YES = Go to Assessment	Y E S	N O	Assessment Tools	Assessment Level Required to Meet Planning Criteria  YES = Meets Planning Criteria NO = Resource Concern	Y E S	N O
<b>AIR RESOURCES</b>							
<b>28. AIR QUALITY IMPACTS: Emissions of particulate Matter PM and PM precursors</b>	Do activities contribute to agricultural source PM or PM precursor emissions? <b>Examples:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prescribed Burn is conducted</li> <li>• Travel ways are unpaved or untreated with binding agents</li> <li>• Engines (combustion source)</li> <li>• Tillage</li> <li>• Pesticides are applied</li> <li>• Fertilization (manure/commercial)</li> <li>• CAFO (manure management)</li> </ul> <b>AND</b> Have episodes or complaints of emissions of PM (dust, smoke, exhaust, etc.), or chemical drift occurred?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Client Input</li> <li>➤ Planner observation</li> <li>➤ Include photos</li> </ul>	Are PM and PM precursor emissions managed to meet client objectives?		
<b>29. AIR QUALITY IMPACTS: Emissions of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs)</b>	Do activities produce GHGs emissions? <b>Examples:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fertilization (manure/commercial)</li> <li>• CAFO (manure management)</li> <li>• Engines (combustion source)</li> <li>• Tillage</li> </ul> <b>AND</b> Are GHGs regulated in this planning area?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Client Input</li> <li>➤ Planner observation</li> <li>➤ Include photos</li> </ul>	Are Emissions of greenhouse gases meet and managed by client objectives?		
<b>30. AIR QUALITY IMPACTS: Emissions of Ozone Precursors</b>	Do operations produce ozone or precursor emissions? <b>Examples:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pesticide application</li> <li>• CAFO (manure management)</li> <li>• Composting is conducted</li> </ul> <b>AND</b> Are odor sources regulated in this planning area? <b>AND</b> Have episodes or complaint of emissions of PM (dust, smoke, exhaust, etc.), or chemical drift occurred.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Client Input</li> <li>➤ Planner observation</li> <li>➤ Include photos</li> </ul>	Are odors managed to meet client objectives?		