

**PIA-West CSP Wildlife Habitat Assessment for Tier III**
2006

October

Job Sheet**General Habitat Assessment**

Name: _____ Farm Unit(s): _____

WILDLIFE HABITAT ASSESSMENT**Worksheet Instructions**

The purpose of this questionnaire is to provide a method for you to assess property under your control for the desired wildlife habitat type for this watershed. Wildlife habitat for this watershed could include: wetlands, riparian buffers, forest corridors, and streams. The questions will help you assess your operation for wildlife habitat. The assessment questions help determine whether your operation meets minimum CSP quality criteria for wildlife habitat. If you wish to be eligible for Tier III, your entire farm operation must meet the wildlife habitat quality criteria. This assessment is not required for Tier I or Tier II contracts.

If there is a perennial stream running through your operation, you must also complete the Stream Visual Assessment for CSP Tier III eligibility. NRCS Field Office staff will be available to help you complete the on-site Stream Assessment.

In addition, NRCS field office staff will use ArcGIS to map critical habitat and threatened and endangered species (if present) on operation (See Hawaii NRCS Biology Technical Note No. 13—"Critical habitat for Endangered Species"). If there are species present, their protection must be addressed to qualify for Tier III.



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Cropland Habitat Assessment

Check "Yes" or "No" for each or the questions. If the identified habitat type is not present on the operation, mark N/A. All applicable questions must be marked "Yes" to meet the minimum quality criteria for wildlife habitat for Tier III.

Cropland Habitat		YES	NO	N/A
1	Do you maintain a minimum 35 foot buffer of vegetative cover on all aquatic habitats (freshwater, brackish, and marine) within the offered acres? <i>If yes, delineate these areas on your inventory map and provide photo documentation of this activity.</i>			
2	Does at least 25% of your cropland acres have herbaceous or standing residual crop cover during non-cropped periods or is a cover crop incorporated during idle period that provide 80% ground cover? <i>If yes, delineate these areas on your inventory map and provide photo documentation of this activity.</i>			
3	Is year-round drinking water available and accessible for wildlife on your property? (no greater than 100 ft from habitat area) <i>If yes, delineate these areas on your inventory map and provide description of accessibility.</i>			
4	Do your farming practices allow for the needs of federally and locally* listed threatened and/or endangered plant and animal species? (Examples: crop rotation of fields including fallowing, delayed harvest during nesting brooding and rearing periods, use of low impact chemical treatments or IPM.) <i>Evidence of this should be reflected in your baseline inventory description and schedule of operations. Identify the species protected by your activities.</i>			
5	On your farm, do you have undisturbed (unfarmed and not managed for agricultural production) vegetative cover interspersed with your cropland or situated along field borders totaling a minimum of 1% of total farm area or not more than 200 feet from cropped field? <i>If yes, describe these areas and identify them on the inventory map.</i>			
6	Is the condition of the undisturbed, unfarmed areas any mixture of herbaceous, woody, native or non-native vegetation not considered noxious and invasive?			
7	Are the streams on your property free of manmade barriers to fish passage? <i>If yes or not known, this will be verified in the field by NRCS.</i>			
8	If you have a stream (intermittent and/or perennial*) or riparian area in the area you wish to enroll in CSP, go to the SVAP section on page 5, answer the questions found there, then continue with the rest of the questionnaire.			



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*Locally – NRCS will provide an attached listing of both federal and locally listed threatened and endangered species.



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Pastureland and Rangeland Habitat Assessment

Check "Yes" or "No" for each of the questions. If the identified habitat type is not present on the operation, mark N/A. All applicable questions must be marked "Yes" to meet the minimum quality criteria for wildlife habitat for Tier III.

