

2006 Conservation Security Program

Applicant Eligibility

Self Assessment Workbook



Applicant Name: _____

Farm/Ranch Name: _____





Conservation Security Program (CSP)

The Conservation Security Program (CSP) is authorized by the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002. CSP is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to producers who advance the conservation, and improvement of soil, water, air, energy, plant and animal life, and other conservation purposes on Tribal and private working lands. Such lands include cropland, grassland, prairie land, improved pasture, and rangeland, as well as forested land and other non-cropped areas that are an incidental part of the agriculture operation. Land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, Wetlands Reserve Program, and Grassland Reserve Program, and land converted to cropland after the enactment of the CSP legislation are not eligible.

Agricultural producers are longtime stewards of America's lands and the CSP supports this ongoing stewardship by providing financial and technical assistance for producers to maintain and enhance resources.

The purpose of CSP is to:

- **Identify and reward those farmers and ranchers meeting the very highest standards of conservation and environmental management on their operations;**
- **Create powerful incentives for other producers to meet those same standards of conservation performance on their operations; and**
- **Provide public benefits for generations to come.**

CSP rewards those farmers and ranchers who reach the pinnacle of good land stewardship, and encourages others to enhance the ongoing production of clean water and clean air on their farms and ranches - which are valuable commodities to all Americans.

Self-Assessment

The CSP self-assessment process enables farmers and ranchers to evaluate their eligibility for the Conservation Security Program.

Because of the rigorous eligibility criteria required for this year's CSP, the current level of conservation activity on your operation may not qualify for a CSP contract at this time. However, you may be eligible for a wide range of other conservation assistance programs that can help you address natural resource concerns to a level that could help you qualify for CSP in the future. A brief list of USDA program opportunities are provided for you following the glossary in this workbook.

If you are not eligible this year, your next steps will include setting your objectives based on your natural resource concerns and farming/ranching operation, developing a conservation plan, and finding the appropriate educational, financial, and technical assistance to help you.

Applicant / Participant Responsibilities

Washington Natural Resources Conservation Service



Program Applicant / Participant Responsibilities

Program Self Assessment and Inventory

- Determines if land is primarily within selected watersheds based upon sign-up criteria
- Determines initial producer and land eligibility using CSP self-assessment workbook
- Provides documentation necessary to support producer and land eligibility determination
- Completes a benchmark condition inventory and satisfies sign-up criteria including information about enhancement activities
- Provides documentation necessary to support bench mark condition
- Participates in verification interview

Program Application

- Signs, dates and completes CCC 1200, Application and Appendix and any other sign-up requirements
- Provides assurances that tenants and sharecroppers are being treated fair and equitably
- An applicant who is a tenant must provide NRCS written evidence or assurance of control from the landowner
- Supplies information, as required by NRCS, to determine eligibility for CSP

Program Participation

- Develops a conservation stewardship plan
- Establishes a vendor number for direct deposit of payments by submitting form 1099-G
- Certifies the CSP stewardship practices, activities and actions are taken by the third year of the contract for multiple land use category placement
- Executes contract and becomes a program participant
- Completes contract activities as required

Contract

- Implements and maintains the conservation stewardship contract and plan as approved
- Makes available to NRCS, appropriate records showing timely implementation and maintenance of the contract and plan
- Submits payment applications and supporting cost documentation as requested
- Complies with all appropriate regulations
- Does not engage in any activity that interferes with the purpose of CSP

An applicant is subject to the following constraints:

- An applicant may submit only one application for each sign-up
- Producers who are participants in an existing conservation stewardship contract are not eligible to submit another application
- Applicants who are members of a joint operation, trust, estate, association, partnership, or similar organization (i.e. applicants that are entities) must file a single application for the joint operation or organization

How to Use CSP Self Assessment Workbooks

Washington Natural Resources Conservation Service



How to use the Self Assessment Workbooks

- Applicant Eligibility Self Assessment Workbook
- Record Keeping Self Assessment Workbook

Completion of this Applicant Eligibility Self Assessment Workbook is required for all CSP applications. This workbook has been designed to take you through all the necessary steps to determine if you are eligible to participate in the 2006 Conservation Security Program.

This self assessment process must be completed in its entirety by the applicant prior to the published application period cut-off date for the applicant to be considered for funding.

By completing this workbook, you will have answered all of the questions pertaining to the location of your agricultural operation within the watershed, producer and land eligibility assessments and identified the distinct land uses within your agricultural operation. If you feel that you have adequately met the eligibility criteria, you will be directed to complete additional screening tools which are specific to the type of land use that you are offering into the program. All of these screening tools are included in this Applicant Eligibility workbook.

Steps Required to Determine Program Eligibility

- Determine if your agricultural operation is in the offered watershed
- Attend a CSP informational workshop within your watershed and obtain both an Applicant Eligibility Self Assessment Workbook and a Record Keeping Workbook
- Complete the Applicant Eligibility Self Assessment Workbook by defining your agricultural operation, consider land eligibility, producer eligibility and land use questions using the appropriate screening tools
- If at this point it appears you are eligible – complete the Record Keeping Workbook for each landuse you identified in your agricultural operation

The Record Keeping Workbook will be your opportunity to document your current cropping and/or livestock management operations to establish your benchmark inventory.

After you have completed both the Applicant Eligibility Workbook and the Record Keeping Workbook you are ready to call the local NRCS office and make an appointment for an interview to review your workbooks, confirm eligibility and determine your category and tier placement for the Conservation Security Program!



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Applicant Eligibility Requirements

Washington Natural Resources Conservation Service



Eligible Applicant

To be eligible to participate in CSP, an applicant must:

- Be in compliance with the highly erodible land and wetland conservation provisions found in 7 CFR Part 12;
- Have control of the land for the life of the proposed contract period;
- If the applicant is a tenant, the applicant must provide NRCS with written evidence or assurance of control from the landowner(s). A written lease is not a requirement to show control if historical use and control of the land can be demonstrated. If control of any land unit is questioned, the applicant will be required to furnish evidence of control satisfactory to NRCS.
- The NRCS Chief may make exception for land allotted by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Tribal land, or other instances in which the Chief determines there is sufficient assurance of control.
- Share in the risk of producing any crop or livestock and be entitled to share in the crop or livestock available for marketing from the agricultural operation (although landlords and owners for exclusively cash rented agricultural operations are ineligible to submit an application, they can be a conservation stewardship contract participant);
- For CSP purposes, one who controls a grass-based system and manages the forage production, but who does not share a risk in production, and does not share in marketing of products will not be considered a producer.
- In unique cases where a potential applicant's ability to share in risk of producing a crop or livestock, and their entitlement to share in the crop or livestock available for marketing are in question, the State Conservationist will make the final decision about whether or not the applicant is a producer. These would include cases where no marketing of crop or livestock occurs (e.g., federal wild horse preserve, community gardens, etc.).
- Complete a benchmark condition inventory for the entire agricultural operation, or the portion being enrolled;
- Supply information, as required by NRCS, to determine eligibility for the program, including but not limited to information related to eligibility criteria in the sign-up notice, and information to verify the applicant's status as a beginning farmer or rancher;
- Be in compliance with adjusted gross income (AGI) requirements.

An applicant is subject to the following constraints:

- **An applicant may submit only one application for each sign-up.**
- **Producers who are participants in an existing conservation stewardship contract are not eligible to submit another application.**
- **Applicants who are members of a joint operation, trust, estate, association, partnership, or similar organization (i.e., applicants that are entities) must file a single application for the joint operation or organization.**

General Boundary of Naches Watershed

Washington Natural Resources Conservation Service



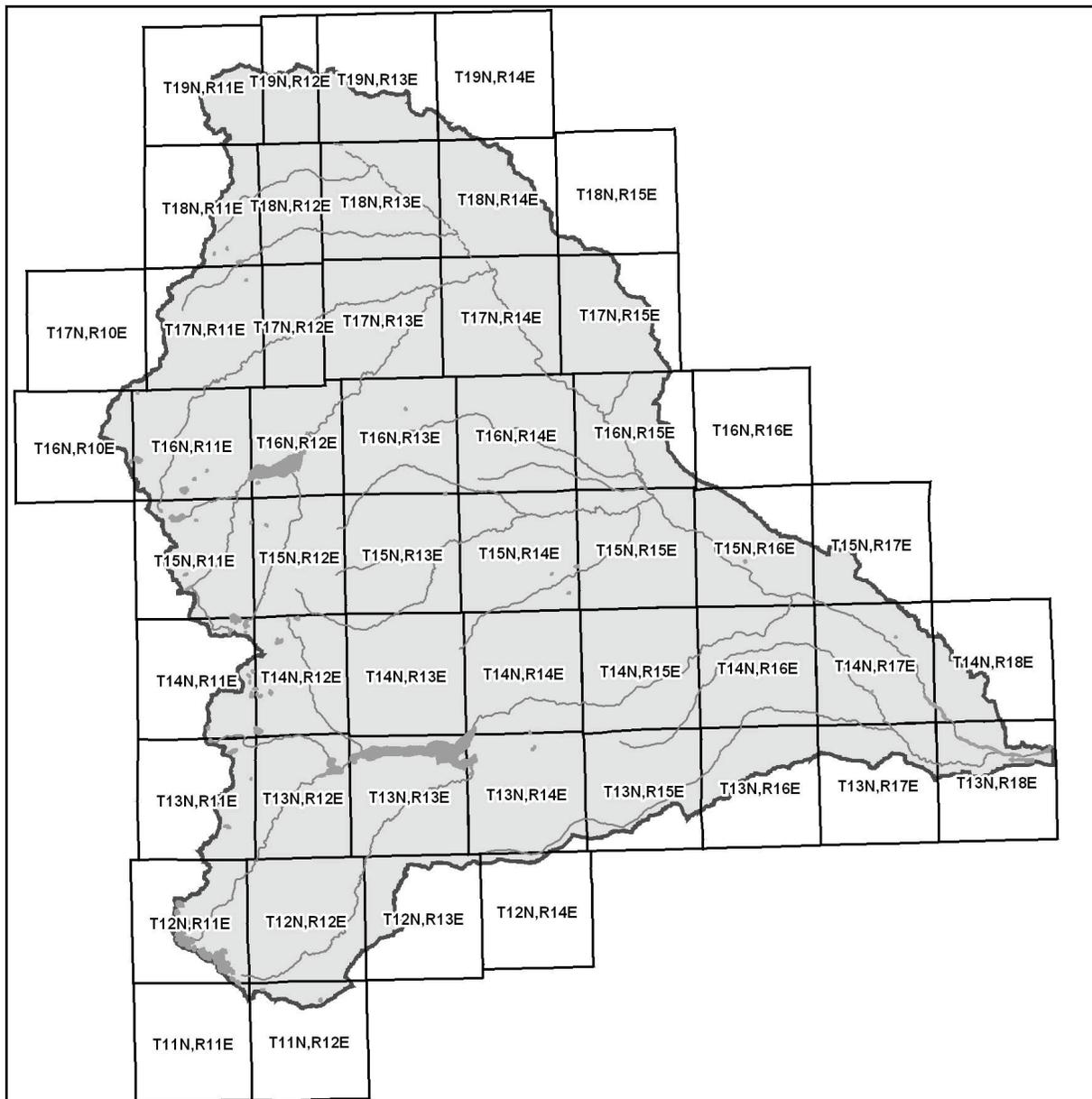
The CSP priority watershed in Washington State for 2006 is identified here. Producers located within this watershed are eligible to apply for the program. For more information about the watershed selected, contact your local NRCS office, or go to the Washington NRCS Web page:

<http://www.wa.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp/06ws/index.html>

The agricultural operation will be determined eligible for CSP when the largest percentage of that designation is within the watershed boundary.

The definition of an agricultural operation can be found in the glossary section of this workbook.

Naches Watershed (17030002)



Applicant Contact Information

Washington Natural Resources Conservation Service



Applicant Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Contact Phone: _____ or _____

E- Mail Address: _____ @ _____

Ag Operation Name: _____

CSP Watershed: _____

NRCS Service Center Contact Information

Naches Watershed Lead

Chris Johnson
200 Cheyne Road
Zillah, WA 98953-9767

509-829-3003 Ext. 108



Delineating Your Agricultural Operation

Delineating your agricultural operation for CSP means selecting and identifying the boundaries of the land you wish to enroll. This is an important part in determining eligibility, the tier of the contract, stewardship payments, and the required level of conservation treatment needed for participation.

When you delineate your agricultural operation, you should include all agricultural land under your control and other land, such as farmsteads, feedlots, headquarters and incidental forest lands. **The operation should constitute a cohesive management unit that is operated with equipment, labor, an accounting system, and management that is substantially separate from any other land.** The land within the operation may be contiguous or non contiguous. The minimum size of an agricultural operation is a field.

In delineating your operation, you may elect to use the Farm Service Agency (FSA) farm boundaries or you may use whatever term (or number) you choose to describe the land. If you decide to use FSA farm boundaries in your application, the entire farm area must be included within the delineation. You may offer one farm or aggregate farms into one agricultural operation.

Your delineation should include all land under your control, including land that is ineligible for CSP payments, such as: Land in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), Wetlands Reserve Enhancement Program (WREP) or Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) public land and forest land.

Although the lands mentioned above are not eligible to receive payments, the conservation work on this land may be used to determine your eligibility for the program.

What to include in your delineation:

- √ Agricultural land
- √ Incidental parcels – including, but not limited to, pivot corners, field borders, linear areas, turn rows, intermingled wet or riparian areas
- √ Other lands – such as farmsteads, ranch sites, barnyards, feed lots, equipment storage areas, materials handling areas, greenhouses and other such developed areas. The amount of “other lands” cannot exceed 10% of the total acreage enrolled.
- √ Land in CRP, CREP, WRP, WREP and GRP
- √ Public land under your control
- √ Forest land

Agricultural Operation Location Map

Washington Natural Resources Conservation Service



Property Location Map

Draw or attach a detailed map of your farm or ranch operation (field boundaries, access roads, streams, etc.) as described on previous page. Include the location of conservation practices (fences, terraces, pipelines, etc.) you have installed on each field. Attach additional pages if necessary.



Farm Map Legend

Property Boundary	Road	Fence	Homestead
Stream	Field Number	Well	Spring
Water	Ditch	Pipeline	Trough

Agricultural Operation Property Location

Washington Natural Resources Conservation Service



Property Location

In order to identify the property location, please fill out the table below. Your farm number, tract number and total acres can be located on an aerial map. Aerial map photocopies of your property can be obtained at your local US Department of Agriculture Service Center. Township, range, and section numbers can be located with the following resources: county soil survey book, 7.5 min. quad map (can be found at a bookstore or sporting goods store), tax lot number from the county courthouse, deed of land and the local irrigation district.

Example :

Property Name	Farm or Tract Number	Field Numbers	Township	Range	Section(s)	Acres	Own	Operate
Jones Farm	T251	1	35	3E	21	30		✓
Jones Farm	T251	2	35	3E	21	10		✓
Jones Farm	T251	3	35	3E	22	80		✓
Smith Farm	T252	1	35	3E	22	120	✓	✓
Smith Farm	T252	2	35	3E	22	95	✓	✓
Smith Farm	T252	HQ	35	3E	22	5	✓	✓

Property Name	Farm or Tract Number	Field Numbers	Township	Range	Section(s)	Acres	Own	Operate

Producer Eligibility



The following questions will help determine if the land you wish to enroll in CSP meets the minimum program requirements. Each question pertains to the land you intend to enroll in CSP. If a question is not applicable to your operation, mark “NA.” Please answer all of the questions.

1. Do you share in the risk of producing crops or livestock on this operation?

Note: Landlords who receive only cash payments for renting the land are not currently eligible to apply for CSP on that acreage.

YES NO NA

2. Are you entitled to share in the crop or livestock available for marketing from the agricultural operation?

YES NO NA

3. Do you have control of the land you intend to enroll in CSP for the life of the proposed 5 to 10 year contract period?

Note: A lease is not required, but tenants must be able to provide written evidence or assurance of control from the landowner(s). You may use the “Control of Land Certification” form on page 12 of this workbook to provide this evidence.

YES NO NA

4. Is your average adjusted gross income less than or equal to \$2.5 million, or if greater than \$2.5 million, did 75 percent come from farming, ranching, or forestry?

Note: To participate in CSP, your average adjusted gross income (AGI) for the 3 tax years immediately preceding the year the contract is approved cannot exceed \$2.5 million, unless at least 75 percent of the income was derived from agriculture.

You must complete the AGI determination form “CCC-526, Payment Eligibility Average Adjusted Gross Income Certification” prior to application.

YES NO NA

Land Eligibility



5. Are you in compliance with the highly erodible land and wetland conservation provisions of the 1985 Farm Bill as amended?

Note: The Food Security Act of 1985, as amended, requires that persons who produce agriculture commodities protect all cropland classified as being highly erodible from excessive erosion and all wetlands from conversion. The provisions have been amended in the 1990, 1996, and 2002 Farm Bills.

If you have not participated in a USDA program, you must complete a “Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation Certification” form AD-1026 and submit it to your local USDA Service Center.

YES NO NA

6. Is the land you wish to enroll in CSP currently in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), Wetlands Reserve Enhancement Program (WREP) or Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)?

Note: Land enrolled in CRP, CREP, WRP, WREP or GRP cannot be a part of the CSP contract but should be included in your agricultural operation delineation. In addition, land accepted in a recent CRP sign-up for contract development is not eligible.

For example: You would like to enroll a 40 acre parcel that has a 2 acre CRP buffer. You will include all 40 acres in your delineation. However, only the 38 acres that are not enrolled on CRP will be eligible for payment in a CSP contract.

YES NO NA

7. Is the land you wish to enroll private agricultural land or Tribal land?

Note: Public land (owned by federal, state or local government) is not eligible for CSP payments, but should be included in your delineation if the land is under your control.

YES NO NA



CONSERVATION SECURITY PROGRAM (CSP)

Control of Land Certification

Land Unit Description(s)

Farm Name, Number, Tract Number, or other legal description:

For the above described land unit(s) that I own, I hereby certify that my tenant,

_____, will have control of this land for the

purpose of satisfying the terms and conditions of a Conservation Stewardship Contract,

for the proposed contract period of _____ years.

Landowner Signature

Date

Land Use Designations



In order to be eligible for CSP, your land must be considered private agricultural land. Agricultural land means cropland, rangeland, pastureland, hayland, and other land on which food, fiber, and other agricultural products are produced. This “other land” includes land of varying cover types, such as cropped woodland and cropped marshes, managed primarily for the production of food, fiber or other agricultural products, through a low input system. Areas used for strip-cropping or alley-cropping and silvopasture practices will be included as agricultural land. The land use designations for CSP are listed below. **Check all of the land types you wish to enroll in CSP.** You will be asked to answer minimum eligibility questions for the land uses you wish to enroll.

CROPLAND

A land cover/use category, either irrigated or non-irrigated, that includes areas used for the production of adapted crops for harvest, including but not limited to land in row crops or close-grown crops, forage crops that are in a short or long term rotation with row or close-grown crops, permanent hayland, horticultural cropland, orchards, vineyards and field grown ornamentals.

Hayland: land managed for the production of forage crops that are machine harvested. The crop may be grasses, legumes, or a combination of both.

Cropped Woodland and Marshes: where at least 50% of the area is actively managed to produce an agricultural product. The crop may be grown symbiotically within the system, such as ginseng and wild rice, or harvested directly from the trees, such as maple syrup. For maple syrup production, the number of tapped trees will be used to determine the production area. Once established, the agricultural product is harvested annually. Plants are selectively removed as needed to control disease and insect pests or to prevent overcrowding of the desired species. If utilized, nutrient applications follow university recommendations for the desired crop.

Note: To be eligible for payment, the land must have been planted, considered to be planted, or devoted to crop production, as determined by NRCS, for at least 4 out of the 6 years from May 13, 1996 to May 13, 2002.

PASTURELAND

A land cover/use category of land managed primarily for the production of introduced forage plants for grazing animals and includes improved pasture and silvopasture. Pastureland cover may consist of a single species in a pure stand, a grass mixture, or grass-legume mixture. Management usually consists of cultural treatments: fertilization, weed control, reseeding or renovation, and control of grazing.

RANGELAND

A land cover/use category on which the climax or potential plant cover is composed principally of native grasses, grass-like plants, forbs, or shrubs suitable for grazing and browsing, and introduced forage species that are managed like rangeland. The term would include areas where introduced, hardy and persistent grasses are planted and practices such as deferred grazing, burning, chaining, and rotational grazing are used, with little or no chemicals or fertilizer being applied.



Cropland and Hayland Self Assessment

Complete this section if you have identified cropland and/or hayland in your agricultural operation.

The questions on the following pages pertain to how you address water quality and soil quality resource concerns on your cropland and/or hayland.

Your answers will then be documented in the Cropland and Hayland Production Records section of the Record Keeping Workbook.

After you have completed the Cropland Self Assessment and answered “yes” to all questions, proceed on by completing the following screening tools;

- Water Quality Eligibility Tool for Cropland
- Wildlife Habitat Screening Tool
- Irrigation System Screening Tool (If applicable)

Cropland and hayland screening tools begin on page 26 of this workbook.

Items underlined are defined in the glossary of terms beginning on page 62 of this workbook.



Nutrients and Pesticides

In the following questions, the term **nutrient** includes organic and inorganic forms from all sources, such as commercial, animal waste, sludge, compost or agricultural by-products. **Pesticide** refers to insecticides, fungicides, miticides, rodenticides and herbicides. **Pest** refers to insects, plant diseases, rodents and weeds.

1. Have you ever taken soil samples and tested soils to determine the level of plant available nutrients in the soil?

YES NO NA

2. If you apply fertilizers, do you use a schedule or a Nutrient Management Plan to apply fertilizers, animal manure, or agricultural by-products?

Note: A Nutrient Management Plan provides recommendations on the amount, form, placement and timing of plant nutrients to obtain optimum yields while minimizing the risk of surface and groundwater pollution. The plan should address all sources of nutrients utilized.

YES NO NA

3. If you apply pesticides, do you use a schedule or a Pest Management Plan to conduct pest control activities on your cropland?

Note: A Pest Management Plan provides recommendations on the chemical (pesticides), biological (beneficial insects, controlled grazing), or cultural (brush management, burning), control of pests (insects, weeds, plant diseases or rodents). It outlines the use, amount, form, timing and application of the control method to obtain optimum yields while minimizing the risk of surface and groundwater pollution.

YES NO NA

4. Do you have two years of written records or documentation of your nutrient and pest management activities?

Note: Records should include crop type, projected yields, soil analysis, dates and application rates of all nutrients used. Records should also include the target pest, crop type and type of pesticide used, dates and application rates or the cultural or biological control method used and dates implemented, including spot treatments.

YES NO NA



Nutrients and Pesticides cont.

5. Have you taken adequate steps to safeguard ground water from contamination by properly protecting active or abandoned wells?

Examples of measures to protect wells:

- Install sanitary well caps, tightly secured with a screened vent
- Use pitless adaptors (a special pipe fitting that connects a water line to a well casing and provides a sanitary and frost-proof seal)
- Prevent surface runoff from reaching the area immediately surrounding the well

YES NO NA

6. Have you taken adequate steps to safeguard ground and surface water from contamination by properly protecting fertilizer or pesticide mixing and loading sites?

The following are examples of measures that may be taken:

- Ensure the mixing/loading site is located a safe distance from wells and surface water areas such as streams, rivers, ponds, lakes, canals and drainage ditches
- Use secondary containment on highly permeable or sandy soil
- Properly dispose of rinse water from cleaning fertilizer/pesticide application equipment
- Properly dispose of used pesticide/fertilizer containers

YES NO NA

7. If the cropland is periodically grazed, are you managing livestock to adequately protect surface and ground water from contamination by implementing the following steps:

- Manage livestock access to rivers, streams, and other water courses
- Prevent livestock direct access to sinkholes and other direct paths to ground water
- Identify periods of grazing, rest and other treatments

YES NO NA

Cropland Self Assessment



Sediment

8. Have you protected surface waters from additions of sediment caused by direct runoff from your cropland?

Note: Soil erosion includes sheet and rill, ephemeral and classic gullies and is the leading way nutrients and pesticides attach to soil particles and move from cropland. The following structural, vegetative and management practices are used to control erosion:

- Terrace, diversion and waterway conservation systems
- Reduced tillage and contour farming practices
- Buffers, filter strips, field borders, vegetative barriers and critical area plantings

YES NO NA

Drift

9. Do you take measures to control the drift of agri-chemicals by managing the timing or method of applications or by installing windbreaks or buffers?

YES NO NA

Volatilization

10. Do you manage the timing and method of nutrient and pesticide applications, incorporate when feasible, or use urea inhibited or urea based fertilizer compositions?

YES NO NA

Salinity

11. Do you monitor salinity levels and use techniques to manage salinity? The following are techniques to manage salinity:

- Irrigation and drainage water management
- Deep tillage
- Reduce time land is left fallow
- Use soil amendments, such as gypsum
- Plant salt-tolerant crops
- Well and/or surface water testing

YES NO NA

Cropland Self Assessment



Soil Quality

12. Do you grow high-residue crops, such as corn, small grains, canola, or mint at least 1 in 3 years in rotation?

YES NO NA

13. Do you maintain a ground cover between the rows of your vineyard, orchard or field grown ornamentals?

YES NO NA

14. Do you include any of the following in your crop rotation?

- No-till, strip-till, direct seeding, or mulch-till
- Perennial sod or hay in rotation
- Add organic soil amendments such as manure or compost
- Grow cover and green manure crops

If none of the above, do your soil tests indicate an increase in organic matter?

YES NO NA

15. Do you take measures to control soil compaction by avoiding tillage when soils are wet, utilizing permanent access roads, reducing tillage operations or growing deep rooted cover crops?

YES NO NA

Irrigation

16. Do you adjust your irrigation rates for nutrient and pesticide applications?

YES NO NA

17. Do you control irrigation-induced erosion by using a cover crop, perennial cover, polyacrylamide (PAM), residue management, or irrigation water management?

YES NO NA

18. Do you apply irrigation water at rates that avoid water loss due to surface runoff or deep percolation?

YES NO NA



Pastureland and Rangeland Self Assessment

Complete this section if you have identified pastureland and/or rangeland in your agricultural operation.

The following questions pertain to how you address water quality and soil quality resource concerns on your pasture and rangeland. Your answers will then be documented as you complete the Pastureland and Rangeland Production Records section of the Record Keeping Workbook.

After completing the Pastureland and Rangeland Self Assessment, proceed on by completing the following screening tools;

Pastureland

- Water Quality Eligibility Tool for Grazing Land
- Wildlife Habitat Screening Tool
- Irrigation System Screening Tool (For irrigated pastures only)

Rangeland

- Water Quality Eligibility Tool for Grazing Land
- Wildlife Habitat Screening Tool

Items underlined are defined in the glossary of terms beginning on page 62 of this workbook.

Pastureland and Rangeland Self-Assessment

Washington Natural Resources Conservation Service



1. Do you follow a Grazing Management Plan that includes a grazing schedule and rest periods for all acres grazed?

Note: A Grazing Management Plan provides the kind, class and number of animals that are supported based on the available forage supply. The grazing plan includes deferment, timing and duration of grazing.

YES NO NA

2. Do you have an adequate grazing and roughage supply to meet your livestock needs on a monthly basis?

YES NO NA

3. Do you have a grazing management contingency plan to adjust livestock numbers for changes in forage production due to drought, flooding, wildfire, and other natural events?

YES NO NA

4. Are you using watering facilities, salting locations, fences or herding techniques to improve grazing distributions within pastures?

YES NO NA

5. Do you have two years of written documentation or records of your grazing activities?

Note: Records should include: total grazing acres, forage production per pasture, number of livestock, grazing schedules, existing fences and watering facilities.

YES NO NA

6. Are you managing livestock access to rivers, streams and other water courses?

YES NO NA

7. Are livestock prevented access to sinkholes and other direct paths to groundwater to protect water quality?

YES NO NA

Pastureland and Rangeland Self-Assessment

Washington Natural Resources Conservation Service



8. Do you manage access roads, stock trails and other critical areas to limit surface water runoff and to prevent erosion?

YES NO NA

9. Have you taken adequate steps to safeguard ground water from contamination by properly protecting active or abandoned wells?

Examples of measures to protect wells:

- Install sanitary well caps, tightly secured with a screened vent
- Use pitless adaptors (a special pipe fitting that connects a water line to a well casing and provides a sanitary and frost-proof seal)
- Prevent surface runoff from reaching the area immediately surrounding the well

YES NO NA

Nutrients and Pesticides

In the following questions, the term **nutrient** includes organic and inorganic forms from all sources, such as commercial, animal waste, sludge, compost or agricultural by-products.

Pesticide refers to insecticides, fungicides, miticides, rodenticides and herbicides. **Pest** refers to insects, plant diseases, rodents and weeds.

10. Have you taken soil samples and tested soils to determine the level of plant available nutrients in the soil?

YES NO NA

11. If you apply fertilizer, do you use a schedule or a Nutrient Management Plan to apply fertilizers, animal manure, or agricultural by-products?

Note: A Nutrient Management Plan provides recommendations on the amount, form, placement and timing of plant nutrients to obtain optimum yields while minimizing the risk of surface and groundwater pollution. The plan should address all sources of nutrients utilized.

YES NO NA

Pastureland and Rangeland Self-Assessment

Washington Natural Resources Conservation Service



12. If you apply pesticides, do you use a schedule or a Pest Management Plan to conduct pest control activities on your pasture and rangeland?

Note: A Pest Management Plan provides recommendations on the chemical (pesticides), biological (beneficial insects, controlled grazing), or cultural (brush management, burning), control of pests (insects, weeds, plant diseases or rodents). It outlines the use, amount, form, timing and application of the control method to obtain optimum yields and forage quality while minimizing the risk of surface and groundwater pollution.

YES NO NA

13. Do you have two years of written records or documentation of your nutrient and pest management activities?

Note: Records should include forage type, projected yields, soil analysis, dates and application rates of all nutrients used. Records should include the target pest, forage type and type of pesticide used, dates and application rates or the cultural or biological control method used and dates implemented including spot treatments.

YES NO NA

Irrigation

14. Do you adjust your irrigation rates for nutrient and pesticide applications?

YES NO NA

15. Do you apply irrigation water at rates that avoid water loss due to surface runoff or deep percolation?

YES NO NA

16. Do you monitor salinity levels and use techniques to manage salinity?

The following techniques can be used:

- Irrigation and drainage water management
- Use soil amendments, such as gypsum
- Plant salt-tolerant forages

YES NO NA



FARMSTEAD, HEADQUARTERS and LIVESTOCK FEEDING AREA

SELF ASSESSMENT

Only complete this section if you elect to enroll your farmstead, headquarters and/or livestock feeding area into CSP.

The water quality risk assessments pertain to ground and surface water quality risks from pesticides, nutrients, organics and pathogens. If you do not have any of these potential pollutants and answered NA on the initial Self Assessment questions, do not use this assessment tool.

If you score a “high risk” from one or more of the risk assessments, you may need to reduce your risks by applying additional practices if you intend to enroll this portion of your agricultural operation into a CSP contract.



Farmstead, Headquarters, or Livestock Feeding and Handling Areas

Note: This section is not required, except for the highest level of CSP.

These questions pertain if you wish to enroll your entire operation in CSP and help to determine if other areas within your operation meet basic program requirements.

Items underlined are defined in the glossary of terms beginning on page 62 of this workbook.

Mark “NA” if the question is not applicable.

Livestock Feeding and Handling Areas (production areas, including dairy, poultry, feeding operations, etc.)

1. Do you inspect for leaks in pipelines, manure storage, or transfer facilities and equipment?
YES NO NA
2. Do you manage runoff from manure handling and feed handling areas?
YES NO NA
3. Do you control runoff from traps, lots, and other livestock concentration areas?
YES NO NA
4. Do you properly dispose of livestock mortalities?
YES NO NA

Farmstead - Assessment



Wells

5. Is the wellhead location appropriate and are protection components in place for all potential sources of contamination?

- Sanitary well cap, tightly secured with a screened vent
- Pitless adaptor
- Other State-identified components
- Surface runoff cannot reach the area immediately surrounding the well

YES NO NA

6. Is your well cased ?

YES NO NA

7. Does the well casing extend above the ground (meets State and local standards)?

YES NO NA

8. Are all abandoned wells properly plugged?

YES NO NA

Fertilizer/Pesticide Storage and Handling Areas

9. Is the well located a safe distance from the fertilizer/pesticide storage site and/or mixing and loading areas?

YES NO NA

10. If fertilizer/pesticide storage site is located on highly permeable soil (sandy soil), is there secondary containment?

YES NO NA

11. Is rinse water from cleaning fertilizer/pesticide application equipment properly disposed of?

YES NO NA

12. Are used pesticide containers properly disposed of?

YES NO NA



Screening Tools

You have just completed the basic eligibility questions as they pertain to yourself, your agricultural operation and all of the land uses within your operation.

The following pages contain additional screening tools which ask specific questions regarding those landuses within your operation. These screening tools are designed to further define the level of conservation treatment for each land use.

Complete the specific screening tool for each land use within your agricultural operation.

Upon completion of these screening tools, you will be directed to complete the Record Keeping Workbook.

The Record Keeping Workbook is designed to capture the specific treatments on individual fields within your agricultural operation. This information will be used during your interview to determine your program eligibility and potential program placement level.



SCREENING TOOLS

Cropland / Hayland Screening Tools

- Cropland Water Quality 28
- Wildlife Habitat 38
- Irrigation System (if appropriate) 45

Pastureland Screening Tools

- Grazing Lands Water Quality 35
- Wildlife Habitat 38
- Irrigation System 45

Rangeland Screening Tools

- Grazing Lands Water Quality 35
- Wildlife Habitat 38

Farmstead, Headquarters and Livestock Feeding

- Water Quality Risk Assessment 53

If you need to use one of the above listed screening tools for more than one land use, consider all appropriate landuses as a whole when answering the questions.



CSP Water Quality Eligibility Tool For Cropland Applications

For this CSP sign-up a new water quality eligibility tool has been developed to assess the offered acres of an applicants operation and ensure that nutrient, sediment, pest and salinity resource concerns are addressed in a consistent manner. This tool will ensure water quality issues are looked at consistently and minimum thresholds are met. By simply answering ‘yes’ or ‘no’ to a series of questions, all CSP applicants will be assessed equally using the same tool across the country. When all of the answers are complete, a clear determination of CSP eligibility based on water quality will be displayed.

The approach adopted accounts for multiple management activities that protect and enhance water quality on the farm. Each conservation measure contributes to a cumulative index score defined by the CSP water quality concerns (nutrient, sediment, pest and salinity). There are many conservation measures and they may contribute to each of the water quality concern index scores. For example, the conservation measure of cover crops contributes to every water quality index category. Thus measures that are more effective are weighted higher than measures that are focused on a single water quality issue.

This Water Quality tool is computer interactive. This screening tool will be completed during the interview process. The next 5 pages contain the narratives that are associated with the computer program. Read through the questions and make any comments or notes in this workbook so you can refer to them during the interview process.

Water Quality Tool for Cropland / Hayland

Washington Natural Resources Conservation Service



The CSP Water Quality Eligibility Tool will be applied and run for the acres that are offered by the applicant for this program.

The intent is to NOT apply the tool on a field by field basis. Each statement should be interpreted as asking the question “Is _____ (management activity) applied on your offered acres?”

A check in the box indicates an affirmative answer. The tool can be used iteratively on different configurations of fields or potential CSP offered packages. The eligibility question must be true on all acres to be able to check the box affirmatively.

Management Activities

1. No Surface Water Transport from Field. This applies to low rainfall areas (< 14 inches) where most of the water needed for crop production comes from high efficiency irrigation that produces no surface runoff. Does not include flood or furrow irrigation.
2. No Pesticides Used (This triggers a pass for pesticides). Includes organic farming operations that do not use pesticides.
3. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) CHOOSE ONE (1) CHOICE BELOW -
 - **(Choice A)** A full IPM system is not yet implemented, but one or more IPM management techniques that are appropriate for the crop and site are utilized on a regular basis. IPM includes a wide array of crop and site specific prevention, avoidance, monitoring, and suppression management techniques.

Prevention - Preventing pest populations (e.g., using pest-free seeds and transplants, cleaning tillage and harvesting equipment between fields, and scheduling irrigation to avoid situations conducive to disease development, etc.).

Avoidance - Avoiding pest impacts (e.g., using pest-resistant varieties, crop rotation, trap crops, etc.).

Monitoring - Identifying the extent of pest populations and/or the probability of future populations (e.g., pest scouting, soil testing, weather forecasting, etc.).

Suppression - Suppressing a pest population or its impacts using cultural, biological, or chemical pest controls.

Note: Guidance on appropriate IPM management techniques is available from Cooperative Extension.

Water Quality Tool for Cropland / Hayland

Washington Natural Resources Conservation Service



- **(Choice B)** A basic IPM system with scouting and economic thresholds is used to manage pests and reduce pest management environmental risk. A basic IPM system utilizes pest suppression techniques (including pesticide applications) only after monitoring (including pest scouting) verifies that a pest population has reached an economic threshold.

An economic threshold is the number of pests (weeds, insects, diseases, etc.) per *some* unit (square foot, plant, feet of row, etc.) that, if left uncontrolled, will soon increase to levels high enough to cause economic injury that is equal to the cost of suppression.

Pest management environmental risk is reduced by applying mitigation techniques. Mitigation techniques include both IPM management techniques, such as timing pesticide application to avoid heavy rainfall, and conservation practices, such as a constructed wetland that captures pesticide residues and facilitates their degradation. Appropriate mitigation techniques may be selected based on environmental risk evaluation with tools like the NRCS Windows Pesticide Screening Tool (WIN-PST).

Note: Guidance on basic IPM systems is available from Cooperative Extension.

- **(Choice C)** A high level IPM system with pesticides applied only as a last resort is used to manage pests and reduce pest management environmental risk. A high level IPM system goes beyond a basic IPM system by relying primarily on prevention and avoidance management techniques (see definitions in Choice A note). When pest suppression is necessary, chemical controls are generally used only when cultural and biological controls have proven inadequate.

Pest management environmental risk is reduced by substituting cultural and biological management techniques for pesticides whenever possible, and applying other appropriate mitigation techniques. Mitigation techniques include both IPM management techniques and conservation practices.

Appropriate mitigation techniques may be selected based on environmental risk evaluation with tools like the NRCS Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation 2 - RUSLE2 (for evaluating the use of tillage for weed control) and the NRCS Windows Pesticide Screening Tool - WIN-PST (for evaluating the use of last resort pesticides).

Note: Guidance on high level IPM systems is available from Cooperative Extension.

4. Partial treatment by spot treatment, banding, or directed spraying to reduce amount of pesticide applied. This can be in addition to other IPM choices above.
5. Perennial streams, ponds and lakes are bordered with vegetated buffers at least 20 feet wide. For flooded rice and cranberry fields, dikes that are at least 20 feet wide can substitute for vegetated buffers.

Water Quality Tool for Cropland / Hayland

Washington Natural Resources Conservation Service



6. When applying pesticides, maintain a minimum setback distance of 33 feet between the application area and intermittent streams/ditches, perennial streams, ponds/lakes, surface water inlets and open sink holes. Application rates for liquid manure do not exceed the Available Water Capacity of the soil. Winter manure application is limited to daily haul.
7. When applying manure, maintain a minimum setback distance of 33 feet between the application area and intermittent streams/ditches, perennial streams, ponds/lakes, surface water inlets and open sink holes. Application rates for liquid manure do not exceed the Available Water Capacity of the soil. Winter manure application is limited to daily haul.
8. A minimum of 30% surface residue cover remains after planting annual crops on 2/3 or more of the rotation; OR, Hay/Pasture is more than 1/2 of the rotation. Applies to a cropping system where 30% surface cover is maintained after planting for 2/3 or more of the crops planted during the rotation; OR, the other option is that hay or pasture make up 1/2 or more of the rotation.
9. In an annual cropping system, no crop is grown more than two consecutive years. In a perennial based cropping system no single annual crop makes up more than 1/2 of the rotation. Two or more crops (within a 3 year period) are included in the rotation to improve crop diversity for soil health, pest management, and erosion control.
10. Erosion is controlled in the concentrated flow areas. Ephemeral and gully erosion is stabilized.
11. Conservation measures (such as, crop rotation, residue management, contouring, and buffers) are maintained to reduce erosion and minimize sediment from entering intermittent streams/ditches, perennial streams, ponds/lakes, surface water inlets and open sink holes. A system of practices are applied and maintained to reduce erosion and minimize sedimentation and transport of sediment to surface waters. Practices may include: crop rotation, residue management, contour farming, contour buffers, grassed waterways, water and sediment control basins, terraces, strip cropping, cover crops, filter strips, vegetative buffers.
12. Nitrogen CHOOSE ONE (1) CHOICE BELOW -
 - **(Choice A)** Most nitrogen (manure or fertilizer) is applied at or close to planting. Greater than 75% of the crop nitrogen requirement, as determined by the nutrient management plan, is applied at or within 30 days of crop planting.
 - **(Choice B)** Most nitrogen (manure or fertilizer) is applied as a sidedress or foliar. Greater than 75% of the crop nitrogen requirement, as determined by the nutrient management plan, is applied as sidedress after crop / plant emergence at the appropriate growth stage. This also applies to split application of nitrogen on hayland or hay fields and foliar applications.

Water Quality Tool for Cropland / Hayland

Washington Natural Resources Conservation Service



- **(Choice C)** No nitrogen is ever applied (manure or fertilizer) this triggers a pass for nitrogen. No manure or fertilizer nitrogen is applied to the crop / plant. The entire source of nitrogen for plant growth comes from carryover of N from leguminous plants (previous crop or cover crop), N fixation, rainfall, and soil organic matter (O.M.).
13. Where nitrogen is applied (manure and/or fertilizer), the rate is based on a nutrient management plan. A nutrient management plan provides recommendations or procedures to determine the amount, form, placement and timing of plant nutrients to obtain optimum yields while minimizing the risk of surface and ground water pollution. The procedure used to determine nutrient recommendations should be based on one or more of the following:
- Realistic crop yield goal,
 - Soil test results,
 - Previous crop credits,
 - Leguminous crop credits,
 - Manure application history, and/or
 - Leaf tissue analysis (if appropriate).
- The nutrient management plan should address all sources of nutrients.
14. Cover crops are utilized or permanent vegetation is established between rows such as orchards and vineyards. Cover crops include grasses, legumes, forbs, or other herbaceous plants established for seasonal or perennial cover to:
- Reduce erosion from wind and water
 - Sequester carbon in plant biomass and soils to increase soil organic matter content
 - Capture and recycle excess nutrients in the soil profile
 - Promote biological nitrogen fixation
 - Increase biodiversity
 - Weed suppression
 - Provide supplemental forage
 - Soil moisture management
 - Reduce particulate emissions into the atmosphere
15. Where applicable, nitrogen and phosphorus credits from manure, irrigation water, previous crop, and soil O. M. are calculated from analyses or book values and used to plan nutrient application rates. Where applicable, both nitrogen and phosphorus credits from the following sources are calculated using laboratory analyses of soil or manure (or book values) and used to plan nutrient applications rates:
- current and prior year's manure applications,
 - irrigation water applied during the growing season,
 - previous crop including legume or cover crop,
 - and soil O. M.

