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| **Operation Name:** |  | **Date:** |  |

► Complete this form for all acreage to be included under certification, and all operations engaged in crop and animal production including greenhouses, poultry production, and other non-field organic production systems.

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| **NOP 205.200** An operation must implement production practices that maintain or improve the natural resources and biodiversity of the operation, including soil and water quality. “Natural resources” are defined as the physical, hydrological, and biological features of the operation, including soil, water, wetlands, woodlands and wildlife. NOP Guidance 5020, Natural Resources and Biodiversity Conservation, clarifies the responsibility of certified operations to implement practices in compliance with §205.200, monitor them as appropriate, and maintain any records necessary for a certifier to verify compliance. NOP Guidance 5020 Appendix A provides examples of conservation activities that could be performed on operations to comply with this requirement. |

## biodiversity Conservation AND Natural Resource Management

1. Do you have a current conservation plan or contract? [ ]  Yes [ ]  No
	1. If Yes, select the agency(ies) and describe the conservation and management practices below.

[ ]  USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

[ ]  Farm Services Agency (FSA)

[ ]  Salmon Safe

[ ]  Soil Conservation District

[ ]  Land trust

[ ]  Other:

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1. How do you manage water for the needs of crops, livestock, native species, and riparian ecosystems?
2. I conserve water by doing the following:

[ ]  Plant regionally appropriate crops [ ]  Plant drought-tolerant natives

[ ]  Use efficient irrigation [ ]  Schedule irrigations/avoid over drafting groundwater/facilitate recharge

[ ]  Monitor soil moisture [ ]  Encourage infiltration in fields and pastures

[ ]  Locate ponds correctly (adhere to federal/state regulations)

b) I do the following to share my water resources:

[ ]  Use fish screens [ ]  Provide clean water sources for drinking/bathing/nest building

[ ]  Manage water for priority species (rare fish/ reptiles/amphibians/birds/beavers)

[ ]  Retain/restore vegetated riparian buffers/wetlands

[ ]  Protect/improve natural hydrology/ecological function of riparian areas

[ ]  Other:

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1. In non-crop, fallow, border and adjacent areas, how are you improving and/or maintaining natural resources?

 [ ]  Manage native plants/wildlife specific to the site [ ]  Wildlife-friendly fences

[ ]  Preserve/restore wildlife corridors [ ]  Leave areas as undisturbed habitat refuge

 [ ]  Preserve/restore wetlands and riparian areas [ ]  Preserve/restore grasslands and woodlands

[ ]  Native habitats not converted to farmland since certification

[ ]  Establish legal conservation areas [ ]  Replace weedy areas with native plants

[ ]  Minimize erosion [ ]  Standing deadwood/ fallen/rotting trees

[ ]  Allow degraded areas to be recolonized by noninvasive plants/wildlife

[ ]  Recognize priority species/habitat and create protection plans

[ ]  Other:

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1. How do you manage habitat for pollinators, natural enemy insects, and other wildlife throughout the production season?

[ ]  Hedgerows [ ]  Windbreaks [ ]  Raptor perches or trees at field edge [ ]  Bird or bat boxes

[ ]  Ensure a clean water source [ ]  Plant flowers interspersed with crops [ ]  Brush piles

[ ]  Implement measures to support a variety of bee species [ ]  Provide extended food supply

[ ]  Allow non-invasive plants in non-cropped, fallow, & border areas [ ]  Short, medium, and tall native habitat

[ ]  Timing of field activities (ex: delayed mowing to avoid disturbing nesting birds)

[ ]  Other:

1. What actions do you take to prevent or control invasive plant/animal species, especially those threatening natural areas?

[ ]  Learn to identify invasive plants and animals [ ]  Monitor for new introductions and control immediately

[ ]  Suppress or remove invasive species [ ]  Plant competing beneficial native plants

[ ]  Use weed & pest-free seed/planting stock/soil amendments/mulches

[ ]  State or Federal agency controls invasive species [ ]  Use grazing [ ]  Use biological control

[ ]  Use prescribed burning

[ ]  Other:

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## If you restrict wildlife from entering your production areas (for food safety requirements, crop protection, etc.) or eliminate wildlife habitat elsewhere, what practices do you use to mitigate loss of wildlife habitat or degradation of natural resources?

## [ ]  Develop or enhance habitat in other areas [ ]  Plant buffers between crop and habitat areas

##  [ ]  Leave room for habitat when using fencing (riparian or corridor)

[ ]  Other:

**[ ]** Not applicable (explain):

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1. Describe additional measures taken to conserve natural resources and enhance biodiversity:

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## How do you monitor farm biodiversity?

## [ ]  Before and after photos [ ]  Plant, animal, insect surveys [ ]  Maintain conservation maps

## [ ]  Farm logs and journals [ ]  Periodic expert evaluation and report (such as NRCS)

 [ ]  Other: