East Area – Washington State
FY09 WHIP RANKING CRITERIA

Description:

WASHINGTON STATE - EAST AREA 2009 WHIP RANKING

In Washington State, WHIP will be used on lands where fish and wildlife habitat has been negatively impacted by agricultural activities, forestry activities, or invasive species.

One or more eligible WHIP cost-shared conservation practice(s) will be applied to address each Local Issue, State Issue, or National Priorities question answered yes.

National Priorities:

Number	Question	Points
1	Will the treatment you intended to implement using WHIP result in the restoration of declining or important native fish and wildlife habitats?	5
2	Are the planned restoration of declining or important native fish and wildlife habitat conservation practices of a self-sustaining nature such as a native perennial plant?	5
3	Will the treatment intended to implement using WHIP result in the protection, restoration, development or enhancement of wildlife habitat to benefit at-risk species?	10
4	Will the treatment intended to implement using WHIP result in the protection, restoration, development or enhancement of wildlife habitat for Federally listed threatened and endangered wildlife species?	15
5	Will the treatment intended to implement using WHIP result in the reduction of invasive species on fish and wildlife habitats?	5
6	Will the treatment intended to implement using WHIP result in the protection, restoration, development or enhancement of declining or important aquatic wildlife species' habitats?	10
	Maximum Total Points	50

State Issues:

Sub-Heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
1		Likelihood of Success: Select "yes" only one time for next three questions	
	1	Will the likelihood of success of the project be HIGH, with few or no habitat restoration problems during and after the establishment period?	10
	2	Will the likelihood of success of the project be MEDIUM, with moderate problems associated with the restoration activity?	5
	3	Will the likelihood of success of the project be LOW, with a high degree of disturbance, competition, indefinite use of irrigation, and/or continued maintenance of structures?	1
2		O and M Cost: Select "yes" only one time for next three questions	
	4	Will the cost of Operations and Maintenance be LOW, with minimal or no maintenance after establishment?	10

	5	Will the cost of Operations and Maintenance be MEDIUM, with structures, systems, or plantings requiring periodic (less than annual) maintenance or replacement?	5
	6	Will the cost of Operations and Maintenance (O&M) be HIGH, with structures, systems, or plantings requiring at least annual maintenance and/or management?	1
3		Select "yes" to all that apply:	
	7	Will the applicant (with landowner agreement) allow public access for educational or recreational use, such as outdoor recreation site, outdoor classroom, and/or onsite research?	10
	8	Will all contracted practices be 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)	5
	9	Is applicant certified as Socially Disadvantaged, Beginning, or Limited Resource Farmer/Rancher?	10
		Maximum Total Points	45

Local Issues:

Sub-Heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
1		Restoration of Primary Habitats: Points may be awarded for only one primary habitat question in this section. Questions 1 through 6. (25 points max)	
	1	(SHRUB-STEPPE). . . Will the applicant establish a mix of native herbaceous species, and at least one native woody shrub species, on 51% or more of the WHIP offered acres, to restore native shrub-steppe habitat in areas identified as Shrub-Steppe on the "EASTERN WASHINGTON STATE WILDLIFE HABITAT INCENTIVES PROGRAM (WHIP) HABITAT MAP"?	25
	2	(SHRUB-STEPPE). . . Will the applicant establish a mix of native and non-native herbaceous vegetation beneficial to wildlife, and include at least one native woody shrub species, on 51% or more of the WHIP offered acres, within an area identified as Shrub-Steppe on the "EASTERN WASHINGTON STATE WILDLIFE HABITAT INCENTIVES PROGRAM (WHIP) HABITAT MAP"?	15
	3	(SHRUB-STEPPE). . . Will the applicant restore sagebrush on shrub steppe by interseeding sagebrush into an existing native grass stand, on 51% or more of the WHIP offered acres, within an area identified as Shrub-Steppe on the "EASTERN WASHINGTON STATE WILDLIFE HABITAT INCENTIVES PROGRAM (WHIP) HABITAT MAP"?	15
	4	(EASTSIDE GRASSLAND). . . Will the applicant establish a mix of native herbaceous species, on 51% or more of the WHIP offered acres, to restore native eastside grassland habitat in areas identified as Eastside Grasslands on the "EASTERN WASHINGTON STATE WILDLIFE HABITAT INCENTIVES PROGRAM (WHIP) HABITAT MAP"?	25
	5	(EASTSIDE GRASSLAND). . . Will the applicant establish a mix of native and non-native herbaceous vegetation beneficial to wildlife, on 51% or more of the WHIP offered acres, within an area identified as Eastside Grasslands on the "EASTERN WASHINGTON STATE WILDLIFE HABITAT INCENTIVES	10

		PROGRAM (WHIP) HABITAT MAP"?	
	6	(ASPEN FOREST). . . Will the applicant establish and/or restore native Aspen forest to enhance wildlife habitat diversity?	25
2		Restoration of Secondary Habitats: Points may be awarded in this section for multiple habitats. Questions 7 through 13.	
	7	(RIPARIAN & WETLANDS). . . Will the applicant restore or enhance riparian zones, forested wetland or herbaceous wetland habitat by establishing native herbaceous and/or woody vegetation, by adding woody material, or by enhancing microtopography?	10
	8	(FOREST). . . Will the applicant establish understory vegetation that is beneficial to wildlife and enhances habitat diversity in existing coniferous forest?	5
	9	(FOREST). . . Will the applicant establish and/or manage vegetation that is beneficial to wildlife and enhances habitat diversity in existing native deciduous forest?	15
	10	(AGRICULTURAL LANDS). . . Will the applicant establish a Field Border or Hedgerow Planting to provide food and cover for wildlife?	10
	11	(AGRICULTURAL LANDS). . . Will the applicant establish a mix of native and non-native herbaceous species, at least one native woody species, and 10 to 20% species composition of forbs and/or legumes, that are beneficial to wildlife, on agricultural land outside of the Shrub-Steppe or Eastside Grassland areas?	5
	12	Will the applicant include at least three flowering forbs and/or woody species beneficial to native pollinator insect species, in any of the above planting mixes, to achieve from 10 to 20% of the species composition in the established stand?	10
	13	(STREAMS). . . Will the applicant correct a human-made fish passage barrier to restore fish passage for Federal or State Threatened and Endangered species?	5
3		Other Considerations: Points may be awarded in this section for all that apply. Questions 14 through 19.	
	14	Will all vegetation planted under the WHIP contract be established without the use of supplemental irrigation water?	5
	15	Will all of the cropland and/or hayland on the WHIP offered acres be converted to wildlife habitat as the primary land use?	20
	16	If any part of the WHIP offered acres is currently grazed, will livestock be excluded from the wildlife habitat established under a WHIP contract?	15
	17	If any part of the WHIP offered acres is currently grazed, will livestock grazing be managed to meet NRCS specs and RMS quality criteria for wildlife on wildlife habitat established under a WHIP contract?	10
	18	Are the WHIP offered acres within one mile of an existing managed wildlife area or an existing WRP easement?	10
	19	Are the WHIP offered acres within one mile of land with an existing cost-share agreement providing wildlife benefits (such as CRP, WRP, WHIP, WDFW GFA, etc.), that will be in effect for the life of the requested WHIP contract?	5
4		Habitat Improvement for Priority Species: Points may be awarded in this section for all that apply. Questions 20 through 24. (50 points max)	
	20	Will two or more Federal or state-listed threatened or endangered species, as listed on the East Area Priority Species List, be directly benefited by the planned habitat improvement?	30
	21	Will only one Federal or state-listed threatened or endangered species, as	20

		listed on the East Area Priority Species List, be directly benefited by the planned habitat improvement?	
	22	Will two or more Federal candidate, federal species of concern, state candidate, or state sensitive species, as listed on the East Area Priority Species List, be directly benefited by the planned habitat improvement?	15
	23	Will only one Federal candidate, federal species of concern, state candidate, or state sensitive species, as listed on the East Area Priority Species List, be directly benefited by the planned habitat improvement?	10
	24	Will one or more other priority species (non-status), as listed on the East Area Priority Species List, be directly benefited by the planned habitat improvement?	5
		Maximum Total Points	200