Water Quality Tool for Cropland / Hayland

Washington Natural Resources Conservation Service



16. Soil tests are taken at least once every 5th year. Soil samples analyzed by a recognized land grant university or private laboratory using methods approved by the land grant university for the purposes of determining amounts of nutrients needed for crop / plant production. Producer needs to demonstrate the use of soil tests to plan nutrient application rates.
17. No phosphorus (excluding starter) is applied where soil test indicate a “very high or excessive” rating. When soil tests results that are analyzed by a recognized land grant university or private laboratory for the purposes of determining amounts of nutrients needed for crop / plant production indicate that phosphorus levels are in the “very high” or “excessive” or “above optimum” rating category (regardless of P extraction method), no phosphorus is applied with the exception of up to 25 lbs/acre of P₂O₅ as starter fertilizer at time of planting.
18. No phosphorus is applied via fertilizer, manure, biosolids, or other amendments. No phosphorus is applied at any time in any form.
19. Phosphorus (manure or fertilizer) is injected or incorporated at least 2 inches deep within 24 hours; or applied on 80% surface residue cover or 80% crop canopy cover according to soil test requirements.
20. No salinity concern (This triggers a pass for salinity).
21. Saline recharge and discharge areas have been identified. Acceptable methods of identifying saline seep recharge areas include soil maps and geologic information, soil moisture probes and test holes, and visual inspections. Visual assessments and electrical conductivity measurements are acceptable methods of identifying discharge areas. Visual indicators of discharge areas include vigorous weed growth, salt crystals on the soil surface, lodging of the crop and prolonged soil wetness.
22. For saline seeps, high water use crops/vegetation or the cropping pattern has been changed to manage or minimize salinity in ground or surface water. An example of high water use crops/vegetation is planting alfalfa in the recharge area. Using a flexible cropping system where planting decisions are based on available moisture is an example of a cropping pattern change.
23. Irrigation water is managed to minimize salt delivery to surface and ground water. Irrigation water is managed to meet the crop needs with minimal deep percolation and surface runoff.

Special Crops

Completing the CSP Water Quality Eligibility Tool is required for all cropland, permanent hayland, horticultural cropland, orchards and vineyards. It is also required to be completed for specialty crops.



CSP Water Quality Eligibility Tool For Grazing Land Applications

The following worksheet is to be completed by the applicant who is interested in applying for the CSP to determine if you meet the eligibility elements related to water quality on the livestock/grazing portion of your agricultural operation.

The CSP Water Quality Eligibility Tool will be applied to the acres that are offered by the applicant for the program. The intent is to NOT apply the tool on a field by field basis.

Each statement should be interpreted as asking the question “Is _____ (management activity) applied on your offered acres?”

Please answer all the questions on the adjacent worksheet. Answering ‘NO’ to any question may indicate your operation may not be eligible for CSP (check with you local NRCS representative). Please note that there will be required documentation in the Record Keeping Workbook if you answer ‘YES’ to any of the questions.

Water Quality Tool for Grazing Land

Washington Natural Resources Conservation Service



CSP Water Quality Eligibility Tool for Grazing Lands

Based on your responses to the Conservation Security Program (CSP) Self-Assessment, the following questions will further determine if the lands you wish to enroll in the CSP meet the minimum water quality requirements. These questions apply to all fields/management units you wish to enroll.

Directions: Read and answer each question by checking Yes, No or NA. When answering these self assessment questions, answer for land under your control.

Questions	Yes	No	NA
1. Do you apply pesticides to control insects, weeds, disease, invasive plants, etc., on your lands you wish to enroll? <i>(If NO, skip to Question #2)</i>			
a) Do you have two years of field-specific records of pesticide applications?			
b) Do you apply pesticides according to a schedule or Pest Management Plan (PMP)? A PMP should outline use, amount, form, timing and application methods as well as non-chemical control alternatives such as biological and cultural methods.			
c) Do you protect sensitive areas, such as surface waters, wells, and fractured bedrock outcrops, during pesticide application by using setbacks, vegetative buffers, etc.?			
2. Do you apply any form of nitrogen, phosphorus, or potassium on your pastures you wish to enroll? <i>(If No, skip to Question # 3)</i>			
a) Do you have two years of field-specific records of nutrient applications?			
b) Do you apply nutrients based on a nutrient budget/nutrient management plan (NMP) that is based on laboratory analysis or book values and considers ALL sources of nutrients, including legume credits, organic matter, animal manure, crop residues, and irrigation water?			
c) Do you protect sensitive areas, such as surface waters, wells, and fractured bedrock outcrops, during nutrient application by using setbacks, vegetative buffers, etc.?			
3. Do you apply irrigation water to pastures you wish to enroll? (If No, skip to the end of the worksheet).			
a) Do you adjust your water application rates to avoid water losses due to surface runoff and/or deep percolation?			
b) Do you adjust your water application rates to ensure nutrients and pesticides are not impacting surface or ground water quality?			
c) Do you monitor salinity levels and use soil, water, and plant management practices that reduce negative effects from salinity?			

Water Quality Tool for Grazing Land

Washington Natural Resources Conservation Service



If you answered YES to any of the numbered questions, then all answers to the lettered questions pertaining to that number must also be answered YES or NA or you do not meet minimum eligibility for CSP.

Contact the local NRCS office for guidance on practices and/or management needed to meet minimum water quality criteria or to enhance water quality protection.

NOTE:

For Tier III, if you apply irrigation water to your pasture or crop land, you must have an Irrigation Index rating of 50 or greater to meet minimum eligibility requirements for CSP for water quality. NRCS staff will determine this Irrigation Index rating for you using the *Irrigation Enhancement Index Tool*.

APPLICANT SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

NAME OR IDENTIFIER FOR PARCEL OR LAND UNIT _____

ZIP CODE _____

WATERSHED _____

AND/or LEGAL LOCATION (section/township/range) _____



Wildlife Screening Tools

The six wildlife screening worksheets on the following pages will be used to determine the current quality of wildlife habitat on all of the land identified in your agricultural operation.

The wildlife screening tools are specific to landuse and should be completed for those landuses that are present within the boundaries of your designated agricultural operation for CSP. These questions will help determine if the land you wish to enroll in CSP meets the wildlife resource requirements. This guide is to be used to assess habitat on different land uses including, cropland and hayland, rangeland, pastureland, riparian forest, wetlands and streams. Only complete the sections that match the land uses you have on the land being offered into the program.

The results of these screening tools are not be used for initial eligibility. Screening tool results are used to determine tier placement in the CSP.

If you do not meet all of these wildlife requirements for CSP, your land may still be eligible. The wildlife screening results will be discussed with you during your interview with the NRCS conservation planner following completion of your Record Keeping Workbook.



Wildlife Habitat Self Assessment Tool

Cropland (including hayland), vineyards or orchards are a land cover/use category that includes areas used for the production of adapted crops for harvest. Two subcategories of cropland are recognized: cultivated and noncultivated. Cultivated land is row crops or close-grown crops and hayland or pastureland that is in a rotation with row or close-grown crops. Noncultivated cropland includes permanent hayland and horticultural cropland.

Directions: Read and answer each question by checking Yes or No.

Assessment for Cropland & Hayland	Yes	No
1. Is at least ninety percent of the cropland or hayland being considered within ¼ mile of some type of land use other than cropland, i.e. range, forest or wetlands?		
2. If cropland is being considered, is conservation tillage practiced on the fields with at least 30% residue remaining over winter or has a cover crop been planted by October 15 th ?		
3. If cropland is being considered, is at least 0.5 % of the field in winter food plots or in the non-cropland areas are there trees or shrubs present equal to at least one half percent of the cropland? Some examples of non-cropland areas include: brushy draws, hedgerows, eyebrows, riparian areas, some field borders, or windbreaks.		
4. If cropland is being considered, are at least 2.5 % of the non-cropland areas in perennial grassy cover and left undisturbed during the nesting season (April 15 to July 30)? Some examples include: field borders, filter strips, grassed waterways; some types of wetlands, center pivot dry corners grassed covered terraces or set aside hayland.		
5. If cropland is being considered, is at least 2.5 % of the field flooded during spring waterfowl migration?		
6. If your land has a spring, stream, or pond, does it still provide a drinking water source for wildlife? (Mark “Yes” if you have no naturally occurring water.)		

To be eligible for the *wildlife resource*, you must answer “Yes” to questions 1, 2, and 6. AND you must answer “Yes” to at least one of questions 3, 4 or 5.

Contact the local NRCS office for guidance on practices and/or management needed to meet minimum wildlife criteria or to enhance wildlife habitat.



Wildlife Habitat Self Assessment Tool

Pastureland is land managed primarily for the production of introduced forage plants. Pastureland cover may consist of a single species, a grass mixture or a grass-legume mixture. Management usually consists of cultural treatments such as fertilization, weed control, reseeding or renovation and prescribed grazing.

Directions: Read and answer each question by checking Yes or No.

Assessment for Pastureland	Yes	No
1. Is most of the pasture within ½ mile of some other type of land use, i.e. range, forest or wetlands?		
2. Is the pasture composed of a mixture of grasses and forbs with at least two species of dominant grasses and at least three species of forbs present? Forbs may include legumes such as clover or alfalfa.		
3. Is there a buffer, clump or strip of vegetation at least 20 feet in width that is undisturbed during the nesting season (April 15 to July 30)?		
4. If your land has a spring, stream, or pond, does it still provide a drinking water source for wildlife? (<i>Mark “Yes” if you have no naturally occurring water</i>).		

To be eligible for the *wildlife resource*, you must answer “Yes” to all questions 1 through 4.

Contact the local NRCS office for guidance on practices and/or management needed to meet minimum wildlife criteria or to enhance wildlife habitat.



Wildlife Habitat Self Assessment Tool

Rangeland is land on which the climax or potential plant cover is composed principally of native grasses, grass-like plants, forbs* or shrubs suitable for grazing and browsing, and introduced forage species that are managed like rangeland. This would include areas where introduced hardy and persistent grasses, such as crested wheatgrass, are planted and practices such as deferred grazing, burning, chaining and rotational grazing are used with little or no chemicals or fertilizer being applied. Grassland, savannas, and many wetlands, are considered rangeland.

Directions: Read and answer each question by checking Yes or No.

Assessment for Rangeland	Yes	No
1. Does the rangeland in the offered area have a shrub canopy cover comprised of at least one species of shrub with an average height greater than 16 inches and a canopy cover of at least 4% for sites with an average annual precipitation of less than 12 inches, or at least one species of shrub with an average height of 10 inches and a canopy cover of 2% for sites with an annual precipitation of 12 to 16 inches, or at least three different species of shrubs, with an average height of 16 inches and an average canopy cover greater than 5% for sites with an annual precipitation greater than 16 inches?		
2. Is the plant community composed of greater than 50% native species?		
3. Is the average height of non-invasive grass cover from April 15 – July 15 greater than 7 inches?		
4. Is the average canopy cover of non-invasive grass cover from April 15 – July 15 greater than 10%?		
5. Is the average canopy of the native forbs on the offered area greater than 3%?		
6. Does the offered area have more than 4 species of native forbs*?		
7. If your land has a spring, stream, or pond, does it still provide a drinking water source for wildlife? (<i>Mark “Yes” if you have no naturally occurring water.</i>)		

To be eligible for the *wildlife resource*, you must answer “Yes” to all questions 1 through 7. Contact the local NRCS office for guidance on practices and/or management needed to meet minimum wildlife criteria or to enhance wildlife habitat.

*** A forb is any broad-leaved herbaceous plant other than those in the grass, rush or sedge families of plants.**



Wildlife Habitat Self Assessment Tool

Riparian forest is the area adjacent to aquatic systems with flowing water that contains elements of both aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems which mutually influence each other. In riparian forest systems, the vegetation, water tables, soils, microclimate, and wildlife inhabitants of terrestrial ecosystems are influenced by perennial or intermittent water. Simultaneously, the biological and physical properties of the aquatic ecosystems are influenced by adjacent vegetation, nutrient and sediment loading, terrestrial wildlife, as well as organic and inorganic debris. Riparian forest habitat encompasses the area beginning at the ordinary high water mark and extends to the portion of the terrestrial landscape that is influenced by, or that directly influences, the aquatic ecosystem. Riparian forest habitat includes the entire extent of the floodplain and riparian areas of wetlands that are directly connected to stream courses.

Directions: Read and answer each question by checking Yes or No.

Assessment for Riparian Forest	Yes	No
1. Is there a woody vegetative buffer averaging at least 35 feet in width along or around all aquatic habitats in the farming unit?		
2. Are stream or shore banks stabilized to prevent erosion or failure along more than 70% of the channel or aquatic habitat edge on the farm unit?		
3. Is the plant community of the riparian buffer interspersed with both trees and shrubs?		
4. Is the average diameter of the trees in the riparian buffer varied and/or different or is there a new riparian forest buffer planting that is less than 10 years old?		

To be eligible for the *wildlife resource*, you must answer “Yes” to all questions 1 through 4.

Contact the local NRCS office for guidance on practices and/or management needed to meet minimum wildlife criteria or to enhance wildlife habitat.



Wildlife Habitat Self Assessment Tool

Stream is a *natural* watercourse that carries freshwater from an upland area to a lower elevation and discharges to another stream, a lake, a marine area or an aquifer. Larger streams are usually called *rivers*; smaller streams are *creeks, brooks or rivulets*. A stream can be *perennial* (year-round flow), *intermittent* (portions of its channel are above the water table and may go dry during certain times of the year), *ephemeral* (entire channel is above the water table and flows only in direct response to rainfall or snow-melt).

Directions: Read and answer each question by checking Yes or No.

Assessment for Streams	Yes	No
1. Are you aware of any human caused barriers to fish passage which partially or totally block the stream on the land being enrolled?		
2. Are there any unscreened water withdrawals occurring along the stream on site?		

To be eligible for the *wildlife resource*, you must answer “No” to both questions 1 and 2.

Contact the local NRCS office for guidance on practices and/or management needed to meet minimum wildlife criteria or to enhance wildlife habitat.



Wildlife Habitat Self Assessment Tool

Wetlands are areas inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated hydric soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs and similar areas.

Directions: Read and answer each question by checking Yes or No.

Assessment for Wetlands	Yes	No
1. Is there, at most, only minor modification to the natural wetland hydrology on your land (minimum drainage, fill, etc.) so that natural hydrology still functions?		
2. Does native vegetation make up the majority of the plant cover within your wetland habitat?		
3. Is the wetland grazed only during dry periods and then with a grazing plan, or is the site excluded from grazing?		

To be eligible for the *wildlife resource*, you must answer “Yes” to questions 1 through 3.

If No is answered to any of the wildlife self assessment questions (1, 2 or 3) the land you wish to enroll has not met the minimum criteria for wildlife habitat on this land use.

Contact the local NRCS office for guidance on practices and/or management needed to meet minimum wildlife criteria or to enhance wildlife habitat.



Irrigation System Screening Worksheet

This eligibility tool is designed to help irrigated producers conduct a self assessment for their eligibility in the Conservation Security Program. This procedure will result in assigning an Irrigation System Value to the irrigation system being evaluated as part of your designated agricultural operation to be offered into CSP.

The way this value works, is that it starts with a base value which is assigned to the specific type of irrigation system in use. Then modifiers are applied based on the level of management and efficiency of the delivery system. A bonus is given if runoff from the irrigated field is captured for reuse.

When this self assessment is complete, the landowner will have calculated an Irrigation System Value for the irrigation system being evaluated. The Irrigation System Value is not an efficiency number, but an indicator or evaluation of how well the system is doing. If the Irrigation System Value is over 50, the landowner may be eligible for the CSP.

This self assessment is simple and should take less than 5 minutes to complete. A basic hand calculator is needed to complete the Irrigation System Screening Tool Worksheet. In addition, basic knowledge of the irrigation system and management practices is necessary. Definitions of the various terms are included in this tool.

Complete one worksheet (page 46) for each type of irrigation system.

The payment levels for Irrigation Enhancement have been determined for each individual watershed in the CSP Program. The level of payment is based on the importance of enhanced irrigation to the quality and quantity of water in that watershed.

Your responses will be required to be documented in the appropriate section of the Record Keeping Workbook.

Irrigation System Screening Worksheet

Washington Natural Resources Conservation Service



Irrigation System Screening Worksheet

<i>Example in Italics</i>	Example Values	Your System Values
<u>System Type</u> – From Table 1. <i>Graded Furrow</i>	75	
<u>Measurement Method</u> – From Table 2. <i>Whole Farm- manually recorded</i>	0.93	
<u>Scheduling Method</u> – From Table 3. <i>Soil Moisture by NRCS feel method</i>	0.93	
<u>Water Control</u> – From Table 4. <i>Flow rates are adequately controlled.</i>	0.98	
<u>Water Conveyance</u> - From Table 5. <i>Open Canal – Lined</i>	0.98	
<u>Land Slope</u> – From Table 6. <i>Land Leveled</i>	0.94	
<u>Tailwater Capture and Reuse</u> – From Table 7. <i>Tailwater not Captured</i>	1.00	
<u>Irrigation System Value</u> $75 \times 0.93 \times 0.93 \times 0.98 \times 0.98 \times 0.94 \times 1.0 = 58.6$	58.6	

Directions:

1. Use tables on the following page to determine your irrigation system values. Place these values in the column titled “Your System.”
2. Calculate Your Irrigation System Value by MULTIPLYING each of the values found for your irrigation system.
3. If the resulting Irrigation System Value is 50 or greater you may be eligible for the CSP program. Contact you local NRCS Field Office for further eligibility screening.
4. If your Irrigation System Value is less than 50 you are not eligible for participation in the CSP Program. Consider utilizing other USDA programs to improve your irrigation system.

Irrigation System Screening Tables

Washington Natural Resources Conservation Service



Irrigation System Screening Tables

Table 1. Irrigation System Type	
Border Irrigation	
	Value
Graded Border	80
Level or Basin	90
Contour Level Field Crop	70
Border Ditch	60
Furrow Irrigation	
	Value
Level or Basin	90
Graded Furrow	75
Contour Furrow	75
Corrugations	75
Surge	80
Flood Irrigation	
	Value
Controlled	60
Uncontrolled	50
Contour Ditch	60
Sprinkler Irrigation	
	Value
Big Gun or Boom	60
Hand Line or Wheel Line	70
Solid Set (above canopy)	75
Solid Set (below canopy)	80
Center Pivot Irrigation	
	Value
Generic	80
Low Pressure Improved	83
LEPA	92
LESA	89
LPIC	87
MESA	85
Variable Rate Irrigation (VRI)	87
Lateral Move Irrigation	
	Value
Generic	82
LEPA, LESAs, LPIC, MESA	87
Micro Irrigation	
	Value
Point Source	90
Sprays	85
Continuous Tape	90
Subsurface Drip irrigation	92
Sub-Irrigation	
	Value
Subirrigated	75

Irrigation System Screening Tables

Washington Natural Resources Conservation Service



Irrigation System Screening Tables

Table 2.	Method of Measuring Flow	Value
	No Flow Measuring device	0.90
	Whole farm-manually recorded	0.93
	Whole farm-automatic recorded	0.95
	Whole farm plus individual field manual	0.97
	Whole farm plus individual field automatic recorded	1.00

Table 3.	Method of Scheduling Irrigation	Value
	Visual crop stress	0.90
	Soil moisture by NRCS feel method	0.93
	Check book scheduling, irrigation scheduler, etc	0.96
	Irrigation scheduling via pan evaporation or atmometer for field	0.97
	Irrigation scheduling via regional weather network	0.98
	Soil moisture using Gypsum blocks, moisture probe, etc	0.99
	Continuous measurement of soil moisture, water applied and ET	1.00

Table 4.	Ability to Control Water Distribution	Value
	Very poor diversion facilities. Little control of flow rate to farm	0.90
	Can control flow rates to farm, but the on-farm delivery system operation is very hard to deliver the desired flow to any given field.	0.94
	Flow rates to each field are adequately controlled. Flow rates to each set are difficult to control.	0.98
	All flow rates to each set are adequately controlled	1.00

Table 5.	Water Conveyance	Value
	Open ditch or canal - sand/gravel	0.90
	Open ditch or canal - sandy loam	0.93
	Open ditch or canal - clay soil	0.96
	Open canal – lined	0.98
	Closed conduit pipeline	1.00

Table 6.	Precision of Land Slope	Value
	Land smoothed	0.90
	Land leveled	0.94
	Land precision leveled	0.98
	Land precision leveled - slope <= .005	1.00
	A sprinkler system is utilized	1.00

Table 7.	Tailwater Captured and Reused	Value
	No tailwater or tailwater not captured	1.00
	Irrigation System Type less than or equal to 60	1.25
	Irrigation System Type between 61 and 80	1.15
	Irrigation System Type greater than 80	1.10



Descriptions and Definitions

Irrigation System Type: This section represents the system type associated with the field or farm. Some systems are clearly more efficient and easier to manage than other systems. Simply select the system that best describes your system. Local terminology may be slightly different but the system names should be adequate to describe most systems.

Definition of terms related to center pivots:

LEPA - Low Energy Precision Application

- a) Farmed in circular rows (except Linear Move Systems)
- b) Nozzle height is 18 inches or lower
- c) Nozzle spacing is alternate row, up to a maximum of 80 inches
- d) Discharge is through a drag sock or hose on the ground, or through a bubble shield or pad
- e) Only applicable to crops planted with furrows or beds
- f) Maximum of 1% slope in most of field
- g) Furrow diked or other means of preventing irrigation water movement away from point of application

LESA - Low Elevation Spray Application

- a) Farmed in any row direction
- b) Nozzle height is 18 inches or lower
- c) Nozzle spacing is alternate row, up to a maximum of 80 inches
- d) Discharge is through spray nozzles
- e) Applicable on crops flat planted, drilled, or planted with furrows or beds
- f) Maximum of 3% slope in most of the field
- g) Furrow diked or other means of preventing irrigation water movement away from point of application

LPIC - Low Pressure In Canopy

- a) Farmed in any row direction
- b) Nozzle height is 18 inches to 36 inches
- c) Nozzle spacing up to 120 inches (10 feet)
- d) Discharge is in the crop canopy
- e) Maximum of 3% slope in most of the field
- f) Systems that utilize bubble nozzles or drag hoses for a portion of the crop year and spray nozzles for a portion of the crop year but do not meet all LEPA criteria should be considered LPIC systems

MESA - Mid Elevation Spray Application

- a) Farmed in any row direction
- b) Nozzle height is more than 36 inches (3 feet) and less than 84 inches (7 feet)
- c) Nozzle spacing up to 120 inches (10 feet)
- d) Discharge is above the crop canopy
- e) Maximum of 3% slope in most of the field

Irrigation Descriptions and Definitions

Washington Natural Resources Conservation Service



Variable-Rate Irrigation (VRI), also called site-specific irrigation or precision irrigation, is a relatively new concept in agriculture. VRI is a tool of Precision Farming that involves the delivery of irrigation water in optimum amounts over an entire field.

Method of Measuring Flow: Water measurement is a critical component of any well planned and managed irrigation system. Knowing how much water is delivered to a farm, field, or irrigation set is critical to making efficient use of water.

- **No flow measuring devices** - No flow measuring devices are present. The applicant has no way of measuring and recording the amount of water delivered to the farm, fields, or irrigation set.
- **Flow measurement - whole farm, manually recorded** - The applicant has a measuring device (calibrated flume or flow meter) that can be used to measure the amount of water that is delivered to the farm. It may be a flow meter on a well that serves one field or a calibrated flume that measures water delivered through a distribution system to the farm. The measurement system does not automatically record the measurement. The applicant must inspect the measurement device and manually record the results in a routine manner and the results used in irrigation planning and scheduling.
- **Flow measurement - whole farm, automatic recorded** - Flow measurement are taken utilizing the process described immediately above, but the measurements are automatically recorded and are used in planning and scheduling irrigations.
- **Flow measurement - whole farm plus individual field, manual** - The applicant has the ability to measure water that comes to the whole farm as well as to each individual field. The flow measurements are obtained utilizing a measuring device such as a flow meter. In this instance the applicant can measure the water flowing to the farm and to each field. Applicant routinely checks and records the data manually and uses the results to plan and schedule irrigations.
- **Flow measurement - whole farm plus individual field, automatic recorded** - The applicant has the ability to measure water flowing to the farm and to each field using flow meters or flumes. The results are automatically recorded using a recording device and used for planning and scheduling irrigations.

Method of Scheduling Irrigation

- **Visual crop stress** - Water management decisions are made from visual indicators related to crop growth. In some instances the crops may be stressed before decisions are made to add needed water.
- **Soil moisture by NRCS feel method** - Soil moisture is used as the factor to determine when water is to be added using the NRCS feel method. The manager has received some training and has a publication that describes the NRCS feel method.

Irrigation Descriptions and Definitions

Washington Natural Resources Conservation Service



- **Checkbook scheduling, irrigation scheduler, etc.** - A checkbook method is used to track and schedule irrigations. Training and fact sheets are available from land grant universities and the results are commonly utilized to manage timing and application of irrigation water.
- **Irrigation scheduling via pan evaporation or atmometer for field** - Other slightly more sophisticated systems provide reliable methods for scheduling irrigation water applications. Pan evaporation and atmometers are listed here but other devices may be available.
- **Irrigation scheduling via regional weather network** - An irrigation scheduling system or network that includes weather stations that track climatic conditions and predict irrigation water needs is utilized. These may include on site weather stations or regional weather stations that are operated by commercial or public entities. These networks may be on-line or a group of operators within the watershed area that are moving toward precision water application.
- **Soil moisture using gypsum blocks, moisture probe, etc.** - Methods to track soil moisture including gypsum block, tensiometers, soil moisture probes and other similar tools are used. With calibration these methods become very accurate.
- **Continuous measurement of soil moisture, water applied and ET** - This combines all methods of soil climate and checkbook to perform precision application.

Ability to Control Water Distribution: This management enhancement recognizes the ability of the irrigator to manage, direct and control the water flow stream on to the farm, across the farm to one or more fields, and to multiple irrigation sets that may be on the farm or field. The better the control, the higher the irrigation enhancement. Most pumped and piped distribution systems provide adequate control to each set.

- Very poor diversion facilities, little control of flow rate to farm
- Can control flow rates to farm, but the on farm delivery system is such that it is very hard to deliver the desired flow to any given field
- Flow rates to each field are adequately controlled. Flow rates to each set are difficult to control
- All flow rates to each set are adequately controlled – Should be selected for center pivots and other pumped and piped distribution systems

Water Conveyance: Water movement across the farm is a critical component. Losses occur from evaporation and deep percolation within the ditch. Sandy soils have more potential for water losses than clay soils. Lined ditches and canals have evaporation losses but limited deep percolation losses. Closed conduits are the most efficient water delivery systems.

- **Open ditch or canal, sand/gravel** - Ditches and canals may involve a combination of soils with part of the conveyance in sandy soils and part in clay soils. Select the factor that is predominant
- **Open ditch or canal, sandy loam** - Ditches and canals may involve a combination of soils with part of the conveyance in sandy soils and part in clay soils. Select the factor that is predominant

Irrigation Descriptions and Definitions

Washington Natural Resources Conservation Service



- **Open ditch or canal, clay soil** - Ditches and canals may involve a combination of soils with part of the conveyance in sandy soils and part in clay soils. Select the factor that is predominant
- **Open canal, lined** – Concrete, plastic, or other impervious materials
- **Closed conduit pipeline** – Plastic, concrete, or other pipeline materials

Precision of Land Slope: Precision leveled fields have higher efficiency potential and are easier to manage than less controlled grades and slopes. This enhancement category recognizes this factor.

