

New Mexico

Conservation Security Program

Benchmark Condition Inventory

**For Agricultural
Operation:** _____

Completed on: _____

1. Ag Operation Owner and Operator Information

A listing of the operator and all landowners for the ag operation is needed, with contact information. The information is needed for verifying eligibility of the applicant and participants. This format can be used or any other format that provides the needed information.

Name of Landowner(s) _____

Name of Land Manager(s) _____

Business or Farm Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

County _____ Zip Code _____

Phone Numbers Home _____

Business _____

Cell _____

E-mail Address _____

Other conservation contracts (Check all that apply)

WHIP EQIP CRP FRPP Other _____

3. Ag Operation Location Map

The form consists of a large rectangular area defined by a solid black border. Inside this area is a grid of dashed lines. The grid is composed of 10 vertical columns and 10 horizontal rows, creating a total of 100 small square cells. In the top right corner of the grid, there is a compass rose icon. The compass rose is circular with a blue outer ring and a yellow inner circle. It has four black lines extending from the center to the top, bottom, left, and right, representing the cardinal directions. The letter 'N' is positioned above the top line of the compass rose.

4. Stewardship Plan Map

Farm Map Legend

 Property Boundary	 Road	 Fence	 Homestead
 Stream	 Field Number	 Well	 Spring
 Water	 Ditch	 Pipeline	 Trough



6. Cropland Practices Worksheet

ESSENTIAL CROPLAND PRACTICES			
Practice Name	Practice Code	Existing	Planned
Conservation Cropping Rotation	328		
One of the following:			
• Residue management	344		
• Seasonal; Residue management, Mulch-Till	329B		
• Residue management, No-till & Strip-Till	329A		
• Residue management Ridge-Till	329C		
Pest Management (<i>if pests are controlled</i>)	595		
Nutrient Management (<i>if fertilizer or manure is used</i>)	590		
Water Management (<i>if irrigated</i>)	449		
NEEDED and/or DESIRABLE Practices			
Practice Name	Practice Code	Existing	Planned
Anionic Polyacrylamide (PAM) Erosion Control	450		
Chiseling and Sub-soiling	324		
Conservation Cover	327		
Contour Farming	330		
Contour Orchard and Other Fruit Area	331		
Cross Wind Ridges	589A		
Cross Wind Trap Strips	589C		
Field Border (Buffer)	386		
Filter Strip (Buffer)	393		
Grassed Waterway (Buffer)	412		
Heavy Use Area Protection	561		
Herbaceous Wind Barriers (Buffer)	503		
Irrigation Land Leveling	464		
Irrigation System – (Several)	441, 442, 443, & 447		
Irrigation Water Conveyance – (Several)	Many		
Mulching	484		
Sediment Basin	350		
Structure for Water Control	587		
Surface Roughening	609		
Terrace	600		
Tree/Shrub Establishment	612		
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	645		
Water Well	642		
Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (Buffer)	380		

Additional Comments/Observations:

II. RANGE AND PASTURE

3. Grazing Monitoring Record - Range

Grazing Record - Range							
Field Name							
Year or Season					Total Acres		
Livestock Type	Livestock Number	Date In	Date Out	Days Grazed	Animal Units	AUMs (Days x Aus/30.4)	Use Class Percent
				XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	
				XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	
				XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	
				XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	
				XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	
				XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	
Totals		X	X	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	X

Grazing Record - Range							
Field Name							
Year or Season					Total Acres		
Livestock Type	Livestock Number	Date In	Date Out	Days Grazed	Animal Units	AUMs (Days x Aus/30.4)	Use Class Percent
				XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	
				XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	
				XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	
				XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	
				XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	
				XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	
Totals		X	X	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	X

4. Grazing Record – Pasture

Grazing Record - Pasture							
Field Name							
Year or Season					Total Acres		
Soil Test (year)					Forage type		
Fertilizer-date applied					Fertilizer type		
Livestock Type	Livestock Number	Last Irrigation	Date In	Forage Height	Date Out	Forage Height	Notes

Grazing Record - Pasture							
Field Name							
Year or Season					Total Acres		
Soil Test (year)					Forage type		
Fertilizer-date applied					Fertilizer type		
Livestock Type	Livestock Number	Last Irrigation	Date In	Forage Height	Date Out	Forage Height	Notes

Additional Comments/Observations:

8. Pasture and Rangeland Practices Worksheet

ESSENTIAL RANGELAND PRACTICES			
Practice Name	Practice Code	Existing	Planned
Prescribed Grazing	528a		
Water (Natural Water or Watering Facilities)	614 etc.		
NEEDED and/or DESIRABLE Practices			
Practice Name	Practice Code	Existing	Planned
Access Road	560		
Animal Trails and Walkways	575		
Brush Management	314		
Critical Area Planting	342		
Diversion	362		
Fence	382		
Firebreak	394		
Grade Stabilization Structure	410		
Grazing Land Mechanical Land Treatment	548		
Pest Management	595		
Pipeline	516		
Pond	378		
Pond Sealing or lining	521		
Prescribed Burning	338		
Pumping Plant for Water Control	533		
Range Planting (EQIP)	550		
Spring Development	574		
Streambank and Shoreline Protection	580		
Structures for Water Control	587		
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	645		
Water Harvesting Catchments	636		
Water Spreading	640		
Water Well	642		
Wetland Enhancement	659		
Wetland Restoration	657		
Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management	644		
Wildlife Watering Facility	648		
Windbreak Shelterbelt Establishment	380		
Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation	650		

Additional Comments/Observations:

III. IRRIGATION SYSTEM INVENTORY

1. Irrigation System Screening Worksheet.

Field Number					
System type – From Table 1.					
Measurement Method – From Table 2.					
Scheduling Method – From Table 3.					
Water Control – From Table 4.					
Water Conveyance- From Table 5.					
Land Slope – From Table 6.					
Tail water Capture and Reuse – From Table 7.					

Field Number					
System type – From Table 1.					
Measurement Method – From Table 2.					
Scheduling Method – From Table 3.					
Water Control – From Table 4.					
Water Conveyance- From Table 5.					
Land Slope – From Table 6.					
Tail water Capture and Reuse – From Table 7.					

IV. VISUAL RIPARIAN ASSESSMENT TOOL

NEW MEXICO STREAM VISUAL ASSESSMENT PROTOCOL RIPARIAN ASSESSMENT STANDARD SCORE SHEET

Date: _____

County: _____ Geographic Coordinates or UTM's: _____

Land Ownership Status: (Federal) (State) (Private) check the appropriate status

Name of Land Owner: _____

Identify the Tract or Field Where the Scoring Occurred: _____

Name of the Stream or River: _____

Names of Field Scoring Members: _____

Attach Map of Site and Identify the Different Reaches

Available Points	Points Scored	HYDROLOGIC
10		Hydrologic Alteration
10		Channel Condition
10		Bank Stability
5		Riparian Zone Width
5		Active or Stable Beaver Dams
40		SUB TOTAL (A)

Available Points	Points Scored	SOILS - EROSION AND DEPOSITION FACTORS
10		Soil Characteristics / Rooting Medium
10		Exposed or Bare Ground
10		Topographic Variance or Surface Expression on Floodplain
5		Streambank Rock Armoring
5		Point Bar Revegetation
40		SUB TOTAL (B)

Available Points	Points Scored	VEGETATION FACTORS
10		Diverse Age Class Distribution of Trees
10		Shrub Regeneration
10		Total Ground Cover of Grasses and Forbs
10		Percent of the Streambank with a Deep, Binding Root Mass
10		Total Area Occupied by Undesirable Herbaceous Species
50		SUB TOTAL (C)

Available Points	Points Scored	
40		SUB TOTAL (A)
40		SUB TOTAL (B)
50		SUB TOTAL (C)
130		TOTAL

REMARKS:

V. WILDLIFE HABITAT

This check sheet is used to assess wildlife habitat on the Ag operation. Identify all practices that apply to your farm or ranch. Show the location of the practices on the stewardship map and list the tract and field numbers to which the identified practice applies.

Tracts	Fields
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Cropland Tillage System

Tracts	Fields	Description
		No-Till System - No soil disturbing activities other than planting
		Minimum Tillage System - at least 30 % crop residue cover year-long
		Reduced Tillage System - at least 30% crop residue cover over winter
		Conventional Tillage system - less than 30% crop residue cover over winter

Uncultivated Areas including pivot corners, field borders, windbreaks, etc not including hay fields.

Tracts	Fields	Percentage
		less than 10% of assessment area
		10-14% of assessment area
		14-25% of assessment area
		25-50% of assessment area

Winter Cover Areas

Of the uncultivated areas identified above, what percent is in winter cover including trees, brush, shelterbelts, cattails/bulrushes, etc.

Tracts	Fields	Percentage
		less than 10%
		10-25%
		25-50%
		50-100%

Nesting Cover Areas

Of the uncultivated areas identified above, what percent is in nesting cover including tall grass, grass/legume mix, grass/brush mix?

Tracts	Fields	Percentage
		less than 10%
		10-25%
		25-50%
		50-100%

Herbaceous Vegetation Management

On the uncultivated areas identified above, identify which management technique is utilized on these areas. Check all that apply.

- Specifically managed for wildlife nesting/ brood/roosting cover, i.e. management activities (haying, grazing, burning, disking) are conducted outside of the primary nesting season [see practice standard 645] and only used as tools to restore plant vigor and are generally excluded.
- Herbaceous cover is in a long-term set-aside program.
- Hayed or grazed or burned no more than once in every 3 years and after July 15th.
- Hay cut only once per year between July 15th and August 10th with at least 10 inches of standing cover left over winter.
- Grazed only after June 1st with at least 10 inches of standing cover left over winter.
- Hay cut only once per year between July 1st and July 15th with at least 7 inches of cover left over winter.
- Grazed only after July 1st with at least 7 inches of standing cover left over winter.
- Hay cut only once per year prior to July 1st with at least 4 inches of cover left standing over winter.
- Grazed prior to June 1st with at least 4 inches of cover left standing over winter.
- Hay cut more than once per year with the first cutting in June.
- Grazed prior to May 1st.
- Season-long, continuous grazing
- Annual burning of ditch banks/ roadsides
- Noxious Weeds present

Habitat Interspersion

Distance from center of open field to permanent cover of 3 or more acres such as trees/brush, undisturbed herbaceous vegetation, marshland, etc is

		less than 400 feet
		400 - 1320 feet
		1321 - 1800 feet
		greater than 1800 feet

Wetland Habitat

		No wetland modifications
		Some minor modifications
		Major modifications
		Wetlands protected by vegetative buffer
		Wetland plants present and left undisturbed
		Wetland area is occasionally grazed
		Wetland area is occasionally hayed
		Wetland area is cultivated
		Wetland area is frequently grazed
		Wetland area is frequently hayed

Riparian Habitat (stream area)

Identify plant types present in stream area.

		grass/forbs
		low shrubs
		tall shrubs over 8 ft tall
		Trees
		Russian Olive
		Salt Cedar
		Access to riparian area by livestock is limited
		Livestock have free access to riparian area.

Stream Habitat

		No channel/stream bank alterations
		Irrigation ditches have fish screens or passage structures
		Drop structures, dams or diversions that inhibit fish movement

Stock Ponds

		Pond is completely fenced to limit livestock access and water is piped away.
		Pond is partially fenced to limit livestock access and permanent vegetation maintained on at least half of the shoreline area.
		Pond area is only grazed 1 year in 3 or less
		Shoreline is trampled and vegetation removed by grazing

Grazing Management

		No livestock grazing on grasslands
		Grazing system with two or more growing seasons with no grazing in part of the operation.
		Rotation grazing system with rest periods
		Season long, continuous grazing

Fences

		Top wire is 42 inches or lower
		Bottom wire is 14-16 inches above the ground
		Woven wire fence

Tanks and Troughs

		Water available year round
		Access ramps in and out
		At least one reliable water source per section
		Distance between reliable water sources no more than 1 mile
		Distance between reliable water sources no more than 4 miles

Additional Comments or Observations: _____

Certification Statement

The information provided in this packet is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that if requested, I will need to submit a minimum of two years of documentation to support the information I have provided here.

Name: _____ Date: _____

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