

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

Program: EQIP 2014	Ranking Date:
Ranking Tool: SGI	
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
Will the project improve existing or potential habitat for sage grouse	
1. a. Gunnison sage-grouse in the Gunnison Basin, or for the Greater sage-grouse within identified core population area boundaries?	200 Point(s)
1. b. Gunnison sage-grouse in the Poncha Pass, Cerro Summit/Cimarron/Sims Mesa, Crawford, Dove Creek, Pinyon Mesa, or San Miguel basin population areas?	100 Point(s)
1. c. Greater sage-grouse habitat outside of identified core population area boundaries, but within the overall sage-grouse range?	50 Point(s)
Amount of sage-grouse 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 sage-grouse habitat under control of the applicant?	100 Point(s)
2. b. Does the project treat 50-99% of the existing or potential sage-grouse habitat under control of the applicant?	50 Point(s)
2. c. Does the project treat less than 50% of the existing or potential sage-grouse habitat under control of the applicant?	25 Point(s)
Percent of identified threats treated by the proposed project	
3. a. Does the project address 100% of the threats identified for sage-grouse in the project location? (Refer to Colorado Threats Checklist that is applicable to the priority area the project is in).	100 Point(s)
3. b. Does the project address 75-99% of the threats identified for sage-grouse in the project location? (Refer to Colorado Threats Checklist that is applicable to the priority area the project is in).	75 Point(s)

3. c. Does the project address 50-74% of the threats identified for sage-grouse in the project location? (Refer to Colorado Threats Checklist that is applicable to the priority area the project is in).	50 Point(s)
3. d. Does the project address less than 50% of the threats identified for sage-grouse in the project location? (Refer to Colorado Threats Checklist that is applicable to the priority area the project is in).	25 Point(s)

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. a. Will implementation of the planned project increase the overall Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) by .7 - 1.0 habitat factor value points?	100 Point(s)
1. b. Will implementation of the planned project increase the overall Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) by .6 habitat factor value points?	70 Point(s)
1. c. Will implementation of the planned project increase the overall Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) by .5 habitat factor value points?	60 Point(s)
1. d. Will implementation of the planned project increase the overall Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) by .4 habitat factor value points?	50 Point(s)
1. e. Will implementation of the planned project increase the overall Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) by .3 habitat factor value points?	30 Point(s)
1. f. Will implementation of the planned project increase the overall Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) by .2 habitat factor value points?	20 Point(s)
1. g. Will implementation of the planned project increase the overall Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) by .1 habitat factor value points?	10 Point(s)
2. Will the planned project remove invading pinyon/juniper trees that are having negative impacts on sage-grouse in the project area?	20 Point(s)
3. Will the planned project alleviate any documented collision or predator problems caused by fences?	10 Point(s)
4. Will the proposed project restore previously converted (pasture, hay, cropland etc.) sagebrush habitat back to sagebrush habitat.	20 Point(s)
5. Has the project been reviewed and ranked with this ranking tool by an NRCS or NRCS/Partner biologist that is familiar with sage-grouse habitat in the area, and, does the biologist agree that the planned project will benefit sage-grouse?	10 Point(s)
6. Are there partners involved (other than the participant and NRCS) that will contribute money (not in-kind) to the project?	20 Point(s)
7. Has a conservation plan been completed on all lands in the tract with the same land use the proposed practice(s) will be applied to?	30 Point(s)
8. Is the majority (> 50%) of the land that will be treated, privately owned land?	10 Point(s)
9. Will the project provide markings and predator deterrents on all existing or new fences within 1/4 mile of existing or historic leks?	10 Point(s)
10. Will the project provide effective escape ramps in all existing and new watering facilities within all of the area planned for sage-grouse habitat management (std. code 645 or 644)?	20 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: