

NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Klamath Basin SCREENING CRITERIA WORKSHEET - Fiscal Year 2004
Ground and Surface Water Conservation Initiative (GSWC)

A Screening Worksheet is Required to be Completed for Each Eligible EQIP Applicant.

Introduction:

The NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary program that promotes wise use and conservation of natural resources. Through EQIP, farmers, ranchers and other eligible land managers may receive financial and technical assistance to install or implement structural, vegetative and management practices on eligible agricultural lands. The NRCS EQIP program is authorized under provisions of legislation codified in 16 U.S.C. 3801 et seq. and the rule is published in the Federal Register, 7CFR, Part 1466. Program information can be found at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>. EQIP program activities are carried out according to a conservation plan of operations developed in cooperation with an eligible producer. Conservation plans and contracts submitted for consideration for EQIP benefits are ranked according to the degree of environmental benefit achieved when the plan is fully implemented. Those contracts with the greatest environmental benefit are eligible for funding and development of an EQIP contract. This worksheet is used by NRCS staff to screen the proposed EQIP contract and subsequently to rank the project for eligibility.

Instructions:

This screening worksheet must be completed for each eligible producer applying for EQIP program assistance in the Klamath Basin, Oregon or California. Applications will be accepted on a continuous basis; however, cut-off dates will be established for purposes of ranking and funding allocation. This screening process will allow prioritization of complete and eligible applications for further evaluation, establishment of ranking priority and which applications may be deferred for future consideration. The goal of this screening tool is to ensure that conservation technical assistance and EQIP program benefits are efficiently allocated to address priority conservation needs. The use of a screening process is authorized in Section 515.82(b) of the EQIP Manual. This screening tool assists NRCS to establish workload-related priorities. Assignment of any eligible application to a "Deferred" or lower action category does not imply denial of potential EQIP program benefits.

Required Documentation and Signature Approvals:

Completion of this worksheet and documentation does not constitute agreement to provide EQIP program benefits nor approval of an EQIP contract. If the screening indicates the application should be ranked, then person and land eligibility determinations must be completed, a complete EQIP Program Application (Signed form CCC-1200 "Conservation Program Application/Contract" and signed form CCC-1200 "Appendix") and a complete "Statewide Ranking Criteria Worksheet" must be completed. The Designated Conservationist should sign and approve the completed screening worksheet, but the applicant does not have to approve or sign this form. The original screening worksheet should be filed with the applicant case file or EQIP program file, or as appropriate.

Detailed Screening Criteria Worksheet - Required for each EQIP Applicant

Applicant Name:		County:	
Other Information:			
Evaluator Name:			
D.C. Approval:		Date approved:	

Instructions: Use for all EQIP applications where planning assistance was requested on or before December 15, 2003 (Conservation planning assistance to support fiscal year 2004 EQIP contracts must be requested prior to 12/15/03. Requests after this date are "deferred" for EQIP eligibility until the next funding cycle - FY 2005). Do not screen or rank any EQIP applications where planning assistance was not requested prior to December 15, 2003. Use of this screening tool is mandatory and should be completed prior to any local screening effort or EQIP Contract ranking. The purpose of this screening tool is to help manage workload efficiently.



NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program KLAMATH BASIN SCREENING CRITERIA WORKSHEET

Step One:	Yes	Action:	No	Action
A	Does the applicant have an active/existing contract or has the client ever had an EQIP contract in any California County? <i>(If there is no existing or prior year contract, proceed to "D")</i>	Continue to "B" & "C"		Continue to "D"
B	Is <u>any</u> practice in the active/existing EQIP contract one or more years behind schedule for installation OR is the contract out of compliance for any reason per 515.113, EQIP Manual?	Defer Ranking of new EQIP application to next funding period or FY.		Continue to "C"
C	Did the applicant have an EQIP contract any time during the previous two years which was behind schedule <u>AND</u> was the contract cancelled or expired without installation of a scheduled practice? <i>(Cancelled by client without justification per 515.112g or allowed to expire without timely request for extension.)</i>	Defer Ranking of new EQIP application to next funding period or FY.		Continue to "D"
D	Is the EQIP application complete (515.81c & 515.111c)? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signed & dated form CCC-1200 by legal representative • Signed & dated form CCC-1200 Appendix • If applicant is "operator", signature of landowner • Form AD-211, Power of Attorney, if needed 	Continue to "E"		Defer Ranking of new EQIP application to next funding period or FY.
E	Has the EQIP applicant provided all needed person/entity (515.61) information to local FSA office for eligibility determination? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entered into SCIMS system • Land Ownership Documents (Deeds, Lease, Maps, Etc.) • Documentation needed for AGL, form CCC-526, determination • Documentation needed for Wetland/HEL determination • Documentation needed for Attribution, form CCC-502 • Contract application number assigned by FSA County office 	Continue to "F"		Defer Ranking of new EQIP application to FY05
F	Is the land addressed by the EQIP application eligible for the program? Are the proposed practices eligible? <i>(515.62, 515.91 & 515.115c)?</i>	Continue to "G"		Do Not Rank - Send "ineligibility" notification letter to applicant.
G	Does the EQIP application and proposed practices address one or more of the Program Objectives, National Priorities and Measures (515.13)?	Continue to Step 2		Do Not Rank - Send "ineligibility" notification letter to applicant.

Step Two - A - Standard Irrigation System Improvements Oregon or California (Above Irongate Dam):			Select Category
Project location "Soils Group" ¹	Select Primary System Improvement		
A, B, C, D, E	Conversion of existing flood irrigation system to sprinkler.		High
A, B, C, D, E	Installation of a tail-water-return system.		High
A, B	Conversion of existing flood irrigation system (with check dams) to flood irrigation system with gated pipe or main lines & risers. Assumes treatment unit is or will be "leveled" or graded to design standards and system will include basins as needed.		High
A, B	Land leveling for existing flood irrigation system to design standards.		High
C	Conversion of existing flood irrigation system (with check dams) to flood irrigation system with gated pipe or main lines & risers. Assumes treatment unit is or will be "leveled" or graded to design standards and system will include basins as needed.		Medium
C	Land leveling for existing flood irrigation system to design standards.		Medium
A, B, C, D, E	Conversion of an existing open ditch delivery system to a designed pipeline or mainline		Medium
D, E	Land leveling for existing flood irrigation system to design standards.		Low
A, B, C, D, E	Upgrade existing sprinkler system (e.g. wheel line to pivot system) to design standards. Retrofit of existing sprinkler system to design standards.		Low
A, B, C, D, E	Replacement of dysfunctional or inefficient main lines or other delivery system		Low
Step Two - B - Irrigation System Retrofit - California Side of Klamath Basin:			Select Category
Project location "Soil Permeability" ¹	Select Primary System Improvement		
High, Moderate, or Low Soil Permeability	Retrofit of wheel line-gaskets, drains, head, and nozzles <u>OR</u> Retrofit of hand move/solid-set gaskets, risers, and heads.		High
	Conversion of high pressure pivot system to low pressure pivot system.		Medium
	Retrofit of low-pressure pivot system with drop tubes, and appropriate heads		Low

Step Two -C - Standard Irrigation System Improvements - California Below Iron Gate Dam:		Select Category
Select Primary Improvement		
	EQIP application addresses RCD targeted concerns affecting high value tributary streams.	High
	Documented water savings increase instream flows and/or water quality benefits are documented.	High
	Innovative on-farm irrigation systems or strategies reduce water use and improve water quality.	Medium
	Project may benefit water quality, instream flows or targeted tributary streams.	Low
	Installation or conversion of on-farm irrigation practices, to reduce irrigation water use.	Low

Step Three:	Select Category	Action:
Select Appropriate Category For This Application	___ High Priority	Rank EQIP Application as soon as feasible
	___ Medium Priority	Rank application when High Priority application ranking is complete and if additional EQIP funds are available.
	___ Low Priority	Defer ranking until next funding cycle - Send deferral letter.