

**NRCS definition of Role of Local Working Groups:**

"provide recommendations to the District Conservationist on local natural resource priorities & criteria for conservation activities & programs"

**NRCS Local Work Group meetings:**

"will be conducted as an open discussion among members with focus on identifying Local natural resource concerns that can be treated using programs & activities"

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/financial/csp/?cid=stelprdb1186926>

**Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Local Working Group Questionnaire**

**In lieu of the meeting, we are asking you to fill out this questionnaire and return to the Phillips Conservation District office prior to June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022.** The questionnaire responses will be reviewed, and designated priority resource concerns will be selected for Fiscal Year 2023 USDA-NRCS conservation activities and programs. Note: thanks to all of you who filled out this questionnaire in 2021, be sure to fill out another one for 2022 even if your answers have not changed, as this will be used for fiscal year 2023 priorities.

This questionnaire can be returned to the Phillips Conservation District Office at the following address:

Phillips Conservation District      1120 US Hwy 191S, Suite 2      Malta, MT 59538

If you have any questions regarding this questionnaire, please contact either Shilo Messerly, Malta District Conservationist ([shilo.messerly@usda.gov](mailto:shilo.messerly@usda.gov)); Caitlin Gillespie ([caitlin.gillespie@usda.gov](mailto:caitlin.gillespie@usda.gov)); Dillon Moes ([dillon.moes@usda.gov](mailto:dillon.moes@usda.gov)); Abigail Northrup ([abigail.northrup@usda.gov](mailto:abigail.northrup@usda.gov)); Cora Knowles ([cora.knowles@mt.nacdnet.net](mailto:cora.knowles@mt.nacdnet.net)) or Conni French ([phillipsconservationdistrict@gmail.com](mailto:phillipsconservationdistrict@gmail.com)) by calling: (406) 654-1334 x 3.

Based on 2019-2021 Phillips County Local Work Group assessments, a list of resource concerns are on pages 3 & 4. In addition, a list of land uses is in the middle column and, in the far, right lists the potential NRCS practices to address that resource concern. **Please circle what you feel are the top 3 to 5 resource concerns needing to be addressed through NRCS programs. For your chosen resource concern, please circle the land use(s) and NRCS practices you feel are needed to address this resource concern.** For the chosen resource concerns, please write in the general geographic location (Turner, North Dodson, Frenchman, Beaver Creek, Milk River, Larb Hills, Little Rockies etc..). **Example is highlighted in yellow.** Use the references on page 2 for assistance in completing this survey.

Below is a list of references for more information related to this survey:

1. Refer to The Farmers.gov site for the Conservation Concerns Tool for assistance in choosing NRCS defined resource concerns: <https://www.farmers.gov/conservation/concerns-tool>.
2. Refer to the Montana NRCS Field Office Technical Guide Conservation Practice Standards & Support Documents for a complete list of practices <https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/#/details>.
3. Phillips County NRCS Long Range Plan and other pertinent NRCS program information can be found @ <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/mt/programs/mfc/6b775eab-e3a0-46dc-bee6-502ec90d0b1a/>
4. NRCS Land Use definitions listed below:
  - a. **Crop:** Land used primarily for the production and harvest of annual or perennial field, forage, food, fiber, crops.
  - b. **Hay:** Land on which perennial plants are managed and harvested for hay.
  - c. **Range:** Land used primarily for the production of grazing animals and a native plant community.
  - d. **Pasture:** Lands used primarily for production of livestock and composed of introduced or domesticated native forage species.

Would you like us to send you information regarding any future workshops, meetings, or NRCS Farm Bill Programs? If yes, please include your name, mailing address, and email address (if applicable) below, and we will add you to our mailing lists.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle what you feel are the top 3 to 5 resource concerns needing addressed through NRCS programs. For your chosen resource concern, please circle the land use(s) and NRCS practices you feel are needed to address this resource concern.

Example is highlighted in yellow.

**Return to the Phillips Conservation District prior to June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

FY2023 Phillips County Local Working Group Questionnaire

RESOURCE CONCERN	LAND USE	POTENTIAL PRACTICE(S) USED TO ADDRESS RESOURCE CONCERN
Inefficient irrigation water use (source water depletion)	Range , Pasture , Dryland Annual Crop, Irrigated Crop, Irrigated Hay General Geographic Location Milk River Valley	464 Land Leveling, 587 Structure for Water Control, 430 Irrigation Pipe, 388 Irrigation Field Ditch, 442 Sprinkler , Other
Aggregate instability (Soil Quality)	Range , Pasture , Dryland Annual Crop, Irrigated Crop, Irrigated Hay General Geographic Location	328 Conservation Crop Rotation, 340 Cover Crop, 386 Field Border, 393 Filter Strip, 329/345 Residue Management, 512 Pasture/Hay Planting, 550 Range Planting, 528 Prescribed Grazing, 590 Nutrient Management, 595 Integrated Pest Management, Other
Bare ground (Plant productivity and health/Degraded plant condition)	Range , Pasture , Dryland Annual Crop, Irrigated Crop, Irrigated Hay General Geographic Location	528 Prescribed Grazing, 382 Fencing, Livestock water (642 water well, 516 pipeline, 614 watering facility) Other
Compaction (Soil Quality)	Range , Pasture , Dryland Annual Crop, Irrigated Crop, Irrigated Hay General Geographic Location	328 Conservation Crop Rotation, 340 Cover Crop, 386 Field Border, 393 Filter Strip, 329/345 Residue Management, 512 Pasture/Hay Planting, 550 Range Planting, 528 Prescribed Grazing, 590 Nutrient Management, 595 Integrated Pest Management, Other
Concentration of salts or other chemicals aka Saline Seeps (Soil Quality)	Range , Pasture , Dryland Annual Crop, Irrigated Crop, Irrigated Hay General Geographic Location	328 Conservation Crop Rotation, 340 Cover Crop, 386 Field Border, 393 Filter Strip, 512 Pasture/Hay Planting, 550 Range Planting, 528 Prescribed Grazing, 590 Nutrient Management, 595 Integrated Pest Management, 610 Salinity Soil Management, Other
Conifer Encroachment (Pest Pressure &/or Feed and Forage Balance)	Range , Pasture , Dryland Annual Crop, Irrigated Crop, Irrigated Hay General Geographic Location	314 Brush Management, 384 Woody Residue Treatment, Other
Flooding (Weather resilience)	Range , Pasture , Dryland Annual Crop, Irrigated Crop, Irrigated Hay General Geographic Location	Other
Inadequate livestock shelter (livestock production limitation)	Range , Pasture , Dryland Annual Crop, Irrigated Crop, Irrigated Hay General Geographic Location	576 Livestock Shelter Structure, 382 Fence, Other
Inadequate livestock water quantity, quality and distribution	Range , Pasture , Dryland Annual Crop, Irrigated Crop, Irrigated Hay General Geographic Location	642 water well, 576 spring development, 516 pipeline, 614 watering facility, 378 Pond, Other
Inefficient irrigation water use (source water depletion)	Range , Pasture , Dryland Annual Crop, Irrigated Crop, Irrigated Hay General Geographic Location	464 Land Leveling, 587 Structure for Water Control, 430 Irrigation Pipe, 388 Irrigation Field Ditch, 442 Sprinkler , Other
Invasive Species/Noxious Weeds (Pest Pressure)	Range , Pasture , Dryland Annual Crop, Irrigated Crop, Irrigated Hay General Geographic Location	315 Herbaceous Weed Control, 595 Integrated Pest Management, 528 Prescribed Grazing, Other
RESOURCE CONCERN	LAND USE	POTENTIAL PRACTICE(S) USED TO ADDRESS RESOURCE CONCERN
Livestock Grazing Distribution ( Feed and forage balance)	Range , Pasture , Dryland Annual Crop, Irrigated Crop, Irrigated Hay General Geographic Location	528 Prescribed Grazing, 382 Fencing, Livestock water (642 water well, 516 pipeline, 614 watering facility), Other
Organic Matter Depletion (Soil Quality)	Range , Pasture , Dryland Annual Crop, Irrigated Crop, Irrigated Hay General Geographic Location	328 Conservation Crop Rotation, 340 Cover Crop, 386 Field Border, 585 Stripcropping, 393 Filter Strip, 329/345 Residue Management, 512 Pasture/Hay Planting, 550 Range Planting, 528 Prescribed Grazing, 590 Nutrient Management, 595 Integrated Pest Management, Other
Overgrazing (Feed and forage balance)	Range , Pasture , Dryland Annual Crop, Irrigated Crop, Irrigated Hay General Geographic Location	528 Prescribed Grazing, 382 Fencing, Livestock water (642 water well, 516 pipeline, 614 watering facility), Other
Overgrazing (Plant productivity and health)	Range , Pasture , Dryland Annual Crop, Irrigated Crop, Irrigated Hay General Geographic Location	528 Prescribed Grazing, 382 Fencing, Livestock water (642 water well, 516 pipeline, 614 watering facility), Other

