

COOPERATIVE CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE
Ranking Category—CENTRAL GREAT PLAINS FORESTED RIPARIAN BUFFERS

Primary Resource Concern—

- **Degraded Plant Condition—Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health (Crop, Forest)**
- **Soil Erosion—Streambank, Shoreline, Water Conveyance**
- **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/>
or Attachment 5**

Eligible Land Uses—

- **Crop, Forest, Range, Pasture**

Additional Requirements for this Category—

- **The producer must develop and implement a Forest Stewardship/Management Plan with the Kansas Forest Service (KFS).**

State Issues—

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

- (1) 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)

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

- (2.1) A HIGH forest stewardship potential exists for greater than or equal to 50 percent of the unit of concern. (200 points)
- (2.2) A combination of MEDIUM and HIGH forest stewardship potential exists for greater than or equal to 50 percent of the unit of concern. (100 points)
- (2.3) A combination of LOW and MEDIUM forest stewardship potential exists for greater than or equal to 50 percent of the unit of concern. (50 points)

If applicable, answer ONE of the following questions related to Tree/Shrub Soils Suitability Group. If neither applies, leave the answers “NO”:

- (3.1) Greater than or equal to 50 percent of the unit of concern is located on soils in Conservation Tree/Shrub and Windbreak Suitability Group 1 or 2, based on acreage. (40 points)
- (3.2) Any part of the unit of concern, but less than 50 percent, is located on soils in Conservation Tree/Shrub and Windbreak Suitability Group 1 or 2, based on acreage. (20 points)

If applicable, answer ONE of the following questions related to at-risk species. If neither applies, leave the answers “NO”:

- (4.1) 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/>
or Attachment 5

- (4.2) 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/>
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- (4.3) 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/>
or Attachment 5

Answer the following question related to partner funding assistance:

- (5) Producer has secured funding for portions of the project from other contributors, which may include, but is not limited to, conservation districts, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams, or other cost–share programs. (5 points)

Local Issues—

Answer the following question related to the application:

- (1) Is the program application to support the development of a CAP? If the 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)

Determine the condition of the riparian area based on the following attributes (refer to Conservation Practice (CP) 391, Riparian Forest Buffer, criteria):

- Provides detritus and large woody debris for aquatic and terrestrial organisms
- Creates wildlife habitat and establishes wildlife corridors
- Reduces excess contaminants in surface and subsurface runoff
- Provides sustainable harvestable crops of timber, fiber, forage, or fruit
- Protects against scour erosion within floodplain
- Practice restores natural plant communities
- Increases carbon storage

If applicable, answer ONE of the following questions related to the condition of the forested riparian buffer. If neither applies, leave the answers “NO”:

- (2a) Forested riparian buffer is in POOR condition (meets less than four attributes above). (35 points)
- (2b) Forested riparian buffer is in FAIR condition (meets four or five attributes above). (15 points)

If applicable, answer only ONE of the following questions related to the location of the application “YES.” If neither applies, leave the answers “NO”:

- (3a) Any part of the unit of concern is located within a Kansas Department of Health and Environment identified high priority Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for dissolved oxygen. (35 points)
- (3b) Any part of the unit of concern contains land with an water erodibility index of 8.0 or above. (15 points)

If applicable, answer ONE of the following questions related to the function of the forested riparian buffer. If neither applies, leave the answers “NO”:

- (4a) Forested riparian buffer will be fenced to prohibit use by livestock and will provide wildlife habitat for threatened or endangered species listed under the Endangered Species Act. (30 points)
- (4b) Forested riparian buffer will be fenced to prohibit use by livestock and will provide wildlife habitat. (15 points)