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Soil Erosion

Sheet and Rill Erosion

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met	
Screening level: Soil surface organic residue cover > 80%. Assessment level: Site is stable and without visible signs of erosion.	Yes ☐	No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met	
Drainage and erosion control measures are implemented on trails and landings to minimize detrimental effects of concentrated flow, erosion and sedimentation. Stream crossings are restored and stabilized.	Yes ☐	No ☐
The forest floor is covered with leaves, needles, fine woody debris, rocks, and/or herbaceous vegetation that protects the soil on more than 80 percent of the area.	Yes ☐	No ☐

Wind Erosion

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met	
Screening level: Soil surface organic residue cover > 80%. Assessment level: Site is stable and without visible signs of erosion.	Yes ☐	No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met	
The forest floor is covered with leaves, needles, fine woody debris, rocks, and/or herbaceous vegetation that protects the soil on more than 80 percent of the area.	Yes ☐	No ☐

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Classic Gully Erosion

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Screening level: Classic gullies are not present. Assessment level: Classic gully management is adequate to stop the progression of head cutting and widening and are offsite impacts are minimized by vegetation and/or structures.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
Soil erosion is controlled. There are no impacts on sensitive vegetation. There are no occurrences or enlargement of gullies.	Yes ☐ No ☐
Drainage and erosion control measures are implemented on trails and landings to minimize detrimental effects of concentrated flow, erosion and sedimentation. Stream crossings are restored and stabilized.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Streambank, Shoreline, Water Conveyance Channels

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Screening level: Streams, shoreline or channels are not adjacent to site. Assessment level: For shorelines and water conveyance channels; banks are stable or commensurate with normal geomorphological processes, AND if bank erosion is present, it is beyond the client's control or commensurate with normal geomorphological processes, AND for streambanks, SVAP2 bank condition element score > 5.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
Excluding all fundamentally unstable, natural geomorphic streambanks/shorelines, all streambanks/shorelines on the operation show few signs of erosion or bank failure. Each is stable and protected with natural materials.	Yes ☐ No ☐

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Soil Quality Degradation

Organic Matter Depletion

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Screening level: Soil organic matter depletion is not a problem AND activities do not cause soil organic matter depletion. Assessment level: Ground cover meets state criteria specific to ecological site.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
The forest floor is covered with leaves, needles, fine woody debris, rocks, and/or herbaceous vegetation that protects the soil on more than 80 percent of the area. The topsoil is not displaced. Woody residue is being added to the forest floor through branch breakage and treefalls.	Yes ☐ No ☐
Tree/shrub pruning residue is utilized on the farm and distributed throughout the site. Prunings are not burned.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Compaction

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Screening level: Soil compaction is not a problem AND activities do not cause soil compaction problems. Assessment level: Compaction is managed to meet client's production and management objectives.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
Soil compaction is limited to roads and landings. Tree root growth is not impeded. No more than 15 percent of the forested area is devoted to roads, trails, and landings.	Yes ☐ No ☐

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Subsidence

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met	
Screening level: Histisol soils are not present OR Histisols soils are not exhibiting subsidence. Assessment level: Subsidence is adequately managed to meet client's objectives.	Yes ☐	No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met	
The forest floor is covered with leaves, needles, fine woody debris, rocks, and/or herbaceous vegetation that protects the soil on more than 90 percent of the area. There is no artificial drainage operating on the site.	Yes ☐	No ☐

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Excess Water

Runoff and Flooding and Ponding

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Screening level: Ponding or flooding not a problem AND activities do not cause ponding/flooding problems. Assessment level: Excess water is managed to meet client's objectives.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
Drainage and erosion control measures are implemented on trails and landings to minimize detrimental effects of concentrated flow, erosion and sedimentation. Stream crossings are restored and stabilized.	Yes ☐ No ☐

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Insufficient Water

Inefficient Moisture Management

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Screening level: Moisture management is not a problem AND activities do not cause inefficient moisture management problems. Assessment level: Runoff and evapotranspiration levels are minimized to meet client's management objectives.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
Management choices include actions to limit moisture loss. For example, maintaining shade, retaining the forest litter layer, and maintaining correct stocking levels.	Yes ☐ No ☐

