

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary

BFR - non tribal

Program:	Ranking Date:	Application Number:
Ranking Tool: BFR - non tribal		Applicant:
Final Ranking Score:		Address:
Planner:	Telephone:	
Farm Location:		

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
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?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. b. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a designated impaired water body?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. c. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a water body?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. c. Conserve water in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. b. Reduce green house gases such as methane, nitrous oxide, and volatile organic compounds (VOC)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. c. Increase carbon sequestration?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
High Quality, Productive Soils Erosion Reduction – Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
4. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil “T”)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. b. Retain wildlife and plant benefits on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. b. Increase, improve or establish pollinator habitat?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. c. Properly dispose of animal carcasses?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. d. Implement an Integrated Pest Management plan?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. e. Implement precision agricultural methods?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Strategic Initiative – Energy Conservation and Sustainable Production Energy Conservation – Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
7. a. Reduce energy consumption on the agricultural operation?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

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?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Does the applicant meet the following conditions:	
9. a. If the applicant has an existing EQIP contract, has it been, and is it now, on schedule and in full compliance?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
9. b. Did the applicant successfully complete any past contract(s) in full compliance?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
9. c. Is this the applicant's first EQIP application?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
GENERAL QUESTIONS: Select all that apply.	
1. Does the applicant meet one or more of the following conditions: a. Has the applicant never had an EQIP contract; b. Did the applicant successfully complete any past EQIP contract(s) in full compliance; or, c. If the applicant has an existing EQIP contract has it been, and is it now, on schedule and in full compliance?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. Could this application assist the producer meet or avoid the need for their animal feeding operations (AFO) to be regulated as a point source under the Clean Water Act and/or Montana Water Quality Act?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. Does the proposed project lie in a 6-digit watershed listed on the 303(d)-list identified by NRCS through the determination tool AND does the application propose to address a water quality criteria that is listed as an impairment for the stream?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. Is the applicant an active member of a group conservation effort or plan? (An active member would be someone who attends more than 50% of the group meetings and/or is working with the group coordinator. Conservation Districts are not considered groups for the purpose of this question and are not eligible for the points.)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. Does the application include the contracting of cost-shareable management practices?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. Does the application directly benefit sage grouse habitat identified by the MT Fish, Wildlife, and Parks?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. Does the application result in the implementation of any one of the following innovative technologies? a. Precision agriculture b. Nutritional Balancer (NutBal) c. Grazingland Spatial Analysis Tool (GSAT) d. Rangeland health monitoring e. Certified organic farming or ranching f. Precision irrigation g. Micro irrigation h. Dual nozzles i. Lepa, or Lesa pivot systems j. Pivots with panels that use automatic continuous moisture monitoring technologies k. Self cleaning fish screens l. On-farm composting m. Feed management n. Alternative Energy	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
CONSERVATION PLANNING: Answer no more than one question with yes.	
8. Does the applicant use a Resource Management System (RMS) conservation plan developed/re-evaluated within the last 5 years?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
9. Does the applicant use a progressive conservation plan developed/re-evaluated within the last 5 years?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
PEST MANAGEMENT: Answer no more than one question with yes.	
10. Does the application include the development and implementation of an integrated pest management plan (IPM) for noxious weeds on the impacted non-cropland acres of the operation? (Pest management is not eligible for cost-share on cropland.)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
11. Does the application include the development and implementation of a treatment plan for noxious weeds on the impacted non-cropland acres of the operation? (Pest management is not eligible for cost-share on cropland.)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
CRITICAL SPECIES: Answer no more than one question with yes.	
12. Does the application benefit critical fish, wildlife, or plant species and assist the producer meet or avoid the need to be regulated under the Endangered Species Act?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
13. Does the application benefit critical fish, wildlife, or plant species identified as Species of Concern by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the Montana Natural Heritage Program?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

