

Checklist of Resource Concerns Designated Protected Area

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. For questions with no listed screening questions, move directly to the assessment. 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 Level Required to Meet Planning Criteria		Y E S	N O
	NO = Met Screening (Not a RC)	Y E S		YES = Meets Planning Criteria NO = Identified Resource Concern	Y E S		
SOILS RESOURCES							
1a.SOIL EROSION: Sheet and Rill erosion*	Are permanent ground cover < 90% and slope > 10%?		➤ RUSLE2	Water erosion rate <=T			
1b. SOIL EROSION: Wind erosion*			➤ WEPS	Wind erosion rate <=T			
2b.SOIL EROSION: Classic gully erosion *	Are classic gullies present?		➤ 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?			
5.SOIL EROSION: Excessive bank erosion from streams, shorelines or water conveyance channels*	Are streams or shoreline on or adjacent to site?		➤ SVAP2	For shorelines and water conveyance channels; are banks stable or commensurate with normal geomorphological processes? AND For stream banks:- SVAP2 bank condition ≥5			
				OR Bank erosion caused solely by upstream/upland landuse(s) and management decisions that are beyond the client's control?			
6. SOIL QUALITY DEGRADATION: Subsidence	Are Histosol soils present?		➤ Client input ➤ Planner observations	Is subsidence adequately managed to meet client's objectives?			
	OR Are there Histosols present exhibiting subsidence?						
7. SOIL QUALITY DEGRADATION: Compaction	Is soil compaction a problem? AND Do activities cause soil compaction problems?		➤ Soil Quality Test Kit ➤ Observation of soil and plant condition ➤ Client input/planner observation	Is compaction managed to meet Client's production and management objectives?			

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WATER RESOURCES							
8a. EXCESS WATER: Ponding and Flooding	Is ponding or flooding a problem? AND Do activities cause ponding/flooding problems?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Client Input ➤ Planner Observations 	Is excess water managed to meet Client's objectives?		
8b. EXCESS WATER: Seasonal high water table	Does a seasonal high water table cause a problem?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Client Input ➤ Planner Observations 	Is excess water managed to meet Client's objectives?		
8c. EXCESS WATER: Seeps	Does excess water from seeps cause a problem?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Client Input ➤ Planner Observations 	Is excess water managed to meet Client's objectives?		
8d. EXCESS WATER: Drifted snow	Does drifted snow cause a problem?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Client Input ➤ Planner Observations 	Is excess water 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 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?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ FIRI worksheet 	State established system type criteria		
11a. WATER QUALITY: Excess nutrients in surface water *	Are organic or inorganic nutrients applied? OR Is the PLU grazed? OR			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Client input ➤ Planner observation ➤ Nutrient budget 	Are nutrient and amendment applications based on soil or tissue tests and nutrient budgets for realistic yields? OR Are conservation practices and managements in place to minimize offsite impacts?		
11b. WATER QUALITY: Excess nutrients in groundwater *	Are confined livestock areas present?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Client input ➤ Planner observation ➤ Nutrient budget 	Are nutrient and amendment applications based on soil or tissue tests and nutrient budgets for realistic yields? OR Are conservation practices and managements in place to minimize offsite impacts?		
12a. WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Pesticides transported to Surface waters				<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?		

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12b. WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Pesticides transported to 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?		
13a. WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Pathogens, pharmaceuticals and Other Chemicals in Surface water*	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?		
13b. WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Pathogens, pharmaceuticals and Other Chemicals in Groundwater*				<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?		
14a. WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excessive salts in Surface waters	Is excess salt a problem?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Client input ➤ Planner observation 	Are salt concentrations managed to mitigate off-site transport to surface waters?		
14b. WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excessive salts in Ground waters	OR Do activities contribute to excess salt production?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Client input ➤ Planner observation 	Are salt concentrations managed to mitigate off-site transport to groundwaters?		

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15a. WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: <i>Petroleum and heavy metals and other pollutants transported to surface waters</i>	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?		
15b. WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: <i>Petroleum and heavy metals and other pollutants transported to groundwaters</i>	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: <i>Excessive sediment in surface waters*</i>	Are permanent ground cover < 90% and slope > 10%? AND Are classic gullies present? AND Are streams or shoreline on or adjacent to site?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Client input ➤ Planner observation ➤ RUSLE2 ➤ SVAP2 ➤ WEPS 	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: <i>Elevated water temperature</i>	Is there a water course on or adjacent to the site with State Agency identified temperature impairment? AND Is water course temperature a client concern?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Client input ➤ Planner observation ➤ SVAP2 	Is SVAP2 - riparian area quality element score ≥ 5? AND Is SVAP2 - riparian area quantity quality element score ≥ 5? AND Is SVAP2 - canopy cover element score ≥ 6?		
					OR Are existing practices in place to address water temperature?		

