

**Natural Resources Conservation Service
Application Ranking Summary
WHIP 2011 - Sage-Grouse Initiative - Washington State**

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Points
Healthy Plant and Animal Communities: Wildlife Habitat Conservation – Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
1. a. Retain wildlife and plant benefits on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program?	40 Points
1. b. Address and support existing conservation initiatives such as but not limited to the following or new conservation initiatives that support State, National or tribal fish or wildlife plans: Sage Grouse, Lesser Prairie Chicken, Longleaf Pine, New England-New York Forestry	40 Points
1. c. Benefit federally listed threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, fish or wildlife species of concern?	20 Points
1. d. Benefit prioritized native habitat critical to a fish or wildlife species?	20 Points
1. e. Increase, improve or establish pollinator habitat?	20 Points
1. f. Eradicate or control prioritized noxious or invasive species?	20 Points
1. g. Benefit declining or important aquatic wildlife species prioritized in the State WHIP Plan?	20 Points
1. h. Implement conservation practices which benefit prioritized fish or wildlife species in forested areas?	15 Points
1. i. Establish habitat on pivot corners and irregular areas on agricultural land?	10 Points
1. j. Provide self-sustaining habitat for prioritized fish and wildlife while reducing net carbon emissions or boosting carbon storage (e.g., warm season perennial grasses, trees or shrubs)?	10 Points
1. k. Benefit migration and other movement corridors for prioritized wildlife?	15 Points
Business Lines – Conservation Implementation - Additional Ranking Considerations – Will the applicant in the proposed project:	
2. a. Complete habitat development within the first two years of the agreement?	20 Points

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Points
Habitat Priority (select yes only one time for next four questions)	
1. Priority 1 - RANGELANDS - Douglas and Grant Counties within the current range identified by the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife and Lincoln County transplant area buffer. See "Current Range & Lincoln Transplant Area" on the 2011 SAGE GROUSE FOCUS AREAS map.	150 Points
2. Priority 2 - RANGELANDS - Douglas, Lincoln, Grant, Okanogan, Kittitas, Benton and Yakima Counties within the Potential Connectivity area identified on the 2011 SAGE GROUSE FOCUS AREAS map.	100 Points
3. Priority 3 - Rangeland within the historic range of the Sage Grouse identified on the 2011 SAGE GROUSE FOCUS AREAS map.	50 Points
4. No Priority - Cropland being converted to grazing use within the historic range of the Sage Grouse, (see attached map).	25 Points

Issue Questions	Points
Enrolled Acreage (select yes only one time for next three questions)	
5. One hundred percent of eligible sagebrush/grassland will be enrolled.	100 Points
6. Equal to or greater than 50 percent, but less than 100 percent of eligible sagebrush/grassland will be enrolled.	50 Points
7. Less than 50 percent of eligible sagebrush/grassland will be enrolled.	25 Points
Distance to a Lek (select yes only one time for next two questions)	
8. The acres offered contain or are within four miles of a Sage Grouse Lek identified by the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife.	100 Points
9. The acres offered are more than four miles from a Sage Grouse Lek identified by the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife.	25 Points
Percent of Identified Threats Treated (select yes only one time for next four questions)	
10. One hundred percent of identified threats will be addressed.	100 Points
11. Equal to or greater than 75 percent, but less than 100 percent of identified threats will be addressed.	75 Points
12. Equal to or greater than 50 percent, but less than 75 percent of identified threats will be addressed.	50 Points
13. Less than 50 percent of identified threats will be addressed.	25 Points

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Points
Potential Threats & Treatments for Greater Sage Grouse in Washington State. > At least one threat must be addressed to be eligible for this initiative. > Check all the threats that are identified on the planning unit and check which treatments will be applied.	
1. Threat 1 Are there fences passing through important breeding and wintering habitat?	1 Point
2. Treatment 1 Remove, replace, or mark problem fences. NRCS Practices—Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645) and Obstruction Removal (500)	10 Points
3. Threat 2 Are there stock water tanks without properly designed escape ramps installed?	1 Point
4. Treatment 2 Install wildlife escape ramps into all existing tanks. NRCS Practice—Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)	10 Points
5. Threat 3 Can the producer change their current grazing management to allow for improved residual cover in sage-grouse nesting habitat which may impact nest success?	1 Point
6. Treatment 3 Implement grazing strategy that allows for sustainable range condition and increased residual cover for nesting. This will be accomplished by reducing forage utilization and by deferring grazing on = 20% of available nesting habitats to allow complete growing season deferment between April 1 of year 1 and July 15 of year 2. NRCS Practice—Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)	10 Points
7. Threat 4 Are there power transmission lines under the control of the landowner that can be removed and replaced with solar systems?	1 Point
8. Treatment 4 Install solar power and pump and remove transmission lines. NRCS Practices—Obstruction Removal (500), Pumping Plant (533).	10 Points
9. Threat 5 Are there abandoned power poles under the control of the landowner that can be removed?	1 Point
10. Treatment 5 Remove abandoned power poles. NRCS Practices—Obstruction Removal (500).	10 Points