14. Does the application directly benefit fish and/or wildlife species habitat (not covered above)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
POLLINATOR SPECIES: Answer no more than one question with yes.	
15. Does the application benefit pollinator species through the seeding of pollinator friendly seeding mixes on ½ to 5 acres of land? (Must be in accordance with Montana NRCS Biology Technical Note Number MT-20, March 2009.)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
16. Does the application benefit pollinator species through the seeding of pollinator friendly seeding mixes on more than 5 acres of land? (Must be in accordance with Montana NRCS Biology Technical Note Number MT-20, March 2009.)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
Grazing Land	
1. Does the application directly benefit sage grouse habitat identified by the MT Fish, Wildlife, and Parks?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. Does the application include the development and implementation of an NRCS-approved prescribed grazing plan that benefits plant condition, productivity, health, and vigor and will be contracted on 50% or more of the grazing operation?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. Does the application include fences or the development of offstream water for improvement of riparian pastures and to manage livestock access to state or tribal waters in accordance with an NRCS-approved prescribed grazing plan that fully considers riparian health?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. Does the application include the establishment of improved pastures on cropland for spring and fall grazing?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. Does the application include the renovation of improved pastures for spring and fall grazing?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. Does the application include a 2 year season long deferred prescribed grazing plan for the recovery of plant and soil resources following wildfires or extended drought?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. Does the application include accelerated treatment of native grazing lands?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. Does the application include watering facilities in uplands to facilitate improved livestock distribution?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
9. Does the application include installation of a watering facility with consideration for wildlife access for species targeted in the conservation plan?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
10. Does the application utilize fencing of uplands to facilitate upland grazing?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
11. Does the application include practices approved by NRCS Montana as benefitting producers negatively impacted by grizzly bears and/or wolves?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Irrigated Land	
1. Does the application include the conversion from a pumped irrigation system to a piped gravity flow system? No pumps can be included for payment in the contract to receive these points; however, a 15 HP booster pump is allowable in the system as long as there is an overall decrease in HP requirements.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. Does the application include irrigation system improvements that will decrease the required pump size by 5 HP or greater?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. Does the application include the conversion of a flood irrigation system to a sprinkler system where the corners will not be flood irrigated?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. Will a fish screen be contracted for installation at the diversion point?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. Does the application include an irrigation project that produces a 10-15% water savings according to an NRCS-approved design?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. Does the application include an irrigation project that produces a 15% to 20% water savings according to an NRCS-approved design?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. Does the application include an irrigation project that will produce more than 20% water savings according to an NRCS-approved design?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. Will the application result in increased flows to a dewatered stream reach identified in the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Dewatered Stream list?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
9. Does this application result in direct benefits to irrigation induced erosion from irrigation conveyance systems or farm fields?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Dry Crop	
1. Does the application include the planned treatment of a saline recharge area where the discharge affects someone else's property?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. Does the application include the planned treatment of a saline recharge area where the discharge affects your own property?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. Does the application result in an improving soil health condition from the benchmark condition as determined from the Soil Condition Index (SCI) worksheet (System must result in an SCI of > 0.00 on the offered acres)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. If there is no improvement in the SCI from the benchmark condition, will the proposed plan meet the threshold value for the Montana Crop Diversity Tool value of >3?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. Does the application include practices for erosion control, or addressing excessive wind, sheet and rill, or gully erosion on the applied acres? (Excessive means above RUSLE "T"). The sum of all erosion sources must be at 'T' or less.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Forest Land	
1. Does the application include forest restoration measures on land burned by wildfire within the last 3 years for erosion control, reforestation, or watershed protection?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. Is the primary objective of Forest Stand Improvement for insect or disease control to improve forest health or forest management with consideration for growth and yield of forest overstory?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. Does the application include wildfire hazard reduction on property that includes a home site, is within 1/4 mile of any neighboring home site/structure, is in a location significant to impacting drinking water supplies, or is protecting public infrastructure?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. Does the application include wildfire hazard reduction on property that adjoins lands on which a fuel treatment/reduction project has been recently complete or is currently underway?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. Does the application include water quality or riparian habitat restoration measures to restore or enhance the watershed on lands not impacted by wildfire within the last 3 years?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. Does the application include management measures designed for protection of or enhancement for T&E species or species of special concern?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. Does the application include contracted management practices for management of understory? (Herbaceous Weed Control or Prescribed Grazing)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Land Use:

Resource Concerns	Practices
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Ranking Score

<p>Efficiency:</p> <p>Local Issues:</p> <p>State Issues:</p> <p>National Issues:</p> <p>Final Ranking Score:</p>

This ranking report is for your information. It does not in any way guarantee funding. When funding becomes available, you will be notified if your application is selected for funding. Some changes to the application may be required before a final contract is awarded.

Notes:

NRCS Representative:	Application Signature Not Required for Contract Development unless required by State policy:
Signature Date:	Signature Date: