

Natural Resources Conservation Service

**Application Ranking Summary**  
**Improving AZ Strip for Wildlife and Cattle**

<b>Program:</b>	<b>Ranking Date:</b>	<b>Application Number:</b>
<b>Ranking Tool:</b> Improving AZ Strip for Wildlife and Cattle	<b>Applicant:</b>	
<b>Final Ranking Score:</b>	<b>Address:</b>	
<b>Planner:</b>	<b>Telephone:</b>	
<b>Farm Location:</b>		

**National Priorities Addressed**

Issue Questions	Responses
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.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
<b>Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)</b>	
2. a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. c. Reducing impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides on land adjoining a designated “impaired water body” (TMDL, 303d listed waterbody, or other State designation)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a “non-impaired water body”?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
<b>Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)</b>	
3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. d. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm water use as a result of changing to crops with lower water consumptive use, the rotation of crops, or the modification of cultural operations?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
<b>Air Quality - Will the proposed project improve air quality by: (select all that apply)</b>	
4. a. Meeting on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
<b>Soil Health:– Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)</b>	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil “T”)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
<b>Wildlife Habitat – Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat by: (select all that apply)</b>	
6. a. Implementing practices benefitting threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?	
6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project improve plant and animal communities by: (select all that apply)	
7. a. Implementing practices that result in the management control of noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Energy Conservation– Will the proposed project reduce energy use by: (select all that apply)	
8. a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Business Lines – Will the practices to be scheduled in the “EQIP Plan of Operations” result in:	
9. a. Enhancement of existing conservation practice(s) or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is received?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

### State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Based upon available verification of benefits letter from AGFD, can the target species reasonably be assumed to occur within the offered area? (65 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. The offered area shares a common border with an area with known populations of the target species. (50 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. The offered area is proximal to an area with a known population of the target species. Proximal means within the accepted normal species dispersal ability. (50 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. Will 75% or more of the practices be located within the “Focal Area”? (25 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. Rangeland Health Soil/Site Stability attribute rating will be improved by at least one departure category (ex. From "Moderate" to "Slight to Moderate"). (40 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. Rangeland Health Hydrologic Function attribute rating will be improved by at least one departure category (ex. From "Moderate" to "Slight to Moderate"). (40 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. Rangeland Health Biotic Integrity attribute rating will be improved by at least one departure category (ex. From "Moderate" to "Slight to Moderate"). (40 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. Similarity Index (SI) will be improved from a current score of $\leq 25$ for the weighted average on the pasture. (40 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
9. Similarity Index (SI) will be improved from a current score of $> 25$ to $< 60$ for the weighted average on the pasture. (25 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
10. The planned practice(s) will ensure reliable and properly distributed livestock water to over 70% of the acres needed to support the potential/permitted livestock numbers on the contracted pastures. (25 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

### Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Is there credible verification of benefits to target species (mule deer and other grassland obligate species) of the project from RCPP project applicant (AGFD letter describing and verifying benefits)? (50 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. Will the proposed project address resources concerns that will assist land users to promote mule deer and grassland obligate species habitat? (i.e.-Upland Wildlife Management 645)? (50 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. What is the improvement score ("after" minus "bench" score) on the Mule Deer or Grasslands WHEG? (choose only one)	
3. a. $> 0.5$ , and the "after" score is 0.5 or greater (100 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. b. $> 0.5$ , and the "after" score is 0.5 or greater (90 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. c. 0.3 - 0.39, and the "after" score is 0.5 or greater (75 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. d. 0.2 - 0.29, and the "after" score is 0.5 or greater (50 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. e. 0.1 - 0.19, and the "after" score is 0.5 or greater (25 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

3. f. 0 - 0.1, and the "after" score is 0.5 or greater (0 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. g. < 0, or the "after" score is less than 0.5 (-50 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. What is the "after" Mule deer or Grasslands WHEG score? (choose only one)	
4. a. >0.9 (50 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. b. >0.8 to 0.9 (40 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. c. >0.7 to 0.8 (30 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. d. >0.6 to 0.7 (20 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. e. >0.5 to 0.6 (0 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

**Land Use:**

<b>Resource Concerns</b>	<b>Practices</b>
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**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:

<p><b>NRCS Representative:</b></p>   <p><b>Signature Date:</b></p>	<p><b>Applicant Signature Not Required on this report for Contract Development unless required by State policy:</b></p>   <p><b>Signature Date:</b></p>
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