



CART -Local Working Group Tool

Local Working Group To Do List

State Resource Assessment - Identify LWG Priorities:

LWGs and tribes have provided input to the WA State Resource Assessment (2012-2015) (WA SRA), which resulted in identification of ten priority resource concerns, along with two state initiatives for energy and Puget Sound salmon. In addition, at risk acres, acres needing treatment, and priority treatment acres have been quantified for each priority resource concern on five land uses.

The existing State Resource Assessment has served NRCS, LWGs and partners target and align budget with state resource priorities identified. Moreover, as documented with our SRA Accomplishment Reports from 2015, we have shown much success with our resource priorities and their goals outlined in the SRA 2012-2015.

However, beginning in 2015 we have strived to revise our Strategic Resource Assessment priorities to better reflect current changes to the state and national realities including the Farmbill 2018 and its program opportunities, as well as our local partner initiatives.

Then starting in FY20, NRCS nationally changed its direction are required by the 2018 Farm Bill to streamline planning, contracting for improved fiscal planning to address the Presidents biennia request to Congress.

To this end, NRCS-WA has incorporated the following changes to our LWG process starting in FY 2020, as follows;

- LWGs identify up to two fund pools. With at most two resource concerns per fund pool, based on their local resource priorities.
- LWG Fund pools and identified resource concerns cannot duplicate any Statewide or National fund pool and its resource concerns. **See example below**
- LWG need to determine percentage of funds allocated per fund pools
- LWG need to identify what landuse(s) the resource concern exists on.
- LWG need to develop up to 6 questions per fund pool, identify the type of question, and assign points to each question.
- LWG Fund Pools and their resource concerns will be reviewed for duplications. Questions for fund pools will be reviewed by ASTC-P to determine if question meets policy requirements. **See EQIP policy link below**

Submittal Requirements:

All LWGs are requested to submit a completed LWG Resource Concerns Worksheet to their respective DCs by no later than February 21, 2020.

EQIP Policy <https://directives.sc.egov.usda.gov/viewDirective.aspx?hid=36745>

515.72E Avoid Bias in Ranking Process

EXAMPLE

FUND POOLS	Resource Concern for CART ranking	Landuse	FUND POOLS	Resource Concern for CART ranking	Landuse
Statewide Cropland	Ephemeral Gully Erosion	Cropland	LWG Cropland	Sheet and Rill Erosion	Cropland
	Wind Erosion			Wind Erosion. This Resource concern duplces state resouce concern and will not be used. Select another resource concern	

FUND POOLS	Resource Concern for CART ranking	Landuse	Geospatial Location
National Organic & Organic-Transition (Statewide)	Organic Matter Depletion Plant Productivity and Health	All	Entire State
National Air Quality (Forest, PM10, PM2.5) (specific geographic areas)	Emmissions of Particulate Matter (PM) and PM Precursors Wind Erosion Wildfire Hazard from Biomass Accumulation	All	Selected NAQI airsheds and counties
National Water Quality Initiative - Monitoring	Nutrients Transported to Surface Water Pathogens and Chemicals from Manure, Biosolids, or Compost Applications Transported to Surface Waters	All	Selected NWQI watersheds
National Water Quality Initiative - Watershed Implementation (selected watersheds)	Nutrients Transported to Surface Water Pathogens and Chemicals from Manure, Biosolids, or Compost Applications Transported to Surface Waters	All	Selected NWQI watersheds
National Sage Grouse Initiative (SGI) (specific geographic areas)	Terrestrial Habitat for Wildlife and Invertebrates Plant Structure and Composition	Rangeland, Cropland	WDFW indentified locations
Statewide CAPs development	NA	All	Entire State
Statewide High Tunnel	Plant Productivity and Health	Cropland	Entire State
Statewide Forestry	Plant Productivity and Health Wildfire Hazard from Biomass Accumulation	Forestland	Entire State
Statewide Irrigation	Inefficient Irrigation Water Use Ground Water Depletion Sediment Transported to Surface Water	Cropland, Pasture	Entire State
Statewide Cropland	Ephemeral Gully Erosion Wind Erosion	Cropland	Entire State
Statewide Pasture	Inadequate Livestock Water Quantity, Quality, and Distribution Plant Productivity and Health	Pasture	Entire State
Statewide Rangeland	Inadequate Livestock Water Quantity, Quality, and Distribution Plant Productivity and Health	Rangeland	Entire State
Statewide Wildlife (Salmon, Oyster, T&E)	Terrestrial Habitat for Wildlife and Invertebrates Aquatic Habitat for Fish and Other Organisms	All	Entire State
Wildfire: Rest & Deferred grazing	Plant Productivity and Health Feed and Forage Imbalance	Pasture, Rangeland, Grazed Forestland	Entire State
Statewide Energy Implementation	Energy Efficiency of Equipment and Facilities Energy Efficiency of Farming/Ranching Practices and Field Operations	All	Entire State
Statewide CNMP Implementation	Pathogen and Chemicals from Manure, Biosolids, or Compost Applications Transported to Surface Waters. Pathogen and Chemicals from Manure, Biosolids, or Compost Applications Transported to Ground Water. Emmissions of Airborne Reactive Nitrogen	All	Entire State
Statewide Tribal	Resource Concern 1 Resource Concern 2		
Statewide Tribal	Resource Concern 1 Resource Concern 2		
NWT	Resource Concern 1 Resource Concern 2		
NWT	Resource Concern 1		

	Resource Concern 2		
PST	Resource Concern 1 Resource Concern 2		
PST	Resource Concern 1 Resource Concern 2		
SWT	Resource Concern 1 Resource Concern 2		
SWT	Resource Concern 1 Resource Concern 2		
NCT	Resource Concern 1 Resource Concern 2		
NCT	Resource Concern 1 Resource Concern 2		
BBT	Resource Concern 1 Resource Concern 2		
BBT	Resource Concern 1 Resource Concern 2		
SCT	Resource Concern 1 Resource Concern 2		
SCT	Resource Concern 1 Resource Concern 2		
NET	Resource Concern 1 Resource Concern 2		
NET	Resource Concern 1 Resource Concern 2		
WPT	Resource Concern 1 Resource Concern 2		
WPT	Resource Concern 1 Resource Concern 2		
PT	Resource Concern 1 Resource Concern 2		
PT	Resource Concern 1 Resource Concern 2		
SRT	Resource Concern 1 Resource Concern 2		
SRT	Resource Concern 1 Resource Concern 2		

*retain emergency sign-ups

Required National Fundpool

NEW NRCS Resource Concern list and
Planning Criteria

<https://directives.sc.egov.usda.gov/OpenNonWebContent.aspx?content=44299.wba>

Common Terms and Phrases Glossary

Land Uses:

Crop: Land used primarily for the production and harvest of annual or perennial field, forage, food, fiber, horticultural and/or energy crops.

Forest: Land on which the primary vegetation is forest (climax, natural or introduced plant community) and use is primarily for production of wood products and/or non-timber forest products.

Other Associated Agricultural (Ag) Land: Land associated with farms and ranches that are not purposefully managed for food, forage or fiber and are typically associated with nearby production and/or conservation lands. This could include incidental area such as: idle center pivot corners, odd areas, draws, hedgerows, riparian areas, field edges, seasonal and permanent wetlands, rocky outcrop, and other similar areas.

Pasture: Lands composed of introduced or domesticated native forage species that is used primarily for the production of domestic livestock. They receive periodic renovation and/or cultural treatments, such as tillage, fertilization, mowing, weed control, and may be irrigated. They are not in rotation with crops.

Range: Land used primarily for the production of grazing animals and wildlife. This includes native plant communities and those seeded to native or introduced species, or naturalized by introduced species that are ecologically managed using range management principles.

Resource Concerns:

SOIL--Sheet and rill erosion

Detachment and transport of soil particles caused by rainfall, melting snow, or irrigation.

SOIL--Wind erosion

Detachment and transport of soil particles caused by wind.

SOIL--Ephemeral gully erosion

Soil erosion that results in small gullies in the same flow area that can be obscured by tillage.

SOIL--Classic gully erosion

Gullies created by runoff that can enlarge a channel progressively by head cutting and/or lateral widening.

SOIL--Bank erosion from streams, shorelines, or water conveyance channels

Erosion resulting from poor land management practices, storm events, wave action, rain, ice, wind, runoff, loss of vegetation, hydrologic dynamics, stream isolation from floodplains, and/or other disturbed/altered geomorphological processes.

SOIL--Subsidence

Loss of volume and depth of organic soils due to oxidation caused by above normal microbial activity resulting from excessive water drainage, soil disturbance, or extended drought. This excludes karst sinkholes and issues, or depressions caused by underground activities. This resource

concern is only applicable when the soil is a histosol.

SOIL--Compaction

Management-induced soil compaction at any level throughout the soil profile resulting in reduced plant productivity, biological activity, infiltration and aeration.

SOIL--Organic matter depletion

Management-induced depletion of any or all pools of soil organic matter resulting in limited soil function and processes that support plant productivity, biological activity and water and nutrient cycling.

SOIL--Concentration of salts or other chemicals

Concentration of salts leading to salinity and/or sodicity reducing productivity or limiting desired use, or concentrations of other chemicals impacting productivity, populations of beneficial organisms or limiting desired use.

SOIL--Soil organism habitat loss or degradation

Quantity, quality, diversity or connectivity of food, cover, space, shelter and/or water is inadequate to meet requirements of beneficial soil organisms.

SOIL--Aggregate instability

Management-induced degradation of water stable soil aggregates resulting in destabilized soil carbon; surface crusting; reduced water infiltration, water holding capacity, and aeration; depressed resilience to extreme weather; increased ponding and flooding; increased soil erosion and plant stress; and reduced habitat and soil biological activity.

WATER--Ponding and flooding

Water covering the land surface, along with saturated conditions below the surface, degrades natural resources, or restricts capability of land to support its intended use.

WATER--Seasonal high water table

Ground water or a perched water table causing saturated conditions near the surface degrades water resources or restricts capability of land to support its intended use.

WATER--Seeps

Sub-surface saturated flows that percolates slowly to the surface, degrades water resources, or restricts capability of land to support its intended use.

WATER--Drifted snow

Wind-blown snow accumulates around and over surface structures, which restricts access to humans or animals; or wind removes snow from desired location where it can be used to accumulate water.

WATER--Surface water depletion

Water from collected precipitation runoff, ponds, lakes, surface watercourses and reservoirs is used at a rate that is detrimental to ecological functions or other identified uses and threatens sustained availability of surface water.

WATER--Ground water depletion

Underground water is used at a rate greater than aquifer recharge.

WATER--Naturally available moisture use

Natural precipitation is not optimally managed to support desired land use goals or ecological processes.

WATER--Inefficient irrigation water use

Irrigation water is not stored, delivered, scheduled and/or applied efficiently.

WATER--Nutrients transported to surface water

Nutrients (organic and inorganic) stored, concentrated, or applied are transported to receiving surface waters in quantities that degrade water quality and limit its use for intended purposes.

WATER--Nutrients transported to ground water

Nutrients (organic and inorganic) stored, concentrated, or applied are transported to ground waters in quantities that degrade water quality and limit its use for intended purposes.

WATER--Pesticides transported to surface water

Pesticides are lost from their application area and transported to surface water sources in quantities that degrade water quality and limit its use for intended purposes.

WATER--Pesticides transported to ground water

Pesticide loses from the application area are transported to ground water sources in quantities that degrade water quality and limit its use for intended purposes.

WATER--Pathogens and chemicals from manure, biosolids, or compost applications transported to surface water

Pathogens, pharmaceuticals, leachate and chemicals from manure, biosolids or compost transported to receiving waters in quantities that degrade water quality and limit uses.

WATER--Pathogens and chemicals from manure, biosolids, or compost applications transported to ground water

Pathogens, pharmaceuticals, leachate and chemicals from manure, biosolids or compost transported to ground waters in quantities that degrade water quality and limit uses.

WATER--Salts transported to surface water

Irrigation or rainfall runoff transports salts to receiving surface waters in quantities that degrade water quality and limit use for intended purposes

WATER--Salts transported to ground water

Irrigation or rainfall infiltration transport salts to ground water in quantities that degrade aquifer water quality and limit intended uses.

WATER--Petroleum, heavy metals, and other pollutants transported to surface water

Petroleum, heavy metals, and other chemical pollutants for on-farm use are lost from areas of concentration (handling, storage, or processing facilities and areas) to receiving surface waters in quantities that degrade water quality and limits its use for intended purposes. This resource concern does not cover pathogens/manure, sediment (although sediment contaminated with petroleum, heavy metals, or other chemical pollutants would be covered), nor naturally occurring salts.

