

National List - Resource Concern



Resource	Resource Concern
SOIL EROSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheet, rill, and wind erosion • Concentrated flow erosion • Excessive bank erosion from streams, shoreline and water conveyance channels
DEGRADATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subsidence • Compaction • Organic matter depletion • Concentration of salts or other chemicals
EXCESS/INSUFFICIENT WATER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ponding, flooding, seasonal high water table, seeps, and drifted snow • Inefficient moisture management • Inefficient use of irrigation water
WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excess nutrients in surface and ground waters • Pesticides transported to surface and ground waters • Excess pathogens and chemicals from manure, biosolids, or compost applications • Excessive salts in surface and ground waters • Petroleum, heavy metals, and other pollutants transported to receiving waters • Excessive sediment in surface waters • Elevated water temperature
DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undesirable plant productivity and health • Inadequate structure and composition • Excessive plant pest pressure • Wildfire hazard, excessive biomass accumulation
INADEQUATE HABITAT FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat degradation
LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION LIMITATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate feed and forage • Inadequate livestock shelter • Inadequate livestock water
INEFFICIENT ENERGY USE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment and facilities • Farming/ranching practice and field operations
AIR QUALITY IMPACTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emissions of Particulate Matter(PM) and PM Precursors • Emissions of Greenhouse Gases (GHG's) • Emission of Ozone Precursors • Objectionable Odors

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State Resource Assessment - Resource Concern List



Resource	Resource Concern	SRA
SOIL EROSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sheet, rill, and wind erosion	√
EXCESS/INSUFFICIENT WATER	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inefficient use of irrigation water	√
WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Excess nutrients in surface and ground waters• Pesticides transported to surface and ground waters• Excess pathogens and chemicals from manure, biosolids, or compost applications• Excessive sediment in surface waters	√ √ √
DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Undesirable plant productivity and health• Excessive plant pest pressure• Wildfire hazard, excessive biomass accumulation	√ √ √
INADEQUATE HABITAT FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Habitat degradation	√

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Percent Allocated by Resource Concern FY 15 Allocation Considerations



Resource	Resource Concern	Allocated Percentage
SOIL EROSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sheet, rill, and wind erosion	0 - 63%
EXCESS/INSUFFICIENT WATER	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inefficient use of irrigation water	0 - 35%
WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Excess nutrients in surface and ground waters• Pesticides transported to surface and ground waters• Excess pathogens and chemicals from manure, biosolids, or compost applications• Excessive sediment in surface waters	0 - 38% 0 - 10% 0 - 5% 0 - 31%
DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Undesirable plant productivity and health• Excessive plant pest pressure• Wildfire hazard, excessive biomass accumulation	0 - 60% 0 - 6% 0 - 30%
INADEQUATE HABITAT FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Habitat degradation	0 - 44%

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Percent Allocated by Land Use



FY 2015 - Weighted Average

Land Use	Allocated Percentage
Crop	42.7%
Forest	22.0%
Farmstead/Other	15.6%
Pasture	9.1%
Range	10.6%
	100%

FY 2015 - Allocation Considerations

Land Use	Allocated Percentage
Crop	6% - 73%
Forest	5% - 35%
Farmstead/Other	0% - 40%
Pasture	0% - 28%
Range	0% - 30%
	Total

Initiatives



National

Initiatives	Questions
AIR QUALITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service helps private landowners conserve our natural resources, and air resources are among those. Our Air Quality resource concerns can be broadly classified into four air quality and atmospheric change issues: (1) Particulate Matter, (2) Ozone Precursors, (3) Odor, (4) Greenhouse Gases and Carbon Sequestration.
ENERGY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Energy Initiative is a unique, multi-faceted “whole-farm” approach assisting landowner by identifying resource concerns that less to energy savings. Through this initiative, landowner can apply energy saving practices such as irrigation systems, pumping plant upgrades, and tillage management that reduces energy inputs and lowers operation costs.
HOOP HOUSES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Seasonal high tunnels are structures made of metal pipe and covered with plastic or other sheeting. Easy to build, maintain, and move, they provide an energy-efficient way to extend the growing season, reduce or avoid use of pesticides and reduce run off and leaching of nitrogen. Unlike greenhouses, they require no energy, relying on natural sunlight to modify the climate inside to create favorable conditions for growing vegetable and other specialty crops.
NATIONAL WATER QUALITY INITIATIVE - LANDSCAPE	USDA’s NRCS supports the voluntary actions of farmers, ranchers and forest landowners to improve water quality. Through the water quality focused efforts, eligible producers will invest in voluntary conservation practices to help provide cleaner water for their neighbors and communities. Using funds from the EQIP, NRCS will provide financial and technical assistance to producers for implementing conservation practices such as riparian buffers, conservation tillage, irrigation water management, soil moisture monitoring in selected watershed locations.
ORGANIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The EQIP Organic Initiative signup is a nationwide special initiative to provide financial assistance to National Organic Program (NOP) certified organic producers as well as producers in the process of transitioning to organic production. Organic producers may also apply for assistance under the General EQIP program that is open to both organic and non-organic producers.
SAGE GROUSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ranchers in parts of central and eastern Washington may be eligible to receive financial assistance to help protect sage grouse habitat and improve range conditions for their livestock. Through the NRCS’s Sage Grouse Initiative, ranchers have options available for existing grazed ranchlands and expired CRP lands. The initiative is limited to sage grouse habitat in central and eastern WA. Existing grazed ranchlands have cost-share available for cross-fencing, water developments, and conducting grazing management for a maximum of three years.

