

## Ranking Category—FORESTLAND HEALTH

### Primary Resource Concern—

- Degraded Plant Condition—Undesirable Plant Productivity (Crop, Forest)
- Water Quality Degradation—Excessive Sediment in Surface Water

### Secondary Resource Concern—

Fish and Wildlife—Inadequate (Threatened and Endangered Species, Declining Species, Species of Concern Addressed as a Special Environmental Concern) (Only species identified for this ranking category on the Statewide At-Risk Species Listing are eligible for this resource concern.) Reference:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ks/programs/financial/eqip/>

### Eligible Land Uses—

- Crop, Forest, Range, Farmstead, Pasture

### Additional Requirements for this Category—

- The 2008 Farm Bill requires that a producer develop and implement a Forest Stewardship/Management Plan with the Kansas Forest Service or an approved Forest Management Plan (106) Conservation Activity Plans (CAPs) developed by a Technical Service Provider (TSP).

### State Issues—

1. Answer the following question if the application is for development of a CAP. The agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering “Yes” to the following question. Answering “Yes” to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the state priority category.

- (a) Is the program application to support the development of a CAP? If the answer is “Yes,” do not answer any other state level questions. If the answer is “No,” proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section. (400 points)

2. If applicable, answer ONE of the following questions related to the Kansas Forest Service Potential for Forest Stewardship Program Benefits. If none apply, leave the answers “NO”:

- (a) A HIGH forest stewardship potential exists for greater than or equal to 50 percent of the unit of concern. (190 points)

- (b) A combination of MEDIUM and HIGH forest stewardship potential exists for greater than or equal to 50 percent of the unit of concern. (115 points)

- (c) A combination of LOW and MEDIUM forest stewardship potential exists for greater than or equal to 50 percent of the unit of concern. (65 points)

3. If applicable, answer the following question related to windbreaks that offer wind erosion protection to cultivated cropland with a wind erosion C factor of 40 or higher. If it doesn't apply, leave the answer “NO”:

## Ranking Category--FORESTLAND HEALTH

Windbreak offers protection to cultivated cropland with a wind erosion C factor of 40 or higher on greater than or equal to 50 percent of the unit of concern. (115 points)

4. If an existing windbreak is to be renovated, answer ONE of the following questions related to windbreak condition as described in Kansas Forestry Technical Note 11. If neither applies, answer the questions "NO":

(a) Windbreak is in poor condition as described in Kansas Forestry Technical Note 11. (50 points)

(b) Windbreak is in fair condition as described in Kansas Forestry Technical Note 11. (25 Points)

5. If applicable, answer the following questions related to at-risk species. If none apply, leave the answers "NO":

(a) Any part of the unit of concern is located within a terrestrial at-risk species habitat area, Bobwhite Quail Initiative areas, or pheasant initiative area **and** treatment of the resource concern will have a direct benefit to the terrestrial at-risk species habitat, bobwhite quail habitat, or pheasant initiative area. Only bobwhite quail, pheasants, or TERRESTRIAL species identified for this ranking category on the Statewide At-Risk Species Listing are eligible for this resource concern. (10 points)

Reference:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ks/programs/financial/eqip/>

(b) Any part of the unit of concern is located within a Watershed Boundary Dataset (WBD) 12-digit watershed that contains an at-risk aquatic species **and** treatment of the resource concern will have a direct benefit to the at-risk aquatic species habitat. Only AQUATIC species identified for this ranking category on the Statewide At-Risk Species Listing are eligible for this resource concern. (5 points)

Reference:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ks/programs/financial/eqip/>

(c) Any part of the unit of concern is located within 300 feet of a stream that contains an at-risk aquatic species **and** treatment of the resource concern will have a direct benefit to the at-risk aquatic species habitat. Only AQUATIC species identified for this ranking category on the Statewide At-Risk Species Listing are eligible for this resource concern. (10 points)

Reference:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ks/programs/financial/eqip/>

## Ranking Category--FORESTLAND HEALTH

6. If applicable, answer ONE of the following two questions related to Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL). If none apply leave the answers "NO".

(a) Greater than or equal to 50 percent of the unit of concern is located within a Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) identified high priority (HP) TMDL watershed for total suspended solids (TSS), but is NOT a TMDL watershed targeted to meet the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Strategic Plan. (20 points)

(b) Any part of the unit of concern, but less than 50 percent, is located within a KDHE identified HP TMDL watershed for TSS, but it is NOT a TMDL watershed targeted to meet the EPA Strategic Plan. (10 points)

### **Local Issues--**

Answer the following questions related to the application:

1. Is the program application to support the development of a CAP? If answer is "Yes," do not answer any other local level questions. If the answer is "No," proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section. (250 points)

2. Application includes at least one conservation practice (CP) with a lifespan of 10 years or greater, as documented in the electronic Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG). (75 points)

3. CPs are scheduled to be completed within four years. (75 points)

4. Participant requested a conservation plan for this application prior to August 31, 2013. (50 points)

5. Application was deferred from a previous funding period in the Program Contracts System (ProTracts). (50 points)