

Ranking Category – FORESTLAND HEALTH

Primary Resource Concern –

- **Plant Condition – Productivity, Health, and Vigor (Cropland, Forestland)**
- **Soil Erosion – Streambank**
- **Water Quality – Excessive Suspended Sediment and Turbidity in Surface Water**

Secondary Resource Concern –

- **Fish and Wildlife – Threatened and Endangered Species, Declining Species, Species of Concern (Arkansas Darter, Arkansas River Shiner, Bald Eagle, Eastern Spotted Skunk, Neosho Madtom, Neosho Mucket Mussel, Topeka Shiner)**

Eligible Land Uses –

- **Crop, Forest, Grazed Range, Pasture**

Additional Requirements for this Category –

- **The 2008 Farm Bill requires that a producer must develop and implement a Forest Stewardship/Management Plan with the Kansas Forest Service.**
- **No State Issue points will be awarded to any applicant who has had a cancelled or terminated an EQIP contract in the past.**

State Issues –

If applicable, answer ONE of the following questions related to the Kansas Forest Service Potential for Forest Stewardship Program Benefits. If neither applies leave the answers “NO”:

- (1a) A HIGH forest stewardship potential exists for greater than or equal to 50.0 percent of the unit of concern. (240 points)
- (1b) A combination of MEDIUM and HIGH forest stewardship potential exists for greater than or equal to 50.0 percent of the unit of concern. (180 points)
- (1c) A MEDIUM forest stewardship potential exists for greater than or equal to 50.0 percent of the unit of concern. (120 points)
- (1d) A combination of LOW and MEDIUM forest stewardship potential exists for greater than or equal to 50.0 percent of the unit of concern. (60 points)

If applicable, answer ONE of the following questions related to Tree/Shrub Soils Suitability Group. If neither applies leave the answers “NO”:

- (2a) Greater than or equal to 50.0 percent of the unit of concern is located on soils in Conservation Tree/Shrub and Windbreak Suitability Group 1 or 2, based on acreage. (40 points)
- (2b) Any part of the unit of concern, but less than 50.0 percent, is located on soils in Conservation Tree/Shrub and Windbreak Suitability Group 1 or 2, based on acreage. (20 points)

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If applicable, answer ONE of the following questions related to at risk species. If neither applies, leave the answers “NO”:

- (3a) The entire unit of concern (100.0 percent) is located within an at-risk species habitat area for Arkansas Darter, Arkansas River Shiner, Bald Eagle, Neosho Madtom, Neosho Mucket Mussel, Eastern Spotted Skunk, and/or Topeka Shiner and treatment of the resource concern will benefit the at-risk species. (10 points)
- (3b) Any part of the unit of concern, but less than 100.0 percent, is located within an at-risk species habitat area Arkansas Darter, Arkansas River Shiner, Bald Eagle, Neosho Madtom, Neosho Mucket Mussel, Eastern Spotted Skunk, and/or Topeka Shiner and treatment of the resource concern will benefit the at-risk species. (5 points)

Answer the following question related to partner funding assistance:

- (4) 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)

Local Issues –

Answer the following questions related to the application:

- (1) Application includes at least one practice with a lifespan of 10 years or greater, as documented in the eFOTG. (5 points)
- (2) Practices are scheduled to be completed within four years. (5 points)
- (3) Participant completed the appropriate Self-Assessment Worksheet (SAW) prior to the application evaluation period cut-off date and returned it to the appropriate Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) field office. SAW was NOT completed by NRCS staff. (5 points)
- (4) Application was deferred from a previous funding period in the Program Contracts System (ProTracts). (5 points)