Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary

Flathead Forest Land

Program:	**Ranking Date:**	**Application Number:**
Ranking Tool: Flathead Forest Land		**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 O or No O
1. b. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a designated impaired water body?	Yes O or No O
1. c. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a water body?	Yes O or No O
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 O or No O
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 O or No O
2. c. Conserve water in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	Yes O or No O
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 O or No O
3. b. Reduce green house gases such as methane, nitrous oxide, and volatile organic compounds (VOC)?	Yes O or No O
3. c. Increase carbon sequestration?	Yes O or No O
High Quality, Productive Soils Erosion Reduction – Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
4. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil “T”)?	Yes O or No O
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 O or No O
5. b. Retain wildlife and plant benefits on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)?	Yes O or No O
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 O or No O
6. b. Increase, improve or establish pollinator habitat?	Yes O or No O
6. c. Properly dispose of animal carcasses?	Yes O or No O
6. d. Implement an Integrated Pest Management plan?	Yes O or No O
6. e. Implement precision agricultural methods?	Yes O or No O
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 O or No O

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 O or No O
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 O or No O
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 O or No O
9. b. Did the applicant successfully complete any past contract(s) in full compliance?	Yes O or No O
9. c. Is this the applicant's first EQIP application?	Yes O or No O

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
GENERAL QUESTIONS: 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 O or No O
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 O or No O
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 O or No O
4. Does the application include the contracting of cost-shareable management practices?	Yes O or No O
5. If funded, would this be the applicant's first EQIP contract?	Yes O or No O
CONSERVATION PLANNING: 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 O or No O
7. Does the applicant use a progressive conservation plan developed/re-evaluated within the last 5 years?	Yes O or No O
PEST MANAGEMENT: 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? (Herbasceous Weed Control is not eligible for cost-share on cropland.)	Yes O or No O
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 O or No O
CRITICAL SPECIES: 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 O or No O
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 O or No O
12. Does the application directly benefit fish and/or wildlife species habitat (not covered above)?	Yes O or No O
POLLINATOR SPECIES: 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 O or No O
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 O or No O
FOREST LAND	
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 O or No O
16. Is the primary objective of Forest Stand Improvement insect or disease control to improve forest	Yes O or No O

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 O or No O
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 O or No O
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 O or No O
20. Does the application include management measures designed for protection or enhancement of T&E species or species of special concern?	Yes O or No O
21. Does the application include contracted management practices for management of understory? (example - Herbaceous Weed Control or Prescribed Grazing)	Yes O or No O

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Has the applicant completed an NRCS-approved conservation plan for forestland or has the land been actively managed within the last 10 years?	Yes O or No O
2. Is applicant actively treating noxious weeds on property (no payment on cropland) through mechanical, chemical, or biological methods?	Yes O or No O
3. Are proposed contracted acres located in a watershed that has an active locally led conservation effort that has met at least once in the last 12 months?	Yes O or No O

Land Use:

Resource Concerns	Practices

Ranking Score

Efficiency:

Local Issues:

State Issues:

National Issues:

Final Ranking Score:

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