Pastureland and Rangeland Habitat		YES	NO	N/A
1	Does your pasture contain at least one type of grass and at least one type of legume or other perennial forb?			
2	Grazing is by prescription with considerations for fish and wildlife resources (timing, duration, use, is planned and rotated, at least 10% of land is deferred from grazing during the nesting and rearing season)? <i>If yes, delineate these areas on your inventory map and provide supporting documentation of species managed in your grazing plan.</i>			
3	Do you scout for and manage noxious weeds on your pastureland/rangeland?			
4	Do you exclude livestock, defer grazing, or control access to all aquatic habitats (freshwater, brackish, and marine) in order to protect wildlife habitat?			
5	Do you maintain a minimum 35 foot buffer of vegetative cover on all aquatic habitats (freshwater, brackish, and marine) within the offered acres? <i>If yes, delineate these areas on your inventory map and provide photo documentation of this activity.</i>			
6	Do you manage wetland and riparian areas as separate grazing units to the benefit of fish and wildlife resources? <i>If yes, delineate these areas on your inventory map and provide supporting documentation of species managed in your grazing plan</i>			
7	Is year-round drinking water available and accessible for wildlife on your property? (no greater than 100 ft from habitat area) <i>If yes, delineate these areas on your inventory map and provide description of accessibility.</i>			
8	Do your farming and ranching practices allow for the needs of federally and locally* listed threatened and/or endangered plant and animal species? (Examples: livestock exclusion for identified target species, delayed mowing/grazing during nesting and brooding periods, management of vegetative structure) <i>Evidence of this should be reflected in your baseline inventory description and schedule of operations. Identify the species protected by your activities.</i>			
9	On your farm, do you have undisturbed (unfarmed and not managed for pasture production) vegetative cover interspersed with your pastureland/rangeland or situated along field borders totaling a minimum of 1% of total farm area or not more than 200 feet from			



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	pastured areas?			
10	Is the condition of the undisturbed, un-pastured areas any mixture of herbaceous, woody, native or non-native vegetation not considered noxious and invasive?			
11	Is non-pasture vegetation or a natural area on the farm or within 200 feet of the pastureland/rangeland and at least 1 acre in size?			
12	Are the streams on your property free of manmade barriers to fish passage? <i>If yes or not known, this will be verified in the field by NRCS.</i>			
13	If you have a stream (intermittent and/or perennial*) or riparian area in the area you wish to enroll in CSP, go to the SVAP section on page 5, answer the questions found there, then continue with the rest of the questionnaire.			

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Incidental and Other Land Uses Habitat Assessment

Check "Yes" or "No" for each or the questions. If the identified habitat type is not present on the operation, mark N/A. All applicable questions must be marked "Yes" to meet the minimum quality criteria for wildlife habitat for Tier III.

Incidental Areas (areas not used for crop or forage production)		Yes	No	N/A
Forestland (Includes limestone, ravine, secondary or scrub and strand forests)				
1	Are invasive species being controlled?			
2	Is the forest comprised of at least two (2) native species that produce fruit?			
Savanna				
1	Are greenbelts or firebreaks being maintained?			
2	Do you maintain a minimum 35 foot woody buffer beyond the ravine forest habitat?			
3	Does the savanna area consist of a mixture of native woody and herbaceous species?			
Wetlands/Mangroves Evaluate only wetlands greater than 0.25 acres				
1	Are wetlands protected from direct surface runoff containing contaminants such as chemicals or livestock waste by diverting water or a permanent vegetation buffer at least 30 feet wide?			
2	Are wetlands dominated by an abundance of hydrophytic vegetation?			

SVAP Questions: Answer the following questions if you have a stream (intermittent and/or perennial*) or riparian area on the proposed property.		YES	NO	N/A
1)	Is there a permanent vegetated buffer (grass, shrubs or trees) at least 30 feet wide along all perennial streams?			
2)	Are all streams protected from livestock through managed access to the stream?			
3)	Have you discontinued straightening, dredging, or other channel disturbances and are any dikes or levees set back to allow stream flows to inundate floodplains during high flows? If your stream has never been straightened, channelized, dredged, etc. answer yes.			
4)	If you divert water from the stream, do you leave enough water to maintain instream flows during diversion period?			
5)	Does natural vegetation extend at least half of the channel width on each side of the stream? Natural vegetation does not include cropped fields and grazed pastures.			
6)	Are > 33% of the stream banks moderately stable, at an elevation generally close to that of the natural floodplain and with little or only minor active erosion?			
7)	Is the stream free from litter and trash?			
8)	Are the streams on your property free of manmade barriers to fish passage? <i>If yes or not known this will be verified in the field by NRCS.</i>			

*Perennial stream – A water course with flowing water much of the year; does not include streams which flow only after precipitation event.



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***Intermittent stream** – A water course with short or lengthy periods of time when there is no flow in a normal year.

Certification Statement

The above other land information is correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that if requested, I can provide documentation to support the information provided above.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Certification of Review

I have reviewed this wildlife habitat assessment and the answers meet CSP enrollment criteria and are consistent with the farm records provided for review during the verification interview.

NRCS Representative: _____ Date: _____