WATER--Petroleum, heavy metals, and other pollutants transported to ground water

Petroleum, heavy metals, and other chemical pollutants for on-farm use are lost from areas of concentration (handling, storage, or processing facilities and areas) to receiving ground water in quantities that degrade water quality and limit its use for intended purposes. This resource concern does not cover pathogens/manure, sediment (although sediment contaminated with petroleum, heavy metals, or other chemical pollutants would be covered), nor naturally occurring salts.

WATER--Sediment transported to surface water

Offsite transport of sediment to surface water degrades water quality and limits use for intended purposes.

WATER--Elevated water temperature

Surface water temperatures exceed State/Federal standards in downstream receiving waters which limits its use for intended purposes.

AIR--Emissions of particulate matter (PM) and PM precursors

Direct emissions of particulate matter – dust and smoke – as well as the formation of fine particulate matter in the atmosphere from other agricultural emissions – ammonia, oxides of nitrogen, and volatile organic compounds – can cause multiple negative environmental impacts.

AIR--Emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs)

Emissions of methane, nitrous oxide, and carbon dioxide increase atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases.

AIR--Emissions of ozone precursors

Emissions of ozone precursors – oxides of nitrogen and volatile organic compounds – result in formation of ground-level ozone, which can have negative impacts to human, plant, and animal health.

AIR--Objectionable odors

Emissions of odorous compounds – volatile organic compounds, ammonia, and odorous sulfur compounds – can cause nuisance conditions.

AIR--Emissions of airborne reactive nitrogen

Emissions of airborne reactive nitrogen – ammonia and oxides of nitrogen – can negatively impact atmospheric chemistry, cause unwanted fertilization via deposition in sensitive ecosystems, and degrade regional visibility.

PLANT--Plant productivity and health

Improper fertility, management or plants not adapted to site negatively impact plant productivity,

vigor and/or quality

PLANT--Plant structure and composition

Plant communities have insufficient composition and structure to achieve ecological functions and management objectives. This resource concern includes degradation of wetland habitat, targeted ecosystems, or unique plant communities.

PLANT--Plant pest pressure

Excessive pest damage to plants including that from undesired plants, diseases, animals, soil borne pathogens, and nematodes. This concern addresses invasive plant, animal and insect species.

PLANT--Wildfire hazard from biomass accumulation

The kinds and amounts of plant biomass create wildfire hazards that pose risks to human safety, structures, plants, animals, and air resources.

ANIMAL--Terrestrial habitat for wildlife and invertebrates

Quantity, quality or connectivity of food, cover, space, shelter and/or water is inadequate to meet requirements of identified terrestrial wildlife or invertebrate species.

ANIMAL--Aquatic habitat for fish and other organisms

Habitat requirements of identified fish and other organisms are inadequate.

ANIMAL--Feed and forage imbalance

Feed and Forage quality or quantity is inadequate for nutritional needs and production goals of the kinds and classes of livestock.

ANIMAL--Inadequate livestock shelter

Livestock lack adequate shelter from climatic conditions to meet basic needs.

ANIMAL--Inadequate livestock water quantity, quality and distribution

Quantity and quality of drinking water are insufficient to meet basic needs for the kind and class of livestock and improper distribution negatively impacts other resources.

ENERGY--Energy efficiency of equipment and facilities

Stationary equipment or facilities are using energy inefficiently.

ENERGY--Energy efficiency of farming/ranching practices and field operations

Mobile on-farm, ranching, forestry or field operations are using energy inefficiently.

Other

Beginning Farmer or Rancher:

Has not operated a farm or ranch, or has operated a farm or ranch for not more than 10 consecutive years. This requirement applies to all members of an entity.

Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm or ranch.

In the case of a contract with an individual, individually or with the immediate

family, material and substantial participation requires that the individual provide substantial day-to-day labor and management of the farm or ranch, consistent with the practices in the county or State where the farm is located.

In the case of a contract made with an entity, all members must materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm or ranch. Material and substantial participation requires that the members provide some amount of the management, or labor and management necessary for day-to-day activities, such that if the members did not provide these inputs, operation of the farm or ranch would be seriously impaired.

