

**Natural Resources Conservation Service**

**Application Ranking Summary**

**Ravalli Forest Land**

<b>Program:</b>	<b>Ranking Date:</b>	<b>Application Number:</b>
<b>Ranking Tool:</b> Ravalli Forest Land		<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>
<b>Clean and Abundant Water: Water Quality – Will the proposed project assist the producer to:</b>	
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"/>
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. 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"/>
<b>Clean and Abundant Water: Water Conservation – Will the proposed project assist the producer to:</b>	
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"/>
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. a. Increase groundwater recharge in identified groundwater depletion areas ( <a href="http://water.usgs.gov/ogw/rasa/html/TOC.html">http://water.usgs.gov/ogw/rasa/html/TOC.html</a> )?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
<b>Clean Air: Treatment of Air Quality from Agricultural Sources – Will the proposed project assist the producer to:</b>	
3. c. Increase carbon sequestration?	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. 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"/>
<b>High Quality, Productive Soils Erosion Reduction – Will the proposed project assist the producer to:</b>	
4. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil “T”)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
<b>Healthy Plant and Animal Communities Wildlife Habitat Conservation – Will the proposed project assist the producer to:</b>	
5. b. Retain wildlife and plant benefits on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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"/>
<b>High Quality, Productive Soils, Healthy Plant and Animal Communities: Special Environmental Efforts/Initiatives – Will the proposed project assist the producer to:</b>	
6. e. Implement precision agricultural methods?	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. c. Properly dispose of animal carcasses?	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. a. Eradicate or control noxious or invasive species?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
<b>Strategic Initiative – Energy Conservation and Sustainable Production Energy Conservation – Will the proposed project assist the producer to:</b>	
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. 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"/>
8. a. Implementation of all planned conservation practices within three years of contract obligation?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Does the applicant meet the following conditions:	
9. c. Is this the applicant’s first EQIP application?	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. 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"/>

**State Issues Addressed**

Issue Questions	Responses
<b>GENERAL QUESTIONS:</b> Select all that apply.	
1. 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"/>
2. Does the proposed project lie in a 16-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"/>
3. Does the land offered with this application fall within the boundaries of a local group conservation effort or plan and the contracted practices will address the resource objectives of that conservation effort?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. Does the application include the contracting of cost-shareable management practices?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. If funded, would this be the applicant's first EQIP contract?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
<b>CONSERVATION PLANNING:</b> Answer no more than one question with yes.	
6. 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"/>
7. 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"/>
<b>PEST MANAGEMENT:</b> Answer no more than one question with yes.	
8. Does the application include the development and implementation of an integrated pest management (IPM) plan for noxious weeds on the impacted non-cropland acres of the operation? (Herbaceous Weed Control is not eligible for cost-share on cropland.)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
9. Does the application include the development and implementation of a treatment plan for noxious weeds on the impacted non-cropland acres of the operation? (Herbaceous Weed Control is not eligible for cost-share on cropland.)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
<b>CRITICAL SPECIES:</b> Answer no more than one question with yes.	
10. 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"/>
11. 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"/>
12. Does the application directly benefit fish and/or wildlife species habitat (not covered above)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
<b>POLLINATOR SPECIES:</b> Answer no more than one question with yes.	
13. 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"/>
14. 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"/>
<b>FOREST LAND</b>	
15. 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"/>
16. Is the primary objective of Forest Stand Improvement insect or disease control to improve forest	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

health or forest management with consideration for growth and yield of forest overstory?	
17. 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"/>
18. 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"/>
19. 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"/>
20. Does the application include management measures designed for protection or enhancement of T&E species or species of special concern?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
21. Does the application include contracted management practices for management of understory? (example - Herbaceous Weed Control or Prescribed Grazing)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

**Local Issues Addressed**

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Is the land to be treated classified as high risk under the community wildfire protection plan?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. Does the application include management to encourage species and age diversity?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. Does the application include management past the life of the forest stand improvement and fire break practice life of ten years?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

**Land Use:**

Resource Concerns	Practices

**Ranking Score**

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

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