

Wildlife Habitat Self Assessment Tool

WASHINGTON STATE

Name: _____

Date: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

These questions will help determine if the land you wish to enroll in CSP meets the **Wildlife requirements of a Resource Management System (RMS)**. This guide can be used to assess habitat on different land uses including, cropland and hayland, rangeland, pastureland, riparian forest, wetlands and streams.

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

Assessment Questions Crop & Hayland	Yes	No
1. Is most of the cropland or hayland being considered within 1/4 mile of some type of landuse other than cropland, i.e. range, forest or wetlands?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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 1st and no later than October 15th?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. If cropland is being considered, is at least 0.5 percent 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, riparian areas, some field borders, or wind breaks.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. If cropland is being considered, is at least 2.5 percent 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.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. If cropland is being considered, is at least 2.5 percent of the field flooded during spring waterfowl migration?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Is there a part of the cropping rotation which includes legumes or does hayland include at least one legume in the species mix?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. If your operation had a historic natural water source, does it still provide an uncontaminated drinking water source for wildlife?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If No is answered to any one of the wildlife self assessment questions (1, 2, 6, or 7) and No is answered to all three of questions 3, 4 and 5, the land you wish to enroll has not met the minimum criteria for wildlife habitat on this landuse. Contact the local NRCS office for guidance on practices and / or management needed to meet minimum wildlife criteria or to enhance wildlife habitat. Note: You must answer Yes to 1, 2, 6, and 7, and you must answer yes to at least one of questions 3, 4 and 5 to be eligible for wildlife for cropland.

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

Assessment Questions Pastureland	Yes	No
1. Is most of the pasture within 1/2 mile of some other type of landuse, i.e. range, forest or wetlands?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Is the pasture composed of a mixture of grasses and forbs, with at least 2 species of dominant grasses and at least three species of forbs present. Forbs may include legumes such as clover or alfalfa.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. If your operation had a historic natural water source, does it still provide an uncontaminated drinking water source for wildlife?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If No is answered to any of the wildlife self assessment questions (1, 2, 3 or 4) the land you wish to enroll has not met the minimum criteria for wildlife habitat on this landuse. Contact the local NRCS office for guidance on practices and / or management needed to meet minimum wildlife criteria or to enhance wildlife habitat.

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

Assessment Questions Rangeland	Yes	No
1. Does the rangeland in the offered area have a sagebrush canopy cover greater than 8%?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Is the big sagebrush average canopy height greater than 8 inches?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Is the average height of non-invasive grass cover from April 15 to July 15 greater than 7 inches?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Is the average canopy cover of non-invasive grass cover from April 15 to July 15 greater than 10%?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Is the average canopy of the native forbs on the offered area greater than 5%?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Does the offered area have more than four species of native preferred forbs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

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

Assessment Questions 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Are stream banks stabilized to prevent erosion or failure along at least 70 percent of banks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Is the plant community of the riparian buffer interspersed with both trees and shrubs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Is the average diameter of the trees in the riparian buffer uniform?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Are there at least three logs per acre on average laying on the ground that are at least 12 inches in diameter and 20 feet long?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If No is answered to any of the wildlife self assessment questions (1, 2, 3, or 5) or Yes to question 4, the land you wish to enroll has not met the minimum criteria for wildlife habitat on this landuse. Contact the local NRCS office for guidance on practices and / or management needed to meet minimum wildlife criteria or to enhance wildlife habitat.

PASSWORD:CSP

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

Assessment Questions 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Are there any unscreened water withdrawals occurring along the stream on site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Is there at least one piece of large woody debris for every two widths of the channel?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Does the stream have more than one channel especially during low flow?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If No is answered to the wildlife self assessment questions 3 or 4, or Yes is answered to the wildlife self assessment questions 1 or 2, the land you wish to enroll has not met the minimum criteria for wildlife habitat on this landuse. Contact the local NRCS office for guidance on practices and / or management needed to meet minimum wildlife criteria or to enhance wildlife habitat.

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

Assessment Questions Upland Woodland	Yes	No
1. Are there at least 2 species of trees dominant within the woodland with at least some understory native shrubs present?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Are the woodlands not being grazed or are they being grazed using a prescribed grazing plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Are there at least three logs per acre that are a minimum 12 inches in diameter and 20 feet in length lying on the ground?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Are there at least three snags per acre at least 6 inches in diameter and at least 10 feet tall?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. For five years after forest harvest or timber stand improvement, is there at least one brushpile or rockpile left per ten acres that is at least ten feet in diameter and six feet in height?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Are there any openings in the woodland no more than 200 feet wide with mixtures of grasses, wildflowers, and shrubs on at least 5 percent of the total area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

Assessment Questions 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Does native vegetation make up the majority of the plant cover within your wetland habitat?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Is the wetland grazed only during dry periods and then with a grazing plan, or is the site excluded from grazing?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Do I qualify?		
Assessment Questions Summary	Yes	No
CROPLAND & HAYLAND ASSESSMENT RESULTS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
RANGELAND ASSESSMENT RESULTS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
PASTURELAND ASSESSMENT RESULTS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
UPLAND WOODLAND ASSESSMENT RESULTS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
RIPARIAN FOREST ASSESSMENT RESULTS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
STREAM ASSESSMENT RESULTS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
WETLAND ASSESSMENT RESULTS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>