

LAND MANAGEMENT WORKSHEETS

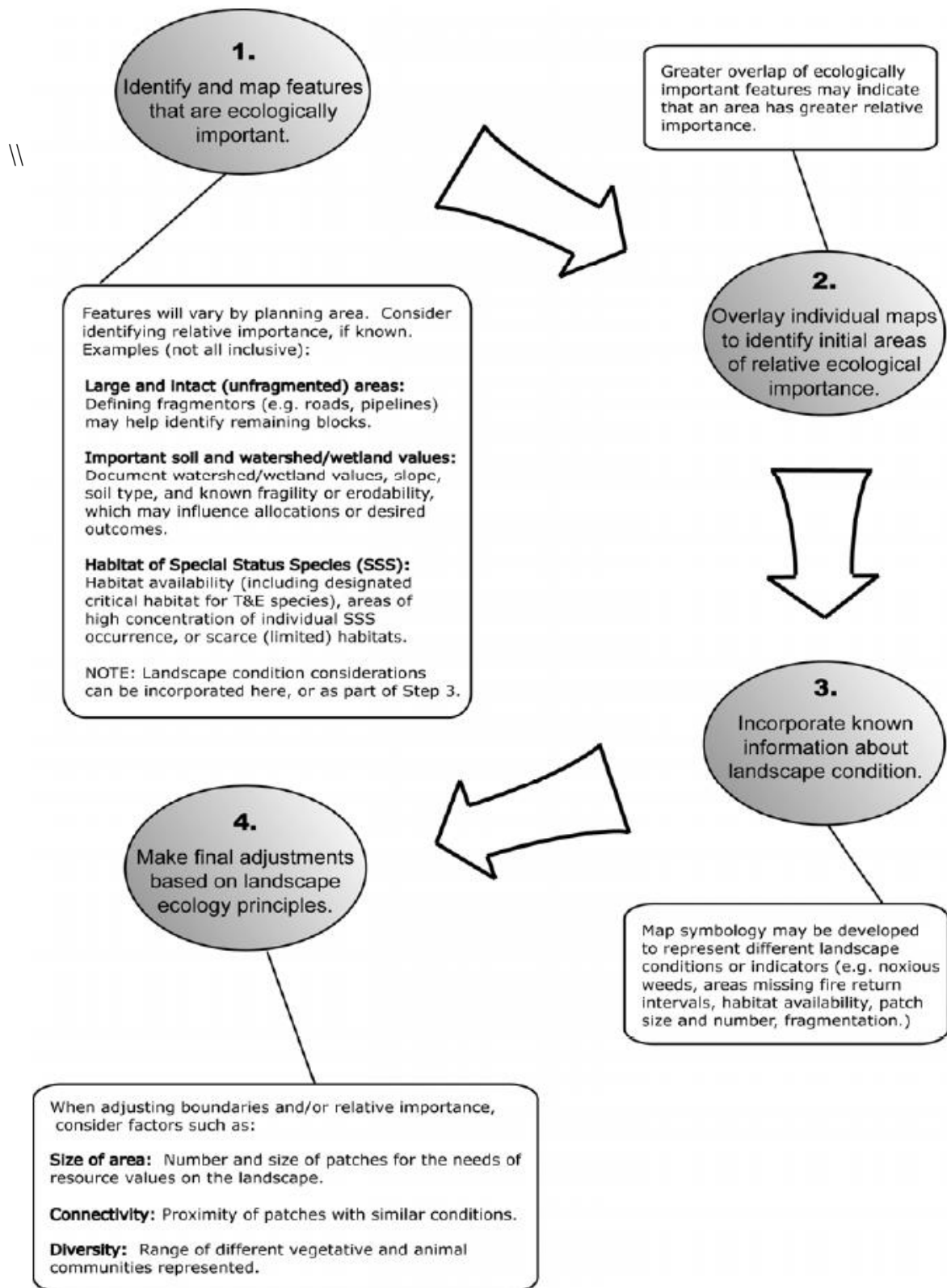
Ecoregion/Planning Area Information

Information about the ecoregion	Information about the planning area as it relates to the ecoregion
Size and general geographic location.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Orientation of the planning area within the ecoregion. ▪ Percent of the ecoregion that (1) all lands in the planning area cover and (2) BLM lands in the planning area cover.
Overall ecoregion condition (past versus present) and major issues affecting function and resource trends (i.e., fire suppression, habitat fragmentation, and invasive species).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The overall condition of the BLM lands relative to the condition of the ecoregion. ▪ Information relative to how current land use allocations and management BLM lands might be contributing to or helping to alleviate the major ecological issues of the ecoregion.
Features of the ecoregion that are unique or are particularly important to ecological condition (e.g., large blocks of grasslands or sagebrush).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The extent to which the planning area or portions within it may be ecologically important to maintaining ecosystem function.¹
¹ This information may not be available depending on the source of ecoregion information used.	

When considering resources within a planning area, consider the following five factors:

1. **Indicators.** Identify factors that describe resource condition such as ambient pollutant level, visibility, and fire regime condition class. Indicators should be quantitative whenever possible.
2. **Current Condition.** Describe the location and current condition of the resource in the planning area. Condition can be determined by comparing the value of indicator(s) to an established standard (current plan goal or objective). The scale of the analysis may extend beyond the immediate planning area boundary and encompass a logical landscape (the analysis area). For instance, the analysis can occur at different levels such as by watershed, geographic area, or region.
3. **Trends.** Describe the degree and direction of change between the present and some point in the past. Explain whether the trend is moving toward or away from the current desired condition based on the indicators. Also describe the drivers or agents of change. Note that for some resources, a desired condition has not been established or there will not be enough information to describe trends. When describing trends, note whether the trend is based on quantitative or qualitative information. For example, the trend for ambient pollutant levels most likely can be described from a quantitative standpoint; that is, based on changes in levels of criteria pollutants over time as recorded in published data. For other resources where data are not available, a qualitative approach would be used.
4. **Forecast.** Predict changes in the condition of resources given current management. Describe the agents of the anticipated change.
5. **Key features.** Describe the geographic location, distribution, areas or types of resource features that should guide land use allocation or management decisions. For example, certain areas may be particularly important to special status species habitat, or some soil types may be better able to support certain land uses than others.

One potential method for identifying areas of relative ecological importance



VOCABULARY

agents of change	erodability	planning area
ambient pollutant level	fragmentors	quantitative/qualitative
boundary	fragmentation	information
critical habitat	grasslands	sagebush
ecological issues	map symbology	slope
ecoregion	patches	watershed/wetland

Resources	Resource uses	Special designations	Social and economic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Air quality ▪ Geology ▪ Soil resources ▪ Water resources (surface and groundwater) ▪ Vegetative communities ¹ ▪ Fish and wildlife ▪ Special status species ▪ Wild horse and burros ▪ Wildland fire ecology and management ▪ Cultural resources ▪ Paleontological resources ▪ Visual resources ▪ Wilderness characteristics ▪ Cave and karst resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Facilities ▪ Forestry and woodland products ▪ Livestock grazing ▪ Minerals (leasable, locatable, salable) ▪ Recreation ▪ Renewable energy ▪ Transportation and access ▪ Utility corridors and communication sites ▪ Land tenure ▪ Land use authorizations ▪ Withdrawals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Areas of critical environmental concern ▪ Back country byways ▪ National recreation areas ▪ National trails ▪ Wild and scenic rivers ▪ Wilderness ▪ Wilderness study areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tribal interests ▪ Public safety (abandoned mines, debris flows, and hazardous materials) ▪ Social and economic conditions
¹ Vegetative communities can be identified at a variety of scales and include forests, woodlands, rangelands, riparian areas, and wetlands.			