

Natural Resources Conservation Service

**Application Ranking Summary  
Salinity - Wildlife - Salinity - Wildlife**

<b>Program:</b> EQIP 2008	<b>Ranking Date:</b>
<b>Ranking Tool:</b> Salinity - Wildlife - Salinity - Wildlife	
<b>Final Ranking Score:</b>	
<b>Planner:</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)
Clean and Abundant Water: Water Quality - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
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)
Clean and Abundant Water: Water Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer implement conservation practices which:	
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

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Does the project improve the health of riparian and/or wetland areas?	150 Point(s)
2. Does the project improve habitat for a wildlife species currently categorized as a State or Federal T&E species, Federal Candidate or Proposed species, or State Species of Concern?	100 Point(s)
3. Will the planned practice(s) reduce irrigation induced or streambank erosion?	150 Point(s)

#### Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
Primary wildlife specie(s) project will benefit.	

1. a. Is the projects primary purpose to improve habitat for yellow warbler, marsh wren or pheasant? (See description of this ranking tool for directions for finding information about the specific habitat requirements for the species listed in this question.)	75 Point(s)
1. b. Is the projects primary purpose to improve habitat for screech owl or mallard breeding, or, for the McElmo/Mancos salinity units, is the projects primary purpose to improve habitat for Merriam's Turkey, great-horned owl or mallard breeding? (See description of this ranking tool for directions for finding information about the specific habitat requirements for the species listed in this question.)	40 Point(s)
1. c. Is the projects primary purpose to improve mallard winter habitat? (See description of this ranking tool for directions for finding information about the specific habitat requirements for the species listed in this question.)	10 Point(s)
2. a. Using the appropriate HEP model, does the project increase the habitat suitability index (HSI) .7 or more points for the target species selected from questions 1a-1c above?	175 Point(s)
2. b. Using the appropriate HEP model, does the project increase the habitat suitability index (HSI) => .65 to < .7 points for the target species selected from questions 1a-1c above?	160 Point(s)
2. c. Using the appropriate HEP model, does the project increase the habitat suitability index (HSI) => .60 to < .65 points for the target species selected from questions 1a-1c above?	145 Point(s)
2. d. Using the appropriate HEP model, does the project increase the habitat suitability index (HSI) => .55 to < .60 points for the target species selected from questions 1a-1c above?	130 Point(s)
2. e. Using the appropriate HEP model, does the project increase the habitat suitability index (HSI) => .50 to < .55 points for the target species selected from questions 1a-1c above?	115 Point(s)
2. f. Using the appropriate HEP model, does the project increase the habitat suitability index (HSI) => .45 to < .50 points for the target species selected from questions 1a-1c above?	100 Point(s)
2. g. Using the appropriate HEP model, does the project increase the habitat suitability index (HSI) => .40 to < .45 points for the target species selected from questions 1a-1c above?	85 Point(s)
2. h. Using the appropriate HEP model, does the project increase the habitat suitability index (HSI) => .35 to < .40 points for the target species selected from questions 1a-1c above?	70 Point(s)
2. i. Using the appropriate HEP model, does the project increase the habitat suitability index (HSI) => .30 to < .35 points for the target species selected from questions 1a-1c above?	55 Point(s)
2. j. Using the appropriate HEP model, does the project increase the habitat suitability index (HSI) => .25 to < .30 points for the target species selected from questions 1a-1c above?	40 Point(s)
2. k. Using the appropriate HEP model, does the project increase the habitat suitability index (HSI) => .20 to < .25 points for the target species selected from questions 1a-1c above?	25 Point(s)

