

WA Statewide CRP Special Initiative FY2010 EQIP Ranking Criteria

Description:

FY2010 EQIP RANKING - CRP Special Initiative

This special initiative is intended to provide technical and financial assistance to minimize the environmental impacts of the resumption of farming activities on land which had been enrolled under Conservation Reserve Program contracts that expired on 9/30/2009, or will expire on 9/30/2010. Alternatives include retaining the perennial cover for use as grazing land, and Residue & Tillage Management systems on land that will be returned to crop production. Retention or improvement of existing cover to benefit wildlife, pollinators and beneficial insects is encouraged.

Land Uses: Crop, Pasture

National Priorities:

Scoring Multiplier: 1.000

Number	Question	Points
1	a. Meet regulatory requirements relating to animal feeding operations, or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	15
1	b. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a designated impaired water body?	10
1	c. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a water body?	5
2	a. Increase groundwater recharge in identified groundwater depletion areas (http://water.usgs.gov/ogw/rasa/html/TOC.html)?	15
2	b. Conserve water from irrigation system improvements and result in estimated water savings of at least 5% and saved water will be available for other beneficial uses?	10
2	c. Conserve water in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	10
3	a. Meet regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	15
3	b. Reduce green house gases such as methane, nitrous oxide, and volatile organic compounds (VOC)?	15
3	c. Increase carbon sequestration?	10
4	a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	15
5	a. Benefit threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern as identified in a State wildlife plan?	15
5	b. Retain wildlife and plant benefits on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)?	15
6	a. Eradicate or control noxious or invasive species?	10
6	b. Increase, improve or establish pollinator habitat?	10
6	c. Properly dispose of animal carcasses?	10
6	d. Implement an Integrated Pest Management plan?	10
6	e. Implement precision agricultural methods?	10
7	a. Reduce energy consumption on the agricultural operation?	10
8	a. Implementation of all planned conservation practices within three years of contract obligation?	10
8	b. Improvement of existing conservation practices or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is accepted, or will complete an existing conservation system?	10
9	a. If the applicant has an existing EQIP contract, has it been, and is it now, on schedule and in full compliance?	10
9	b. Did the applicant successfully complete any past contract(s) in full compliance?	5
9	c. Is this the applicant's first EQIP application?	5
	Total Points	250

State Issues:

Scoring Multiplier: 1.000

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
	1	Will 3 or more SWAPA elements be treated through this EQIP contract?	25
	2	Will all contracted practices be management, vegetative or non-engineering type practices, or if engineering practices are included will the participant supply the engineering design certified by a licensed professional engineer?(This includes producer-selected TSP designs)	20
	3	Will practices be implemented to treat surface water quality concerns in a planning unit that is immediately adjacent to a 303d listed (category 4 or 5) waterbody, as shown on the WA DOE web-based map? (http://apps.ecy.wa.gov/wqawa/viewer.htm)	20
	4	Will the initial contract length be limited to 5 years or less?	20
	5	Will contracted practices assist the producer in complying with AFO/CFO, Tribal or Forest Practices Act laws and regulations or the Food Quality Protection Act?	5
	6	Is applicant certified as Socially Disadvantaged, Beginning, or Limited Resource Farmer/Rancher?	10
Maximum Points: 100 Total Points			100

Local Issues:

Scoring Multiplier: 1.000

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
1		Answer yes to only one of the following questions:	
	1	(Grazing Land)Will the planned treatment retain the entire proposed planning unit in permanent cover for Grazing Land, and will a prescribed grazing plan be applied?	100
	2	(Multi Land Use)Will the planned treatment retain at least 50% of the proposed planning unit in permanent cover for Grazing Land with a prescribed grazing plan, and will No Till and/or Direct Seed be applied on at least 50% of the acres that will be returned to crop production, and Mulch Till to the remaining cropped acres?	85
	3	(Multi Land Use)Will the planned treatment retain some but less than 50% of the proposed planning unit in permanent cover for Grazing Land, and a Residue & Tillage Management system (No Till and/or Direct Seed and/or Mulch Till) be applied on the acres that will be returned to crop production?	75
	4	(Cropland)If the proposed planning unit is being returned to crop production, will the planned treatment use only No Till on all cropped acres?	75
	5	(Cropland)If the proposed planning unit is being returned to crop production, will the planned treatment use a combination of No Till and Direct Seed, or Direct Seed only, on all cropped acres?	50
	6	(Cropland)If the proposed planning unit is being returned to crop production, will the planned treatment use a combination of No Till or Direct Seed, and Mulch Till on the cropped acres?	30
	7	(Cropland)If the proposed planning unit is being returned to crop production, will the planned treatment use Mulch Till on all cropped acres?	20
2		Answer yes to all questions applicable to the proposed planning unit and treatment:	
	8	If any of the permanent cover will be retained for Grazing Land, is the existing vegetation on the proposed planning unit adequate for the intended grazing intensity and schedule?	100
	9	Will all soils within the proposed planning unit, that have an wind "I" value of 134 or higher, and/or a soil loss tolerance "T" of 2 or less, and/or a Land Capability Classification (LCC) of VI, VII, or VIII, be retained in permanent cover that had been adequately established under the CRP contract?	200

	10	If there is aquatic habitat (as defined in the welcome sheet in Bio TN-14) adjacent to the proposed planning unit, will a vegetated strip meeting the minimum width specified in the Filter Strip practice standard be retained from the established CRP cover, and have sufficient cover to serve as a vegetated buffer along the aquatic habitat?	30
	11	Will woody vegetation be established to provide habitat for wildlife, pollinators, and/or beneficial insects, on at least 5 acres or 2% of the proposed planning unit?	50
	12	Will at least one (1) State or Federal Threatened & Endangered species be directly benefitted by the proposed treatment?	35
	13	Did the CRP contract expire on 9/30/2009, and is the land still in permanent cover, on the entire proposed planning unit?	25
	14	Is the proposed planning unit located within a County that currently exceeds the county CRP cap for enrolled CRP acres?	10
Maximum Points: 550 Total Points			885

Selected Resource Concerns and Practices:

Air Quality: Particulate matter less than 10 micrometers in diameter (PM 10)

Conservation Crop Rotation (328)

Residue Mgmt, Mulch Till (345)

Residue Mgmt-No-Till/Strip Till/Direct S (329)

Domestic Animals: Inadequate Quantities and Quality of Feed and Forage

Nutrient Management (590)

Pest Management (595)

Domestic Animals: Inadequate Stock Water

Heavy Use Area Protection (561)

Pipeline (516)

Pumping Plant (533)

Water Well (642)

Watering Facility (614)

Fish and Wildlife: Inadequate Cover/Shelter

Hedgerow Planting (422)

Mulching (484)

Riparian Forest Buffer (391)

Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)

Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490)

Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)

Fish and Wildlife: Inadequate Food

Hedgerow Planting (422)

Mulching (484)

Riparian Forest Buffer (391)

Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)

Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490)

Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)

Fish and Wildlife: Threatened and Endangered Fish and Wildlife Species

Hedgerow Planting (422)

Mulching (484)

Riparian Forest Buffer (391)

Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)

Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490)

Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)

Plant Condition: Productivity, Health and Vigor

Nutrient Management (590)

Pest Management (595)

Soil Erosion: Sheet and Rill

Conservation Crop Rotation (328)

Nutrient Management (590)

Pest Management (595)

Prescribed Grazing (528)

Residue Mgmt, Mulch Till (345)

Residue Mgmt-No-Till/Strip Till/Direct S (329)

Soil Erosion: Wind

- Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
- Nutrient Management (590)
- Pest Management (595)
- Prescribed Grazing (528)
- Residue Mgmt, Mulch Till (345)
- Residue Mgmt-No-Till/Strip Till/Direct S (329)

Water Quality: Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water

- Fence (382)
- Nutrient Management (590)
- Prescribed Grazing (528)
- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
- Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490)

Water Quality: Excessive Suspended Sediment and Turbidity in Surface Water

- Fence (382)
- Prescribed Grazing (528)
- Residue Mgmt, Mulch Till (345)
- Residue Mgmt-No-Till/Strip Till/Direct S (329)
- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
- Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490)

Water Quality: Harmful Levels of Pesticides in Surface Water

- Pest Management (595)
- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
- Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490)

Water Quality: Harmful Temperatures of Surface Water

- Mulching (484)
- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
- Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490)