

Ranking Category – WILDLIFE HABITAT

Primary Resource Concern –

- Fish and Wildlife – Threatened and Endangered Species, Declining Species, Species of Concern (Greater Prairie-Chicken, Lesser Prairie-Chicken)

Eligible Land Use –

- Grazed Range

Additional Requirements for this Category –

- To be eligible under this ranking category, greater than 50 percent of the application acres are within the current range for Greater Prairie-Chicken (GPC) and Lesser Prairie-Chicken (LPC).
- 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

Answer ONE of the following questions related to the location of the application:

- (1a) The entire unit of concern (100.0 percent) is located within the current range for the GPC and/or LPC. (35 points)
- (1b) At least 75.0 percent of the unit of concern, but less than 100.0 percent, are located within the current range for the GPC and/or LPC. (25 points)
- (1c) Any part of the unit of concern, but less than 75.0 percent, is located within the current range for the GPC and/or LPC. (15 points)

Answer BOTH of the following questions related to the habitat area:

- (2a) Any part of the unit of concern is within a Playa Lakes Joint Venture (PLJV) Core Habitat area. (10 points)
- (2b) Any part of the unit of concern is within a PLJV Core Buffer Habitat area. (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 electronic Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG). (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)

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- (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)
- (5) Planned treatment will benefit natural wetlands exceeding one acre in size. A certified wetland determination is not required. (5 points)

Answer ONE of the following questions related to trees on the unit of concern. If none apply, answer "NO" to all:

- (6a) Unit of concern has no trees present, except low elevations and narrow riparian areas that do not fragment prairie-chicken habitat. (15 points)
- (6b) Unit of concern has trees widely scattered over the upland areas (1.0 to 5.0 percent coverage). (10 points)
- (6c) Unit of concern has trees widespread over the entire area (5.1 to 15.0 percent coverage). (5 points)