

South Central LWG Proposed 2012 Criteria

South Central Local Work Group met February 14, 2011 . Our LWG Group members are pleased overall with the results of program. Criteria will not have major revisions.

South Central Local Work Group 2012 Ranking Goal: Implement EQIP in a manner that enables fair access by all applicants and addresses the LWG's highest priority resource concerns.

Objectives of the LWG process:

1. Prioritize resource concerns annually.
2. Adjust ranking criteria to enable addressing highest priority resource concerns
3. Implement EQIP in a timely manner
4. Encourage a broad spectrum of process input throughout the South Central LWG area.

Natural Resource Assessment & Conservation Priorities established by SCT-LWG: Natural Resource Conservation Priorities

Land Use	1	2	3	4	5
Dry Cropland – South Central LWG	Soil Erosion – Wind (3/4)	Air Quality – PM10, PM2.5, visibility (1/2)	Fish & Wildlife – fragmentation, T&E, cover	Soil Condition – organic matter (1/0)	Soil Erosion – sheet & rill
Irrigated Cropland – South Central LWG	Water Quality – sedimentation , excessive nutrients & organics, pesticides, Yakima Ground Water (10/5)	Water Quantity – inefficient use & flows, aquifer overdraft, conveyance, (2/7)	Soil Erosion – irrigation induced 0/1)	Soil Condition – fertilizer contaminants 0/1	Fish & Wildlife – T&E, fragmentation, space, cover (1/0)
Orchard – South Central LWG	Water Quality – (surface) pesticides (0/2)	Soil Condition – (contaminants) fertilizer, pesticides, P&K	Water Quantity – inefficient use	Air Quality – chemical drift (1/1)	Fish & Wildlife – population, fragmentation, space
Hayland – South Central LWG	Water Quantity – inefficient use & flows, aquifer overdraft, runoff	Water Quality – excessive nutrients, pesticides (2/0)	Soil Erosion – irrigation induced	Fish & Wildlife – population, fragmentation, space, T&E, food, cover	Soil Condition – organic matter, compaction
Headquarters – Confined Animal (South Central LWG)	Water Quality – nutrients, pathogens, sediment (0/3)	Soil Condition – animal waste, compaction, pesticides (1/1)	Water Quantity – aquifer overdraft	Air Quality – odors	Plant Condition – wildfire, noxious weeds
Headquarters	Water Quality	Water Quantity	Soil Condition		

- Other (South Central LWG)	- nutrients, pathogens, sediment	- aquifer overdraft	- animal waste, compaction, pesticides		
Pasture – SC Team	Water Quantity – inefficient use & flows, aquifer overdraft, runoff	Water Quality – (surface) excessive nutrients, pesticides	Fish & Wildlife – population, fragmentation, space, T&E, food, cover	Soil Condition – animal waste, compaction	Soil Erosion – irrigation induced
Forestland – South Central LWG	Plant Condition – health & vigor, wildfire, noxious weeds (1/3)	Soil Erosion – roads, streambanks (1/0)	Fish & Wildlife – population, T&E, food, cover	Water Quality – temperature, sediment	Water Quantity – inefficient use & flows
Rangeland – South Central LWG	Plant Condition – health & vigor, wildfire, noxious weeds, not suited (6/2)	Fish & Wildlife – T&E, cover (Domestic Animals – water, forage	Water Quantity – hydrologic cycle	Soil Condition – site stability; Soil Erosion – ephemeral gullies (1/0)
Wildlife – South Central LWG	Fish & Wildlife – T&E	Plant Condition – health & vigor, wildfire, noxious weeds, not suited	Fish & Wildlife – food, cover, water, population	Fish & Wildlife – fragmented habitats	Plant Condition - wildfire

Preferred Applications:

- Irrigated Cropland (including hay land) – Water Quality – sedimentation , excessive nutrients & organics, pesticides, Yakima Ground Water (12/5)
- Preferred applications: those applications that not only address sediment, but address excessive nutrients & organics, emphasize a suite of practices that would do this...ranking wise can ask if they are already addressing nutrients, organics and IWM. Limited and underserve covered in existing ranking system

