

DRAFT

PROTOCOLS FOR GROUND WATERSOURCE IRRIGATED CROPLAND

WIND EROSION: Points are given if wind erosion as calculated using WEQ for the normal crop rotation is in excess of the soil loss tolerance "T" and the producer will implement conservation practices that will reduce wind erosion to less than "T."

STREAMBANK EROSION: This resource concern DOES NOT apply to irrigation canals or irrigation drains. Points should be counted if landuse contains active accelerated streambank erosion and BMP's will be applied to address and correct the problem. Streambank erosion may be occurring as a result of impacts from this landuse or originating from upstream actions. In order to score points on this issue, structural practices involving stream bank bioengineering, rock rip-rap, rock barbs or toe protection or other in-stream structures designed to protect the banks need to be applied. Producers who are implementing management changes within the riparian area to improve vegetation do not score points on this question.

CONCENTRATED FLOW EROSION: This resource concern applies to irrigation canals, drains, and overland concentrated flows. Vegetative or structural conservation practices must be needed to solve the resource problem. If the problem can be solved from changes in management practices, no points are given.

IRRIGATION INDUCED EROSION: Points are given if irrigation induced erosion as calculated using SISL is in excess of the soil loss tolerance "T" and the producer will implement conservation practices that will reduce the irrigation induced soil loss to less than "T."

WATER MANAGEMENT FOR IRRIGATED LAND: This resource problem considers the EFFICIENCY of the irrigation system and whether or not irrigation system improvements are needed for the irrigation system to meet the quality criteria which is an efficiency of 85% of the systems design potential. Award points if conservation practices are needed and will be implemented to improve the irrigation efficiency to at least 85% of the systems potential. The CURRENT SYSTEM must not be operating at 85% of the design efficiency to qualify for improvement. The improvements may be the result of either upgrading the existing system or installation of a new system.

SURFACE WATER: NUTRIENTS AND ANIMAL WASTE: These resource concerns are used to identify land that is contributing to a water quality problem in a 303d listed waterbody. The waterbody must be listed for the resource concern and the land must be in close enough proximity to the waterbody to be contributing to the problem. Waterbodies that are not on the 303d list for a specific resource concern may be allowed points if approved, in writing, by the program manager.

SURFACE WATER: SUSPENDED SEDIMENT AND TURBIDITY: These resource concerns are used to identify land that is contributing to a water quality problem in a 303d listed waterbody. The waterbody must be listed for the resource concern and the land must be in close enough proximity to the waterbody to be contributing to the problem. Waterbodies that are not on the 303d list for a specific resource concern may be allowed points if approved, in writing, by the program manager.

SURFACE WATER: PATHOGENS: These resource concerns are used to identify land that is contributing to a water quality problem in a 303d listed waterbody. The waterbody must be listed for the resource concern and the land must be in close enough proximity to the waterbody to be contributing to the problem. Waterbodies that are not on the 303d list for a specific resource concern may be allowed points if approved, in writing, by the program manager.

AIR QUALITY: AIRBORNE SEDIMENT - SAFETY OFFSITE: Points are only given if the land directly contributes to road closures due to blowing dust. Currently the only areas eligible for points in this category are the I-84 corridor of southeastern Idaho and the Osgood, I-15 section. Other areas may request to be identified as a safety hazard area from the EQIP Program Manager. Points are given only if the land directly contributes to road closures and conservation practices will be implemented that will remove the land from being a contributor to the problem.

REGULATORY AND OTHER ISSUES:

303D LISTED STREAMS: The conservation practices scheduled for implementation must have a positive impact on a 303d listed waterbody.

T&E SPECIES: In order to score points on this question, Federal Threatened and Endangered Species (T&E) fish, amphibians, and/or mollusks must be listed in the local FOTG and exist in the watershed where the planned practices will be implemented. (An example: If salmon are listed in the Snake River Watershed but are not listed in the local FOTG, **do not** take points for threatened and endangered species). This is a water quality statewide concern, so no points are given for birds, mammals, and/or plants. The conservation practice(s) must be expected to have a direct benefit to the considered species.

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PROTOCOLS FOR GROUND SOURCE IRRIGATED CROPLAND (continued)

GROUND WATER QUALITY CONSIDERATIONS: Points can be taken if the land is in a Nitrate Priority Area as identified by DEQ or if the area is in a high or very high Ground Water Vulnerability Area as identified on maps in the FOTG or by rating the area using the Ground Water Contamination Probability Worksheet originally distributed by ID Bulletin 180-9-4. Conservation practices must be implemented that will reduce the potential for ground water degradation.

DROUGHT RELATED DISASTER AREA: Points may be taken if the county has been listed at the time of ranking, as an official disaster area for the reason of a drought related emergency AND the contract contains structural conservation practices in the first year that provide relief to alleviate problems related to irrigation water availability and use, such as water conservation or improvements in system efficiency.

REDUCED EROSION FROM IRRIGATION INDUCED EROSION AND WIND EROSION OF < 5 TONS PER ACRE PER YEAR: Points given must be supported by SISL and WEQ calculations, and conservation practices that address the resource concern.

REDUCED EROSION FROM IRRIGATION INDUCED EROSION AND WIND EROSION OF 5.1 TO 10 TONS PER ACRE PER YEAR: Points given must be supported by SISL and WEQ calculations, and conservation practices that address the resource concern.

REDUCED EROSION FROM IRRIGATION INDUCED EROSION AND WIND EROSION OF >10 TONS PER ACRE PER YEAR: Points given must be supported by SISL and WEQ calculations, and conservation practices that address the resource concern.

IRRIGATION WATER CONSERVATION:

- (a) Converting From Surface to Micro, Sprinkler, or Surge: To be given points in this category, the producer must be converting from one type of irrigation system to a more efficient system that will reduce the overall water consumptive use. The conversion from one type of sprinkler system to another type of sprinkler system is NOT applicable unless pumping from a well.
- (b) Tail Water Recovery Systems: To be given points for this practice the producer must install all the facilities necessary to allow the reuse of irrigation tail water.
- (c) Water Source Conversion – Ground to Surface: Producers who score points on this item **must** convert from pumping from a well to utilizing surface water for their irrigation system.
- (d) Acres Located in Idaho Department Water Resource (IDWR) Designated Critical Ground Water Management Area or Designated Ground Water Management Area: To secure points the irrigated land must be in one of these areas **and** be irrigated with ground water. Maps provided will be used to determine location and eligibility of the applicant.
- (e) Conversion from Hand Line or Wheel Line to Center Pivot or Lateral Move Where Water Source is Ground Water From a Well: To score points a producer must be pumping from a well and will continue to pump from that well with the new system. Producers who use surface water **do not** score points here and are **not** eligible for cost share assistance for converting one sprinkler system to another.
- (f) Reduction in Ground Water Withdrawal: To determine the number of points to be awarded in this category, calculate the actual number of acre feet of water that will NOT be withdrawn from a well as a result of conservation practices that have been included in the EQIP contract. Enter that value to the nearest whole number. Example: 2.5 ac/ft/ac. normally applied X 15% reduction X 80 acres = 30 ac/ft total reduction in ground water withdrawal therefore you would enter 30 points.