

Ranking Category–TRIBAL

Primary Resource Concerns–

- Domestic Animals–Inadequate Stock Water
- Plant Condition–Productivity, Health, Vigor (Cropland, Forestland, Rangeland, Pastureland, Hayland)
- Plant Condition–Noxious, Invasive Plants
- Soil Condition–Organic Matter Depletion
- Water Quality–Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Groundwater
- Water Quality–Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water
- Water Quality–Harmful Levels of Pesticides in Groundwater
- Water Quality–Harmful Levels of Pesticides in Surface Water
- Water Quality–Excessive Suspended Sediment and Turbidity in Surface Water
- Water Quantity–Inefficient Water Use on Non–irrigated Land

Secondary Resource Concern–

- Fish and Wildlife–Threatened and Endangered Species, Declining Species, Species of Concern (Only species identified for this ranking category on the Statewide At-Risk Species Listing are eligible for this resource concern.) Reference:

<http://www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/2013/criteria.html>

Priority–

- High, Low
 - o Field offices shall designate HIGH PRIORITY for applications scheduling perimeter or boundary fence on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) that expired on or after September 30, 2008, and LOW PRIORITY for applications scheduling perimeter or boundary fence on CRP that expired on or before September 30, 2007. All applications shall have a priority designation of either HIGH or LOW. Applications that do not have perimeter or boundary fence scheduled shall be designated HIGH PRIORITY.

Eligible Land Uses–

- Crop, Forest, Grazed Range, Hay, Pasture

Additional Requirements for this Category–

- If a Plant Condition or Domestic Animal resource concern will be treated:
 - o The unit of concern will be converted to a grazing plan during the life of the contract that will:
 - On grazed range, achieve 50 percent or less use for the year on the key forage species in identified grazing areas.
 - On pastureland or hayland, meet electronic Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG) requirements for regrowth by the end of the growing season.
 - o On native rangeland, producer will implement a monitoring system using grazing exclusion cages approved by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) that will verify the degree of use of the key forage species in identified key grazing areas, in the defined or planned grazing system, during the life of the contract.
 - o Cropland converted to grazing land will make up no more than 20 percent of the application acres to be eligible for this ranking category.

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State Issues–

1. Answer the following question 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 state priority category.

- Is the program application to support the development of a CAP? If answer is “Yes,” do not answer any other state level questions. If the answer is “No,” proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section. (400 points)

2. Answer the following question related to resource concerns:

- Unit of concern has at least one of the following resource concerns of Plant Condition–Productivity, Health, and Vigor; Plant Condition–Noxious and Invasive Plants; Water Quality–Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Groundwater; Water Quality–Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water; Water Quality–Harmful Levels of Pesticides in Groundwater; Water Quality–Harmful Levels of Pesticides in Surface Water; and/or Water Quality–Excessive Suspended Sediment and Turbidity in Surface Water. (95 points)

3. Answer ALL of the following questions related to at-risk species. If none apply, leave the answers “NO”:

- (a) Any part of the unit of concern is located within a Watershed Boundary Dataset (WBD) 12-digit watershed that contains an at-risk aquatic species **and** treatment of the resource concern will have a direct benefit to the at-risk aquatic species habitat. Only AQUATIC species identified for this ranking category on the Statewide At-Risk Species Listing are eligible for this resource concern. (2 points)

Reference: <http://www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/2013/criteria.html>

- (b) Any part of the unit of concern is located within 300 feet of a stream that contains an at-risk aquatic species **and** treatment of the resource concern will have a direct benefit to the at-risk aquatic species habitat. Only AQUATIC species identified for this ranking category on the Statewide At-Risk Species Listing are eligible for this resource concern. (3 points)

Reference: <http://www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/2013/criteria.html>

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- (c) Any part of the unit of concern is located within a terrestrial at-risk species habitat area or Bobwhite Quail Initiative areas **and** treatment of the resource concern will have a direct benefit to the terrestrial at-risk species habitat or bobwhite quail habitat. Only bobwhite quail or TERRESTRIAL species identified for this ranking category on the Statewide At-Risk Species Listing are eligible for this resource concern. (3 points)

Reference: <http://www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/2013/criteria.html>

- (d) Any part of the unit of concern is located in a Greater Prairie-Chicken (GPC) or Lesser Prairie-Chicken (LPC) priority habitat area and has at least a medium or greater woody canopy infestation level for targeted undesirable species as indicated in the brush management specification. The producer will implement a plan that meets NRCS eFOTG requirements to benefit GPC or LPC habitat. (2 points)
4. Answer the following question related to partner funding assistance:
- Producer has secured funding for portions of the project from other contributors, which may include, but is not limited to, conservation districts, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams, or other cost-share programs. (5 points)
5. If a Water Quality resource concern will be treated, answer ONE of the following two questions related to nitrate-leaching potential. If neither applies, leave the answers "NO":
- (a) A HIGH nitrate-leaching potential exists for greater than or equal to 50 percent of the unit of concern. (60 points)
 - (b) A combination of MEDIUM and/or HIGH nitrate-leaching potential exists for greater than or equal to 50 percent of the unit of concern. (40 points)
6. If a Water Quality resource concern will be treated, answer ONE of the following two questions related to Potential Soil Loss Index (PSLI). If neither applies, leave the answer "NO":
- (a) PSLI of HIGH exists for greater than or equal to 50 percent of the unit of concern. (60 points)
 - (b) A combination of MEDIUM and/or HIGH PSLI exists for greater than or equal to 50 percent of the unit of concern. (40 points)

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7. If a Water Quality resource concern will be treated, answer ONE of the following two questions related to receiving water bodies. (Receiving water body is defined as permanent water bodies greater than 0.5 acres in size; rivers; streams, including U.S. Geological Survey blue line intermittent streams; and Food Security Act wetlands for which hydrology has not been altered.) If neither applies, leave the answers “NO”:
 - (a) Any part of the unit of concern is located within 180 feet of a receiving water body or has a soil with frequent flood frequency. (5 points)
 - (b) Any part of the unit of concern is located between 180.1 to 300 feet of a receiving water body or has a soil with occasional flood frequency. (2 points)
8. If a Water Quality resource concern will be treated, answer ONE of the following two questions related to Kansas Geological Survey (KGS) identified sensitive groundwater areas. If neither applies, leave the answers “NO”:
 - (a) Greater than or equal to 50 percent of the unit of concern is located within a KGS identified sensitive groundwater area. (4 points)
 - (b) Any part of the unit of concern, but less than 50 percent, is located within a KGS identified sensitive groundwater area. (2 points)
9. If a Water Quality resource concern will be treated, answer ONE of the following four questions related to drainage into federal reservoirs. If none apply, leave the answer “NO”:
 - (a) The entire unit of concern (100 percent) is located within a hydrologic unit code (HUC) 11 drainage that is directly adjacent to a federal reservoir. (8 points)
 - (b) The entire unit of concern (100.0 percent) is located in a HUC 8 main-stem drainage that is upstream of a federal reservoir, above the HUC 11 drainage that is directly adjacent to the federal reservoir. (6 points)
 - (c) Any part of the unit of concern, but less than 100 percent, is located within a HUC 11 drainage that is directly adjacent to a federal reservoir. (4 points)
 - (d) Any part of the unit of concern, but less than 100 percent, is located in a HUC 8 main-stem drainage that is upstream of a federal reservoir, above the HUC 11 drainage that is directly adjacent to the federal reservoir. (2 points)
10. If a Water Quality resource concern will be treated, answer EACH of the following four questions related to nutrient management and waste water application:

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- (a) The nutrient management plan includes the application of livestock waste that will be applied by injection/subsurface application. (2 points)
 - (b) As a part of the nutrient management plan, split nitrogen applications will be implemented for all applicable nutrient applications in the rotation, to provide nutrients at the time for maximum crop utilization. (2 points)
 - (c) The nutrient management plan includes the application of phosphorous by band applying for all applicable nutrient applications in the rotation. (2 points)
 - (d) Waste water applied by irrigation will use an approved irrigation scheduling system. (2 points)
11. If a Plant Condition or Domestic Animal resource concern, answer ONE of the following questions related to the amount of rest to be provided by your planned grazing system. If none apply, leave the answers “NO”:
- (a) The planned grazing system will provide rest for greater than 91 percent of the days during the growing season. (120 points)
 - (b) The planned grazing system will provide rest no more than 90.9 percent and no less than 86 percent of the days during the growing season. (100 points)
 - (c) The planned grazing system will provide rest no more than 85.9 percent and no less than 82 percent of the days during the growing season. (75 points)
 - (d) The planned grazing system will provide rest no more than 81.9 percent and no less than 74 percent of the days during the growing season. (50 points)
 - (e) The planned grazing system will provide rest no more than 73.9 percent and no less than 49 percent of the days during the growing season. (30 points)
 - (f) The planned grazing system will provide rest no more than 48.9 percent and no less than 30 percent of the days during the growing season. (10 points)
12. If a Plant Condition or Domestic Animal resource concern, answer ONE of the following questions related to tamarisk (salt cedar) or sericea lespedeza infestation. If none apply, leave the answers “NO”:
- (a) The grazing unit is infested with up to 10 percent of tamarisk (salt cedar) or sericea lespedeza and the producer will implement a plan to control these species. (20 points)
 - (b) The grazing unit is infested with no more than 20 percent and no less than 10.1 percent of tamarisk (salt cedar) or sericea lespedeza and the producer will implement a plan to control these species. (10 points)

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- (c) The grazing unit is infested with no more than 30 percent and no less than 20.1 percent of tamarisk (salt cedar) or sericea lespedeza and the producer will implement a plan to control these species. (5 points)

13. If a Plant Condition or Domestic Animal resource concern, answer the following question related to brush infestation:

- The grazing unit is infested with a brush species at the medium woody canopy infestation level as indicated in the NRCS eFOTG for brush management and the producer will implement a plan to control the brush species. (5 points)

Local Issues–

Answer the following questions related to the application:

- (1) Is the program application to support the development of a CAP? If answer is “Yes,” do not answer any other local level questions. If the answer is “No,” proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section. (250 points)
- (2) Application includes at least one practice with a lifespan of 10 years or greater, as documented in the eFOTG. (40 points)
- (3) Practices are scheduled to be completed within four years. (40 points)
- (4) Participant requested a conservation plan for this application prior to August 31, 2012. (40 points)
- (5) Application was deferred from a previous funding period in the Program Contracts System (ProTracts). (40 points)
- (6) Participant has attended (in the past four years) a one-day grazing management workshop. Workshop curriculum must have included any of the following topics: plant physiology, grazing systems and design, range and pasture ecology, grazing and rangeland health, prescribed burning, forage and livestock balance, forage and resource inventory, soil and grazing resource interaction, and wildlife habitat creation/development/improvement through grazing management. (40 points)
- (7) Participant has attended (in the past four years) a multi-day grazing management school. Workshop curriculum must have included all of the following topics: plant physiology, grazing systems and design, range and pasture ecology, grazing and rangeland health, prescribed burning, forage and livestock balance, forage and resource inventory, soil and grazing resource interaction, and wildlife habitat creation/development/improvement through grazing management. (50 points)