

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary

National Sage-grouse Initiative (WHIP)

Program:	Ranking Date:	Application Number:
Ranking Tool: Nat'l Sage-grouse Initiative		Applicant:
Final Ranking Score:		Address:
Planner:	Telephone:	
Farm Location:		

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
Healthy Plant & Animal Communities - Wildlife Habitat Conservation – Will the proposed project assist the applicant to:	
1. a. Retain wildlife and plant benefits on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. b. Address and support one of the following priorities: Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative (MRBI), North American Waterfowl Management Plan, National Fish Habitat Action Plan, Greater Sage Grouse Conservation Strategy, State Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategies (also referred to as the State Wildlife Action Plans), Northern Bobwhite Conservation Initiative, Restoration of Longleaf Pine Forests	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. c. Benefit federally listed threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, fish or wildlife species of concern?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. d. Benefit prioritized native habitat critical to a fish or wildlife species?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. e. Increase, improve or establish pollinator habitat?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. f. Eradicate or control prioritized noxious or invasive species?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. g. Benefit declining or important aquatic wildlife species prioritized in the State WHIP Plan?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. h. Implement conservation practices which benefit prioritized fish or wildlife species in forested areas?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. i. Establish habitat on pivot corners and irregular areas on agricultural land?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. j. Provide self-sustaining habitat for prioritized fish and wildlife while reducing net carbon emissions or boosting carbon storage (e.g., warm season perennial grasses, trees or shrubs)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Business Lines – Conservation Implementation - Additional Ranking Considerations – Will the applicant in the proposed project:	
2. a. Complete habitat development within the first two years of the agreement?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
Habitat Priority: Select one of the following.	
1. Priority 1 - Enrolled acres located in Montana Core Area 4.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. Priority 2 - Enrolled acres located in Montana Core Areas 3 or 6.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. Priority 3 - Enrolled acres located in any other Core Areas in Montana.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. None - Enrolled land located outside of the Core Areas but identified as sage-grouse habitat.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Enrolled acreage: Select one of the following. Enrolled acreage must be greater than 0. (Percentage of sagebrush/grassland enrolled as compared to sagebrush/grassland on the entire operation.)	
5. 100% of eligible sagebrush/grassland enrolled	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. 50% or more of eligible sagebrush/grassland enrolled	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. Less than 50% of eligible sagebrush/grassland enrolled	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Percent of Identified Threats Treated: Select one of the following. At least one threat must be addressed to be eligible for the initiative.	
8. 100% of identified threats addressed	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

9. 75% or more of identified threats addressed	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
10. 50% or more of identified threats addressed	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
11. Less than 50% of identified threats addressed	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Application includes implementation of prescribed grazing through (645) Upland Wildlife Habitat Management and addresses all identified threats to sage-grouse. (Practice 645 must be contracted to receive these points.)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. Application addresses conifer encroachment on sage-grouse habitat. (314) Brush Management	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. Application includes implementation of at least one of the following practices to address threats to sage-grouse. (382) Fence (500) Obstruction Removal (614) Watering Facility (550) Range Planting (548) Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment	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:

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