

Ranking Tool Summary

for FY2012 - Upland Wildlife Habitat Creation

(Released 04/25/2012)

Description:

Description: This tool applies ONLY to the following project types • Creation of new, early successional habitat (for pollinator habitat use Wildflower Meadows for Wildlife, 327); • Establish native hardwood forests (primarily oaks) to create widely spaced hardwoods with early successional understory (savannas; use 612 and coordinate with the State Biologist); • Restore rare or declining habitat: Eastern Shore Atlantic Flyway Habitat (643), Longleaf Pine Historic Range (Accomac, Northampton, Brunswick, Greensville, Sussex, Prince George, Southampton, Isle of Wight, Surry, Suffolk, Chesapeake, Virginia Beach, James City and York Counties; 643), establish grassland bird habitat (327).

Land Uses:

Crop, Forest, Hay, Pasture

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. Meet regulatory requirements relating to animal feeding operations, or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	15
1	b. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a designated impaired water body?	10
1	c. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a water body?	5
2	a. Increase groundwater recharge in identified groundwater depletion areas (http://water.usgs.gov/ogw/rasa/html/TOC.html)?	15
2	b. Conserve water from irrigation system improvements and result in estimated water savings of at least 5% and saved water will be available for other beneficial uses?	10
2	c. Conserve water in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	5
3	a. Meet regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	15
3	b. Reduce green house gases such as methane, nitrous oxide, and volatile organic compounds (VOC)?	15
3	c. Increase carbon sequestration?	5
4	a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	15
5	a. Benefit threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern as identified in a State wildlife plan?	15
5	b. Retain wildlife and plant benefits on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)?	15
6	a. Eradicate or control noxious or invasive species?	10

6	b. Increase, improve or establish pollinator habitat?	10
6	c. Implement precision agricultural methods?	10
6	d. Properly dispose of animal carcasses?	5
6	e. Implement an Integrated Pest Management plan?	5
7	a. Reduce energy consumption on the agricultural operation?	15
7	b. Increase on-farm energy efficiency with more efficient equipment?	10
7	c. Assist in implementing energy conservation measures that reduce emissions from GHGs and air pollutants?	10
8	a. Implementation of all planned conservation practices within three years of contract obligation?	10
8	b. Improvement of existing conservation practices or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is accepted, or will complete an existing conservation system?	10
9	a. If the applicant has an existing EQIP contract, has it been, and is it now, on schedule and in full compliance?	5
9	b. Did the applicant successfully complete any past contract(s) in full compliance?	5
9	c. Is this the applicant's first EQIP application?	5
Total Points		250

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
3		Will the proposed practices protect, promote or create any of the following rare or declining habitats:	
	6	Oak Savanna Restoration (612)	100
	7	Prescribed burning will be used to manage oak savannas	25
	8	Longleaf Pine forests (643)	100
	9	Prescribed burning will be used to manage longleaf pine	25
	10	Eastern Shore Bird Habitat (643)	100
4		General Questions	
	11	Is there an existing wildlife habitat plan approved by the State Biologist or Private Lands Wildlife Biologist?	25
	12	Planting of pollinator habitat (327) containing a minimum of 2 native warm season grass species and 9 native wildflower species is planned.	50
	13	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
	14	Prescribed burning will be used to manage any of the habitat.	25
Maximum Points: 400			Total Points
			705

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 MediumCategory	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: 250 Total Points			250

Selected Resource Concerns and Practices:

Fish and Wildlife: Habitat Fragmentation

- Brush Management (314)
- Conservation Cover (327)
- Critical Area Planting (342)
- Early Successional Habitat Development/M (647)
- Fence (382)
- Field Border (386)
- Forest Stand Improvement (666)
- Hedgerow Planting (422)
- Herbaceous Weed Control (315)
- Prescribed Burning (338)
- Restoration and Management of Declining (643)
- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
- Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)

Fish and Wildlife: Imbalance Among and Within Populations

- Conservation Cover (327)
- Critical Area Planting (342)
- Early Successional Habitat Development/M (647)
- Field Border (386)
- Forest Stand Improvement (666)
- Hedgerow Planting (422)
- Herbaceous Weed Control (315)
- Prescribed Burning (338)
- Restoration and Management of Declining (643)
- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
- Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)

Fish and Wildlife: Inadequate Cover/Shelter

- Brush Management (314)
- Conservation Cover (327)
- Critical Area Planting (342)
- Early Successional Habitat Development/M (647)
- Fence (382)
- Field Border (386)

- Forest Stand Improvement (666)
- Hedgerow Planting (422)
- Herbaceous Weed Control (315)
- Prescribed Burning (338)
- Restoration and Management of Declining (643)
- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
- Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)

Fish and Wildlife: Inadequate Food

- Brush Management (314)
- Conservation Cover (327)
- Critical Area Planting (342)
- Early Successional Habitat Development/M (647)
- Fence (382)
- Field Border (386)
- Forest Stand Improvement (666)
- Hedgerow Planting (422)
- Prescribed Burning (338)
- Restoration and Management of Declining (643)
- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
- Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)

Fish and Wildlife: Inadequate Space

- Conservation Cover (327)
- Critical Area Planting (342)
- Early Successional Habitat Development/M (647)
- Fence (382)
- Field Border (386)
- Firebreak (394)
- Forest Stand Improvement (666)
- Hedgerow Planting (422)
- Herbaceous Weed Control (315)
- Prescribed Burning (338)
- Restoration and Management of Declining (643)
- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
- Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)

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

- Brush Management (314)
- Conservation Cover (327)
- Early Successional Habitat Development/M (647)
- Restoration and Management of Declining (643)
- Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)

Fish and Wildlife: Threatened and Endangered Fish and Wildlife Species

- Conservation Cover (327)
- Early Successional Habitat Development/M (647)
- Restoration and Management of Declining (643)
- Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)

Plant Condition: Noxious and Invasive Plants

- Brush Management (314)
- Conservation Cover (327)
- Critical Area Planting (342)
- Early Successional Habitat Development/M (647)
- Fence (382)
- Field Border (386)
- Firebreak (394)
- Forest Stand Improvement (666)
- Hedgerow Planting (422)
- Herbaceous Weed Control (315)
- Prescribed Burning (338)
- Restoration and Management of Declining (643)
- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
- Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)

Plant Condition: Productivity, Health and Vigor

- Brush Management (314)
- Conservation Cover (327)
- Critical Area Planting (342)
- Early Successional Habitat Development/M (647)
- Field Border (386)
- Firebreak (394)
- Forest Stand Improvement (666)
- Hedgerow Planting (422)
- Herbaceous Weed Control (315)
- Prescribed Burning (338)
- Restoration and Management of Declining (643)
- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
- Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)

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

- Conservation Cover (327)
- Restoration and Management of Declining (643)

Plant Condition: Threatened and Endangered Plant Species

- Conservation Cover (327)
- Restoration and Management of Declining (643)