LWG July, 2014



Initiatives

State

Initiatives	Questions
PSHIP (SALMON RECOVERY)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wild Pacific Northwest salmon, an incredible natural resource important for tribes, jobs, and the economy are rapidly declining in numbers. This is due in part to impairment of water quality and habitat necessary to protect the variety of species. NRCS is partnering with other governmental agencies, tribes, and non-governmental organizations to protect and maintain salmon habitat. This partnership, called the Pacific Salmon Habitat Improvement Partnership (PSHIP). Partnerships will focus on habitat and water quality throughout the Puget Sound Basin, and in priority watersheds.
RCPP	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) combines the authorities of four former conservation programs (AWEP, Chesapeake Bay Watershed, CCPI, and Great Lakes Basin) in accordance with EQIP, CSP and ACEP rules and in certain areas the Watershed Operations and Flood Prevention Program. Through RCPP NRCS helps producers install and maintain conservation activities in the selected project areas.
SENTINEL LAND	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Through the Sentinel Landscapes partnership, NRCS works with farmers, ranchers and forest landowners to preserve agriculture and restore and protect wildlife habitat on land near military facilities. Growing pressure from land development, water-use constraints and endangered species on and near facilities are impeding the military's ability to carry out testing and training. These areas are often productive and viable working lands that provide food for the nation and important ecosystem habitat.
SHELLFISH	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eligible producers will receive assistance for installing conservation systems that may include practices such as waste storage facilities, field border, fencing, filter strips, riparian forest buffers, irrigation pipelines, heavy use protection and waste transfer. The collaboration among USDA, U.S. Department of Interior and Department of Defense began in 2013 and is helping farmers and ranchers make improvements to the land that help keep them in business, enhance wildlife habitat and support national defense.
WILDFIRE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NRCS is offering technical and financial assistance to landowners impacted by wildfires. Funding has been set aside to assist with grazing deferment, weed control, critical area plantings, and in some instances livestock fencing.

Local Projects

Initiatives	Questions
CERTAIN GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS	
CERTAIN INDUSTRY	
CERTAIN SPECIES OF CONCERN	
OUTREACH TO ADDRESS A PARTICULAR RESOURCE CONCERN	
SPECIFIC RESOURCE CONCERN	
WATERSHED LEVEL PLANNING TO SUPPORT VSP OR SALMON RECOVERY PLANS	

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National Initiatives FY 15 Considerations



Initiaives	Questions
AIR QUALITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To improve air quality and greenhouse gas emissions by converting conventional tillage operations to reduced tillage.• Increase installation of practices that reduce particulate matter emissions in the Puget Sound Team effected counties.• Reduce air quality resource concern, in particular PM10 to meet air quality compliance requirements (add all eligible practices)• To control wind erosion tageting WRIA 33 & 36• Yes interested in initiative. - Palouse
ENERGY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduction of energy inputs and operation costs, while maintaining a viable and• Increase the installation of energy saving practices identified in a Headquarters and/or Landscape Conservation Activity Plan (CAP).•• Increase energy efficiency as it relates to agricultural operations. Typical unit operations will vary dramatically. Whole farm vs. field by field will make a big difference.• To plan and apply energy saving practices on landscape and headquarters.• Yes interested in initiative. - Northwest - Palouse - Southwest - Big Bend
HOOP HOUSES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lengthen the growing season and improve plant condition and quality goals on cropland using High Tunnels and associated practices.•• Yes interested in initiative. - Northeast - Northwest - Palouse - Southwest - Big Bend
NATIONAL WATER QUALITY INITIATIVE - LANDSCAPE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Yakima Basin - need to bring funds here to address water quality and habitat concerns. In concert with Yakima Basin Integrated Plan concepts. Wildlife acres will differ from crop acres. Wildlife could be 1-10 acres. Crop would be more like 40 acres. Treatment acres estimated for crop only. Success of a wildlife program would be dependent on partnership collaboration, in particular YN and local CDs. Unsure of how to quantify units - would it be one along a reach of a stream, or many???• Yes interested in initiative. - Northeast - Northwest - Southwest
ORGANIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To assist Organic proudcers as well as those transitioning to organic, in improving their• Increase implementation of practices that improve soil, water, plant, animal, and other resources on organic operations.• To improve ground water quality in WRIA 33 & 36•• Soil Health improvement through residue mangement, crop rotation and crop diversity. Benefits soil erosion and air quality concerns. Monitoring and education through this Priority Concern recommended by the West Palouse Team Local Work Group.• Provide technical assistance and program funds to organic farmers. Use current eligible practices list PLUS seasonal high tunnel.• Yes interested in initiative. - Northeast - Northwest - Palouse - Southwest
SAGE GROUSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To improve sage grouse habitat while maintaining ranches as working lands.

LWG July, 2014

National Initiatives FY 15 Considerations



Initiaives

Questions

SAGE GROUSE

- Conserve, protect and enhance sage grouse habitat. Need to somehow provide options that are more desirable for private land owners. Private land owners do not have enough land to defer grazing for the benefit of SG. Need to provide a reciprical grazing option (they want to have access to public land to utilize for grazing when private land is being deferred for SG. Only other option would be to reduce herd size, which is not profitable for them to improve SG habitat.
 - Protection of sage grouse habitat in Adams and lincoln counties. Improved range conditions for livestock production.
 - Enhance Sage grouse habitat in parts of Grant and Kittitas Counties
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LWG July, 2014

State Initiatives FY 15 Considerations



Initiaives

Questions

PSHIP (SALMON RECOVERY)

- Increase the implementation of practices that aide the the recovery of the species and improve essential fish habitat as well as use our easement programs to target the preservation of agricultural land where habitat is threatened.
- Yakima Basin - need to bring funds here to address water quality and habitat concerns. In concert with Yakima Basin Integrated Plan concepts. Success of a wildlife program would be dependent on partnership collaboration, in particular YN and local CDs. Unsure of how to quantify units - would it be one along a reach of a stream, or many???
- To improve salmonid habitat targeting WRIA 32 & 35
- Implement recommendations set forth in the Yakima Integrated Plan, specifically those related to Fish Habitat Enhancement and Enhanced Water Conservation. Kittitas County, upper Yakima watershed including the mainstem Yakima River and tributaries: Cle Elum River, Teanaway River, Swauk Creek, Taneum Creek, Manastash Creek, Wilson/Naneum Creeks and other smaller tributaries.
Partners: WDOE, WDFW, WSCC, WDOT, WDNR, WSU, Yakama Nation, USF&W, USFS,BOR,NOAA-NMFS, TU, WWT, NRCS,etc.
- Yes, interested in PSHIP - Northwest - Snake River - Southwest

RCPP

- To improve irrigation efficiency to return in-stream flows for fish habitat.
- Implement the Multi-species General Conservation Plan to protect landowners from accidental take of sensitive and protected species, by completing RMS level plans which will result in issuance of Section 10 permits to participating landowners
- Optional, incentive-based approach to protecting critial areas while promoting agriculture. Chelan County has received funding to develop a VSP work plan
- Implement a CIG program on cover crops for producers in north central Washington to identify cover crop species that are effective in our area, as well as how they affect moisture levels of cash crops
- Develop and implement erosion control and bank stability projects that create complexity, habitat, and stabilize highly erosive river banks
- Installation of rock barbs instream, planting of the re-sloped bank and livestock exclusion fence
- Resotre and protect several miles of Fiddle Creek from its source to confluence with the Columbia River at Coulee Dam
- This project will improve instream flow in the flow-impaired lower 4.5 miles of the Twisp River by adding 11 cfs. This project will prevent fish injury and mortality associated with MVID's Twisp River pushup dam, fish screen operations, and the stranding of redds and juveniles in the MVID West Canals intake canal and fish return channel. It will provide a reliable water supply to foster continuing agriculture in the Methow Vallev.
- work with Ditch Company to upgrade their system to an on-demand pressurized system, keeping more water instream in the Wenatchee River and reduing power costs

LWG July, 2014

State Initiatives FY 15 Considerations



Initiatives

Questions

RCPP

- Conduct fire risk and abatement assessments of private lands, focused primarily in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) of Okanogan County and provide landowners with plans and specification to reduce their risk to catastrophic fire while improve wildland health
- Develop and implement livestock management plans and conservation practices that protect water quality
- Work with landowners along specific streams with threatened and endangered anadromous fish species to install forested riparian buffers which increase complexity, bank stability, and shading and habitat for aquatic species.
- Riparian Restoration, Weed Control, Sediment Control, Streambank Stabilization
- riparian planting, weed removal, exclusion fencing (not sure if NRCS requires complete livestock exclusion from buffers, but Ecology does for any 319 / Centennial funded projects), stream bank stabilization (sloping, staking, reveg, other), wildfire (forests primarily)
- riparian vegetation, exclusion fencing, stream bank stabilization, erosion, sediment control, nutrient runoff, technical assistance to small acreage landowners
- Evaluate and assist agricultural producers, primarily irrigators, with on-farm energy efficiency improvements
- Develop and implement erosion control projects on stream banks and near surface water lands to reduce sediment delivery to the stream
- Construction of a small stormwater retention/detention facility and repair of existing berm
- Come to a common understanding of mission, terminology, goals and purpose
- Complete wetland inventory project started by UW. Interpretation of data from remote-sensing mapping needed to build an aquatic resources map
- Increase in-stream flow by approximately 1.5 cfs by changing the point of diversion and upgrading the irrigation system
- Installation of boulder clusters in channel, LWD on channel margins, side channel improvements & riparian restoration
- Increase the implementation of practices that improve habitat for listed prairie species as well as protect important habitat using conservation easements on agricultural land.
- Yakima Basin - need to bring funds here to address water quality and habitat concerns. In concert with Yakima Basin Integrated Plan concepts. Wildlife acres will differ from crop acres. Wildlife could be 1-10 acres. Crop would be more like 40 acres. Treatment acres estimated for crop only. Success of a wildlife program would be dependent on partnership collaboration, in particular YN and local CDs. Unsure of how to quantify units - would it be one along a reach of a stream, or many???
- Start Soil Health initiative on the Big Bend Team to address soil erosion issues related to sheet, wind and rill erosion.
- Yes, interested in RCPP - Northwest - Palouse - Snake River - West Palouse - Southwest

LWG July, 2014

State Initiatives FY 15 Considerations



Initiaives

Questions

SENTINEL LAND

- Increase the implementation of practices that improve habitat for listed praire species as well as protect important habitat using conservation easements on agricultural land.
- Eaton ranch, work with ranch owners, KCCD, DoD and others to secure land as it relates to sage grouse habitat.

SHELLFISH

- Increase implementation of practices that address applicable resource concerns identified in the aquaculture industry.
- SW WA, which includes Willapa Bay will participate in the Shellfish Initiative. It will use the state provided list of payment schedules and ranking tools (note that the description text does not refer to the Shellfish initiative).
- Yes, interested in shellfish - Northwest

WILDFIRE

- If a fire were to occur this initiative would be needed and so is considered a priority initiative for this NE LWG .
 - Wildland Urban Interface - already collaborating with partners on this. Community Wildfire Protections Plans. Firewise, DNR. Need to have this option when unpredicted wildfires burn on natural range land. Estimated treatment areas will greatly depend on the size of the fire, so this is a very "ballpark" number.
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LWG July, 2014

Local Projects FY 15 Considerations



Initiatives

Questions

CERTAIN GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS

- Fully develop the Sentinel Lands program in to a functionally funded program.
- Any of the 7 elements of the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan.
- Implement recommendations set forth in the Yakima Integrated Plan, specifically those related to Fish Habitat Enhancement and Enhanced Water Conservation. Kittitas County, upper Yakima watershed including the mainstem Yakima River and tributaries: Cle Elum River, Teanaway River, Swauk Creek, Taneum Creek, Manastash Creek, Wilson/Naneum Creeks and other smaller tributaries.
Partners: WDOE, WDFW, WSCC, WDOT, WDNR, WSU, Yakama Nation, USF&W, USFS, BOR, NOAA-NMFS, TU, WWT, NRCS, etc.

CERTAIN INDUSTRY

- To assist producers with EPA/DOE violation issues. CAFO or Streamside grazing issues.
Partners could include: Conservation districts, WDFW, Cattlemens assoc.
- Conduct outreach to our crop farmers and increase program participation.
- Perennial ground cover in the West Palouse Team area. This Local Work Group priority would explore all options to treat cropland (Wheat Industry) soil erosion by water and wind. Treatment of critical areas through grass buffers strips, filter strips and field borders will also benefit wildlife. Perennial wheat variety research, trails and test plots. For use in transportation corridors to prevent reduced visibility during wind events. Also to provide crop production on critical area, treatment without retiring land from production. Encouraging alternative uses of expiring Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) grass so the cover remains for livestock production.

CERTAIN SPECIES OF CONCERN

- Douglas County MSGCP - Foster Creek CD has been over ten years in the making of this plan which addresses 4 species of concern including Sage Grouse, Sharp-tail Grouse, Pygmy Rabbit & Washington Ground Squirrel. In coordination with USFWS, FCCD will provide high level RMS conservation plans with specific habitat requirements to landowners interested. These plans will then go to USFWS for approval and the participating landowners will be granted Section 10 "take" permits accordingly. FCCD requires NRCS assistance in funding, training on Conservation Planning and outreach activities. All landowners in Douglas County are eligible to participate
- Bryony sp. treatment. Bryony alba is a vigorous perennial vine resembling Kudzu in its habit--forming dense mats which shade out all vegetation it grows upon. Major destructive potential to native vegetation, forest communities, and urban horticulture. Berries are toxic to humans. The dense mats shade out critical shrubby habitat in upland areas which are already endangered in the Palouse LWG non-forested lands.
- Develop programs and tools to address both existing and emerging ESA issues that protects and improves habitat on working lands.

OUTREACH

- CREP- Build awareness and interest in newly-eligible areas of the south Palouse LWG area.
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LWG July, 2014

Local Projects FY 15 Considerations



Initiaives	Questions
OUTREACH	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure accurate information about cover crop research locally is distributed.• Increase program participation through a process that determines customer needs, adapts the program where possible, and conducts outreach to underserved groups. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Soil Health improvement through residue management, crop rotation and crop diversity. Benefits soil erosion and air quality resource concerns. Monitoring and education through this project is recommended by the West Palouse Team Local Work Group.• Kittitas County Firewise Program, partner support. NRCS funding to help implement recommendations set forth in the producer's Plans. Scope: over 200 ac of private forest lands. Partners:WDNR, Kittitas County Fire Marshal's office, and Kittitas County Fire District No. 7., NRCS
SPECIFIC RESOURCE CONCERN	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Okanogan CD has proposed a CIG for implementing cover crop trials in Okanogan, Douglas, Lincoln & Grant Counties. They have garnered interest from 16 landowners and intend to do replicated cover crop trials with moisture monitoring and alternate mixes in different seasons. Landowners have specifically asked for these trials and measurements to determine how viable cover crops are in the area and if they can work on their farms.• Cascadia CD - Colockum Creek restoration. Installation of in-stream rock barbs, livestock exclusion fencing & habitat restoration along 100' of Colockum creek, which supports steelhead. Cascadia CD is in need of additional cost-share assistance for this project• Water conservation and Soil moisture & other resource concerns such as plant diversity, legumes into rotation and others. Soil Conditioning and soil health with Cover Crops, water management, nutrient management. Potential Partners = Participating hay growers, cattlement, farmers market, fish & wildlife, DOE, Sewer districts, organic producers, diaries, municipal districts. grain producers. conservation districts, WDFW, Phesants Forever, NWTF,• To address Forestry Health. It would involve pre-commercial thinning, pruning and all over forest stand improvements. Potential partners would be the Forest Service, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation Districts.• CRP Takeout to Direct Seed cropand agronomic systems without plow-out or burn-out to qualify for FA programs.• Lower Yakima Basin Ground water - GW testing and monitoring, IWM, pond monitoring (include Yakima and Benton Counties)• Rangeland condition in Yakama Nation - horses causing habitat degradation. Practices to reduce horse numbers, improve habitat.
WATERSHED PLANNING	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Methow Basin Flow Enhacement project initiated through AWEP & CCPI. NRCS has committed an additional \$326,000 to the last year and has a backlog of applications. Contracts awarded for critical stream/river reaches for impelmenting water saving practices which will return water in-stream for anadramous fish.

LWG July, 2014

Local Projects FY 15 Considerations



Initiaives

WATERSHED PLANNING

Questions

- Provide funding source for CDs to work with those counties of the LWG that have "opted in" to complete and implement Washington state's Voluntary Stewardship Program VSP.
 - Walla Walla Basin (Walla Wall), Ten Mile and Asotin Creek (Asotin County).
-