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Water Quality Degradation

Pesticides in Surface Water

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Screening level: Pest control chemicals are not applied. Assessment level: Pesticides are stored, handled, disposed and managed to prevent runoff, spills, leaks and leaching AND conservation practices and managements are in place to minimize surface water impacts.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
A site-specific mixture of prevention, avoidance, monitoring, and suppression (PAMS) strategies are applied. If pesticide aplication is required, an environmental risk screening tool is used (such as WIN-PST or similar LGU approval tool) and application rates and timing are compliant with the label and the conservation plan.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Pesticides in Ground Water

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Screening level: Pest control chemicals are not applied. Assessment level: Pesticides are stored, handled, disposed and managed to prevent runoff, spills, leaks and leaching AND conservation practices and managements are in place to minimize ground water impacts.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
Pesticides are applied using a site-specific mixture of prevention, avoidance, monitoring, and suppression (PAMS) strategies. Environmental risk screening tool are used (such as WIN-PST or similar LGU approval tool). Application rates and timing are compliant with the label and the conservation plan.	Yes ☐ No ☐

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Nutrients in Surface Water

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met	
Screening level: Organic or inorganic nutrients are not applied AND the PLU is not grazed AND there are no confined livestock areas. Assessment level: Nutrients if applied, are based on a soil test, tissue tests or nutrient budget AND conservation practices and managements are in place to minimize surface water impacts.	Yes ☐	No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met	
The land adjacent to a stream, river, or other waterbody on the side or sides you control does: - have diverse, natural plant cover typical to that along streams in your area, - extend from the stream bank/shoreline for a distance of 35 feet or (if applicable) the minimum State buffer-width requirement, whichever is greater, AND - have few places where concentrated runoff flows through.	Yes ☐	No ☐
Livestock access to stream is controlled OR limited to small watering or crossing areas	Yes ☐	No ☐
Drainage and erosion control measures are implemented on trails and landings to minimize detrimental effects of concentrated flow, erosion and sedimentation. Stream crossings are restored and stabilized.	Yes ☐	No ☐

Nutrients in Ground Water

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met	
Screening level: Organic or inorganic nutrients are not applied AND the PLU is not grazed AND there are no confined livestock areas. Assessment level: Nutrients if applied, are based on a soil test, tissue tests or nutrient budget AND conservation practices and managements are in place to minimize ground water impacts.	Yes ☐	No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met	
The forest or woodlot is fully stocked with tree species adapted to the site, has spacing for good tree growth and air flow between and beneath, does not have excessive tree mortality, has an understory made up of desirable species and is not inhibited by brush or other undesirable vegetation.	Yes ☐	No ☐

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Excess Pathogens and Chemicals from Manure, Bio-solids or Compost Applications in Surface Water

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met	
Screening level: Potential sources of pathogens or pharmaceuticals are not applied on the land. Assessment level: Organic materials are applied, stored, and/or handled to mitigate negative impacts to surface water sources.	Yes ☐	No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met	
Livestock access to stream is controlled OR limited to small watering or crossing areas	Yes ☐	No ☐

Petroleum, Heavy Metal and Other Pollutants Transported to Surface Water

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met	
Screening level: Activities do not present the potential for contamination by petroleum, heavy metals and other pollutants. Assessment level: Petroleum, heavy metals or other potential pollutants are stored and handled to avoid runoff to surface water.	Yes ☐	No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met	
The fuel storage area and tank is located: - above the 100-year floodplain, - a minimum of 100 feet from any river, stream, ditch, pond, lake, sinkhole, wetland, or water well, and - within a stable place designed to provide secondary containment if the primary means were to fail.	Yes ☐	No ☐
Drainage and erosion control measures are implemented on trails and landings to minimize detrimental effects of concentrated flow, erosion and sedimentation. Stream crossings are restored and stabilized.	Yes ☐	No ☐

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Petroleum, Heavy Metal and Other Pollutants Transported to Ground Water

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
A site-specific mixture of prevention, avoidance, monitoring, and suppression (PAMS) strategies are applied. If pesticide aplication is required, an environmental risk screening tool is used (such as WIN-PST or similar LGU approval tool) and application rates and timing are compliant with the label and the conservation plan.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
The fuel storage area and tank is located: - above the 100-year floodplain, - a minimum of 100 feet from any river, stream, ditch, pond, lake, sinkhole, wetland, or water well, and - within a stable place designed to provide secondary containment if the primary means were to fail.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Excessive Sediment in Surface Water

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Screening level: There are no untreated sources of erosion AND streams or shoreline are not on or adjacent to site. Assessment level: Upslope treatment and buffer practices address concentrated flows to water bodies AND heavy use areas are stable AND the SVAP2 - bank condition is >= 5.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
The land adjacent to a stream, river, or other waterbody on the side or sides you control does: - have diverse, natural plant cover typical to that along streams in your area, - extend from the stream bank/shoreline for a distance of 35 feet or (if applicable) the minimum State buffer-width requirement, whichever is greater, AND - have few places where concentrated runoff flows through.	Yes ☐ No ☐
Drainage and erosion control measures are implemented on trails and landings to minimize detrimental effects of concentrated flow, erosion and sedimentation. Stream crossings are restored and stabilized.	Yes ☐ No ☐

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Elevated Water Temperature

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met	
Screening level: Water courses on or adjacent to the site are not designated by a State Agency as a temperature impairment OR water course temperature is not a client concern. Assessment level: The SVAP2 - riparian area quality element score is >= 5 AND the SVAP2 - riparian area quality element score is >= 5 AND the SVAP2 - canopy cover element score is >= 6, OR existing conservation practices are in place to address water temperature.	Yes ☐	No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met	
More than 50 percent of the water surface is shaded on the length of the stream/river you control.	Yes ☐	No ☐

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Air Quality Impacts

Emissions of Particulate Matter (PM) and PM Precursors

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Screening level: Activities are not present that contribute to agricultural source PM or PM precursor emissions AND episodes or complaints of emissions of PM (dust, smoke, exhaust, etc.), or chemical drift have not occurred. PM producing activity examples are: Prescribed Burn is conducted, Travel ways unpaved or untreated with binding agents, Engines (combustion source), Tillage, Pesticides are applied, Fertilization (manure/ commercial), CAFO/manure management). Assessment level: PM and PM Precursor emmissions are managed to meet client objectives.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
Dust is controlled on all non-vegetated, unpaved travel ways.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Emissions of Ozone Precursors

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Screening level: Operations are not present that produce ozone precursor emissions. Ozone precursor producing activities are: Engines (combustion source), Pesticide application, Burning, CAFO/manure management, Fertilization (manure/commercial). Assessment level: Ozone precursor emmissions are managed to meet client objectives.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
Pesticides, including fumigants, are applied in a way that VOC emissions are reduced. For example, spot spraying, pest/target sensing application equipment, alternative pesticide formulations, or low emission fumigation methods.	Yes ☐ No ☐

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Emission of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs)

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Screening level: Activities are not present that produce GHGs emissions. GHG producing activities are: Fertilization(manure/commercial), CAFO/manure management, Engines (combustion source), Tillage, AND GHGs are not regulated in this planning area. Assessment level: Greenhouse gas emmissions are managed to meet client objectives.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
The forest or woodlot is fully stocked with tree species adapted to the site. Species have high-growth rates or long life span with the ability to reach a large size.	Yes ☐ No ☐

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Degraded Plant Condition

Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met	
Screening level: Plant production and health is not a client concern. Assessment level: Forest species are adapted to site AND composition and stand density meets the client's objectives and production goals.	Yes ☐	No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met	
The forest or woodlot is fully stocked with tree species adapted to the site, has spacing for good tree growth and air flow between and beneath, does not have excessive tree mortality, has an understory made up of desirable species and is not inhibited by brush or other undesirable vegetation. Monitoring for Insects and disease is completed to prevent outbreaks that would be detrimental to forest health.	Yes ☐	No ☐
Trees/shrubs are pruned to improve plant productivity, health, and vigor.	Yes ☐	No ☐

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Inadequate Structure and Composition

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met	
Screening level: Plant communities support the intended land use and desired ecological functions. Assessment level: Plant communities contain adequate diversity, composition and structure to support desired ecological functions.	Yes ☐	No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met	
The operation has a sugarbush. Seventy percent or more of the sugarbush canopy trees are sugar maples. Canopy trees are those tall enough that their tops are is in direct sunlight.	Yes ☐	No ☐
Trees/shrubs are pruned to improve plant structure and composition.	Yes ☐	No ☐
The forest or woodlot is fully stocked with tree species adapted to the site, has spacing for good tree growth and air flow between and beneath, does not have excessive tree mortality, has an understory made up of desirable species and is not inhibited by brush or other undesirable vegetation	Yes ☐	No ☐

Excessive Plant Pest Pressure

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met	
Screening level: Plant productivity is not limited from pest pressure. Assessment level: Pest damage to plants are below economic or environmental thresholds or client-identified criteria AND plant pests, including noxious and invasive species are managed to meet client objectives.	Yes ☐	No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met	
Invasive and noxious weeds are controlled or not present.	Yes ☐	No ☐
Trees are selected or planted that are tolerant of known damaging pests.	Yes ☐	No ☐

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Wildfire Hazard, Excessive Biomass Accumulation

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met	
Screening level: Wildfire hazards is not a concern. Assessment level: Fuel loads and fuel ladders are managed to provide defensible space and meet client objectives.	Yes ☐	No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met	
Sites needing wildfire protection or using prescribed burning have a permanent or temporary strip of bare or vegetated land that retards fire.	Yes ☐	No ☐
Trees/shrubs are pruned to reduce wildfire hazard and/or excessive biomass accumulation.	Yes ☐	No ☐
The forest or woodlot is fully stocked with tree species adapted to the site, has spacing for good tree growth and air flow between and beneath, does not have excessive tree mortality, has an understory made up of desirable species and is not inhibited by brush or other undesirable vegetation. Monitoring for Insects and disease is completed to prevent outbreaks that would be detrimental to forest health. Woody debris on the forest floor supports wildlife but does not present an elevated fire risk.	Yes ☐	No ☐
On sites needing wildfire protection, a hazardous fuel reduction treatment has occurred or will occur.	Yes ☐	No ☐

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Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat

Inadequate Habitat - Food

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Assessment level: The WHSI rating is >= 0.5 AND (when surface stream present) the SVAP2 - fish habitat complexity element score is >= 7 AND the SVAP2 - aquatic invertebrate habitat element score is >= 7, OR conservation practices and managements are in place that meet or exceed species or guild-specific habitat model thresholds, OR food is available in quality and extent to support habitat requirements for the species of interest.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
The land adjacent to a stream, river, or other waterbody on the side or sides you control does: - have diverse, natural plant cover typical to that along streams in your area, AND - extend from the stream bank/shoreline for a distance of 35 feet or (if applicable) the minimum State buffer-width requirement, whichever is greater.	Yes ☐ No ☐
Plant growth and cover is managed to develop and maintain habitat to help threatened, endagered, or declining wildlife species.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Assessment level: The WHSI rating is >= 0.5 AND (when surface stream present) the SVAP2 - barriers to movement element score is >= 7 AND the SVAP2 - fish habitat complexity element score is >= 7 AND the SVAP2 - aquatic invertebrate habitat element score is >= 7, OR conservation practices and managements are in place that meet or exceed species or guild-specific habitat model thresholds, OR cover is of available quality and extent to support habitat requirements for the species of interest.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met

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The forest or woodlot is fully stocked with tree species adapted to the site, has spacing for good tree growth and air flow between and beneath, does not have excessive tree mortality, has an understory made up of desirable species and is not inhibited by brush or other undesirable vegetation. Monitoring for Insects and disease is completed to prevent outbreaks that would be detrimental to forest health. Woody debris on the forest floor supports wildlife but does not present an elevated fire risk.	Yes ☐	No ☐
Large, old, and/or "wolf" trees are intentionally retained in the forest to provide wildlife shelter. For example, trees with gnarled appearance, loose bark, or cavities.	Yes ☐	No ☐
Dead and/or down trees are intentionally left in the forest to provide wildlife cover.	Yes ☐	No ☐
Plant growth and cover is managed to develop and maintain habitat to help threatened, endagered, or declining wildlife species.	Yes ☐	No ☐
The stream(s) have: - a natural, unaltered configuration, with minimal channel straightening, dredging, or bank alteration by armoring with rip-rap or other non-natural materials, - stable banks with limited erosion or bank failure, and - human uses and/or grazing levels that do not negatively impact bank condition.	Yes ☐	No ☐
The plant cover provides cover and shelter for the chosen wildlife species.	Yes ☐	No ☐
Livestock access to stream is controlled OR limited to small watering or crossing areas	Yes ☐	No ☐
The pond/lake, which supports a natural or planted fish population, is managed: -to exclude livestock, -to control nuisance species and undesirable aquatic vegetation controlled, -to comply with state and local regulations when stocking the pond, AND -using a buffer zone of diverse, natural plant cover at least 35 feet wide.	Yes ☐	No ☐

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Inadequate Habitat - Water

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met	
Assessment level: The WHSI rating is >= 0.5 AND (when surface stream present) the SVAP2 - aquatic invertebrate habitat element score is >= 7, OR conservation practices and managements are in place that meet or exceed species or guild-specific habitat model thresholds, OR water is available in quality and extent to support habitat requirements for the species of interest.	Yes ☐	No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met	
Access to water is at the right height, depth and time of year for wildlife species.	Yes ☐	No ☐

Inadequate Habitat - Habitat Continuity (Space)

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met	
Assessment level: The WHSI rating is >= 0.5 AND (when surface stream present) the SVAP2 - barriers to movement element score is >= 7 AND the SVAP2 - aquatic invertebrate habitat element score is >= 7, OR conservation practices and managements are in place that meet or exceed species or guild-specific habitat model thresholds, OR The connectivity of habitat components are adequate to support stable populations of targeted species.	Yes ☐	No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met	
In-stream structures (dam, diversion structure, bridge, culvert, low-water stream crossing, etc.) allow for the upstream/downstream movement of fish and other aquatic animals throughout most of the year.	Yes ☐	No ☐
People, vehicles, equipment, or livestock are only moved across a stream/river at a bridge, culvert, or stabilized ford crossing(s). Travel across the stream/river beyond these crossings is controlled.	Yes ☐	No ☐

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The forest or woodlot is fully stocked with tree species adapted to the site, has spacing for good tree growth and air flow between and beneath, does not have excessive tree mortality, has an understory made up of desirable species and is not inhibited by brush or other undesirable vegetation. Monitoring for Insects and disease is completed to prevent outbreaks that would be detrimental to forest health. Woody debris on the forest floor supports wildlife but does not present an elevated fire risk.	Yes ☐	No ☐
There are documented occurrences of sensitive native plant communities within the forest. A conservation plan identifies goals for the plant community. Invasive plant monitoring has occurred, and control treatments have been implemented when necessary.	Yes ☐	No ☐
Connectivity between food resources and cover and shelter is provided for the chosen wildlife species. <see State Wildlife Action Plan>	Yes ☐	No ☐
Plant growth is managed to develop and maintain early successional habitat to help chosen wildlife species. <see State Wildlife Action Plan>	Yes ☐	No ☐
Designated areas are planted as habitat for pollinators/beneficial insects. Non-cropped area protected from disruption during nesting and foraging periods--chemical, biological, or mechanical.	Yes ☐	No ☐
The land adjacent to a stream, river, or other waterbody on the side or sides you control does: - have diverse, natural plant cover typical to that along streams in your area, - extend from the stream bank/shoreline for a distance of 35 feet or (if applicable) the minimum State buffer-width requirement, whichever is greater, AND - have few places where concentrated runoff flows through.	Yes ☐	No ☐

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Livestock Production Limitation

Inadequate Feed and Forage

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Assessment level: When the land use has a "grazed" modifier, livestock forage, roughage and supplemental nutritional requirements addressed.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
An existing prescribed grazing plan is on schedule. Animal stocking levels and rotation periods are designed to avoid harm to sensitive plants.	Yes ☐ No ☐

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Inefficient Energy Use

Equipment and Facilities

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Screening level: Client is not interested in improving equipment and facilities energy efficiency. Assessment level: A USDA approved energy audit has been implemented that address equipment and facilities to meet client objectives OR On-farm renewable energy and/or energy conserving practices have been implemented to meet client objectives.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
Energy-efficient equipment is used in forest management activities. For example, the smallest type and size of equipment needed to accomplish the activity is used.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Farming/Ranching Practices and Field Operations

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Screening level: Client is not interested in improving equipment and facilities energy efficiency. Assessment level: A USDA approved energy audit has been implemented that address equipment and facilities to meet client objectives OR On-farm renewable energy and/or energy conserving practices have been implemented to meet client objectives.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
Energy-efficient actions are used in forest management activities. For example, limiting the number of trips into the forest, or leaving woody residue in place if it is not a fire or pest hazard.	Yes ☐ No ☐