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Plant Composition (Plant productivity and health/Degraded plant condition)	Range , Pasture , Dryland Annual Crop, Irrigated Crop, Irrigated Hay General Geographic Location _____	528 Prescribed Grazing, 382 Fencing, Livestock water (642 water well, 516 pipeline, 614 watering facility), Other _____
Seepage from Delivery Ditches (Bank erosion from streams, shorelines or water conveyance channels/Concentrated Erosion)	Range , Pasture , Dryland Annual Crop, Irrigated Crop, Irrigated Hay General Geographic Location _____	464 Land Leveling, 587 Structure for Water Control, 430 Irrigation Pipe, 388 Irrigation Field Ditch, 442 Sprinkler , Other _____
Soil organism habitat loss or degradation (Soil Quality)	Range , Pasture , Dryland Annual Crop, Irrigated Crop, Irrigated Hay General Geographic Location _____	328 Conservation Crop Rotation, 340 Cover Crop, 386 Field Border, 585 Stripcropping, 393 Filter Strip, 329/345 Residue Management, 512 Pasture/Hay Planting, 550 Range Planting, 528 Prescribed Grazing, 590 Nutrient Management, 595 Integrated Pest Management, Other _____
Threat of conversion (Long term protection of land)	Range , Pasture , Dryland Annual Crop, Irrigated Crop, Irrigated Hay General Geographic Location _____	512 Pasture/Hay Planting, 550 Range Planting, 528 Prescribed Grazing, 382 Fencing, Livestock water (642 water well, 516 pipeline, 614 watering facility), Other _____
Water Erosion	Range , Pasture , Dryland Annual Crop, Irrigated Crop, Irrigated Hay General Geographic Location _____	328 Conservation Crop Rotation, 340 Cover Crop, 386 Field Border, 585 Stripcropping, 393 Filter Strip, 329/345 Residue Management, 512 Pasture/Hay Planting, 550 Range Planting, 528 Prescribed Grazing, Other _____
Wildlife Habitat (Terrestrial habitat for wildlife and invertebrates)	Range , Pasture , Dryland Annual Crop, Irrigated Crop, Irrigated Hay General Geographic Location _____	65 Upland Wildlife Habitat Management, 528 Prescribed Grazing, 649 Structures for Wildlife, Other _____
Wind Erosion	Range , Pasture , Dryland Annual Crop, Irrigated Crop, Irrigated Hay General Geographic Location _____	328 Conservation Crop Rotation, 340 Cover Crop, 386 Field Border, 585 Stripcropping, 393 Filter Strip, 329/345 Residue Management, 512 Pasture/Hay Planting, 550 Range Planting, 528 Prescribed Grazing, Other _____

Name (Optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Are you one or more of the following (check all that apply):

- Rancher   
  Farmer   
  Private Landowner   
  Operator   
  Nonprofit Group  
 Government Agency   
 Other \_\_\_\_\_