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AIR RESOURCES							
18. AIR QUALITY IMPACTS - <i>Emissions of Particulate Matter - PM - and PM Precursors</i>	<p>Have episodes or complaints of emissions of PM (dust, smoke, exhaust, etc.), or chemical drift occurred?</p> <p>AND</p> <p>Do activities contribute to agricultural source PM or PM precursor emissions?</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Client input ➤ Planner observation 	<p>Are PM and PM Precursor emissions managed to meet client objectives?</p>		
19. AIR QUALITY IMPACTS - <i>Emissions of Greenhouse Gases - GHGs</i>	<p>Are GHGs regulated in this planning area?</p> <p>AND</p> <p>Do activities produce GHGs emissions?</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Client input ➤ Planner observation 	<p>Are greenhouse gas emissions managed to meet client objectives?</p>		
20. AIR QUALITY IMPACTS - <i>Emissions of Ozone Precursors</i>	<p>Do operations produce ozone precursor emissions?</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Client input ➤ Planner observation 	<p>Are ozone precursor emissions are managed to meet client objectives?</p>		
21. AIR QUALITY IMPACTS - <i>Objectionable odors</i>	<p>Do activities contribute to odor nuisance air quality conditions?</p> <p>AND</p> <p>Are odor sources regulated in this planning area?</p> <p>AND</p> <p>Have odor episodes or complaints of odor nuisance occurred?</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Client input ➤ Planner observation 	<p>Are odors managed to meet client objectives?</p>		

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PLANT RESOURCES							
22. DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION: <i>Undesirable plant productivity and health</i>	Are plant production and health a client?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Client input ➤ Planner observation ➤ Crop Tolerance Table 	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?		
23. DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION: <i>Inadequate structure and composition</i>	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"> ➤ Client input ➤ Planner observation ➤ Ecological Site Descriptions ➤ Forage suitability Groups 	Do plant communities contain adequate diversity, composition and structure to support desired ecological functions		
24. DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION: <i>Excessive plant pest pressure</i>	Is plant productivity limited from pest pressure?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 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?		
25. DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION: <i>Wildfire hazard, excessive biomass accumulation</i>	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							
26a. INADEQUATE HABITAT FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE – <i>Quantity, quality of food is inadequate to meet requirements of identified fish, wildlife or invertebrate species</i>	Is PLU managed for wildlife?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Species-specific wildlife habitat assessment tools ➤ SVAP2 ➤ Generalized WHS Index finalized by States, and detailed models by selected species and habitat type 	WHSI rating ≥ 0.5 AND (when surface stream present) SVAP2 – fish habitat complexity element score ≥ 7 AND SVAP2 – aquatic invertebrate habitat element score ≥ 7 OR Are conservation practices and management are in place that meet or exceed species or guild-specific habitat model thresholds? OR Is food available in quality and extent to support habitat requirements for the species of interest?		

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<p>26b. INADEQUATE HABITAT FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE – Quantity, quality of water is inadequate to meet requirements of identified fish, wildlife or invertebrate species</p>	<p>Is PLU managed for wildlife?</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Species-specific wildlife habitat assessment tools ➤ SVAP2 ➤ Generalized WHS Index finalized by States, and detailed models by selected species and habitat type 	<p>WHSI rating ≥ 0.5 AND (when surface stream present) SVAP2 – fish habitat complexity element score ≥ 7 AND SVAP2 – aquatic invertebrate habitat element score ≥ 7 OR Are conservation practices and management are in place that meet or exceed species or guild-specific habitat model thresholds? OR Is water available in quality and extent to support habitat requirements for the species of interest?</p>		
<p>26c. INADEQUATE HABITAT FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE – Quantity, quality or cover/shelter is inadequate to meet requirements of identified fish, wildlife or invertebrate species</p>	<p>Is PLU managed for wildlife?</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Species-specific wildlife habitat assessment tools ➤ SVAP2 ➤ Generalized WHS Index finalized by States, and detailed models by selected species and habitat type 	<p>WHSI rating ≥ 0.5 AND (when surface stream present) SVAP2 – fish habitat complexity element score ≥ 7 AND SVAP2 – aquatic invertebrate habitat element score ≥ 7 OR Are conservation practices and management are in place that meet or exceed species or guild-specific habitat model thresholds? OR Are Space and cover available in quality and extent to support habitat requirements for the species of interest?</p>		
<p>26d. INADEQUATE HABITAT FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE – Habitat continuity is inadequate to meet requirements of identified fish, wildlife or invertebrate species</p>	<p>Is PLU managed for wildlife? (Wildlife Modifier)</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Species-specific wildlife habitat assessment tools ➤ SVAP2 ➤ Generalized WHS Index finalized by States, and detailed models by selected species and habitat type 	<p>WHSI rating ≥ 0.5 AND (when surface stream present) SVAP2 – fish habitat complexity element score ≥ 7 AND SVAP2 – aquatic invertebrate habitat element score ≥ 7 OR Are conservation practices and management are in place that meet or exceed species or guild-specific habitat model thresholds? OR Is connectivity of habitat components are adequate to support stable populations of targeted species?</p>		

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27. LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION LIMITATION: <i>Inadequate feed and forage</i>	Is Client actively grazing animals. (Grazing Modifier)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Client input ➤ Planner observation 	Are livestock forage, roughage and supplemental nutritional requirements addressed?		
28. LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION LIMITATION: <i>Inadequate livestock shelter</i>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Client input ➤ Planner observation 	Do artificial or natural shelters meet animal health needs and client objectives?		
29. LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION LIMITATION: <i>Inadequate livestock water</i>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Client input ➤ Planner observation 	Is water of acceptable quality and quantity adequately distributed to meet animal needs?		

ENERGY RESOURCES							
30. INEFFICIENT ENERGY USE – <i>Equipment and facilities</i>	Is the Client interested in improving equipment and facilities energy efficiency?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Client input ➤ Planner observation ➤ NRCS Energy Estimator ➤ USDA approved Energy Audit 	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?		
31. INEFFICIENT ENERGY USE – <i>Farming and ranching practices and field operations</i>	Is Client interested in improving energy use in farm and ranch field operations?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Client input ➤ Planner observation ➤ NRCS Energy Estimator ➤ USDA approved Energy Audit ➤ Conservation on the Farm Checklist 	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?		

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Technical Assistance Notes
