

## 2006 EQIP Ranking Sheet Instructions

The Idaho fiscal year 2006 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) ranking sheet is essentially the same as in 2005. The ranking sheet has the following sections used for ranking:

### Resource Concerns:

- The first 14 resource concerns are the same in all counties in Idaho
- Local Work Groups in each county may select up to two additional resource concerns to be ranked. These are numbers 15 and 16.
- Each Resource Concern has a “weight” set by the Local Work Group. These weights can range from 1 to 25.
- Scoring in the “CMU” or Conservation Management Unit is based on 5 conditions. The following score will be placed in the score column after being multiplied by the weight to establish the score:
  - N/A is entered if the resource concern (problem) does not apply to any of the fields planned to receive a conservation practice. This indicates that the problem does not exist. For example, there is no sheet and rill erosion occurring. This condition will result in a 0 score – no problem and no problem being solved
  - 0 is entered if this resource concern (problem) exists on any of the fields scheduled for a conservation practice but the applicant is not willing or able to address the problem to a condition that reduces it by at least 25 percent. This is a penalty situation because the weight is multiplied by negative 100 (-100) times the weight. A resource concern weighted by the Local Work Group at 25 would result in a score of negative 2500 points (-2,500)
  - 25 is entered if the resource concern (problem) exists on any of the fields scheduled for a conservation practice but the conservation practice(s) will only reduce the problem by 25 to 49 percent. The score is based on the 25 points times the weight. For example, 25 times a weight factor of 25 results in 625 points scored
  - 50 is entered if the resource concern (problem) exists on any of the fields scheduled for a conservation practice but the conservation practice(s) will only reduce the problem by 50 to 99 percent. The score is based on the 50 points times the weight. For example, 50 times a weight factor of 25 results in 1,250 points scored
  - 100 are entered if the resource concern (problem) exists on any of the fields scheduled for a conservation practice and the conservation practice(s) will completely solve the problem to meet NRCS quality criteria. The score is based on the 100 points times the weight. For example, 100 times a weight factor of 25 results in 2,500 points scored

The blue section of the worksheet provides points based on the selected conservation practices having a positive needed benefit on certain specific resource concerns.

- **303d Listed Water Body** – 200 points are available if the contract contains a practice that falls within the 303d stream buffer area and that practice addresses an identified impairment
- **TMDL Implementation Watershed** – 200 points are available if contract contains a practice that falls within the 303d stream buffer area (see GIS layer) and that practice addresses an identified impairment in the TMDL Implementation Watershed.
- **Critical Drinking Water Protection Area** – 200 points are available if the contract includes practices that will benefit an approved (certified) drinking water protection plan recognized by the Dept. of Environmental Quality.
- **Ground Water Management Area** – 200 points are available if the contract includes practices that will benefit the purpose of an initiated or completed Ground Water Mgt. Area
- **New Irrigation Sprinkler system will be installed to operate on 100% Gravity pressure** – 500 points are available if a new irrigation sprinkler system will be installed to operate on full, 100% gravity pressure with the exception of minor power to move system.
- **Livestock Operation** – 1,000 points are awarded if the operation involved in the contract is a livestock operation. The 2002 Farm Bill directs that 60% of the EQIP funds go to livestock operations. These points will be awarded if the operation the conservation practice(s) will benefit lands livestock utilize.

**Compliance with Federal, State, Local or Tribal Regulations or Requirements:**

- **500 points are available if the conservation practices in the contract assists compliance with Fed., State, Local or Tribal Regulations/Requirements (Justify on CMU Document Sheet)** – This is also the direction placed in the 2002 Farm Bill by Congress

**Practice Points:** The lifespan of each unique conservation practice in the planned EQIP contract will be entered on the right side of the ranking sheet. The average life will of all the entered practices will be averaged and multiplied by 10 to award points based on the “durability” of the conservation practices being installed.

The Offer Index is only used to break ties between applications when adequate funds are not available to fund all applications with like scores.

Questions on the ranking sheet should be addressed to Bob Bartholomew, Assistant State Conservationist for Programs at [bob.bartholomew@id.usda.gov](mailto:bob.bartholomew@id.usda.gov).