Conservation Activity Plan: The conservation practice associated with the development of approved conservation plans by certified technical service providers for which payments are made directly to EQIP participants.

Conservation Practice: A specified treatment, such as a structural, vegetative or management technique commonly used to meet a specific need in planning and carrying out soil and water conservation programs for which standards and specifications have been developed. Conservation practices are in the FOTG, Section IV, which is based on the National Handbook of Conservation Practices (NHCP).

Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG): The official local NRCS source of resource information and the interpretations of guidelines, criteria, and standards for planning and applying conservation treatments and conservation management systems. It contains detailed information on the conservation of soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources applicable to the local area for which it is prepared. (See General Manual 450, Part 401).

Historically Underserved: Under-served Individuals and Groups include those who have not participated in or have received limited benefits from USDA or NRCS programs that may improve their quality of life and/or the environment. Historically, the under-served are landowners/operators who are socially disadvantaged, have limited resources, are beginning farmers/ranchers or are American Indians or Alaskan Natives.

Hold Down: This term refers to setting an upper payment limitation or ceiling on a particular practice.

Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher:

A person:

With direct or indirect gross farm sales not more than \$100,000 in each of the previous two years (to be increased starting in FY 2004 to adjust for inflation using Prices Paid By Farmers Index as compiled by NASS).

That has a total household income at or below the national poverty level for a family of four, or less than 50 percent of county median household income (to be determined annually using Commerce Department Data), in each of the previous two years.

An entity or joint operation can be a Limited Resource Producer if all individual members qualify as a Limited Resource Producer.

Locally Led Conservation: The concept whereby local people assess their natural resource conditions and needs, set goals, identify programs and other resources to solve those needs, develop proposals and recommendations, implement solutions, and measure their success.

Local Work Group: Means representatives of local offices of FSA, the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, the conservation district, and other Federal, State, and local government agencies, including Tribes, with expertise in natural resources who advise NRCS on decisions related to implementation of USDA conservation programs.

Priority Area: A watershed, a sub-watershed, an area, or a region that can be geographically described and has specific environmental sensitivities or significant soil, water, or related natural resource concerns.

Resource Concern: The condition of natural resources that may be sensitive to change by natural forces or human activity. NRCS identifies problems and opportunities relating to resource concerns by using predictive models, direct measurement, or observations in relation to client objectives. Resource concerns include the resource considerations listed in Section III of the FOTG.

Socially Disadvantaged: Socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher means a producer who has been subjected to racial or ethnic prejudices because of their identity as a member of a group without regard to their individual qualities. A socially disadvantaged group is a group whose members have been subject to racial or ethnic prejudice because of their identity as members of a group, without regard to their individual qualities. These groups consist of American Indians or Alaskan Natives, Asians, Blacks or African Americans, Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders, and Hispanics. A socially disadvantaged applicant is an individual or entity who is a member of a socially disadvantaged group. For an entity, at least 50 percent ownership in the farm business must be held by socially disadvantaged individuals. *Note: Gender is not a covered group under the 1990 Farm Bill definition.*

State Technical Committee: A committee in each State established by the Secretary pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 3861 which provide information, analysis, and recommendations to the USDA.

Technical Service Provider: An individual, private-sector entity, or public agency certified or approved by NRCS to provide technical services through NRCS or directly to program participants, as defined in 7 CFR Part 652.

USDA Local Work Group: Composed of Federal, State, county, tribal or local government representatives. The USDA local work group supports the locally led conservation effort by coordinating USDA programs with other Federal, State, tribal, and local conservation programs, to work singly and in combination to provide an integrated solution to addressing natural resource concerns.

Brief Program Description:

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) - Through EQIP, farmers may receive financial and technical help with structural and management conservation practices on agricultural land.

For More Information

Resource Links:

Washington Field Office Technical Guide – (Practice Standards Section IV)

http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov//efotg_locator.aspx

EPA 12 Digit Watershed Search by Zip Code:

<http://www.epa.gov/epahome/commsearch.htm>

EPA Surf your watershed site:

<http://cfpub.epa.gov/surf/locate/index.cfm>

WA Department of Ecology GIS Data Site: