

**Natural Resources Conservation Service**

**Application Ranking Summary  
EQIP Species of Concern**

<b>Program:</b> EQIP 2008	<b>Ranking Date:</b>	<b>Application Number:</b>
<b>Ranking Tool:</b> EQIP Species of Concern		<b>Applicant:</b>
<b>Final Ranking Score:</b>		<b>Address:</b>
<b>Planner:</b>		<b>Telephone:</b>
<b>Farm Location:</b>		

**National Priorities Addressed**

<b>Issue Questions</b>	<b>Responses</b>
If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the national priority category.	
1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	250 Point(s)
<b>Clean and Abundant Water: Water Quality - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:</b>	
2. a. Meet regulatory requirements relating to animal feeding operations, or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	15 Point(s)
2. b. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a designated "impaired water body" (TMDL, 303d, etc.)?	15 Point(s)
2. c. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a "non-impaired water body"?	5 Point(s)
<b>Clean and Abundant Water: Water Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer implement conservation practices which:</b>	
3. a. Decrease aquifer overdraft?	15 Point(s)

3. b. Conserve water from irrigation system improvements and saved water will be available for other beneficial uses?	10 Point(s)
3. 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 implement practice(s) which:	
4. a. Meet on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	15 Point(s)
4. b. Reduce on-farm generated green house gases such as CO2 (Carbon Dioxide), CH4 (Methane), and N2O (Nitrous Oxide)?	15 Point(s)
4. c. Increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	5 Point(s)
Soil Health: Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	15 Point(s)
5. b. Improve soil tilth, organic matter, structure, health, etc.?	5 Point(s)
Healthy Plant and Animal Communities Wildlife Habitat Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:	
6. a. Benefit on-farm habitat associated with threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern as identified in a State wildlife plan?	15 Point(s)
6. b. Help retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)?	10 Point(s)
High Quality, Productive Soils, Healthy Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project assist the producer implement practices which:	
7. a. Help manage or control noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	10 Point(s)
7. b. Increase, or improve habitat to benefit pollinator or other targeted wildlife species?	10 Point(s)
7. c. Properly dispose of livestock carcasses?	5 Point(s)
7. d. Are identified in an Integrated Pest Management plan?	10 Point(s)

7. e. Are identified in a Nutrient Management plan?	10 Point(s)
7. f. Apply principles of adaptive nutrient management?	5 Point(s)
Energy Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practices which:	
8. a. Reduce energy consumption on the agricultural operation?	15 Point(s)
8. b. Increase on-farm energy efficiency with practices and improvements identified in an approved energy audit equivalent to criteria required in Ag EMP (122,124)?	10 Point(s)
8. c. Assist in implementing energy conservation measures that also reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants?	10 Point(s)
Business Lines - Conservation Implementation Additional Ranking Considerations - Will the proposed project result in:	
9. a. Implementation of all conservation practices scheduled in the contract on the CPA-1155 within three years of date of obligation?	10 Point(s)
9. b. Improvement of existing conservation practices or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is accepted?	5 Point(s)
9. c. Implementation of practice(s) which will complete an existing conservation system or suite of practices?	5 Point(s)

**State Issues Addressed**

<b>Issue Questions</b>	<b>Responses</b>
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)
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)
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)
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**

<b>Issue Questions</b>	<b>Responses</b>
If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering “Yes” to the following question. Answering “Yes” to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the state priority category.	
1. 1a. Is the program application for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) prepared by a TSP? If answer is “Yes”, do not answer any other state level questions. If answer is “No”, proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	250 Point(s)
Answer all of the following questions that will be addressed on the application.	
2. Do the planned practices address water quality concerns that have been identified as impairments in a TMDL management plan or 303d listed stream where the land is located (direct impacts)? (35 points)	35 Point(s)
3. Will the planned practices result in the permanent relocation of a confined animal feeding area away from a stream or other water body? (50 points)	50 Point(s)
4. Will livestock impacts to live water be reduced by installing practices such as: fencing, watering facilities, buffer areas and/or prescribed grazing? (30 points)	30 Point(s)

5. Will the planned practices improve permanent wildlife habitat on and around crop/pasture fields? (30 points)	30 Point(s)
6. Will the planned practices solve an existing resource problem that has led to a letter of violation? (40 points)	40 Point(s)
7. Will the planned practices result in a change to an existing grazing plan that will increase the level of management? (30 points)	30 Point(s)