



Ranking Tool Summary

for FY2013 - Wildlife - Habitat Maintenance

(Released 12/14/2012)

Description:

This tool applies to the following project types (not exclusive) • Manage existing native hardwood forests (primarily oaks) to create widely spaced hardwoods with early successional understory (savannas; 666 with 338); 645 Upland Wildlife Habitat Management required as part of the application • Invasive species control (use 595 for herbaceous and 314 for woody); 644 Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management OR 645 Upland Wildlife Habitat Management required as part of the application depending on project location • Management of existing early successional habitat ; 645 Upland Wildlife Habitat Management required as part of the application • Management of existing wetlands and/or riparian buffers (forested or herbaceous); 644 Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management required as part of the application • Exclude cattle (382) from existing riparian or wildlife areas; 644 Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management OR 645 Upland Wildlife Habitat Management required as part of the application depending on project location

Land Uses:

Crop, Forest, Hay, Native/Naturalized Pasture, Pasture, Wildlife

Efficiency Score:

Scoring Multiplier: 100.000

Scoring Ranges and Results Text:

High: 100 - 75	Medium: 74 - 50	Low: 49 - 1
The conservation practices in this application score in the High range.	The conservation practices in this application score in the Medium range.	The conservation practices in this application score in the Low range.

Optional Notes:

National Priorities:

Scoring Multiplier: 1.000

Scoring Ranges and Results Text:

High: 128 - 100	Medium: 99 - 50	Low: 49 - 1
The score for addressing National Issues is in the High Category	The score for addressing National Issues is in the Medium Category	The score for addressing National Issues is in the Low Category

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. Meet regulatory requirements relating to animal feeding operations, or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	15
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
2	c. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a "non-impaired water body"?	5
3	a. Decrease aquifer overdraft?	15
3	b. Conserve water from irrigation system improvements and saved water will be available for other beneficial uses?	10
3	c. Conserve water in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	5
4	a. Meet on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	15
4	b. Reduce on-farm generated green house gases such as CO2 (Carbon Dioxide), CH4 (Methane), and N2O (Nitrous Oxide)?	15
4	c. Increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	5
5	a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	15

5	b. Improve soil tilth, organic matter, structure, health, etc.?	5
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
6	b. Help retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)?	10
7	a. Help manage or control noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	10
7	b. Increase, or improve habitat to benefit pollinator or other targeted wildlife species?	10
7	c. Properly dispose of livestock carcasses?	5
7	d. Are identified in an Integrated Pest Management plan?	10
7	e. Are identified in a Nutrient Management plan?	10
7	f. Apply principles of adaptive nutrient management?	5
8	a. Reduce energy consumption on the agricultural operation?	15
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
8	c. Assist in implementing energy conservation measures that also reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants?	10
9	a. Implementation of all conservation practices scheduled in the contract on the CPA-1155 within three years of date of obligation?	10
9	b. Improvement of existing conservation practices or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is accepted?	5
9	c. Implementation of practice(s) which will complete an existing conservation system or suite of practices?	5
Total Points		500

State Issues:

Scoring Multiplier: 1.000

Scoring Ranges and Results Text:

High: 400 - 270	Medium: 269 - 140	Low: 139 - 1
The score for addressing State Issues is in the High Category	The score for addressing State Issues is in the Medium Category	The score for addressing State Issues is in the Low Category

Questions:

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
1		For questions 1-3, only ONE yes answer may be given (use the appropriate habitat evaluation worksheet).	
	1	The planned habitat is >50 points and at least 60 points higher than the benchmark.	75
	2	The planned habitat is >50 points and at least 40-59 points higher than the benchmark.	50
	3	The planned habitat is >50 points and at least 20-39 points higher than the benchmark.	25
2		For question 4-5, only ONE yes answer may be given.	
	4	The planned area will serve as a >50 ft wide corridor for wildlife travel, regardless of total acreage.	50
	5	The planned area will serve as a 35-49 ft wide corridor for wildlife travel, regardless of total acreage.	30
4		General Questions	
	6	Is there an existing wildlife habitat plan approved by the State Biologist or Private Lands Wildlife Biologist?	25
	7	Livestock that has access to the wildlife habitat area prior to the contract, will be excluded from wildlife habitat. (if there are no livestock to exclude from the treatment area, the answer to this question is "no.")	25
	8	Prescribed burning will be used to manage any of the habitat.	25
	9	Have any maintenance activities (other than mowing) occurred on the habitat prior to the planned practices?	25
	10	The area controlled is either adjacent to or within 0.25 miles of a permanently managed/protected wildlife area.	25
Maximum Points: 400 Total Points			355

Local Issues:

Scoring Multiplier: 1.000

Scoring Ranges and Results Text:

High: 250 - 170	Medium: 169 - 90	Low: 89 - 1
The score for addressing State Issues is in the High Category	The score for addressing State Issues is in the Medium Category	The score for addressing State Issues is in the Low Category

Questions:

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
	1	Will the project benefit Early Successional species in the Quail Action Plan focus Districts (Big Walker, Headwaters, Culpeper, Three Rivers, Chowan Basin, Halifax)?	80
	2	Will the project occur within 2 miles of and benefit a species that is in the Toolkit layer T&E species (either DGIF or Natural Heritage)?	60
	3	Will the project occur within 2 miles of a listed water (Toolkit layer "T&E Water) and improve stream quality?	60
	4	The location of the planned Eastern Shore Bird Habitat area (643) is within 6 miles of the southernmost tip of Northampton County (from outlet of Plantation Creek and south).	25
	5	The location of the planned Eastern Shore Bird Habitat area (643) is within one mile from either coastline (bayside or oceanside).	25
		Maximum Points:	Total Points
			250

Selected Resource Concerns and Practices:

Fish and Wildlife: Habitat Fragmentation

- Brush Management (314)
- Critical Area Planting (342)
- Early Successional Habitat Development/M (647)
- Firebreak (394)
- Forest Stand Improvement (666)
- Herbaceous Weed Control (315)
- Prescribed Burning (338)

Fish and Wildlife: Imbalance Among and Within Populations

- Brush Management (314)
- Critical Area Planting (342)
- Early Successional Habitat Development/M (647)
- Firebreak (394)
- Forest Stand Improvement (666)
- Herbaceous Weed Control (315)
- Prescribed Burning (338)

Fish and Wildlife: Inadequate Cover/Shelter

- Brush Management (314)
- Critical Area Planting (342)
- Early Successional Habitat Development/M (647)
- Firebreak (394)
- Forest Stand Improvement (666)
- Herbaceous Weed Control (315)
- Prescribed Burning (338)

Fish and Wildlife: Inadequate Food

- Brush Management (314)
- Critical Area Planting (342)
- Early Successional Habitat Development/M (647)
- Firebreak (394)
- Forest Stand Improvement (666)
- Prescribed Burning (338)

Fish and Wildlife: Inadequate Space

- Brush Management (314)
- Critical Area Planting (342)
- Early Successional Habitat Development/M (647)

- Forest Stand Improvement (666)

- Herbaceous Weed Control (315)

- Prescribed Burning (338)

- Fish and Wildlife: T&E Species: Declining Species, Species of Concern

- Early Successional Habitat Development/M (647)

- Fence (382)

- Firebreak (394)

- Fish and Wildlife: Threatened and Endangered Fish and Wildlife Species

- Early Successional Habitat Development/M (647)

- Fence (382)

- Firebreak (394)

- Plant Condition: Noxious and Invasive Plants

- Brush Management (314)

- Critical Area Planting (342)

- Early Successional Habitat Development/M (647)

- Forest Stand Improvement (666)

- Herbaceous Weed Control (315)

- Prescribed Burning (338)

- Plant Condition: Productivity, Health and Vigor

- Brush Management (314)

- Critical Area Planting (342)

- Early Successional Habitat Development/M (647)

- Firebreak (394)

- Forest Stand Improvement (666)

- Herbaceous Weed Control (315)

- Prescribed Burning (338)

- Plant Condition: T&E Plant Species: Declining Species, Species of Concern

- Fence (382)

- Firebreak (394)

- Forest Stand Improvement (666)

- Plant Condition: Threatened and Endangered Plant Species

- Fence (382)

- Firebreak (394)

- Forest Stand Improvement (666)