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Ranking Tool Summary

for FY2015 - EQIP 2015 Forestland Area 2 FA

(Draft)

Description:

EQIP 2015. This ranking tool is to be used when ranking EQIP 2015 Forestland Area 2 applications.

Land Uses:

Forest

Efficiency Score:

Scoring Multiplier: 126.670

Scoring Ranges and Results Text:

High: 100 - 70	Medium: 69 - 30	Low: 29 - 0
100-70	69-30	29-0

Optional Notes:

National Priorities:

Scoring Multiplier: 1.000

Scoring Ranges and Results Text:

High: 250 - 175	Medium: 174 - 100	Low: 99 - 0
250-175	174-100	99-0

Questions:

Number	Question	Points
1	a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	250
2	a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?	15
2	b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	10
2	c. Reducing impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides on land adjoining a designated "impaired water body" (TMDL, 303d listed waterbody, or other State designation)?	10
2	d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a "non-impaired water body"?	10
2	e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	10
3	a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.	15
3	b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	10
3	c.Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	10
3	d. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm water use as a result of changing to crops with lower water consumptive use, the rotation of crops, or the modification of cultural operations?	10
4	a. Meeting on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	10
4	b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5,	10

	PM10)?	
4	c.Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?	10
4	d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	10
5	a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	10
5	b.Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	10
6	a. Implementing practices benefitting threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern.	10
6	b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?	10
6	c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	10
6	d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	10
7	a. Implementing practices that result in the management control of noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	10
7	b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	10
8	a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	10
8	b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	10
9	a. Enhancement of existing conservation practice(s) or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is received?	10
	Total Points	500

State Issues:

Scoring Multiplier: 1.000

Scoring Ranges and Results Text:

High: 300 - 200	Medium: 199 - 100	Low: 99 - 0
350-200	199-100	99--0

Questions:

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
	1	EQIP planned practice will be for the development of the following Conservation Activity Plans (CAP), to be developed by a Technical Service Provider (TSP); 106 – Forest Management Plan, 142 - Fish and Wildlife Habitat Management Plan, 112 - Prescribed Burning Plan. NOTE: an EQIP applicant requesting financial assistance for both a CAP and CPS must be considered as separate applications and ranked accordingly.	300
	2	To address the resource concern: Degraded Plant Condition - Excessive Plant Pest Pressure, Does the EQIP application include at least one practice (314 or 315) to adequately address non-native invasive species that are currently crowding native forest plants, impeding tree regeneration, and degrading forest health & wildlife habitat quality, thus limiting forest management options?	75
	3	To address the resource concern: Degraded Plant Condition – Inadequate Structure & Composition, Does the EQIP application include Forest Stand Improvement (666) to achieve the desired stocking rate and species diversity?	75
	4	To address the resource concerns: Soil Erosion – Sheet, Rill, & Wind Erosion AND Soil Quality Degradation – Compaction, AND Water Quality Degradation – Excessive Sediment in Surface Water, Does the EQIP application include Access Control (472) to exclude all livestock on ALL forest &/or riparian areas (perennial streams, wetlands, and sinkholes),	75

		currently accessed by livestock?	
	5	To address the resource concerns: Soil Erosion – Ephemeral Gully Erosion, AND Water Quality Degradation – Excessive Sediment in Surface Water, Does the EQIP application include Forest Trails & Landings (655) on existing log landings & harvest trails that are currently eroding?	75
		Maximum Points: 300 Total Points	600

Local Issues:

Scoring Multiplier: 1.000
Scoring Ranges and Results Text:

High: 350 - 200	Medium: 199 - 100	Low: 99 - 0
350-200	199-100	99-0

Questions:

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
	1	EQIP planned practice will be for the development of the following Conservation Activity Plans (CAP), to be developed by a Technical Service Provider (TSP); 106 – Forest Management Plan, 142 - Fish and Wildlife Habitat Management Plan, 112 - Prescribed Burning Plan. NOTE: an EQIP applicant requesting financial assistance for both a CAP and CPS must be considered as separate applications and ranked accordingly.	350
	2	Is the applicant applying for 666, Forest Stand Improvement on 75% or more of all eligible forestland acres?	43
	3	Is the applicant applying for 666, Forest Stand Improvement on 50% or more of all eligible forestland acres?	39
	4	Is the applicant applying for 666, Forest Stand Improvement on 25% or more of all eligible forestland acres?	37
	5	Will 472, Access Control, be applied to 100% of the eligible forestland acres that livestock currently have access to?	37
	6	Will 472, Access Control, be applied to 50% of the eligible forestland acres that livestock currently have access to?	35
	7	Will 314, Brush Managemnt, 315, Herbaceous Weed Control, or 666, Forest Stand Improvement be appplied to specifically address invasive/undersirable species (such as autumn olive, serecia lespedeza, cedar, etc) on at least 50% of the eligible acres?	43
	8	Will 314, Brush Managemnt, 315, Herbaceous Weed Control, or 666, Forest Stand Improvement be appplied to specifically address invasive/undersirable species (such as autumn olive, serecia lespedeza, cedar, etc) on at least 25% of the eligible acres?	37
	9	Does the application include 655, Forest Trails & Landing, on planned and/or existing log landings & harvest trails that are currently eroding?	42
	10	Are at least 50% of the offered contract acres located in a designated Conservation Opportunity Area (COA) or priority Focus Area of USDA or a partnering agency?	37
		Maximum Points: 350 Total Points	700

Selected Resource Concerns and Practices:

Air Quality Impacts: Objectionable Odors
    Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380)
Degraded Plant Condition: Excessive Plant Pest Pressure
    Brush Management (314)

- Herbaceous Weed Control (315)

Degraded Plant Condition: Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health
- Access Control (472)
- Forest Management Plan - Written (106)
- Forest Stand Improvement (666)
- Forest Trails and Landings (655)
- Prescribed Burning (338)
- Prescribed Burning Plan - Written (112)
- Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490)

Degraded Plant Condition: Wildfire Hazard, Excessive Biomass Accumulation
- Firebreak (394)

Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter
- Fish and Wildlife Habitat Plan - Written (142)
- Structures for Wildlife (649)
- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)

Livestock Production Limitation: Inadequate Feed and Forage
- Fence (382)

Soil Erosion: Classic Gully Erosion
- Underground Outlet (620)
- Water and Sediment Control Basin (638)

Soil Erosion: Sheet and Rill Erosion
- Critical Area Planting (342)
- Heavy Use Area Protection (561)
- Mulching (484)

Water Quality Degradation: Excessive Sediment in Surface Water
- Conservation Cover (327)
- Stream Crossing (578)

Water Quality Degradation: Nutrients in Groundwater
- Well Decommissioning (351)

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