

Natural Resources Conservation Service
Application Ranking Summary
Washington County Grazingland

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 (122,124)?	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. Sheet and Rill Erosion – Does the offer include planned treatment of sheet and rill erosion to the quality criteria level on the offered acres where sheet and rill erosion will be controlled to “T” or less?	35 Point(s)
2. Irrigation – Will the proposed project improve irrigation efficiency or reduce the acres of irrigated cropland on the operation?	40 Point(s)
3. Erosion Control: Classic Gullies – Will the planned project address classic gully erosion on cropland or grazing land?	35 Point(s)
4. Invasive Species: Cedar Control – Will the planned project eradicate or control eastern redcedar?	40 Point(s)
5. Stream bank Erosion – Will the planned project include practices to address active stream bank erosion?	30 Point(s)
6. Energy Conservation – Will the planned project include practices that will result in energy conservation benefits?	30 Point(s)
Surface Water: Nutrients/Organics – Will the planned project include practices to address surface water nutrients?	
7. A: Will the planned practices address surface water nutrient/organics in a nutrient limited watershed?	20 Point(s)
7. B: Will the planned practices address surface water nutrients/organics in a field that lies within ¼ mile of an impaired water body?	10 Point(s)
7. C: Will the planned practices address surface water nutrients/organics in a field that adjoins a water body that extends beyond the applicants property boundary?	5 Point(s)
7. D: Will the planned practice address surface water nutrients/organics on a field that adjoins a pond or other water body that lies entirely within the property boundary of the applicant?	5 Point(s)

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
2. Soil Erosion - Steam bank: Does the offer include practices to address active stream bank erosion by implementing at least two of the following practices: Critical Area Planting (342), Fence (382), Heave Area Use (561) Forage and Biomass Planting (512), Rang Planting (550), Pond (378), Riparian Forest Buffer (391), Use Exclusion (472), or Watering Facility (614).	75 Point(s)
3. Plant Condition - Plants not Adapted or Suited: Planned treatment includes conversion of FALLOW cropland to permanent vegetation. Includes the following practices: Forage and Biomass Planting (512) and Range Planting (550). Fields must have less that 15% of desirable forbs, legumes and/or grasses to be eligible.	55 Point(s)
4. Plant Condition - Noxious and Invasive Plants: Does offer include control of Sericea lespedeza by Herbaceous Weed Control (315) and implementation of Prescribed Grazing (528) ? Is the degree of infestation greater than 51 % cover on offered acres?	40 Point(s)
5. Plant Condition - Noxious and Invasive Plants: Does offer includes treatment of Sericea lespedeza and implementation of Prescribed Grazing (528)? Is the degree of infestation is between 15% and 51 % cover on offered acres.?	25 Point(s)
6. Plant Condition - Noxious and Invasive Plants: Does offered for control of Sericea lespedeza by Herbaceous Weed Control (315) include all pastures in the entire operating unit comprising of more than 51% of the total operating unit acres?	17 Point(s)
7. Plant Condition - Noxious and Invasive Plants: Does offer includes control of mixed brush and/or Eastern Redcedar? Brush levels will be managed to no less than that outlined in the ecological site description. An integrated operation and maintenance plan must be developed which must include Prescribed Grazing (528), Prescribed Burning(338), Brush Management (314), and/or Pest Management (595) . Species in the mixed brush category include: Blackberry, Buckbrush, Dogwood, Elm, Hawthorn, Locust, Osage Orange, Persimmon and Sumac. The degree of infestation on the offered acres is GREATER than 30%.	30 Point(s)
8. Plant Condition - Noxious and Invasive Plants: Does offer includes control of mixed brush and/or Eastern Redcedar? Brush levels will be managed to no less than that outlined in the ecological site description. An integrated operation and maintenance plan must be developed which must include Prescribed Grazing (528), Prescribed Burning(338), Brush Management (314), and/or Pest Management (595). Species in the mixed brush category include: Blackberry, Buckbrush, Dogwood, Elm, Hawthorn, Locust, Osage Orange, Persimmon and Sumac. The degree of infestation on the offered acres is equal to or LESS than 30%.	20 Point(s)
9. Plant Condition - Noxious and Invasive Plants: Does the offer include control of mixed brush and/or Eastern Redcedar on all pastures in the entire operating unit comprising of more than 51% of the total operating unit acres? Brush levels will be managed to no less than that outlined in the ecological site description. An integrated operation and maintenance plan must be developed which must include Prescribed Grazing (528), Prescribed Burning(338), Brush Management (314), and/or Pest Management (595). Species in the mixed brush category include: Blackberry, Buckbrush, Dogwood, Elm, Hawthorn, Locust, Osage Orange, Persimmon and Sumac.	15 Point(s)
10. Plant Condition - Noxious and Invasive Plants: Does offer includes control of Musk Thistle and/or Scotch Thistle by Herbaceous Weed Control (315) ? Implementation of Prescribed Grazing (528) will be required with this offer. Degree of infestation must be at least 15 %.	15 Point(s)
11. Domestic Animals - Inadequate Livestock Water: Does the offer include treatment planned to provide a permanent source of water for domestic livestock and implementation of grazing management to meet the Prescribed Grazing Standard (528). Applicable practices include Pipeline (516), Pond (378), Spring Development (574), Watering Facility (614), Well (642), and Animal Trails and Walkways (575).	28 Point(s)

<p>11. Water Quality - Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water: Will the Planned Treatment exclude livestock from an existing water body? Planned treatment includes protection of existing riparian area (ponds, lakes, rivers, & streams) from degradation by establishment of new conservation buffer practices or maintenance of existing conservation buffer practices through restriction of use. Existing buffers must meet one of the listed practice standards before points may be awarded. Buffer practices include: Riparian Forest Buffer (391), and Riparian Herbaceous Buffer (390). Restriction of use includes: Use Exclusion (472) or significantly limiting access of domestic animals to ponds and other riparian areas with the use of Animal Trails and Walkways (575), Live Stock Watering Facility (614), Fence (382)</p>	<p>100 Point(s)</p>
<p>12. Water Quality - Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water: Will the planned treatment protect new ponds planned in this application from degradation by livestock? Treatment must include exclusion of livestock from new ponds. Planned treatment can include use of Animal Trail and Walkways (575), Fence (382), Pipeline (516), Watering Facility (614), or Use Exclusion (472).</p>	<p>5 Point(s)</p>
<p>13. Soil Erosion - Classic Gully: Does the planned treatment include treatment of classic gully erosion that currently exceeds 5 tons annually per gully. Implementation of Prescribed Grazing (528) will be required with this offer.</p>	<p>20 Point(s)</p>