

Ranking Tool Summary

for FY2013 - Wildlife - Aquatic Wildlife Habitat Creation

(Released 12/14/2012)

Description:

This tool applies only to the following project types (coordination with the State Biologist is required for all activities except riparian buffers): • Creation of Shallow Water Areas on cropland or grazing land and/or creation of vernal pools (soils must be less than 50% hydric and where little to no wetlands are present; use other programs {WRP, etc.} if these conditions are not present); • Fish passages and stream restoration; • Living shorelines; • Riparian herbaceous or forest buffers.

Land Uses:

Crop, Forest, Hay, Native/Naturalized Pasture, 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. 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 CO ₂ (Carbon Dioxide), CH ₄ (Methane), and N ₂ O (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 | | General Questions | |
| | 1 | Is there an existing wildlife habitat plan approved by the State Biologist or Private Lands Wildlife Biologist? | 25 |
| | 2 | Is there an existing wildlife habitat plan approved by the State Biologist or Private Lands Wildlife Biologist? | 50 |
| | 3 | The project will restore historic anadromous or catadromous species migration (through stream blockage removal). | 125 |
| | 4 | The historic upstream usable area available to aquatic species due to stream blockage removal is greater than 25 stream miles. | 25 |
| | 5 | Stream length offered for restoration is greater than 0.5 miles. | 25 |
| | 6 | The project will restore native brook trout habitat (spring creek restoration). | 175 |
| | 7 | Livestock will be excluded from wildlife habitat. | 50 |
| Maximum Points: 400 Total Points | | | 625 |

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 | The score for addressing State Issues is | The score for addressing State Issues is |

| | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| in the High Category | in the Medium Category | in the Low Category |
|----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|

Questions:

| Sub-heading Number | Question Number | Question | Points |
|--------------------|-----------------|--|--------------|
| | 1 | Will the project occur in a state listed impaired watershed shown on the Toolkit GIS layer "Impaired Waters of Virginia" and provide improved water quality? | 25 |
| | 2 | The project includes a Living Shoreline or a restoration of submerged aquatic vegetation practice in a Chesapeake Bay tributary. | 25 |
| | 3 | Does the project include the creation of riparian buffers? | 50 |
| | 4 | 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)? | 75 |
| | 5 | Will the project occur within 2 miles of a listed water (Toolkit layer "T&E Water) and improve stream quality? | 75 |
| Maximum Points: | | | Total Points |
| | | | 250 |

Selected Resource Concerns and Practices:

Fish and Wildlife: Habitat Fragmentation

- Aquatic Organism Passage (396)
- Brush Management (314)
- 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)
- Stream Habitat Improvement and Management (395)
- Streambank and Shoreline Protection (580)
- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Wetland Creation (658)
- Wetland Enhancement (659)
- Wetland Restoration (657)

Fish and Wildlife: Imbalance Among and Within Populations

- Aquatic Organism Passage (396)
- Brush Management (314)
- 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)
- Stream Habitat Improvement and Management (395)
- Streambank and Shoreline Protection (580)
- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Wetland Creation (658)
- Wetland Enhancement (659)
- Wetland Restoration (657)

Fish and Wildlife: Inadequate Cover/Shelter

- Aquatic Organism Passage (396)
- Brush Management (314)
- 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)
- Stream Habitat Improvement and Managemen (395)
- Streambank and Shoreline Protection (580)
- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Wetland Creation (658)
- Wetland Enhancement (659)
- Wetland Restoration (657)

Fish and Wildlife: Inadequate Food

- Brush Management (314)
- Conservation Cover (327)
- Critical Area Planting (342)
- Early Successional Habitat Development/M (647)
- 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)
- Stream Habitat Improvement and Managemen (395)
- Streambank and Shoreline Protection (580)
- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Wetland Creation (658)
- Wetland Enhancement (659)
- Wetland Restoration (657)

Fish and Wildlife: Inadequate Space

- Brush Management (314)
- Conservation Cover (327)
- Critical Area Planting (342)
- Dike (356)
- 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)
- Stream Habitat Improvement and Managemen (395)
- Streambank and Shoreline Protection (580)
- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Wetland Creation (658)
- Wetland Enhancement (659)
- Wetland Restoration (657)

Fish and Wildlife: Inadequate Water

- Aquatic Organism Passage (396)
- Dike (356)
- Stream Habitat Improvement and Managemen (395)
- Structure for Water Control (587)
- Wetland Creation (658)
- Wetland Enhancement (659)
- Wetland Restoration (657)

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

- Aquatic Organism Passage (396)
- Conservation Cover (327)
- Early Successional Habitat Development/M (647)
- Fence (382)
- Firebreak (394)
- Restoration and Management of Declining (643)
- Wetland Creation (658)

- Wetland Enhancement (659)

- Wetland Restoration (657)

Fish and Wildlife: Threatened and Endangered Fish and Wildlife Species

- Aquatic Organism Passage (396)

- Conservation Cover (327)

- Early Successional Habitat Development/M (647)

- Fence (382)

- Firebreak (394)

- Restoration and Management of Declining (643)

- Wetland Creation (658)

- Wetland Enhancement (659)

- Wetland Restoration (657)

Plant Condition: Noxious and Invasive Plants

- Brush Management (314)

- 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)

- Stream Habitat Improvement and Managemen (395)

- Streambank and Shoreline Protection (580)

- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)

- Wetland Creation (658)

- Wetland Enhancement (659)

- Wetland Restoration (657)

Plant Condition: Plants not adapted or suited

- 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)

- Stream Habitat Improvement and Managemen (395)

- Streambank and Shoreline Protection (580)

- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)

- Wetland Creation (658)

- Wetland Enhancement (659)

- Wetland Restoration (657)

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)

- Stream Habitat Improvement and Managemen (395)

- Streambank and Shoreline Protection (580)

- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)

- Wetland Creation (658)
- Wetland Enhancement (659)
- Wetland Restoration (657)

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

- Conservation Cover (327)
- Fence (382)
- Firebreak (394)
- Restoration and Management of Declining (643)

Plant Condition: Threatened and Endangered Plant Species

- Conservation Cover (327)
- Fence (382)
- Firebreak (394)
- Restoration and Management of Declining (643)

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