

## Ranking Category–WILDLIFE HABITAT

### Primary Resource Concern–

- **Fish and Wildlife–Threatened and Endangered Species, Declining Species, Species of Concern**

### Eligible Land Use–

- **Grazed Range, Crop, Hay, Pasture, Wildlife**

### Priority–

- **High, Low**
  - **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.**

### Additional Requirements for this Category–

- **To be eligible under this ranking category, the conservation plan must address at least one upland grassland bird species considered Species of Greatest Conservation Needs that are identified in the Kansas Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan.**

### 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 ONE of the following questions related to the location of the application:
  - (a) The entire unit of concern (100 percent) is located within the current range for the Greater Prairie-Chicken (GPC) or the Quail Initiative area. (200 points)
  - (b) 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 or the Quail Initiative area. (150 points)
  - (c) Any part of the unit of concern, but less than 75 percent, is located within the current range for the GPC or the Quail Initiative area. (100 points)

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3. Answer ONE of the following questions related to the habitat area:
  - (a) Any part of the unit of concern is within a Playa Lakes Joint Venture (PLJV) Core Habitat area for GPC. (100 points)
  - (b) Any part of the unit of concern is within a PLJV Core Buffer Habitat area for GPC. (50 points)
4. Answer ONE of the following questions related to Prescribed Grazing:
  - Prescribed Grazing is implemented for the life of the contract that addresses habitat needs for at least one upland grassland bird species considered Species of Greatest Conservation Needs that are identified in the Kansas Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan. (50 points)
5. Answer ONE of the following questions related to Tree on the unit of concern:
  - Unit of concern has no trees present, except low elevations and riparian areas that do not fragment grassland habitat. (50 points)
  - Unit of concern has trees widely scattered over the upland areas (1.0 to 5.0 percent coverage) (25 points)
  - Unit of concern has trees widespread over the entire area (5.1 to 15.0 percent coverage) (5 points)

### **Local Issues–**

1. Answer EACH of the following six questions related to the application:
  - (a) 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)
  - (b) Application includes at least one practice with a lifespan of 10 years or greater, as documented in the electronic Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG). (25 points)
  - (c) Practices are scheduled to be completed within four years. (25 points)
  - (d) Participant requested a conservation plan for this application prior to August 31, 2012. (25 points)

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- (e) 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. (50 points)
- (f) Expired CRP fields are included in the conservation plan and managed to benefit upland grassland bird species considered Species of Greatest Conservation Needs that are identified in the Kansas Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan. (50 points)
- (g) Is the unit of concern is within 2 miles of property with long-term U.S. Department of Agricultural (USDA) (greater than or equal to 10 years) Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) and Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) easements, National Wildlife Refuges or State Wildlife Areas that are actively managed for wildlife. (25 points)

### 2. Answer ONE of the following questions related to habitat management:

- Patch Burning, following Conservation Practice (CP) 645, Upland Wildlife Habitat Management, will be used to provide habitat for upland grassland bird species considered Species of Greatest Conservation Need. (50 points)
- CP 338, Prescribed Burning, will be included in the conservation plan. (25 points)