

LP 5 Site Assessment Worksheet

Name _____

Directions: Use this worksheet to evaluate parcels of land for your farm or ranch operation.

1. Describe the location and configuration of the land.

- Physical site characteristics (e.g., land orientation, boundary, size and shape of fields and parcel)

- Climate (including microclimates), weather, plant hardiness zone, and growing season

- Access point(s), adjacent land uses and neighbor relations

- Located in a rural, suburban or urban area

- Note nearby roads, markets, amenities

- Note nearby agricultural support services (e.g., veterinarians, equipment dealers, Extension office, feed and seed stores)

- Other, please describe

2. Describe the natural resources on site.

- Types of soils, specify soil characteristics and soil health, results from testing:

- Water sources (type, quantity and quality)

- Topography (e.g., slope, major land forms)

- Other natural resources (viewsheds, wetlands, forest land, presence of important habitats, including threatened and endangered species)

- Mineral and other subsurface resources

- Other, please describe:

3. Describe infrastructure and other improvements on the site.

- Barns, greenhouses/hoop house, equipment sheds, storage facilities and availability,

- Permanent crops including orchards, vineyards, fruit and nut bearing trees and bushes and flowering bushes

- Housing, farm labor housing, current tenant relations (if any)

- Processing facilities, retail facilities

- Roads and parking

- Fencing

- Wells, ponds, and irrigation systems

Utilities (electrical service, cell phone coverage, reliable internet access)

Conservation practices installed

Other, please describe:

4. Describe land use and management.

Current land cover/use (cropland, pastureland, rangeland, timberland noting types of vegetation and condition, estimated acres of each)

Past land uses

Active management of agricultural resources and/or areas needing restoration or protection from fire, flooding and landslides, etc.

Conservation plan

Other, please describe:

5. Identify property rights /limitations.

Conservation easements, other deed restrictions, utility rights of way

Water, timber, mineral or energy rights

Compliance with applicable, federal and state laws

Applicable local laws including zoning and health codes

6. Find out carrying costs.

Property taxes

Price of water

Maintaining conservation practices

Special assessments

Other, please describe: