

**Natural Resources Conservation Service
Application Ranking Summary
LPCI**

Program: EQIP 2014	Ranking Date:
Ranking Tool: LPCI	
Final Ranking Score:	
Planner:	
Farm Location:	

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
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 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the national priority category.	
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 Point(s)
Clean and Abundant Water: Water Quality - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
2. a. Meet regulatory requirements relating to animal feeding operations, or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	15 Point(s)
2. b. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a designated "impaired water body" (TMDL, 303d, etc.)?	15 Point(s)
2. c. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a "non-impaired water body"?	5 Point(s)
Clean and Abundant Water: Water Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer implement conservation practices which:	
3. a. Decrease aquifer overdraft?	15 Point(s)
3. b. Conserve water from irrigation system improvements and saved water will be available for other beneficial uses?	10 Point(s)
3. c. Conserve water in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	5 Point(s)
Clean Air: Treatment of air quality from agricultural sources - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:	
4. a. Meet on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	15 Point(s)
4. b. Reduce on-farm generated green house gases such as CO ₂ (Carbon Dioxide), CH ₄ (Methane), and N ₂ O (Nitrous Oxide)?	15 Point(s)
4. c. Increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	5 Point(s)
Soil Health: Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	15 Point(s)
5. b. Improve soil tilth, organic matter, structure, health, etc.?	5 Point(s)
Healthy Plant and Animal Communities Wildlife Habitat Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:	
6. a. Benefit on-farm habitat associated with threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern as identified in a State wildlife plan?	15 Point(s)

6. b. Help retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)?	10 Point(s)
High Quality, Productive Soils, Healthy Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project assist the producer implement practices which:	
7. a. Help manage or control noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	10 Point(s)
7. b. Increase, or improve habitat to benefit pollinator or other targeted wildlife species?	10 Point(s)
7. c. Properly dispose of livestock carcasses?	5 Point(s)
7. d. Are identified in an Integrated Pest Management plan?	10 Point(s)
7. e. Are identified in a Nutrient Management plan?	10 Point(s)
7. f. Apply principles of adaptive nutrient management?	5 Point(s)
Energy Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practices which:	
8. a. Reduce energy consumption on the agricultural operation?	15 Point(s)
8. b. Increase on-farm energy efficiency with practices and improvements identified in an approved energy audit equivalent to criteria required in Ag EMP?	10 Point(s)
8. c. Assist in implementing energy conservation measures that also reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants?	10 Point(s)
Business Lines - Conservation Implementation Additional Ranking Considerations - Will the proposed project result in:	
9. a. Implementation of all conservation practices scheduled in the contract on the CPA-1155 within three years of date of obligation?	10 Point(s)
9. b. Improvement of existing conservation practices or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is accepted?	5 Point(s)
9. c. Implementation of practice(s) which will complete an existing conservation system or suite of practices?	5 Point(s)

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Is there a documented lek on or within 2 miles of the acres that will be under contract if approved? (If the lek is located on the applicants operation they must be willing to share this information in order to receive points)	100 Point(s)
2. If the contract includes expired CRP acres or 2014 expiring CRP acres, the acres will be either maintained, enhanced, or established to LEPC habitat (must be managed under 645)?	100 Point(s)
3. Will the contracted acres include treatment of woody vegetation to improve LEPC habitat if approved?	100 Point(s)
4. Will the contract acres include cropland and/or non-cropland acres that will be converted to LEPC habitat to address a need identified in the Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG)?	25 Point(s)
5. Will a Prescribed Burn Plan that promotes LEPC habitat be applied under contract?	50 Point(s)
6. Is the application supported by an approved NRCS Conservation Plan, less than five years old, that addresses concerns of the LEPC?	25 Point(s)

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) value change due to proposed project as measured using Colorado's Lesser Prairie Chicken Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide. Answer only one of questions 1a - 1g.	
1. a.) Will implementation of the planned project increase the overall Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) by .7 - 1.0 habitat factor value points?	60 Point(s)

1. b.) Will implementation of the planned project increase the overall Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) by .6 habitat factor value points?	50 Point(s)
1. c.) Will implementation of the planned project increase the overall Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) by .5 habitat factor value points?	40 Point(s)
1. d.) Will implementation of the planned project increase the overall Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) by .4 habitat factor value points?	30 Point(s)
1. e.) Will implementation of the planned project increase the overall Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) by .3 habitat factor value points?	20 Point(s)
1. f.) Will implementation of the planned project increase the overall Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) by .2 habitat factor value points?	10 Point(s)
1. g.) Will implementation of the planned project increase the overall Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) by .1 habitat factor value points?	5 Point(s)
Amount of Lesser Prairie Chicken habitat under control of the applicant that will be treated by proposed project;	
2. a.) Does the project treat 100% of the existing or potential lesser prairie chicken habitat under control of the applicant?	70 Point(s)
2. b.) Does the project treat 50-99% of the existing or potential lesser prairie chicken habitat under control of the applicant?	40 Point(s)
2. c.) Does the project treat less that 50% of the existing or potential lesser prairie chicken habitat under control of the applicant?	20 Point(s)
Percent of identified threats treated by the proposed project; (Refer to Colorado Threats Checklist that is applicable to the priority area the project is in).	
3. a.) Does the project address 100% of the threats identified for lesser prairie chicken in the project location?	70 Point(s)
3. b.) Does the project address 75-99% of the threats identified for lesser prairie chicken in the project location?	60 Point(s)
3. c.) Does the project address 50-74% of the threats identified for lesser prairie chicken in the project location?	40 Point(s)
3. d.) Does the project address less than 50% of the threats identified for lesser prairie chicken in the project location?	20 Point(s)
Lesser Prairie Chicken Initiative projects	
4. Will the planned project help to alleviate collision or predator problems caused by fences?	15 Point(s)
5. Will the proposed project restore previously converted (pasture, hay, cropland etc., sand sagebrush habitat) back to sand sagebrush habitat?	15 Point(s)
6. Has the project been reviewed and ranked with this ranking tool by an NRCS or NRCS/Partner biologist that is familiar with lesser prairie chicken habitat in the area, and, does the biologist agree that the planned project will benefit lesser prairie chicken?	5 Point(s)
7. Are there partners involved (other than the participant and NRCS) that will contribute money (not in-kind) to the project?	15 Point(s)

Final Ranking Score:

This ranking report is for your information. It does not in any way guarantee funding. When funding becomes available, you will be notified if your application is selected for funding. Some changes to the application may be required before a final contract is awarded.

Notes:

NRCS Representative:

**Applicant
Signature Not
Required on this
report for Contract
Development unless
required by State
policy:**

Signature Date:

Signature Date: