**Natural Resources Conservation Service**

# Application Ranking Summary
# EQIP Div III Range-Pasture-Hayland-Grazed Forest

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| **Program:** EQIP 2008 | **Ranking Date:** | **Application Number:** |
| **Ranking Tool:** EQIP Div III Range-Pasture-Hayland-Grazed Forest | | **Applicant:** |
| **Final Ranking Score:** | | **Address:** |
| **Planner:** | | **Telephone:** |
| **Farm Location:** | | |

**National Priorities Addressed**

| Issue Questions | Responses |
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| Clean and Abundant Water: Water Quality - Will the proposed project assist the producer to: | |
| 1. a. Meet regulatory requirements relating to animal feeding operations, or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures? | 15 Point(s) |
| 1. b. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a designated impaired water body? | 10 Point(s) |
| 1. c. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a water body? | 5 Point(s) |
| Clean and Abundant Water: Water Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer to: | |
| 2. a. Increase groundwater recharge in identified groundwater depletion areas (http://water.usgs.gov/ogw/rasa/html/TOC.html)? | 15 Point(s) |
| 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 Point(s) |
| 2. c. Conserve water in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project? | 5 Point(s) |
| Clean Air: Treatment of Air Quality from Agricultural Sources - Will the proposed project assist the producer to: | |
| 3. a. Meet regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures? | 15 Point(s) |
| 3. b. Reduce green house gases such as methane, nitrous oxide, and volatile organic compounds (VOC)? | 15 Point(s) |

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| 3. c. Increase carbon sequestration? | 5 Point(s) |
| High Quality, Productive Soils Erosion Reduction - Will the proposed project assist the producer to: | |
| 4. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")? | 15 Point(s) |
| Healthy Plant and Animal Communities Wildlife Habitat Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer to: | |
| 5. a. Benefit threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern as identified in a State wildlife plan? | 15 Point(s) |
| 5. b. Retain wildlife and plant benefits on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)? | 15 Point(s) |
| High Quality, Productive Soils, Healthy Plant and Animal Communities: Special Environmental Efforts/Initiatives - Will the proposed project assist the producer to: | |
| 6. a. Eradicate or control noxious or invasive species? | 10 Point(s) |
| 6. b. Increase, improve or establish pollinator habitat? | 10 Point(s) |
| 6. c. Implement precision agricultural methods? | 10 Point(s) |
| 6. d. Properly dispose of animal carcasses? | 5 Point(s) |
| 6. e. Implement an Integrated Pest Management plan? | 5 Point(s) |
| Energy Conservation – Will the proposed project assist the producer to: | |
| 7. a. Reduce energy consumption on the agricultural operation? | 15 Point(s) |
| 7. b. Increase on-farm energy efficiency with more efficient equipment? | 10 Point(s) |
| 7. c. Assist in implementing energy conservation measures that reduce emissions from GHGs and air pollutants? | 10 Point(s) |
| Business Lines - Conservation Implementation Additional Ranking Considerations - Will the proposed project result in: | |
| 8. a. Implementation of all planned conservation practices within three years of contract obligation? | 10 Point(s) |
| 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 Point(s) |
| Does the applicant meet the following conditions: | |

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| 9. a. If the applicant has an existing EQIP contract, has it been, and is it now, on schedule and in full compliance? | 5 Point(s) |
| 9. b. Did the applicant successfully complete any past contract(s) in full compliance? | 5 Point(s) |
| 9. c. Is this the applicant's first EQIP application? | 5 Point(s) |

**State Issues Addressed**

| Issue Questions | Responses |
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| Answer one of the following planning questions only if applicable to this application: | |
| 1. Was a progressive conservation plan developed to treat 30% or more of the identified resource concerns on the application acres prior to the application cutoff? (5 points) | 5 Point(s) |
| 2. Was a RMS conservation plan developed to treat the identified resource concerns on the application acres prior to the application cutoff? (10 points) | 10 Point(s) |
| 3. Was a RMS conservation plan developed to treat the identified resource concerns on the entire ag operation prior to the application cutoff? (20 points) | 20 Point(s) |
| Answer all of the following questions that apply to this application. | |
| 4. Will the quality criteria for 'Soil Erosion-Ephemeral Gully and/or Classic Gully' be met with the installation of the conservation practices in this application where it was not met on benchmark conditions? (10 points) | 10 Point(s) |
| 5. Will the quality criteria for 'Water Quality-Excessive Nutrients and Organics' and/or 'Water Quality-Excessive Suspended Sediment and Turbidity in Surface Water' be met with the installation of the conservation practices in this application where it was not met on benchmark conditions? (10 points) | 10 Point(s) |
| 6. Will the quality criteria for 'Air Quality - Particulate Matter and Objectionable Odor' be met with the installation of a Windbreak, Shelterbelt or Tree Planting? (10 points) | 10 Point(s) |

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| 7. Will the quality criteria for 'Plant Condition - Noxious and Invasive Plants' be addressed through the use of Herbaceous Weed Control or Integrated Pest Management techniques? (10 points) | 10 Point(s) |
| 8. Will the planned practices reduce the risk of wildfires? E.g. Forest thinning, forest pruning, green strips, firebreaks/fuel breaks, prescribed burning. (10 points) | 10 Point(s) |
| 9. Will nutrient management be applied for 3 years? (25 points) | 25 Point(s) |
| 10. Will pest management be applied for 3 years? (25 points) | 25 Point(s) |
| Cropland | |
| 11. Will the planned practices improve the soil condition index to meet or exceed quality criteria? (5 points) | 5 Point(s) |
| Answer one of the next two questions on soil erosion reduction as a result of contract implementation? Use the current NRCS tool for the appropriate erosion type. If multiple types of erosion occur use most predominant. | |
| 12. Is average soil loss reduced by more than 5 tons/acre to meet quality criteria? (10 points) | 10 Point(s) |
| 13. Is average soil loss reduced by less than 5 tons/acre to meet quality criteria? (5 points) | 5 Point(s) |
| Answer one of these three conservation tillage questions only if the practices are planned for the contract. | |
| 14. Will a Basic Mulch Till System be used continuously in the crop rotation? (5 points) | 5 Point(s) |
| 15. Will a High Intensity Mulch Till system be used continuously in the crop rotation? (15 points) | 15 Point(s) |
| 16. Will a no-till/strip till system be used continuously in the crop rotation? (20 points) | 20 Point(s) |
| Irrigated land (Answer in addition to Cropland and/or Grazingland questions if land is irrigated) | |
| 17. Will the quality criteria for 'Soil Erosion - Irrigation Induced' be met with the installation of the conservation practices in this application where it was not met on benchmark conditions? (5 points) | 5 Point(s) |

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| 18. Will the planned conservation practices convert the existing irrigation system to a sprinkler irrigation system or to a drip irrigation system? (10 points) | 10 Point(s) |
| 19. Will Irrigation Water Management be applied for 3 years? (25 points) | 25 Point(s) |
| Answer one of the next two questions on irrigation efficiency. Average irrigation efficiencies on all acres in the application. | |
| 20. Is irrigation efficiency improved more than 21% to meet quality criteria? (10 points) | 10 Point(s) |
| 21. Is irrigation efficiency improved from 12 to 21% to meet quality criteria? (5 points) | 5 Point(s) |
| Answer one of the next two questions if a gravity pressurized sprinkler system is planned for implementation in the contract. | |
| 22. Do the planned conservation practices include the installation of a 50 to 99% gravity pressurized sprinkler irrigation system? This can either be through improvement to an existing or the result of a new system installation. (5 points) | 5 Point(s) |
| 23. Do the planned conservation practices include the installation of a 100% gravity pressurized sprinkler irrigation system? This can either be through improvement to an existing or the result of a new system installation. (10 points) | 10 Point(s) |
| Grazingland | |
| 24. Will the planned conservation practices allow the applicant to meet the quality criteria for 'Domestic Animals - Inadequate Stock Water 'where they have not been met on benchmark condition? (10 points) | 10 Point(s) |
| 25. Will prescribed grazing be applied for 3 years? (25 points) | 25 Point(s) |
| 26. Will the prescribed grazing plan incorporate multiple grazing units with rest periods during the growing season? (15 points) | 15 Point(s) |
| 27. Will brush management be applied on the application acres where woody species have been determined to be invasive? (15 points) | 15 Point(s) |
| 28. Will Range Planting be applied on the application acres which will result in an improved range health? (5 points) | 5 Point(s) |

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| Forestland (Timber Production is primary land use) | |
| 29. Will the planned practices promote tree species which are most adapted and suitable to improve forest health? (15 points) | 15 Point(s) |
| 30. Will the planned practices improve forest productivity by managing to proper stocking levels? (15 points) | 15 Point(s) |
| 31. Will the planned practices address insect and disease problems? (15 points) | 15 Point(s) |
| Species of Concern | |
| 32. Will the planned practices directly benefit a listed Endangered or Threatened species and/or it's designated critical habitat? (20 points) | 20 Point(s) |
| 33. Will the planned practices directly benefit a Candidate or Proposed Candidate species and/or it's designated critical habitat? (15 points) | 15 Point(s) |
| 34. Will the planned practices directly benefit multiple Species of Concern? (15 points) | 15 Point(s) |
| Stream Bank Erosion | |
| 35. Has the design been completed and have the permits been applied for? (10 points) | 10 Point(s) |
| 36. Will the treatment include installation of a buffer within the riparian area? (10 points) | 10 Point(s) |
| 37. Will the planned conservation practices have a direct positive effect on habitat used by an existing species of concern or T&E species? (15 points) | 15 Point(s) |
| Answer one of the next two questions if Streambank or Shoreline Erosion will be addressed. | |
| 38. Erosion will be reduced by 1-10 cu. ft. per linear foot/year. (5 points) | 5 Point(s) |
| 39. Erosion will be reduced by over 10 cu. ft. per linear foot/year. (10 points) | 10 Point(s) |

**Local Issues Addressed**

| Issue Questions | Responses |
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| All land uses | |
| 1. Will the planned practices assist in implementing pest management on cropland by utilizing a minimum of a three year rotation? (50 points) | 50 Point(s) |
| 2. Will the application support an existing conservation plan written prior to the application cutoff? (35 points) | 35 Point(s) |

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| 3. Will the planned practices improve food, cover, shelter or water for wildlife? (10 points) | 10 Point(s) |
| 4. Will the planned practices benefit the objectives of an approved drinking water protection plan recognized by DEQ? (15 points) | 15 Point(s) |
| 5. Will the planned practices benefit the objectives of an initiated or completed Ground Water Management Area? (15 points) | 15 Point(s) |
| 6. Will the planned practices be installed on a land unit within the buffer zone of a 303d listed stream AND benefit a listed impairment on that water body? (25 points) | 25 Point(s) |
| 7. Will the planned practices improve streambank and/or riparian areas? (25 points) | 25 Point(s) |
| 8. Will the planned practices include Range and/or Pasture Seeding to meet Quality Criteria for Plants Not Adapted or Suited? (25 points) | 25 Point(s) |
| 9. Will the planned practices reduce the potential for off-site resource impairment on a site adjacent to the application acres? (35 points) | 35 Point(s) |
| 10. Will the planned practices result in meeting the Quality Criteria for Fish & Wildlife - Inadequate Food; Inadequate Cover/Shelter; and/or Inadequate Water, where they have not been met before? Applies only to applications where the primary objective is wildlife. (15 points) | 15 Point(s) |