USDA

United States Department of Agriculture

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) directs farm bill funding through conservation programs throughout the nation. In Washington, local working groups help to prioritize resource concerns for their immediate area. These priorities are submitted to the state level for consideration, but can also be used to direct more localized funds as well as influence partner organization priorities.

The below survey is designed to be completed by landowners, property managers, and stakeholders that reside in Chelan, Douglas, and Okanogan counties. The intent of this survey is to help direct Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) priorities for funding and technical assistance in future years. Responses to this survey will be kept anonymous and should be emailed to NRCS District Conservationist, Sarah Troutman, at sarah.troutman@usda.gov . Please feel free to share this survey with neighboring landowners. Survey responses should be submitted by **May 15, 2022.**

Below you will find 20 broad resource concerns for consideration. Please rate only the top 5, in order of importance. 1 should indicate the most important resource concern that needs treatment in our three-county area. If you have any questions, please contact your local NRCS office using the contact information below.

RATING	RESOURCE CONCERN	DESCRIPTION
	SOIL – erosion (by wind or water)	This erosion concern can be created by detachment of soil particles that move across the landscape and form rills, gullies, or moved through the air through wind.
	Soil - health	Management-induced degradation of water stable soil. Can include instability of aggregates, management -induced soil compaction, depletion of soil organic matter, concentrations of salts leading to salinity issues that impact production and soil organism habitat loss. These all can result in surface crusting; reduced water infiltration, water holding capacity, and aeration; increased ponding and flooding; increased soil erosion and plant stress.
	Water – ground water depletion	Underground water is used at a rate higher than aquifer recharge which can result is water well failures, increased energy to use groundwater and can create eventual loss of surface water from ponds, seeps, and springs
	Water – surface water depletion	Surface water is used at a rate that is detrimental to ecological functions or other identified uses when rate of use exceeds surface water body replenishment. Surface water depletion is commonly caused by a combination of human activities, such as landscape modification and lands use changes, which affect the distribution, quantity, and quality of water resources. Surface water depletion can also occur naturally because of changes in our climate.
	Water – inefficient irrigation water use	Irrigation water is not stored, delivered, scheduled, and/or applied efficiently.
	Water – Nutrients in ground and surface water	Nutrients (organic and inorganic) stored, concentrated, or applied are transported to receiving surface waters and ground waters in quantities that degrade water quality and limit its use for intended purposes.
	Water – Pesticides in ground and 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 – Pathogens and chemicals in ground and surface water	Pathogens, pharmaceuticals, leachate, and chemicals from manure, biosolids or compost are transported to receiving waters in quantities that degrade water quality and limit its use for intended purposes.

	Water – Sediment transported to surface water	Offsite transport of sediment to surface water degrades water quality and limits use for intended purposes. Sediment carried to surface water can clog channels, reduce reservoir capacity, cover fish spawning grounds, and reduce downstream water quality. Sediment can make the water more turbid and restrict light penetration which impacts aquatic plants and harm aquatic organisms.
	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 (smoke and dust)	Direct emissions of particulate matter (PM)—dust and smoke—as well as the formation of fine particulate matter in the atmosphere from other agricultural emissions—ammonia, oxides of nitrogen (NOx), and volatile organic compounds (VOCs)—can cause multiple negative environmental impacts. PM can be directly emitted by combustion (engines, fires), chemical pesticide drift, field operations, unpaved roads, wind, and animal activity.
	Plant – Productivity and Health	Improper fertility, management, or plants not adapted to site negatively impact plant productivity, vigor, and/or quality. Natural events such as drought or cultural practices such as grazing and mowing can cause plant stress. Plants under stress are more susceptible to disease and insect damage.
	Plant – Structure and composition	Plant communities have insufficient composition and structure to achieve ecological functions and management objectives. This resource concern occurs when there is a lack of diversity of plant species within an area or an imbalance of relative abundance of plant species.
	Plant – plant pest pressure	Excessive damage to plant communities from pests such as undesired plants, insects, diseases, animals, pathogens, and nematodes.
	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	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 wildlife	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 productions goals of the kinds and classes of livestock.
	Animal – Inadequate livestock water	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 farming and ranching practices	Inefficient energy use occurs whenever machinery operates more than needed. Inefficient energy use also occurs when field operations are poorly controlled such as excessive number and inefficient passes, or excessive field inputs are required.

Please circle or highlight your county of residence, work, or interest (optional):

◯ Chelan ◯ Douglas ◯ Okanogan

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