- Rangeland - Plant Condition – health & vigor, wildfire, noxious weeds, not suited (6/2)
- Preferred applications: those applications that have the management practices, seeding

- Dry Cropland – Soil Erosion – Wind (3/4)
- Preferred applications: those applications with direct seed, nutrient & pest management. Could introduce energy conservation question into the ranking process
- Question: Do we need to look at mulch till with the changes in the quality criteria

- Irrigated Cropland - Water Quantity - Water Quantity – inefficient use & flows, aquifer overdraft, conveyance, (2/7)
- Preferred applications: really precise irrigation water management in application, example variable rates technology to be used, existing technology

- Forestland - Plant Condition – health & vigor, wildfire, noxious weeds (1/3)
- Preferred applications: applications that include pre-commercial thinning, understory cleaning, slash disposal (non-burning), afforestation

Funding Pools:

The SCT-LWG was overall happy with how the funding pools worked last year. They did not propose changing the funding pools or allocations.

Funding Pools have assisted SCT-LWG with dispersion of funds to treat several different resource concerns within an area that has several different land uses. The table below shows the propose dispersion of funds among the different funding pools:

Pool	Recommended FY12 (proposed)
Irrigated Cropland	25%
Dry Cropland	20%
Livestock & Grazing	25%
Forest Health	10%
Integrated Pest Management	15%
Technology	5%

Each funding pool will use all of there allocation if they have enough applicants that meet the minimum score. Excess funds that a funding pool did not use or need will be reallocated within other funding pools where there is more applicants that meet the minimum scoring. This reallocation will be based on the percent of unfunded applications remaining within each funding pool.

1. The modifier must apply to the area to be treated under the application
2. The application must contain a conservation practice eligible for EQIP cost share or incentive payment that will address each modifier for which points are being awarded. For each modifier a practice must address a resource concern.

**Natural Resources Conservation Service
Application Ranking Summary
South Central Team - General EQIP FY 2012**

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
DRY CROP ONLY Answer yes only one time to for the next 4 questions	
(DRY CROP ONLY) Will Residue Management, No Till, Strip Till Practice (329) be implemented? (Remember, must meet T using WEPS)	115 Point(s)
(DRY CROP ONLY) Will Residue Management, Mulch Till Practice (345) be implemented? (Remember, must meet T using WEPS)	100 Point(s)
(DRY CROP ONLY) Will Practice from STRIP/BUFFER list be implemented only (no residue practice included)?	90 Point(s)
(DRY CROP ONLY) Will Strip Farming only (no residue practice included)?	90 Point(s)
DRY CROP ONLY Answer yes to all that apply for the next 3 questions	
(DRY CROP ONLY)..... Will Nutrient Management or Integrated Pest Management, (590, 595) ALONG WITH 329 or 345 be implemented?	5 Point(s)
(DRY CROP ONLY) Will Practice from STRIP/BUFFER List ALONG WITH 329 or 345 be implemented?	5 Point(s)
(DRY CROP ONLY) Will Strip Farming be implemented ALONG WITH 345 or 329?	5 Point(s)
DRY CROP ONLY Answer yes only one time for the next 2 questions	
DRY CROP ONLY) Are currently exceeding T and willing to Meet T.	10 Point(s)

(DRY CROP ONLY)Currently meeting T and willing to reduce by half calculated rate.	5 Point(s)
IRRIGATED CROP ONLY Answer "yes" only once for questions the next 4 questions (based on the most efficient system) --- Surface irrigation is the distribution of irrigation water by surface means such as furrows, borders, contour levees, or contour ditches. Grant points if the application includes conservation practices that directly improve irrigation efficiencies on land that has historically been and is currently under surface irrigation. This includes the use of , sprinkler, and trickle systems. Evaluation may be based on case file information and applicant interview.	
(IRRIGATED CROP ONLY)Will surface irrigation be converted to drip/trickle?	155 Point(s)
(IRRIGATED CROP ONLY)Will surface irrigation be converted to other sprinkler system?	150 Point(s)
(IRRIGATED CROP ONLY)Will surface irrigation be improved to sprinkler or drip where field may have a history of pressurized irrigation but is no longer being used and is currently surface irrigated?	90 Point(s)
(IRRIGATED CROP ONLY)Will surface irrigation be improved providing water quality/quantity benefits?	80 Point(s)
IRRIGATED CROP ONLY irrigation induced erosion. Only answer questions if project is converting from surface irrigation to a pressure system. Answer yes to all that apply for the next 6 questions. Following the instructions of NRCS Tech. Note 23, irrigation induced erosion – Nomograph, assign 1 point for each ton/ac saved. This is the difference between the before and after scenarios. Use the predominant soil type and percent slope and the average length of run and crop type.	
(IRRIGATED CROP ONLY)Will planned practices reduce irrigation induced erosion by at least 1 ton?	1 Point(s)
(IRRIGATED CROP ONLY)Will planned practices reduce irrigation induced erosion by at least 2 tons?	1 Point(s)
(IRRIGATED CROP ONLY)Will planned practices reduce irrigation induced erosion by at least 3 tons?	1 Point(s)
(IRRIGATED CROP ONLY)Will planned practices reduce irrigation induced erosion by at least 4 tons?	1 Point(s)
(IRRIGATED CROP ONLY)Will planned practices reduce irrigation induced erosion by at least 5 tons?	1 Point(s)
(IRRIGATED CROP ONLY)Will planned practices reduce irrigation induced erosion by at least 6 or more tons?	1 Point(s)
IRRIGATED CROP ONLY. Answer yes to all that apply	
(IRRIGATED CROP ONLY)Will irrigation efficiency be improved on non-surface systems?..... Select "yes" if improving irrigation efficiency on non-surface systems by 10% or more above current conditions. (Evaluation based on FIRI or approved methods)	25 Point(s)
INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT ONLY	
(INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT ONLY) Will applicant be willing to implement a Basic Pest Management Plan (8 part plan)	30 Point(s)
INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT ONLY.....Answer yes only once for the next 3 questions.	
(INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT).....(reduced risk pesticide use)..... Will applicant be willing to reduce or eliminate the use of all organophosphates? (4+ Benchmark OP applications)	120 Point(s)

(INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT).....(reduced risk pesticide use)..... Will applicant be willing to reduce or eliminate the use of all organophosphates? (2-3 Benchmark OP applications)	100 Point(s)
(INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT).....(reduced risk pesticide use)..... Will applicant be willing to eliminate the use of all organophosphates? (1 Benchmark OP application)	90 Point(s)
INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT answer as applicable	
(INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT).....Will use of a Low Volume Tower Sprayer (595) be adapted IN ADDITION TO implementing mating disruption or use of reduced risk pesticides (add on item) (only answer yes if applicant does not currently have access to a low volume tower sprayer)?	10 Point(s)
(INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT).....Implement beneficial species habitat for IPM	10 Point(s)
GRAZING LAND ONLY Answer yes to all that apply for the next 3 questions. Note: GRAZING LAND/LIVESTOCK – This is one funding pool, but consider the application as either grazing or livestock, not both, for ranking purposes.	
(GRAZING LAND ONLY)Will prescribed grazing be applied? Answer "yes" only if the applicant agrees to apply prescribed grazing on the proposed contract acres. The definition of prescribed grazing is the controlled harvest of vegetation with grazing animals managed with the intent to achieve a specified objective. The purposes are: to improve or maintain the health & vigor of the desired plant community; maintain or improve water quality and quantity, reduce soil erosion and maintain or improve soil condition; and improve or maintain animal health and productivity. It includes developing a grazing schedule for the operating unit to document expected quantity and quality of forage for each pasture; number of livestock by kinds and class, and periods of grazing, resting and other treatment for each management unit	55 Point(s)
(GRAZING LAND ONLY) Range structural practices will be used to facilitate grazing distribution? Answer "yes" only if there is sufficient indication that: (1) there is either a lack of adequate water quantity or availability and/or, (2) there is a lack of adequate cross-fencing and these are limiting factors for achieving proper grazing distribution. Evaluation may be based on aerial photos, case file information, the National Range and Pasture Handbook, and applicant interview.	35 Point(s)
(GRAZING LAND ONLY)Will applicant utilize practices that improve plant condition (Health & Vigor) on forage ground?(Pasture, hayland, forage cropland). The management scheme or plan does not provide the proper techniques and timing to meet the plant needs of establishment, growth, and harvest. Answer "yes" only if a combination of the following practice standards will be met to reduce soil compaction and promote an upward trend of proper plant community –511 Forage Harvest Management, 512 Pasture and Hay Planting, 472 Use exclusion, 550 Range planting, 548 Grazing Land Mechanical treatment	25 Point(s)
LIVESTOCK ONLY.....Answer yes to all that apply for the next 8 questions. GRAZING LAND/LIVESTOCK – This is one funding pool, but consider the application as either grazing or livestock, not both, for ranking purposes.	
(LIVESTOCK ONLY) Will confinement areas adjacent to streams be relocated to create buffers with livestock exclusion?..... Confinement areas are defined as restricted areas where livestock are fed and waste and effluent are concentrated. Confinement areas will be relocated no less than the minimum buffer width specified in the current Riparian Forest Buffer Standard (391).	130 Point(s)

(LIVESTOCK ONLY) Will a CNMP be included?(livestock operations) Answer "yes" only if the application is a livestock operation with lands where animal manure is applied, and will include the development and implementation of a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan that meets NRCS criteria. Evaluation may be based on case file information and applicant interview. An existing nutrient management resource problem must be present to receive these points.	35 Point(s)
(LIVESTOCK ONLY) Will water quality be improved by implementing a manure waste transfer system? Answer "yes" only if waste transfer is needed to implement CNMP, or if transfer is needed from storage to additional liquid application acres not currently in the CNMP.	24 Point(s)
(LIVESTOCK ONLY) Will air and water quality be improved by implementing soil injection of animal waste?..... Answer "yes" only if implementing a manure injection system for odor control, where feasible as part of the CNMP.	11 Point(s)
(LIVESTOCK ONLY)Is storage needed for animal manure? Answer "yes" only if a waste storage facility is needed and included in the application. Evaluation may be based on applicant interview, livestock numbers, and current storage capability.	59 Point(s)
(LIVESTOCK ONLY) "Is applicant willing to apply compost instead of raw (solid) manure?"	30 Point(s)
(LIVESTOCK ONLY) "Is applicant willing to build and operate a compost facility?"	30 Point(s)
(LIVESTOCK ONLY) Are there heavy use areas that need stabilization? Answer "yes" only if there is a need to stabilize small areas of intense livestock use to improve water quality and/or quantity. Evaluation may be based on soil interpretations, case file information, and applicant interview. The conservation practice "Heavy Use Area Protection" will be included in the application. This does not include gravel around troughs.	11 Point(s)
FOREST LAND ONLY	
(FOREST LAND ONLY) Does the applicant have an existing stewardship plan created by an accredited/professional forester?	10 Point(s)
FOREST LAND ONLY..... Answer only once for the next 3 questions.	
(FOREST LAND ONLY) Will address forest health issues, ie thinning, pruning, slash treatment, pressure release etc.	180 Point(s)
(FOREST LAND ONLY) Is applicant willing to address erosion concerns on one of the following areas: existing forest roads, landings or stream banks?	160 Point(s)
(FOREST LAND ONLY) Is applicant willing to apply a practice that addresses a wildfire hazard problem?	140 Point(s)
TECHNOLOGY POOL, Answer yes only once for the next 5 questions. (if participant is doing more than 1 practice on this list, still choose only 1.)	
(TECHNOLOGY POOL) Is applicant willing to apply Pest Management, Advanced Technology using GPS guidance?	140 Point(s)
(TECHNOLOGY POOL) Is applicant willing to apply energy conservation practices?	130 Point(s)
(TECHNOLOGY POOL) Is applicant willing to apply advanced Irrigation Water Management? (stand alone)	140 Point(s)
(TECHNOLOGY POOL)..... Is applicant willing to apply Nutrient Management, Enhanced?	150 Point(s)
(TECHNOLOGY POOL) Is applicant willing to install an ag handling facility?	125 Point(s)
ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATION FOR ALL	

(ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATION FOR ALL) Will a buffer/wildlife practices be installed? Answer "yes" only if the application includes a buffer/wildlife practice that will provide a water quality, wildlife habitat, and/or air quality benefit. (Answer yes only if points are not awarded for other modifiers)	30 Point(s)
(ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATION FOR ALL) “Applicant's history of completing previous contracts” (1 of 3) ---Based on applicant’s proven history of completing previous USDA conservation contracts, did applicant complete implementation of all past contracts on schedule, or has never participated on a conservation program contract?	0 Point(s)
(ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATION FOR ALL) “Applicant's history of completing previous contracts” (2 of 3) ---Based on applicant’s proven history of completing previous USDA conservation contracts, did applicant complete implementation of all contract items with minor delays, within participant's control, which required contract modification?	-5 Point(s)
(ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATION FOR ALL) “Applicant's history of completing previous contracts”(3 of 3) ---Base on applicant’s proven history of completing previous USDA conservation contracts, did applicant fail to complete a past contract?	-30 Point(s)
(ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATION FOR ALL) Does applicant's project require permits? If so, are all permits in place ready to install?(applies to stream projects only)	40 Point(s)
(ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATION FOR ALL) Is critical area restoration needed for erosion control on naturally disturbed areas? (i.e. Fire, flood, etc.) (Answer yes only if points are not awarded for other modifiers)	5 Point(s)

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Practice Code	Practice Name	Practice Hold Down NTE \$ <u>1/</u>
472	Access Control (472)	--
560	Access Road (560)	\$50,000
309	Agrichemical Handling Facility (309)	\$25,000
316	Animal Mortality Facility (316)	\$50,000
575	Animal Trails and Walkways (575)	\$10,000
314	Brush Management (314)	\$50,000
317	Composting Facility (317)	\$50,000
327	Conservation Cover (327)	\$50,000
332	Contour Buffer Strips (332)	\$25,000
340	Cover Crop (340)	\$50,000
342	Critical Area Planting (342)	\$25,000
588	Cross Wind Ridges (588)	\$25,000
356	Dike (356)	--
362	Diversion (362)	\$10,000
382	Fence (382)	\$50,000
386	Field Border (386)	\$25,000
393	Filter Strip (393)	\$25,000
396	Fish Passage (396)	\$25,000
512	Forage and Biomass Planting (512)	\$50,000
384	Forest Slash Treatment (384)	\$50,000
666	Forest Stand Improvement (666)	\$25,000
655	Forest Trails and Landings (655)	\$10,000
383	Fuel Break (383)	\$50,000
410	Grade Stabilization Structure (410)	\$50,000
412	Grassed Waterway (412)	\$25,000
561	Heavy Use Area Protection (561)	\$25,000
603	Herbaceous Wind Barriers (603)	\$25,000
595	Integrated Pest Management (595) All other IPM	\$25,000
595	Integrated Pest Management (595) Advanced (GPS Guidance)	\$10,000
430	Irrigation Pipeline (430)	\$50,000
441	Irrigation System, Microirrigation (441)	\$75,000
441	Irrigation System, Microirrigation (441) (non-surface to drip)	\$25,000
442	Irrigation System, Sprinkler (442) handline	\$50,000
442	Irrigation System, Sprinkler (442) handline (non-surface to sprinkler)	\$25,000
442	Irrigation System, Sprinkler (442) linear	\$75,000
442	Irrigation System, Sprinkler (442) linear (non-surface to sprinkler)	\$25,000
442	Irrigation System, Sprinkler (442) Pivot	\$75,000
442	Irrigation System, Sprinkler (442) Pivot (non-surface to sprinkler)	\$25,000
442	Irrigation System, Sprinkler (442) Pivot with corner catcher	\$75,000
442	sprinkler)	\$25,000
442	Irrigation System, Sprinkler (442) Sideroll/wheeline/flexible hose	\$50,000
442	surface to sprinkler)	\$25,000
442	Irrigation System, Sprinkler (442) solid set	\$75,000
442	Irrigation System, Sprinkler (442) solid set (non-surface to sprinkler)	\$25,000
443	Irrigation System, Surface and Subsurfac (443) gated	\$10,000

