

Conservation Activity Evaluation Tool

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM USED FOR ALL MN NIPF/AGLAND RANKING POOLS (NE, NW, SE, & SW)

CSP-2019-1_MN - MN NIPF_Farmstead

Soil Erosion

Sheet and Rill Erosion

Planning Criteria	Planning Cr	riteria Met
Permanent ground cover > 90% and slope less than 10%; OR, The water erosion rate is less than or equal to T.	Yes	No 🗌
Evaluation Tests	Evaluation 7	Γest Met
All non-traffic areas are vegetated.	Yes	No
Classic Gully Erosion		
Planning Criteria	Planning Cr	iteria Met
Classic gullies are not present; Or, Classic gully management is adequate to stop the progression of head cutting and widening and offsite impacts are minimized by vegetation and/or structures.	Yes	No 🗌
Evaluation Tests	Evaluation 7	Γest Met
Classic Gullies are not present; Or, All classic gullies are stabilized; AND, All areas expected to have high erosion rates are stable.	Yes	No 🗌



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Soil Quality Degradation

Compaction

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met	
Soil compaction is not a problem: AND, Activities do not cause soil compaction problems AND can be documented with prior conservation planning or other on-site evaluation methods.	Yes	No
Evaluation Tests	Evaluation 7	Γest Met
Soil compaction is limited to roads, trails, and landings; AND, Roads, trails, and landings are properly maintained as to not cause associated resource concerns.	Yes	No 🗌



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Excess Water

Runoff and Flooding and Ponding

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met	
Runoff, flooding, and ponding is managed to minimize the impact on conservation measures and/or farmstead areas.	Yes	No 🗌
Evaluation Tests	Evaluation 7	Γest Met



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Water Quality Degradation

Nutrients in Surface Water

	Planning Criteria	Planning Crit	eria Met
	Organic or inorganic nutrients are not applied and AFO/CAFO is not present; OR, Nutrient and amendment applications are based on soil or tissue tests and nutrient budgets for realistic yields; AND, Manure is managed and stored to eliminate off-site movement; AND, Conservation practices and management activitiess are in place to minimize surface water impacts.	Yes	No
	Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Te	st Met
	Manure and untreated runoff from animal pens, feedlots, or similar AFO/CAFO is stopped from entering nearby streams, drainage ditches, and irrigation ditches.	Yes	No
Excess Pathogens and Chemicals from Manure, Bio-solids or Compost Applications in Surface Water			
	Planning Criteria	Planning Crit	eria Met
	Potential sources of pathogens or pharmaceuticals are not applied on the land; OR, Organic materials are applied, stored, and/or handled to mitigate negative impacts to surface water sources.	Yes	No
	Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Te	st Met
	Livestock access to stream is controlled; OR, Livestock are limited to small watering or crossing areas.	Yes	No
	Animal pens, feedlots, or similar AFO/CAFO do not exist on the land management system; OR, Manure and untreated runoff from animal pens, feedlots, or similar AFO/CAFO is stopped from entering nearby streams, drainage ditches, and irrigation ditches.	Yes	No



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

Planning Criteria	Planning Crit	teria Met
Potential sources of pathogens or pharmaceuticals are not stored or applied on the land; OR, Organic materials are applied, stored, and/or handled to mitigate negative impacts to groundwater sources.	Yes	No
Evaluation Tests	Evaluation To	est Met
Water well(s) does not exist; OR, Any water well(s) is located at least 100 feet from animal pens, feedlots, or similar AFO/CAFO OR runoff from these areas is treated; OR, An impervious barrier around the well prevents seepage into the groundwater.	Yes	No
Excessive Sediment in Surface Water		
Planning Criteria	Planning Crit	teria Met
There are no untreated sources of erosion and streams or shoreline are not on or adjacent to site; OR, 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 To	est Met
All temporary or permanent rills and gullies are stabilized; OR, Temporary or permanent rills and gullies do not exist.	Yes	No 🗌



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<u>Degraded Plant Condition</u>

Inadequate Structure and Composition

	Planning Criteria	Planning Crite	eria Met
	Plant communities contain adequate diversity, composition and structure to support desired ecological functions for the ecological site.	Yes	No
	Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Te	st Met
	The current plants provide the desired habitat structure and composition. State identified invasive plants and noxious weeds are controlled.	Yes	No 🗌
Ex	cessive Plant Pest Pressure		
	Planning Criteria	Planning Crite	eria Met
	Plant pest damage to plants is below economic or environmental thresholds; AND, plant pests, including noxious and invasive species are managed.	Yes	No 🗌
	Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Te	st Met
	Invasive and noxious weeds are controlled or are not present.	Yes 🗍	No 🗀



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Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat

Inadequate Habitat - Food

	Planning Criteria	Planning Crit	eria Met
	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 Te	est Met
	Plants provide nectar and pollen sources for pollinators and beneficial insects as well as providing adequate food for browsing animals.	Yes	No
<u>In</u>	adequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter		
	Planning Criteria	Planning Crit	eria Met
	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 management practices are in place that meet or exceed species or guild-specific habitat model thresholds; OR, habitat cover is of available quality and extent to support requirements for the species of interest.	Yes	No
	Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Te	est Met
	Plant growth and cover is managed to develop and maintain habitat to help chosen wildlife species. (see State Wildlife Action Plan)	Yes	No



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Inadequate Habitat - Habitat Continuity (Space)

Planning Criteria	Planning Cri	iteria Met
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 target species.	Yes	No
Evaluation Tests	Evaluation T	Test Met
Connectivity between food resources and cover and shelter is provided for the target wildlife species. (see State Wildlife Action Plan)	Yes	No



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Inefficient Energy Use

Farming/Ranching Practices and Field Operations

Planning Criteria	Planning Cr	iteria Met
On-farm renewable energy and/or energy conserving practices have been implemented and energy savings can be documented by operational adherence to an NRCS approved Energy Audit or the use of various energy saving calculators.	Yes	No
Evaluation Tests	Evaluation T	Test Met
Energy loss from lighting, drying, refrigeration, cooling, heating, or building insulation has been improved.	Yes	No 🗌
Pumps, motors, wells, etc. located on the land management system are improved efficiency models	Yes	No 🗌