

Quality Criteria for Resource Management Systems

NATURAL RESOURCE CONCERN	DESCRIPTION OF CONCERN	NATIONAL QUALITY CRITERIA	STATE QUALITY CRITERIA	ASSESSMENT TOOLS FOR CSP	ELIGIBILITY AND TIER DETERMINATION FOR CSP
Soil Erosion - Sheet and Rill	Detachment and transport of soil particles caused by rainfall splash and runoff degrade soil quality.	Sheet and rill erosion does not exceed the Soil Loss Tolerance "T."	Same as National.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RUSLE2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • $SCI \geq 0$
Soil Erosion - Ephemeral Gully	Small channels caused by surface water runoff degrade soil quality and tend to increase in size. On cropland, they can be obscured by heavy tillage.	Surface water runoff is controlled sufficiently to stabilize the small channels and prevent reoccurrence of new channels.	Same as National.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual assessment air photo • Landowner certification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • stabilized
Soil Erosion - Classic Gully	Deep, permanent channels caused by the convergence of surface runoff degrade soil quality. They enlarge progressively by headcutting and lateral widening.	Surface water runoff is controlled sufficiently to stop progression of headcutting and widening.	Same as National.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual assessment air photo • Landowner certification • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • stabilized
Soil Erosion - Streambank	Accelerated loss of streambank soils restricts land and water use and management.	Accelerated streambank soil loss does not exceed a level commensurate with upstream land use and normal geomorphological processes on site.	Accelerated streambank soil loss does not exceed a level commensurate with upstream land use and normal geomorphological processes on site. Erosion is reduced to a rate that will not cause interference with the intended use of land or water.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual assessment air photo • Landowner certification • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • stabilized

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Soil Condition - Contaminants - Animal Waste and Other Organics - P	Phosphorus nutrient levels from applied animal waste and other organics restrict desired use of the land.	Phosphorus nutrient application levels do not exceed soil storage/plant uptake capacities based on soil test recommendations and risk analysis results.	Phosphorus nutrient application levels do not exceed soil storage/plant uptake capacities based on soil test recommendations and risk analysis results. Application of all organics is in compliance with all federal, state, and local laws.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil test • Yield records/history 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balanced to agronomic level or below
Soil Condition - Contaminants - Animal Waste and Other Organics - K	Potassium nutrient levels from applied animal waste and other organics restrict desired use of the land.	Potassium nutrient application levels do not exceed soil storage/plant uptake capacities based on soil test recommendations and risk analysis results.	Potassium nutrient application levels do not exceed soil storage/plant uptake capacities based on soil test recommendations and risk analysis results. Application of all organics is in compliance with all federal, state, and local laws.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil test • Yield records/history 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balanced to agronomic level or below
Soil Condition - Contaminants - Commercial Fertilizer - N	Over application of nitrogen degrades plant health and vigor, or exceeds the soil capacity to retain nutrients.	Soil nutrient levels of nitrogen do not exceed crop needs based on realistic yield goals and appropriate pH levels are maintained.	Soil nutrient levels of nitrogen do not exceed crop needs based on realistic yield goals and appropriate pH levels are maintained. Application of nutrients is in compliance with all federal, state, and local laws.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil Test • Yield records/history 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balanced to agronomic level or below

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Soil Condition –Contaminants - Commercial Fertilizer - P	Over application of phosphorus degrades plant health and vigor, or exceeds the soil capacity to retain nutrients.	Soil nutrient levels of phosphorus do not exceed crop needs based on realistic yield goals and appropriate pH levels are maintained.	Soil nutrient levels of phosphorus do not exceed crop needs based on realistic yield goals and appropriate pH levels are maintained. Application of nutrients is in compliance with all federal, state, and local laws.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil Test • Yield records/history 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balanced to agronomic level or below
Soil Condition –contaminants - Commercial Fertilizer - K	Over application of potassium degrades plant health and vigor, or exceeds the soil capacity to retain nutrients.	Soil nutrient levels of potassium do not exceed crop needs based on realistic yield goals and appropriate pH levels are maintained.	Soil nutrient levels of potassium do not exceed crop needs based on realistic yield goals and appropriate pH levels are maintained. Application of nutrients is in compliance with all federal, state, and local laws.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil Test • Yield records/history 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balanced to agronomic level or below
Soil Condition - Contaminants - Residual Pesticides	Residual pesticides in the soil have an adverse effect on non-target plants and animals.	Pesticides are applied, stored, handled, and disposed of so that residues in the soil do not adversely affect non-target plants and animals.	Pesticides are applied, stored, handled, and disposed of so that residues in the soil do not adversely affect non-target plants and animals. Application of pesticides is in compliance with all federal, state, and local laws.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WIN-PST and application records. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ≤ intermediate.
Water Quality - Harmful Levels of Pesticides in Groundwater	Residues resulting from the use of pest control chemicals degrade groundwater quality.	Pesticides are applied, stored, handled, disposed of, and managed so that groundwater uses are not adversely affected	Non Measurable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WIN-PST and application records 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ≤ intermediate.