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Practice Code	Practice Name	Practice Hold Down NTE \$ <u>1</u> /
449	Irrigation Water Management (449)	\$10,000
484	Mulching (484)	\$25,000
590	Nutrient Management (590) basic	--
590	Nutrient Management (590) Enhanced	\$10,000
516	Pipeline (516)	\$50,000
378	Pond (378)	\$10,000
521C	Pond Sealing or Lining, Bentonite Sealan (521C)	\$50,000
521A	Pond Sealing or Lining, Flexible Membran (521A)	\$50,000
528	Prescribed Grazing (528)	--
533	Pumping Plant (533) inculdes variable speed	\$25,000
550	Range Planting (550)	\$50,000
344	Residue Management, Seasonal (344)	\$75,000
345	Residue Mgmt, Mulch Till (345)	\$75,000
329	Residue Mgmt-No-Till/Strip Till/Direct S (329)	\$75,000
643	Rest. & Mgt of Rare & Declining Habitats (643)	\$10,000
391	Riparian Forest Buffer (391)	\$25,000
558	Roof Runoff Structure (558)	\$25,000
367	Roofs and Covers (367)	\$25,000
350	Sediment Basin (350)	\$25,000
381	Silvopasture Establishment (381)	\$25,000
574	Spring Development (574)	\$25,000
578	Stream Crossing (578)	\$10,000
395	Stream Habitat Improvement and Management (395)	\$50,000
580	Streambank and Shoreline Protection (580)	\$50,000
585	Stripcropping (585)	\$25,000
587	Structure for Water Control (587)	\$50,000
600	Terrace (600)	\$10,000
612	Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)	\$50,000
660	Tree/Shrub Pruning (660)	\$10,000
490	Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490)	\$25,000
620	Underground Outlet (620)	\$25,000
645	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)	--
601	Vegetative Barrier (601)	\$25,000
313	Waste Storage Facility (313)	\$75,000
634	Waste Transfer (634)	\$75,000
633	Waste Utilization (633)	\$10,000
642	Water Well (642)	\$50,000
351	Water Well Decommissioning (351)	\$5,000
614	Watering Facility (614)	\$50,000
657	Wetland Restoration (657)	--
644	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (644)	\$25,000
380	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380)	\$10,000
	Footnotes:	

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Practice Code	Practice Name	Practice Hold Down NTE \$ <u>1</u> /
	1/ The listed practice hold-downs are per contract, and apply to all applicants. Applicants qualifying as Historially Underserved (Beginning, Limited Resource, and Socially Disadvantaged Farmers or Ranchers) will receive an increase in payment rates; the listed hold-down per contract is not increased.	
	2/ Incentive payments for a Management/Incentive practice will be allowed for one to three years in the contract. If Residue Management practices (329 and 345) are scheduled for multiple years, the scheduled years must be consecutive.	