- **Land smoothed** - This factor represents land that has been smoothed. Highs and lows have been manipulated to provide a more uniform flow of water but not to the precision listed below. This is the value that should be selected if any of the factors below do not apply.
- **Land leveled** - Land that has been leveled but conventional survey and construction equipment has been utilized.
- **Land precision leveled** - This factor represents land that has been precision leveled utilizing laser controlled equipment with high quality control. The grade will be more than 1/2%.
- **Land precision leveled, slope \leq .005** - This factor represents precision leveled land that is 1/2 % grade or less.
- **A sprinkler system is utilized** - Land leveling is not a component that is considered in any of the sprinkler systems. It is only considered.



Farmsteads, Headquarters and Livestock Feeding Areas

This section is designed to assist in preparing the documentation necessary to participate in Tier 3 of the Conservation Security Program.

Assessing Water Quality Risk from:

- **Pesticides**
 - **Nutrients**
 - **Organics**
 - **Pathogens**
-
- If you enroll your farmstead, headquarters and/or livestock feeding area into CSP, water quality risks to both surface and groundwater must be addressed.
 - Use the appropriate water quality indicator tool(s) (Tables 1-4) to determine the water quality risk(s) for your operation.
 - If you score a “high risk” from one or more of the indicator tools you may need to reduce your risk by applying additional practices prior to becoming eligible for CSP on this portion of your agricultural operation.

Pesticide Storage, Handling & Disposal

Washington Natural Resources Conservation Service



Pesticide Storage, Handling, & Disposal Worksheet

Rating Item	Low Risk 4 Points	Low-Moderate Risk 3 Points
1. Amount stored	No pesticides stored at any time	Less than 5 gallon or less than 50 pounds of pesticide
2. Leaching or surface loss potentials	If no pesticides with intermediate or high leaching or surface loss potential stored on property	If most (>50%) pesticides stored have low or very low leaching or surface loss potential with only a few (<30%) intermediate and no high potentials
3. Formulation	All dry	Mostly dry (>50%)
4. Storage Area	Impermeable surface with curbs to contain leaks and spills	Impermeable surface, no curbs
5. Containers	Original containers clearly labeled and in good condition (no holes, tears, or weak seams)	Original containers in fair condition but with labels partially missing or hard to read
6. Mixing and loading practices	Impermeable surface with curbs to contain and sump to collect spills	Impermeable surface with curbs to contain leaks and spills, no sump
7. Location of mixing and loading areas	Located on impermeable surface with curbs to contain and all spills collected	Located on permeable surface over 100 feet downslope from well and over 500 feet from stream, pond, or drainage way
8. Handling	Closed system for all liquid and dry product transfers	Closed system for most liquids, some liquid and dry products hand poured, sprayer fill port easy to reach
9. Sprayer cleaning and rinsate	Sprayer washed out, rinsate collected, and disposed of at hazardous waste management facility	Sprayer washed out and sprayed on target field, rinsate collected and applied in next load on labeled crop
10. Container disposal	Unrinsed containers and bags taken to hazardous waste management facility	Multiple rinsed containers returned for recycling. Contact area Ag Container Recycling Council for current collection schedule.
Pesticide Handling Rating		

Pesticide Storage, Handling & Disposal

Washington Natural Resources Conservation Service



Pesticide Storage, Handling, & Disposal Worksheet

Mod-High Risk 2 Points	High Risk 1 Point	Score
Between 5 and 50 gallons or between 50 and 500 pounds of pesticide	More than 50 gallons or more than 500 pounds of pesticide	
If most (>50%) pesticides stored have a low or intermediate leaching or surface loss potential with few (<30%) high potentials	If more than 30% have high potential	
Mostly liquid (>50%)	All liquid	
Permeable surface (wooden floor)	Permeable surface (dirt or gravel floor)	
Containers old showing signs of wear	Containers old with holes, tears, weak seams, and no labels.	
Moderately impermeable or concrete with some cracks, no curbs or sump	Permeable surface, spills soak into ground	
Located on permeable surface between 50-100 feet downslope or within 100-500 feet upslope of well and within 100-500 feet from stream, pond, or drainage way	Located on permeable surface within 50 feet downslope or within 100 feet upslope of well and within 100 feet from stream, pond or drainage way	
All liquids and dry products hand poured, sprayer fill port easy to reach	All liquids and dry products hand poured, sprayer fill port hard to reach	
Sprayer washed out on impermeable pad, rinsate collected and applied in next load on labeled crop	Sprayer washed out and dumped	
Disposal of unrinsed bags and containers on farm but at least 500 feet from surface water or a well	Disposal of unrinsed bags and containers on farm within 500 feet of surface water or a well	
Accumulative Score (Sum of above rating items)		
Average Score (Accumulative/ 10)		

Ratings:

3.6-4=Low risk, 2.6-3.5=Low to moderate risk, 1.6-2.5=Moderate to high risk, 1-1.5=High Risk

Nutrient Storage and Handling Worksheet

Washington Natural Resources Conservation Service



Nutrient Storage and Handling Worksheet

Ground & Surface Water Contaminants - Nutrients - Nutrient Storage and Handling					
Farm:					
Rating Item	Low Risk 4 Points	Low-Moderate Risk 3 Points	Mod-High Risk 2 Points	High Risk 1 Point	Score
1. Amount stored	None stored at any time	Less than 1 ton dry or 55 gallons liquid	Between 1 and 20 tons dry or between 55 and 1,500 gallons liquid	More than 20 tons dry or more than 1,500 gallons liquid	
2. Type of storage	Dry formulations covered on impermeable surface and spills collected. Liquid formulations on impermeable surface where spill can be contained	Dry formulations covered on clay soils, liquid formulations on clay lined secondary containment, most spill can be recovered	Dry formulations partially covered on loamy soils, liquid formulations on loamy soils, most spill cannot be recovered	No cover, dry and liquid formulations located on sandy soils, spills not recovered	
3. Containers	Original containers clearly labeled and in good condition (no holes, tears, or weak seams)	Original containers in fair condition but with labels partially missing or hard to read	Containers old showing signs of wear, high potential for leaks	Containers with holes, tears, weak seams, fertilizer leaking, and no labels.	
4. Mixing and loading practices	Liquid formulations handled on concrete surface with curbs to contain and sump to collect leaks. Dry formulations handled on clayey soils with spills collected	Liquid formulations handled on concrete surface with curbs to contain leaks and spills, no sump. Dry formulations handled on loamy soils most spills collected	Liquid formulations handled on concrete pad with some cracks, no curbs or sump, some spill collected. Dry formulations handled on loamy soils most spills not collected	Liquid formulation handled without a mixing/loading pad, permeable surface, spills soak into ground. Dry formulations handled on sandy soils spills not collected	
5. Location of mixing and loading areas	Mixing and loading practices contain all spills and leaks (Score low risk for rating item no. 4 above)	Located on permeable surface over 100 feet downslope from well and over 500 feet from stream, pond, or drainageway	Located on permeable surface between 50-100 feet downslope or within 100-500 feet upslope of well and within 100-500 feet from stream, pond, or drainageway	Located on permeable surface within 50 feet downslope or within 100 feet upslope of well and within 100 feet from stream, pond or drainageway	
6. Handling	Closed system for all liquid formulations. Dry product easily loaded. Very low risk of spill	Some liquid formulation hand poured, easy to load both dry and liquid product, low risk of spill	All liquids and dry products hand filled, fill port easy to reach, moderate risk of spill	All liquids and dry products hand filled, fill port difficult to reach, high risk of spill	
7. Cleanup and Disposal	Fertilizer sprayer or spreader washed out in the field. Rinsate (from liquid sprayer) collected and applied in next load on labeled crop	Fertilizer sprayer or spreader washed on pad at farmstead. Rinsate (from liquid sprayer) collected and applied in next load on labeled crop	Fertilizer sprayer or spreader washed at farmstead on permeable surface. Rinsate dumped at least 100 feet from well, stream or pond	Fertilizer sprayer or spreader washed at farmstead on permeable surface. Rinsate dumped within 100 feet of well, stream or pond	
Nutrient Storage Rating		Accumulative Score (Sum of above rating items)			
		Average Score (Accumulative/ 7)			

Ratings: 3.6-4=Low risk, 2.6-3.5=Low to moderate risk, 1.6-2.5=Moderate to high risk, 1-1.5=High Risk

Livestock Waste Storage Worksheet

Washington Natural Resources Conservation Service



Livestock Waste Storage Worksheet

Ground & Surface Water Contaminants - Nutrients, Organics & Pathogens - Livestock Waste Storage					
Farm:					
Rating Item	Low Risk 4 Points	Low-Moderate Risk 3 Points	Mod-High Risk 2 Points	High Risk 1 Point	Score
1. No on-farm storage facilities	Wastes hauled off farm for proper storage and disposal			Daily spreading of livestock wastes	
2. On-farm storage Manure stack or Liquid/Slurry storage	Manure stack covered; on impermeable surface; rainfall and runoff diverted. Concrete, clay lined, or other liquid tight design; designed and built to NRCS standards; properly maintained; no cracks and leaks.	Manure covered; on low permeable soil; rainfall and runoff diverted. Earthen structure built to NRCS standards and properly maintained.	Manure partially covered; on slightly permeable soils; some runoff collected. Not designed to NRCS standards; on slightly permeable soils; poorly maintained, some evidence of cracks and leaks.	Manure not covered; runoff not collected. Not designed to NRCS standards; on permeable soils; not maintained; leaks and cracks.	
3. Storage volume	Not full at end of rainy season; if liquid/slurry adequate capacity to hold 25-year, 24-hour storm; solids removed to avoid loss of storage capacity.	Not full at end of rainy season; if liquid/slurry not adequate capacity to hold 25-year, 24-hour storm.	Storage facility requires occasional emptying during the rainy season; if liquid/slurry not adequate capacity to hold 25-year, 24-hour storm.	Storage facility requires regular emptying during the rainy season; if liquid/slurry not adequate capacity to hold 25-year, 24-hour storm.	
4. Storage location	Manure stack or earthen pond located more than 500 feet from well, stream, pond, or drainageway. Or Liquid/slurry storage located more than 200 feet from well, stream, pond, or drainageway or has emergency containment dike for accidental spills or leaks.	Manure stack or earthen pond located between 250-500 feet from well, stream, pond, or drainageway. Or Liquid/slurry storage located between 100-200 feet from well, stream, pond, or drainageway	Manure stack or earthen pond located less than 250 feet downslope from well, stream, pond, or drainageway. Or Liquid/slurry storage located more than 100 feet downslope from well, stream, pond, or drainageway	Manure stack or earthen pond located less than 250 feet upslope from well, stream, pond, or drainageway. Or Liquid/slurry storage located 100 feet from upslope well, stream, pond, or drainageway	
Livestock Waste Storage Rating for Ground & Surface Waters		Accumulative Score (Sum of above rating items)			
		Average Score (Accumulative/ 4)			

Ratings: 3.6-4=Low risk, 2.6-3.5=Low to moderate risk, 1.6-2.5=Moderate to high risk, 1-1.5=High Risk

Livestock Confinement Area Management

Washington Natural Resources Conservation Service



Rating Item	Low Risk 4 Points	Low-Moderate Risk 3 Points
1. Location	More than 200 feet from well and more than 500 feet from stream, pond, or drainage way	Between 100-200 feet of well and between 250-500 feet from stream, pond, or drainage way
2. Livestock water source	Stock water in troughs, with overflow diverted to wastewater system	Stock water in troughs with overflow diverted from lot area. Stock excluded from streams or ditches.
3. Surface water diversion	All upslope and roof water diverted. Diversion and gutters well maintained.	Most upslope surface and roof water diverted. Diversions and gutters occasionally maintained.
4. Lot runoff control system	No yard runoff. Fully covered area or runoff from surfaced lot directed to waste storage facility.	All runoff collected from compacted, earthen lot. Solids mounded and collected or stored.
5. Yard cleaning and scraping	No yard (animals confined)	Every month or two lot smoothed, leveled, and regularly shaped.
6. Dairy cow concentration on yard	No yard. Confined to barn, roofed yard or pasture.	75 sf/a or more on fenced, curbed concrete pad and/or 400 sf/a on graded earthen surface. More than 1800 sf/a in exercise area.
7. Dairy replacements concentration	No yard. Confined to barn, roofed yard, or pasture.	More than 40 sf/a on fenced, curbed concrete pad and/or more than 150 sf/a on earthen yard.
8. Beef feeder concentrations	No yard. Confined to barn.	Barn and/or paved lot more than 50 sf/a. Earthen lot with mound more than 300 sf/a, or without mound more than 500 sf/a.
9. Beef cows/heifers concentrations	Barn, roofed yard or pasture.	Barn with paved lot more than 60 sf/a. Earthen with mound 400 sf/a or without mound 600 sf/a.
10. Sheep/ewes concentrations	No yard. Confined to barn, roofed yard, or pasture.	Barn and paved lot more than 20 sf/a. Earthen more than 40 sf/a.
11. Feeder lambs concentrations	No yard. Confined to barn, roofed yard, or pasture.	Barn and paved lot more than 10 sf/a. Earthen more than 25 sf/a.
12. Hogs/sows Concentrations	No yard. Confined to barn.	Shed and paved lot more than 30 sf/a.
13. Horses concentrations	No yard. Confined to barn, roofed yard, or pasture.	Earthen exercise lot more than 2,500 sf/a.
14. Poultry concentrations	No lot. In building.	
Livestock Confinement Area Rating		

Ratings: 3.6-4=Low risk, 2.6-3.6=Low to moderate risk, 1.6-2.5=Moderate to high risk, 1-1.5=High Risk

Livestock Confinement Area Management

Washington Natural Resources Conservation Service



Mod-High Risk 2 Points	High Risk 1 Point	Score
Between 50-100 feet of well and between 100-250 feet from stream, pond, or drainage way	Less than 50 feet of well and less than 100 feet from stream, pond, or drainage way	
Live water fenced, with stock water provided in water gap.	Stock water provided by live stream or irrigation ditch.	
No surface water diverted. Some roof water collected and redirected. Gutters and diversions not maintained.	All water (surface and roof water) runs through the yard.	
Most of lot runoff diverted to filter strip and collected. Some solids removed.	Lot runoff uncontrolled. Solids rarely collected.	
Quarterly. Lot rough and irregular in shape.	Rarely. Lot poorly sited and developed for cleaning and scraping.	
50 sf/a or more on concrete pad and/or 200-300 sf/a on earthen surface. More than 1200 sf/a in exercise area.	Some concrete, less than 50 sf/a and less than 200 sf/a on earthen surface.	
40-20 sf/a on concrete and/or 75-150 sf/a on earthen surface.	Less than 75 sf/a on earth.	
No shelter. Paved lot with 30-50 sf/a. Earthen lot with mound 150-300 sf/a or earthen without mound 250500 sf/a.	Paved less than 30 sf/a. Earthen less than 250 sf/a.	
Paved lot more than 30 sf/a. Earthen with mound 200-400 sf/a or without mound 300600 sf/a.	Paved less than 30 sf/a. Earthen without mound less than 200 sf/a.	
Barn and paved lot 15-20 sf/a. Earthen 25-40 sf/a.	Barn and paved lot less than 15 sf/a. Earthen less than 25 sf/a.	
Barn and paved lot 5-10 sf/a. Earthen 10-25 sf/a.	Barn and paved lot less than 5 sf/a. Earthen less than 10 sf/a.	
Shed and earthen lot more than 10 sf/a	Shed and earthen lot less than 10 sf/a.	
Earthen exercise lot 1,000-2,500 sf/a.	Earthen exercise lot less than 1,000 sf/a	
Earthen lot of more than 4 sf/a.	Earthen lot of less than 4 sf/a.	
Accumulative Score (Sum of above rating items)		
Average Score (Accumulative/no. items rated)		



You have just completed all of the eligibility questions and screening tools necessary to document your eligibility for participation in the Conservation Security Program. The next step in the CSP self assessment process is to determine the eligibility of each field that you identified in your agricultural operation (pages 6-9 of this workbook).

