

Attachment 1. Comparison of watershed condition assessments and land health evaluations.

| | Watershed Condition Assessment (WCA) | Land Health Evaluation |
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| Purpose | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform the identification of areas for the protection of intactness and connectivity. • Inform the prioritization of areas for restoration. • Inform the prioritization of areas for monitoring. • Inform land health standards evaluations. • Inform the planning process (e.g., AMS, affected environment). • Inform evaluations of land use plan effectiveness. • Compile national-level mapping and reporting of condition of national land health standards across watersheds. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpret WCAs and, as needed, locally available high-quality information to evaluate achievement of land health standards. • Document rationale and conclusions of standards achievement, non-achievement, and/or progress towards achievement of each standard. • Map areas where standards are achieved, making significant progress, or not achieved, where data and metrics are available. • Identify areas where land use and disturbance information should be reviewed through a causal factor determination. • Inform project-level NEPA analysis for all programs. • Identify restoration priorities and appropriate approaches. |
| Elements Addressed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource conditions relative to national land health standards. • Landscape intactness, including connectivity. • Natural and anthropogenic disturbances. • BLM ownership patterns and management influence. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achievement or non-achievement of land health standards on BLM-managed lands within subdivided units of the evaluation area. • Areas where significant progress towards achievement is being made, and how progress will be monitored. |
| Scale and area of Interest | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All lands within a watershed (HUC 10) or group of watersheds. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BLM-managed lands within the land health evaluation area. • Evaluation areas defined as landscapes, but may incorporate management boundaries. |
| Data and indicators | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core, standardized indicators for each land health standard. • Nationally standardized datasets (e.g., AIM and remote-sensing based products). • Locally available data to supplement national approach. • Infrastructure inventories and standardized intactness assessments. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WCAs. • If needed, locally available quantitative and qualitative data (BLM or stakeholder). • If needed, locally available land use information. • Land potential information. • Weather and climate data. |
| Analysis process | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be outlined in the forthcoming technical reference (TR). The analysis approach will be nationally standardized with processes for state offices to supplement results with locally available data. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May include mix of qualitative, quantitative, and descriptive approaches. • Benchmarks based on ecological potential or other criteria. • Uses preponderance of evidence and professional judgement. |
| Outputs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Condition of indicators relative to each land health standard. • Level of landscape intactness and habitat connectivity. • Types and locations of landscape-scale disturbances. • Resource protection and restoration opportunities. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land health evaluation document: data and analysis process; achievement/non-achievement, and/or significant progress towards achievement of applicable standards, for public land within evaluation area; and rationale for findings. • Spatial data for evaluation outcomes. |
| Roles and Responsibilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NOC leads TR development. • NOC completes WCAs using the nationally consistent approach. • NOC provides technical assistance with WCA data access and use. • States supplement WCAs as needed and use WCA results to inform land health evaluations and other management decisions. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NOC provides centralized storage of evaluation results. • NOC provides technical assistance and workflow tools. • State, district, and field offices determine the scale and priority for evaluating land health standards. • State, district and field offices complete land health standards evaluations. |