Ranking Tool Summary

for FY2014 - Wildlife-Wildlife Habitat Management

(Draft)

State Issues:

Questions:

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
1		The application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) the agency will assign ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1.1 will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the State priority category.	
	1	The program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer "Yes" do not answer any other state level questions if answer "No" proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	300
2		Comprehensive Wildlife Land use Plan	
	1	Comprehensive Wildlife Land use Plan - Site has a comprehensive wildlife management plan developed by a natural resource professional with defined wildlife objectives which addresses all habitat types on the site. (Answer Yes to 1 of 2.1-2.3)	80
	2	Comprehensive Wildlife Land use Plan - Site has a wildlife management plan that addresses only one wildlife species OR only one habitat type. (Answer Yes to 1 of 2.1-2.3)	40
	3	Comprehensive Wildlife Land use Plan - Site does NOT have a wildlife management plan that meets either question 2.1 or 2.2 above. (Answer Yes to 1 of 2.1-2.3)	0
3		Interspersion of Cover Types	
	1	Interspersion of Cover Types - Three additional habitat types are present. - DIRECTIONS: Stand in the center of the area that comprises the predominate habitat type upon which the project is being applied. Determine the number of habitat types greater than one acre in size that are within 1/4 mile. Do not count the habitat type you are standing in. Habitat types are (1) woodland/shelterbelt, (2) cropland, (3) grassland [not road ditches], (4) natural or restored wetland [not water areas such as ponds, creeks, rivers, etc.] (Answer Yes to 1 of 3.1-3.4)	80
	2	Interspersion of Cover Types - Two other habitat types are present. - DIRECTIONS: Stand in the center of the area that comprises the predominate habitat type upon which the project is being applied. Determine the number of habitat types greater than one acre in size that are within 1/4 mile. Do not count the habitat type you are standing in. Habitat types are (1) woodland/shelterbelt, (2) cropland, (3) grassland [not road ditches], (4) natural or restored wetland [not water areas such as ponds, creeks, rivers, etc.] (Answer Yes to 1 of 3.1-3.4)	40
	3	Interspersion of Cover Types - One other habitat type is present. - DIRECTIONS: Stand in the center of the area that comprises the predominate habitat type upon which the project is being applied. Determine the number of habitat types greater than one acre in size that are within 1/4 mile. Do not count the habitat type you are standing in. Habitat types are (1) woodland/shelterbelt, (2) cropland, (3) grassland [not road ditches], (4) natural or restored wetland [not water areas such as ponds, creeks, rivers, etc.] (Answer Yes to 1 of 3.1-3.4)	20

	4	Interspersion of Cover Types - More than 1/4 mile to any other habitat type. - DIRECTIONS: Stand in the center of the area that comprises the predominate habitat type upon which the project is being applied. Determine the number of habitat types greater than one acre in size that are within 1/4 mile. Do not count the habitat type you are standing in. Habitat types are (1) woodland/shelterbelt, (2) cropland, (3) grassland [not road ditches], (4) natural or restored wetland [not water areas such as ponds, creeks, rivers, etc.] (Answer Yes to 1 of 3.1-3.4)	0
4		Size of Project Area	
	1	Size of Project Area - Shelterbelts only (Shelterbelt must be 8-16 rows and > 300 feet in total length) - Shelterbelt 15 -16 rows. (Answer Yes to 1 of 4.1-4.10)	80
	2	Size of Project Area - Shelterbelts only (Shelterbelt must be 8-16 rows and > 300 feet in total length) - Shelterbelt 13 -14 rows. (Answer Yes to 1 of 4.1-4.10)	55
	3	Size of Project Area - Shelterbelts only (Shelterbelt must be 8-16 rows and > 300 feet in total length) - Shelterbelt 11 -12 rows. (Answer Yes to 1 of 4.1-4.10)	35
	4	Size of Project Area - Shelterbelts only (Shelterbelt must be 8-16 rows and > 300 feet in total length) - Shelterbelt 9 -10 rows. (Answer Yes to 1 of 4.1-4.10)	20
	5	Size of Project Area - Shelterbelts only (Shelterbelt must be 8-16 rows and > 300 feet in total length) - Shelterbelt 8 rows. (Answer Yes to 1 of 4.1-4.10)	0
	6	Size of Project Area - All other wildlife projects (not including Shelterbelts) - Size of planned project is > 100 acres. (Answer Yes to 1 of 4.1-4.10)	80
	7	Size of Project Area - All other wildlife projects (not including Shelterbelts) - Size of planned project is > 51 - 100 acres. (Answer Yes to 1 of 4.1-4.10)	55
	8	Size of Project Area - All other wildlife projects (not including Shelterbelts) - Size of planned project is > 11 - 50 acres. (Answer Yes to 1 of 4.1-4.10)	35
	9	Size of Project Area - All other wildlife projects (not including Shelterbelts) - Size of planned project is > 6 - 10 acres. (Answer Yes to 1 of 4.1-4.10)	20
	10	Size of Project Area - All other wildlife projects (not including Shelterbelts) - Size of planned project is <= 5 acres. (Answer Yes to 1 of 4.1-4.10)	0
5		Privately Owned land under a Conservation Easement	
	1	Project will be applied to Privately Owned land that is under a Conservation Easement on ground that stays in private ownership, farmland protection easements, etc, easement must be documented on the deed. Land ownership by governmental agencies does not qualify.	30
6		Contribution to Resource Management System	
	1	The Agreement will Contribute to applying the planned Resource Management System for the property.	30
		Maximum Points: 300 Total Points	1000

Local Issues:

Questions:

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
1		The application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) the agency will assign ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1.1 will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the Local priority category.	
	1	The program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer "Yes" do not answer any other Local level questions if answer "No" proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	350
2		Geographic Priority Area - Shelterbelt	
	1	Geographic Priority Area - Shelterbelt - Shelterbelt is within the Priority Area for Priority Area 1. (Answer Yes to 1 of 2.1-2.4)	110
	2	Geographic Priority Area - Shelterbelt - Shelterbelt is within the Priority Area for Priority Area 2. (Answer Yes to 1 of 2.1-2.4)	70
	3	Geographic Priority Area - Shelterbelt - Shelterbelt is within the Priority Area for Priority Area 3. (Answer Yes to 1 of 2.1-2.4)	35
	4	Geographic Priority Area - Shelterbelt - Shelterbelt is not within a Shelterbelt Priority Area. (Answer Yes to 1 of 2.1-2.4)	0
3		Geographic Priority Area - Woodland Wildlife Habitat	
	1	Geographic Priority Area - Woodland Wildlife Habitat - Woodland wildlife practices are within the Primary Woodland Wildlife Area (4-17% woody cover). (Answer Yes to 1 of 3.1-3.3)	55
	2	Geographic Priority Area - Woodland Wildlife Habitat - Woodland wildlife practices are within the Secondary Woodland Wildlife Area (>18% woody cover). (Answer Yes to 1 of 3.1-3.3)	30
	3	Geographic Priority Area - Woodland Wildlife Habitat - Site is not in a Woodland Wildlife Priority Area. (Answer Yes to 1 of 3.1-3.3)	0
4		Geographic Priority Area - Upland Priority Area	
	1	Geographic Priority Area - Upland Priority Area - Area is within the Priority Area for the North Zone. (Answer Yes to 1 of 4.1-4.5)	55
	2	Geographic Priority Area - Upland Priority Area - Area is within Priority Area 1 for South Zone. (Answer Yes to 1 of 4.1-4.5)	55
	3	Geographic Priority Area - Upland Priority Area - Area is within Priority Area 2 for South Zone. (Answer Yes to 1 of 4.1-4.5)	35
	4	Geographic Priority Area - Upland Priority Area - Area is within Priority Area 3 for South Zone. (Answer Yes to 1 of 4.1-4.5)	20
	5	Geographic Priority Area - Upland Priority Area - Area is not within any of the above Priority Areas from questions 4.1-4.4. (Answer Yes to 1 of 4.1-4.5)	0
5		Geographic Priority Area - Wetland Priority Area	
	1	Geographic Priority Area - Wetland Priority Area - Wetland project is within the PPJV AND within 1 mile of a permanently protected area as shown on map. NOTE: Wetland projects are only eligible if they are NOT eligible for any other USDA programs (WRP cost share, CRP, etc.). Wetland projects are only for restoration of wetlands not creation, or enhancement. Wildlife Habitat Initiative funds are not to be used for the construction of ponds or improvement to impoundments.(Answer Yes to 1 of 5.1-5.4)	110

	2	Geographic Priority Area - Wetland Priority Area - Wetland project is within the PPJV area as shown on map. NOTE: Wetland projects are only eligible if they are NOT eligible for any other USDA programs (WRP cost share, CRP, etc.). Wetland projects are only for restoration of wetlands not creation, or enhancement. Wildlife Habitat Initiative funds are not to be used for the construction of ponds or improvement to impoundments.(Answer Yes to 1 of 5.1-5.4)	55
	3	Geographic Priority Area - Wetland Priority Area - Wetland project is within 1 mile of a permanently protected area as shown on map. NOTE: Wetland projects are only eligible Wildlife Habitat Initiative funds if they are NOT eligible for any other USDA programs (WRP cost share, CRP, etc.). Wetland projects are only for restoration of wetlands not creation, or enhancement. Wildlife Habitat Initiative funds are not to be used for the construction of ponds or improvement to impoundments.(Answer Yes to 1 of 5.1-5.4)	30
	4	Geographic Priority Area - Wetland Priority Area - Wetland project is not within a priority area. NOTE: Wetland projects are only eligible for Wildlife Habitat Initiative funds are they are NOT eligible for any other USDA programs (WRP cost share, CRP, etc.). Wetland projects are only for restoration of wetlands not creation, or enhancement. Wildlife Habitat Initiative funds are not to be used for the construction of ponds or improvement to impoundments.(Answer Yes to 1 of 5.1-5.4)	0
6		State of Iowa Wildlife T & E or Species of Concern	
	1	State of Iowa Wildlife T & E or Species of Concern - Site is verified by a resource professional in writing with the application as providing habitat for an animal T & E species AND the practices and management planned and applied to the site will improve habitat for that identified species. (Attach a list with specie(s) name and a copy of what the habitat improvement will be.) (Answer Yes to 1 of 6.1-6.2)	10
	2	State of Iowa Wildlife T & E or Species of Concern - Site is verified by a resource professional in writing with the application as providing habitat for an animal Species of Special Concern AND the practices and management planned and applied to the site will improve habitat for that identified species. (Attach a list with specie(s) name and a copy of what the habitat improvement will be.) (Answer Yes to 1 of 6.1-6.2)	7
7		Habitat Continuity	
	1	Application is for a group project where two or more adjacent landowners are applying practices to the same habitat resource.	5
	2	Application site is adjacent to (contiguous with) a site under the ownership of a public or non-governmental organization or the adjacent site is protected by a conservation easement.	5
		Maximum Points: 350 Total Points	1037