You are required to complete all of the appropriate sections in the Record Keeping Workbook that pertain to your agricultural operation.

The Record Keeping Workbook will be used as your “benchmark condition” for determining program placement and ultimately, your contract funding level.

The Record Keeping Workbook is made up of two parts:

- Cropland and Hayland Production Records
- Pasture and Rangeland Production Records

Once you have completed this final step in documenting your benchmark conditions in the Record Keeping Workbook, you will need to schedule an interview with the NRCS conservation planner in your CSP watershed. You will be asked to bring the following materials with you to the interview:

- Applicant Eligibility Self Assessment Workbook
 - Agricultural Operation Property Location (map)
 - Control of Land Certification (one per landlord)
- Record Keeping Workbook
 - Soil and/or tissue tests taken during the last 5 years for each management unit where nutrients are being applied
 - Your conservation plan, if available
 - Other documentation that may be helpful in verifying the information you entered in your Applicant Eligibility Self Assessment Workbook and Record Keeping Workbook

During the interview process, NRCS will use the information in your workbooks, as well as your supporting documentation, to determine:

- The eligibility of each field in your agricultural operation,
- What Tier level you will qualify for and,
- What Category level you will be placed in for funding selection.

Contact information for scheduling your interview can be found on the bottom of page 4 of this Applicant Eligibility Workbook.



Descriptions and definitions used in this workbook

ABANDONED OR ACTIVE WATER WELLS A well that is abandoned cannot or will not be used for human or livestock water consumption, or is in such a state of disrepair that ground water can no longer be obtained from it.

Abandoned or active water wells may provide a direct link for contamination from surface water to ground water. Agricultural chemicals, livestock waste, and other contaminants can filter through an abandoned well and contaminate ground water supplies.

Abandoned or active water wells should be capped for future use or decommissioned. Well decommissioning is sealing and permanently closing a water well that is no longer in use. This practice applies to any drilled, dug, driven, bored, or otherwise constructed vertical water well determined to have no further beneficial use.

An active well is a hole drilled, dug, driven, bored, jetted or otherwise constructed to an aquifer to provide water for livestock, wildlife, irrigation, human, and other uses. Generally, wells provide for general water needs of farming/ranching operations and to facilitate proper use of vegetation on rangeland, pastures, and wildlife areas.

ACCESS ROAD An access road is a travel way to provide a safe, fixed route of travel for moving livestock, equipment, products and supplies. This practice applies to roads that provide access to farm or ranch headquarters.

ADDRESSED ANY RISKS WITH APPROPRIATE MEASURES Using management procedures and installing conservation practices that mitigate or minimize the potential negative impacts of using pesticides. Examples include scouting to identify localized weed infestation and treating spot areas, selecting reduced-risk chemicals, and using available biological controls.

AGRICULTURE OPERATION “Agricultural operation means agricultural land, and other lands determined by the NRCS Chief, under the control of the participant and operated with equipment, labor, accounting systems, and management that is substantially separate for any other unit.” In delineating an agricultural operation, Farm Service Agency farm boundaries may be used. An applicant can aggregate farms into one contract, but only one application per sign-up period will be accepted.

APPLY ANIMAL MANURE OR WASTE The process of spreading animal feces, urine, and other material, such as bedding material and water, onto crop fields, pastures or rangeland. It also includes injecting liquid components (wastewater) of animal waste into the soil.

AVERAGE ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME To participate in CSP, your average adjusted gross income (AGI) for the 3 tax years immediately preceding the year the contract is approved



cannot exceed \$2.5 million. You may participate if your AGI exceeds \$2.5 million and at least 75 percent of your AGI was derived from farming, ranching, or forestry operations. As defined in the 2002 Farm Bill, “average adjusted gross income” means the 3-year average of the adjusted gross income or comparable measure of the individual or entity over the 3 preceding tax years, as determined by the Secretary. The 3 preceding tax years would be the 3 years before the year for which the benefits are being requested.

CLASSIC GULLY Erosion caused by the action of runoff water in concentrated flow channels. These flow channels are well-defined, permanent drainage ways that cannot be crossed by ordinary farming operations.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP) A voluntary program for agricultural landowners. Participants receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource conserving covers on eligible land. More information about CRP is available at: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/crp/>

CONSIDERED CROPLAND Also see cropland definition. Land that is in cropland, or set aside for cropland. It may be in hayland as part of a long-term rotation.

CONTOUR BUFFER STRIPS Strips of perennial vegetation alternated down the slope with cultivated strips that are farmed on the contour. Contour buffer strips usually are narrower than the cultivated strips. Vegetation in strips consists of grasses or a mixture of grasses and legumes.

CONTROL OF SOME OR ALL OF THE LAND YOU MANAGE The CSP participant does not need to own eligible land, but must demonstrate control of the land for the life of the CSP contract through ownership, a lease, or proof of a long-standing relationship as determined by NRCS. If the applicant is a tenant, the applicant must provide NRCS with the written evidence or assurance of control from the landowner.

COVER Establishing and maintaining vegetation or mulch to protect soil and water resources. Cover may be permanent or temporary.

COVER CROP Grasses, legumes, forbs, or other herbaceous plants established for seasonal cover and conservation purposes. Examples include erosion control, nutrient cycling, carbon addition, wildlife habitat, and moisture regulation.

CROPLAND (INCLUDING HAYLAND), VINEYARDS, OR ORCHARDS A land cover/use category that includes areas used for the production of adapted crops for harvest. Two subcategories of cropland are recognized: cultivated and noncultivated. Cultivated land is row crops or close-grown crops and hayland or pastureland that is in a rotation with row or close-grown crops. Noncultivated cropland includes permanent hayland and horticultural cropland. Some categories and sub-categories are:



- Row crops: Cultivated cropland comprising land in row crops, such as corn, soybeans, peanuts, potatoes, sorghum, sugar beets, sunflowers, tobacco, vegetables, and cotton.
- Hayland: Cropland managed for the production of forage crops that are machine harvested. These crops may be grasses, legumes, or a combination. Hayland also includes land in set-aside or other short-term agricultural programs.
- Horticultural cropland: Cropland used for growing fruit, nut, berry, vineyard, and other bush fruit and similar crops. Commercial flower operations, including bulb and seed production, ornamental cutting, and sales, are included.
- Close grown crops: Crops generally drill-seeded or broadcast, such as wheat, oats, rice, barley, and flax.
- Fallow: Cropland which has been left idle, either tilled or untilled, during the whole or greater portion of the growing season.

CROP SELECTION Selection of salt tolerant crops can help produce satisfactory yields under saline conditions. The use of special management practices to minimize salinity can also favor crop growth.

DEEP TILLAGE Performing tillage operations below the normal tillage depth to modify the physical or chemical properties of a soil; may be used to address a salinity problem. More information about salinity in agriculture is available from the NRCS National Water and Climate Center at: <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/salinity/>.

DIRECT CONDUITS Channels for unimpeded flow of unfiltered contaminants to ground water. Unprotected wells, drainage wells, and sinkholes can act as direct conduits to ground water.

ENROLLED The acres or area in question shall be considered enrolled in a conservation program at the time funds have been committed, a “tentative acceptance” letter has been sent to the participant, and the participant has indicated an interest to continue in the program.

ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS OF PESTICIDE USE The process that analyzes soil characteristics, pesticide properties (toxicity, solubility, affinity for soil organic matter), management factors (pesticide timing, application rate, tillage type, method, form) and climate to evaluate the risks associated with pesticide use.

EPHEMERAL EROSION Erosion that occurs from the action of runoff water which concentrates in shallow flow channels when rills converge. These flow channels are obliterated or masked when filled with soil by tillage operations and re-formed in the same general location by subsequent runoff events.



FARMSTEADS, HEADQUARTERS, OR LIVESTOCK FEEDING AND HANDLING AREAS

Dwellings, outbuildings, barns, pens, corrals, confined livestock areas, and feeding and handling areas.

FORAGE AND ANIMAL BALANCE The total amount of available grazing forage and the addition of any roughage supply (hay, silage, green chop, etc.) balanced with the amount to be consumed by the total number of livestock and wildlife to meet their daily consumption needs.

GRASSLAND RESERVE PROGRAM (GRP) A voluntary program that helps landowners and operators restore and protect grassland, including rangeland, and pastureland, and certain other lands, while maintaining the areas as grazing lands. The program emphasizes support for grazing operations, plant and animal biodiversity, and grassland and land containing shrubs and forbs under the greatest threat of conversion.

More information on GRP is available at: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/GRP/>

GRAZING PLAN Involves managing the controlled harvest of vegetation with grazing animals, including:

- Selecting kinds of domestic animals suited to the terrain, climate and other existing grazing area conditions
- Optimizing grazing distribution through placement of watering facilities, fences, or herding techniques
- Identifying periods of grazing, rest, and other treatment for each management unit
- Identifying and maintaining adequate cover on sensitive areas (riparian, wetland, and other habitats of concern)
- Not negatively impacting any cultural resource or sensitive species
- Identifying and monitoring key areas and key plants to evaluate grazing management decisions

GREEN MANURE CROP Close-growing crops that provide soil protection, seeding protection, and soil improvement between periods of normal crop production, and are incorporated into the soil.

GROUND WATER RECHARGE AREAS Places on the land where precipitation or surface water percolates through the soil to an underground bed or layer of earth, gravel, or porous stone that stores and yields water. Ground water flows in permeable geologic formations called aquifers, which are natural zones beneath the Earth's surface that often yield economically important amounts of water.



HAY/PASTURE IN ROTATION Rotating long-term stands of hay or pasture with annual row crops for more than 2 years. This practice may be applied as part of a conservation management system to support one or more of the following: reduce soil erosion from wind; reduce sheet and rill erosion; maintain or improve soil organic matter; manage the balance of plant nutrients; improve water use efficiency; manage saline seeps; manage plant pests (weeds, insects, and diseases); provide food for domestic livestock; provide food and cover for wildlife.

HAYLAND See cropland. Includes permanent hayland and hayland as part of a long-term rotation. For the CSP self-assessment, hayland is included as a cropland land use. Pasture that is not cultivated, but is mowed for hay is addressed as a pastureland land use.

HIGH RESIDUE CROPS Crops that produce and leave high levels (more than 3,000 pounds per acre) of biomass in the field after crop harvest. High residue crops can include corn, small grains, hay, and other crops expected to produce adequate crop residue for soil improvement and protection from erosion. The crop aftermath is left to protect the soil.

HIGHLY ERODIBLE LAND AND WETLAND CONSERVATION PROVISIONS OF THE 1985 FARM BILL The Food Security Act of 1985, as amended, requires that all persons that produce agriculture commodities must protect all cropland classified as being highly erodible from excessive erosion. The provisions have been amended in the 1990, 1996, and 2002 Farm Bills. The purpose of these provisions is to remove the incentive to produce annually tilled agricultural commodity crops on highly erodible land (HEL) unless the HEL cropland is protected from excessive soil erosion. <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/helc/>

HYDROLOGICALLY-ACTIVE AREAS Areas such as sinkholes, wellheads, and rapidly permeable soil areas with direct access to ground water recharge areas or ground water.

IRRIGATION INDUCED EROSION The flow of irrigation water which causes soil erosion, which removes topsoil and organic material needed to maintain or improve soil condition.

IRRIGATION WATER MANAGEMENT The process of determining and controlling the volume, frequency, and application rate of irrigation water in a planned, efficient manner. An irrigation water management plan can include:

- records of irrigation dates and irrigation amounts applied relative to the crop growth stage
- monitoring soil moisture, using techniques such as gypsum block, tensiometer, or other technology
- using irrigation scheduling techniques, such as checkbook, evaporation pan, local climatic network, or similar technique
- matching your crop production goals, crop variety, and planting dates to available water supply or projections



- adjusting the timing, rate, and duration of water application to meet the crop needs
- adjusting your irrigation management for nutrient and pesticide applications
- using a tailwater recovery system
- inspecting and making repairs to your irrigation system at least annually

KARST TOPOGRAPHY Limestone areas with a topography peculiar to and dependent upon underground waters or solutions and that direct surface waters to underground routes.

LIVESTOCK CONCENTRATION AREAS Livestock in a confined area, such as a feedlot or drylot, and given supplemental feed for all of their nutritional needs.

MANAGING LIVESTOCK ACCESS Managing or limiting access of livestock to streams, ponds, surface waters, and waterways to prevent degradation of the streambank through activities such as the use of livestock access ramps or points, limiting use of riparian pastures, or use exclusion.

MANURE HANDLING AND FEED HANDLING AREAS Manure handling areas are areas where manure is loaded or moved for transport or storage. Feed handling areas are areas where foodstuffs for cattle are stored and transported for distribution. These areas are generally at a farm headquarters location.

MANURE STORAGE OR TRANSFER FACILITIES Areas designed to store or transfer livestock manure. Livestock waste includes manure that may also contain bedding, spilled feed, water, or soil. It also can include wastes not particularly associated with manure, such as milking center or washing wastes, and milk, hair, feathers, or other debris. The manure storage area includes, but is not limited to, lagoons, runoff ponds, storage sheds, stockpiles, under house or pit storages, liquid impoundments, and composting piles.

MIXING AND LOADING AREAS Areas for pesticide or fertilizer mixing and loading.

NO-TILL, STRIP-TILL, DIRECT SEEDING, OR MULCH-TILL Managing the amount, orientation, and distribution of crop and other plant residues on the soil surface year-round, while growing crops in narrow slots, or tilled or residue-free strips in soil previously untilled by full-width inversion implements. The soil is left undisturbed from harvest to planting, except for nutrient injection. Seeds are placed in a narrow seedbed or slot made by coulter(s), row cleaners, disk openers, in-row chisels, or rototillers, where no more than one-third of the row width is disturbed. Weeds are controlled primarily with herbicides. Row cultivation for emergency weed control utilizes undercutting implements that minimize residue burial.



NOXIOUS WEEDS Plant species that have been designated “noxious” by law. The word “noxious” means harmful.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT Accounts for the amount, source, timing, and method of applying nutrients to a growing crop. Regular soil testing, which estimates the availability of nutrients to plants, is necessary to monitor the balance of phosphorus, potassium, and other nutrients over the crop rotation. Plant tissue analysis compliments soil testing by measuring the nutrients actually taken up by the plant.

PAM Water-soluble anionic polyacrylamide (PAM) applied to soils in irrigation water to control soil losses from furrows. The polymers in PAM help give the surface soils more stability. PAM is an environmentally safe industrial flocculent.

PASTURELAND Land managed primarily for the production of introduced forage plants. Pastureland cover may consist of a single species, a grass mixture, or a grass-legume mixture. Management usually consists of cultural treatments, such as fertilization, weed control, reseeding, or renovation, and prescribed grazing.

PERENNIAL COVER Grasses, forbs, and legumes maintained as ground cover to protect soil year round. Perennial species live through more than two growing seasons. Biannual crops (some clovers) have a two-year growth cycle.

PEST CONTROL METHODS Include consideration of both the environmental and human health impacts. There are a number of effective methods that, when used properly, reduce pest populations to economically acceptable levels, including pesticides and biological and cultural techniques.

PEST MANAGEMENT Using environmentally sensitive prevention, avoidance, monitoring, and suppression strategies to manage weeds, insects, diseases, animals, and other organisms (including invasive and non-invasive species) that directly or indirectly cause damage or annoyance. A pest management plan can include: rate, method, timing, risk assessment, integrated pest management, appropriate mitigation, and record keeping.

PITLESS ADAPTER A special pipe fitting that fits on a well casing to provide a sanitary and frost-proof seal between the casing and the water line.

PLANT TISSUE TESTS Plant tissue analysis compliments soil testing by measuring the nutrients actually contained in the plant. Secondary nutrients and micronutrients not routinely measured in soil tests can be measured in plant tissue.

PRESCRIBED BURNING A carefully planned activity to safely apply fire to predetermined areas on rangeland, native pasture, pastureland, or hayland to obtain management objectives such as brush removal or to favor native or indigenous plants.



PRIVATE AGRICULTURAL LAND To be eligible for enrollment in CSP, land must be private agricultural land (including cropland, grassland, prairie land, improved pasture land, and rangeland), land under the jurisdiction of an Indian tribe (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), and forested land that is an incidental part of an agricultural operation.

PROPERLY DISPOSE OF LIVESTOCK MORTALITIES Treatment or disposal of livestock and poultry carcasses by off-the-farm animal mortality facilities or processes or by on-farm facilities.

PROTECT GROUND WATER Storing chemicals, gasoline, oil, etc. away from the wellhead and periodic inspection to protect ground water and maintain the condition where concentration criteria for a particular pollutant or limits on a condition (e.g., bad taste) are within tolerance, thereby allowing safe use of water by humans or animals.

RANGELAND Land on which the climax or potential plant cover is composed principally of native grasses, grass-like plants, forbs or shrubs suitable for grazing and browsing, and introduced forage species that are managed like rangeland. This would include areas where introduced hardy and persistent grasses, such as crested wheatgrass, are planted and practices, such as deferred grazing, burning, chaining, and rotational grazing, are used with little or no chemicals or fertilizer being applied. Grassland, savannas, many wetlands, some deserts, and tundra are considered rangeland. Certain low forb and shrub communities, such as mesquite, chaparral, mountain shrub, and pinyon-juniper, are also included as rangeland.

REDUCTION IN FALLOW More frequent cropping to reduce fallow periods and improve water uptake to address salt affected soils.

RESIDUE MANAGEMENT Managing the amount, orientation, and distribution of crop and other plant residues on the soil surface year-round, while growing crops.

RIPARIAN VEGETATION Ecosystems that occur along water courses or at the fringe of water bodies. Riparian cover consists of grasses, grasslike plants, forbs, trees, and shrubs.

ROTATION Alternating crops in a planned sequence to provide diversity and crop residue needed for erosion control, soil conditioning, and pest management purposes.

SALINE AND SODIC SOILS Includes soils that have a sodium adsorption ratio (SAR) of values of 13 and greater. Salt is sufficiently high in concentration that crop yields are adversely effected. These soils may require amendment applications, as determined by soil testing, to replace adsorbed sodium with soluble calcium. Monitoring saline soils may be part of a soil salinity plan that includes management of land, water, and plants to control subsurface soil water movement and to minimize accumulations of salts on the soil surface and in the root zone of nonirrigated saline seep areas. For more information about salinity in agriculture, visit the NRCS National Water and Climate Center at: <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/salinity/>.



SALINE SEEPS An area on the landscape where saline water leaches to the surface.

SALT TOLERANT CROPS Salt tolerance can change during the life cycle of a plant. Generally, sugar beets, cotton, barley, grapes, wheat, alfalfa, red clover, beans, and citrus are known for a level of salt tolerance.

SCOUTING Scouting, or monitoring pest populations, is part of an integrated pest management (IPM) system. IPM prescribes treating the portions of a farm or field that have identified higher than threshold levels of pests, rather than treating the whole field, resulting in using less applied farm chemicals.

SETBACKS FROM SURFACE WATERS A distance from gullies, ditches, streams, and rivers (surface water or direct conduits), within which manure, wastes, and pesticides should not be applied. The setback or buffer distance is based on slope, soils, vegetation, and sensitivity of the watershed.

SHARE IN THE RISK OF PRODUCING CROPS OR LIVESTOCK ON THIS OPERATION
An owner, operator, landlord, tenant, or sharecropper who materially participates and shares in the risk of producing any crop or livestock; and is entitled to share in the crop or livestock available for marketing from a farm (or would have shared had the crop or livestock been produced).

SHEET AND RILL EROSION The wearing away of topsoil by raindrop impact that detaches and removes soil from one point on the earth's surface and deposit it elsewhere. Sheet erosion refers to the removal of a relatively uniform thin layer of soil from the land surface by rainfall and surface runoff. Rill erosion refers to the erosion process on sloping fields in which numerous and random small channels are formed by water; occurs mainly on recently cultivated soils.

SINKHOLES A surface opening that has direct connection to ground water.

SOIL AMENDMENTS The compounds added to correct saline-sodic soils, based on the amount of sodium in the soil related to the soil pH. Gypsum is the most commonly used soil amendment.

SOIL COMPACTION An increase in soil bulk density, and decrease in soil porosity, due to mechanical forces or livestock, which can limit root growth. In grazing terms, soil compaction is influenced by animal concentration and length of grazing period, as well as soil moisture and soil texture. If the soils are too moist during grazing periods, layers immediately below the surface can become compact and impede water and air infiltration, as well as root growth. Rotating or moving winter feeding areas helps prevent compaction.



SOIL MOISTURE MONITORING The process of applying irrigation water based on measuring soil moisture and the plant available water holding capacity of the soil.

SOIL TESTS A chemical, physical, or biological procedure that estimates the availability of nutrients to support plant growth. Generally, an analysis of nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium is provided.

SOILS ARE WET Working or grazing wet soil tends to compress the soil particles so that they become more tightly packed, leaving less room for penetration of water and air. This also makes it more difficult for plant roots to move through the soil. Wet soils are more often a problem in fine textured soils. 'Fine textured soils' is a broad group of soils containing large quantities of silt, clay, and other fine particles.

STABILIZED OR TREATED Ephemeral erosion control practices can include the use of waterways, modified tillage, terraces, contour buffer strips, or a combination of appropriate practices. Classic gullies require additional grade stabilization. Grade stabilization may include a structure used to control the grade and head cutting in natural or artificial channels.

SUBSURFACE DRAINAGE Below-ground movement of water that may be diverted by conduits or impervious soil strata.

SURFACE WATERS All water occurring above ground. This includes wetlands, lakes, rivers, and streams (including intermittent streams), mudflats, sandflats, wetlands, sloughs, prairie potholes, wet meadows, playa lakes, or ponds.

TAILWATER RECOVERY SYSTEM A practice or group of practices installed to collect, store, and reuse irrigation water.

UNPROTECTED WELLS Old wells, improperly installed wells, and abandoned or active water wells that impact ground water. Runoff can carry contaminated water into low rising, unprotected well openings. Well decommissioning is sealing and permanently closing a water well that is no longer in use. This practice applies to any drilled, dug, driven, bored, or otherwise constructed vertical water well determined to have no further beneficial use.

USED FOR CROP PRODUCTION Land that is planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity 4 out of the last 6 years prior to May 13, 2002.

WASTE UTILIZATION Using agricultural waste, such as manure and wastewater or other organic residues, on land in an environmentally acceptable manner while maintaining or improving soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources.

Glossary of Terms



WELL CASING Maintains the well opening and is generally steel or PVC in drilled wells. Well casing should extend to at least 1 foot above ground or above the 100-year flood level.

WELLHEADS That portion of the well that extends above ground level and offers a direct opening to ground water.

WETLANDS Areas inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated hydric soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas.

WETLANDS RESERVE PROGRAM (WRP) A voluntary program that provides technical and financial assistance to eligible landowners to address wetland, wildlife habitat, soil, water, and related natural resource concerns on private lands in an environmentally beneficial and cost-effective manner. The program provides an opportunity for landowners to receive financial incentives to enhance wetlands in exchange for retiring marginal land from agriculture. More information on WRP is available at: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/wrp/>

WIND EROSION The wearing away of topsoil by winds that abrade, detach, and remove soil from one point on the Earth's surface and deposit it elsewhere.

WRITTEN RECORDS OR DOCUMENTATION Field diaries and logs which may include names, rates, and dates of application of all fertilizers, manures, composts, and pesticides.

On range and pastures, this means keeping records on grazing rates, timing, and animal distribution to keep both livestock and forage plants healthy and to protect soil and water quality. Documentation needed to support such criteria may include (but would not be limited to):

- Grazing duration, frequency, timing and rest by management unit
- Hay harvest and yields
- Kind, type, size and number of grazing animals
- Site and production by management unit
- Weather and other climate information
- Monitoring sites information



Conservation planning can help you identify resource issues for treatment.

CONSERVATION PLAN

A conservation plan is record of the client's decisions for addressing natural resource concerns on a farm, ranch or other unit of land or water. The plan results from a decision making process that documents practices needed to meet producer objectives and the Field Office Technical Guide quality criteria for identified resource problems.

A conservation plan may operate on a number of levels, depending on the goals and commitment level of the land manager. The plan can outline ways to meet the required conservation treatments for a specific program or it may describe a situation where all natural resources of the land and water are being fully protected or even enhanced.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides conservation planning and technical assistance to clients (individuals, groups, and units of government). These clients develop and implement conservation plans to protect, conserve, and enhance natural resources (soil, water, air, plants, and animals) within their related social and economic interests.

The success of conservation planning and implementation depends upon the voluntary participation of clients. The planning process used by NRCS is based on the premise that clients will make and implement sound decisions if they understand their resources, natural resource problems and opportunities, and the effects of their decisions.

Conservation planning helps clients, conservationists, and others view the environment as a living system of which humans are an integral part. It enables clients and planners to analyze and work with complex natural processes in definable and measurable terms.

Developing a conservation plan for your farm or ranch is a key step in achieving your conservation objectives. A conservation plan will not only provide the foundation for your participation in the Conservation Security Program and other conservation programs but it can help you...

- Provide sustainability in natural resource management
- Receive funding through Farm Bill programs
- Save money through increased productivity
- Increase your property value
- Enhance open space and wildlife habitat
- Improve animal health
- Prevent off-farm impacts
- Improve plant health and vigor
- Promote good neighbor relations
- Compete for state and federal cost-share programs
- Promote health and safety for your family



Conservation Programs and Assistance

The conservation programs described below may help in solving your resource concerns. For more information on these and other programs, check the web sites listed below for each program, visit NRCS at: <http://www.wa.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/index>, or contact your local NRCS office.

Note:

- Producers can get cost-share assistance to plan and install conservation practices such as terraces, buffers, nutrient and pest management, irrigation water management, grazing management and wildlife habitat management through programs such as Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP).
- Assistance is available to help producers with buffers, filter strips, windbreaks to control runoff into streams and to provide wildlife habitat through Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP), and the continuous CRP, and EQIP.
- Assistance is available to help producers develop and enhance habitat for fish and wildlife on private lands. WHIP provides technical and financial assistance to landowners and others to develop upland, wetland, riparian, and aquatic habitat areas on their property.
- The Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) is designed to provide technical and financial assistance to landowners interested in restoring converted cropland back into wetlands. The goal of the program is to restore wildlife habitat and improve water quality.
- The Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) is a voluntary program offering landowners the opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance grasslands on their property.

Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA): CTA provides free technical assistance to help farmers and ranchers identify and solve natural resource problems on their farms and ranches. This might come as advice and counsel, through the design and implementation of a practice or treatment or as part of an active conservation plan. This is provided through your local Conservation District and NRCS. <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/cta/>

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP): CRP is a land retirement program for blocks of land or strips of land that protect the soil and water resource, such as buffers and grassed waterways. <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/crp/>

Conservation Programs and Assistance

Washington Natural Resources Conservation Service



Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP): EQIP offers cost-share and incentive payments and technical help to assist eligible participants install or implement structural and management practices on eligible agricultural land. <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/>

Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP): WHIP is a voluntary program for people who want to develop and improve wildlife habitat primarily on private land. Cost-share payments for construction or re-establishment of wetlands may be included. <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/whip/>

Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP): WRP is a voluntary program offering landowners the opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands on their property. Easements and restoration payments are offered as part of the program. <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/wrp/>