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Water Quality - Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Groundwater	Pollution from natural or human induced nutrients such as N, P, and organics (including animal and other wastes) degrades groundwater quality.	Nutrients and organics are stored, handled, disposed of, and applied such that groundwater uses are not adversely affected.	Non Measurable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil test and application records 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balanced to the agronomic level
Water Quality - Harmful Levels of Pesticides in Surface Water	Pest control chemicals present in toxic amounts degrade surface water quality.	Pesticides are applied, stored, handled, disposed of, and managed such that surface water uses are not adversely affected	Non Measurable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil test and application records 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balanced to the agronomic level
Water Quality - Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water	Pollution from natural or human induced nutrients such as N, P, and organics (Including animal and other wastes) degrades surface water quality.	Nutrients and organics are stored, handled, disposed of, and managed such that surface water uses are not adversely affected.	Non Measurable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil test and application records 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balanced to the agronomic level
Plant – Condition – Productivity, Health and Vigor	Plants do not produce the yields, quality, and soil cover to meet client objectives.	<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>Pastureland: Forage yields are at least 75% of high management estimates cited in FSG reports.</p> <p>Hayland: Forage yields at least 75% of high mgt. estimates cited in Forage Suitability Groups (FSG) reports</p>	Rangeland: N/A. Otherwise, same as National.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCI • Pasture Condition Scoring • Landowner interview • Pasture Condition Scoring • Landowner interview 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • $SCI \geq 0$ • $SCI \geq 0$ • 25 or above • 25 or above

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Plant Condition - Noxious and Invasive Plants	The site has noxious or invasive plants present.	The site is managed to control noxious and invasive plants and to minimize their spread.	The site is managed to control noxious and invasive plants and to minimize their spread in accordance with all federal, state, and local laws.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pasture Condition Scoring Landowner interview 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25 or above
Plant Condition - Forage Quality and Palatability	Plants do not have adequate nutritive value or palatability for the intended use.	Forage plants are managed to produce the desired nutritive value and palatability for the intended use.	Same as National.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pasture Condition Scoring Landowner interview 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25 or above
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Food	Quantity and quality of food is unavailable to meet the life history requirements of the species or guild of species of concern	Food availability meets the life history requirements of the species or guild of species of concern.	Same as National.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WHAG 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WHAG \geq .5 Self Assessment Answers
Fish and Wildlife – Inadequate Cover/Shelter	Cover/shelter for the species of concern is unavailable or inadequate. For aquatic species, this includes lack of hiding, thermal, and/or refuge cover	The ecosystem or habitat types support the necessary plant species in the kinds, amounts, and physical structure; and the connectivity of fish and wildlife cover is adequate to support, over time, the species of concern.	The ecosystem or habitat types support the necessary plant species in the kinds, amounts, and physical structure; and the connectivity of fish and wildlife cover is adequate to support, over time, the species of concern. Upland habitat has a quality rating of 0.5 or more.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WHAG 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WHAG \geq .5 Self Assessment Answers
Fish and Wildlife – Inadequate Water	The quantity and quality of water is unacceptable for the species of concern	The quantity and quality of water meets the life history requirements of the species of concern.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WHAG 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WHAG \geq .5 Self Assessment Answers

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Fish and Wildlife – Inadequate Space	Lack of area and fragmentation of areas disrupt life history requirements of the species of concern	Adequate area and connectivity of areas meet life history requirements of the species of concern. (Examples: staging areas for rest and feeding, lekking areas for breeding, migratory movement corridors)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WHAG 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WHAG \geq .5 • Self Assessment Answers
Fish and Wildlife -Plant Community Fragmentation	Natural plant communities have insufficient structure, extent, and connectivity to provide ecological functions and/or achieve management objectives.	Fish and wildlife habitat functions of connected plant communities are maintained sufficiently to support the species or guild of species of concern.	Fish and wildlife habitat functions of connected plant communities are maintained sufficiently to support the species or guild of species of concern. Upland habitat has a quality rating of 0.5 or more.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WHAG 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WHAG \geq .5 • Self Assessment Answers
Fish and Wildlife - Threatened and Endangered Species	Fish and wildlife populations and/or habitat quantity and quality have reached a level that one or more species are in danger of or threatened with extinction.	Threatened and endangered fish and wildlife species and/or habitats they occupy are managed to avoid actions that would reduce their current population, health, or sustainability.	Same as National.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WHAG 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WHAG \geq .5 • Self Assessment Answers