

**Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Application Ranking Summary  
Quail Habitat Restoration Initiative**

**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.	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**

<b>Issue Questions</b>	<b>Responses</b>
1. Cedar Control-Does the offer include practices to control cedars by using one of the following: Prescribed Burning (338) or Brush Management (314)?	75 Point(s)
2. Streambank Erosion-Does the offer include practices to address Stream Bank Erosion by implementing at least one of the following: Pasture and Hay Planting (512), Range Planting (550), Pond (378), Riparian Forest Buffer (391), or Watering Facility (614)?	50 Point(s)
3. Surface Water-Nutrients/Organics-Does the offer include practices to address Surface Water Nutrients by implementing one of the following: Riparian Forest Buffer (391), Filter Strip (393)?	50 Point(s)
4. Other: Has the applicant ever had a previous contract that was terminated?	-150 Point(s)
5. Other: Has the applicant ever had a previous contract that was found in non-compliance?	-50 Point(s)
6. Other: Will the proposed activities be planned for completion with 2 years of contract obligation?	75 Point(s)

#### **Local Issues Addressed**

<b>Issue Questions</b>	<b>Responses</b>
1. Other: Will the planned treatment compliment an existing conservation system? Specifically has the applicant already installed conservation measures that improved Quail habitat at their own expense or through a financially assisted program?	25 Point(s)
2. Fish and Wildlife Habitat Inadequate Cover and Shelter: Will the proposed project result in the development and implementation of a prescribed grazing system on all rangeland that will meet the 528 standard for wildlife considerations?	35 Point(s)
Fish and Wildlife Habitat - Habitat Fragmentation: Conversion of existing cropland to permanent vegetation. Answer yes to only one of the following questions.	
3. a. Will the planned treatment convert existing cropland to permanent native vegetation on a majority of the existing cropland acres by implementing Range Planting (550) or Restoration of rare and Declining Habitats (643) and either Prescribed Grazing (528) or Forage harvest Management (511)?	70 Point(s)
3. b. Will the planned treatment convert existing cropland to permanent native vegetation on a portion of the existing cropland acres by implementing Range Planting (550) or Restoration of rare and Declining Habitats (643) and either Prescribed Grazing (528) or Forage harvest Management (511)?	35 Point(s)
Fish and Wildlife Habitat - Habitat Fragmentation: Restoration of critical savannah and pine bluestem habitat. Answer only one of the following questions.	
4. a. Will the Planned treatment restore a historical savannah/woodland or pine-bluestem community that will promote native herbaceous growth by implementing Forest Stand improvement (666) or brush management (314) on a majority of the contract acres?	70 Point(s)
4. b. Will the Planned treatment restore a historical savannah/woodland or pine-bluestem community that will promote native herbaceous growth by implementing Forest Stand improvement (666) or brush management (314) on a portion of the contract acres?	35 Point(s)
Fish and Wildlife Habitat - Inadequate Cover and Shelter/Food: Restoration of prairie habitat. Answer only one of the following questions.	
5. a. Will the planned treatment restore depleted rangeland or pasture to the historical prairie community as described in the Ecological Site Description by implementing range planting (550), Restoration and Management of Rare or Declining Habitats (643), or early Successional Habitat Development (647) on a majority of the contracted acres?	70 Point(s)
5. b. Will the planned treatment restore depleted rangeland or pasture to the historical prairie community as described in the Ecological Site Description by implementing range planting (550), Restoration and Management of Rare or Declining Habitats (643), or early Successional Habitat Development (647) on a portion of the contracted acres?	35 Point(s)
Fish and Wildlife Habitat: Answer only one of the following 3 questions.	
6. a. Fish and Wildlife Habitat: Will the planned treatment result in a habitat suitability index score of 10 for all Habitat ranking categories according to E-904 Bobwhite Quail habitat Evaluation and Management Guide?	80 Point(s)
6. b. Fish and Wildlife Habitat: Will the planned treatment result in a habitat suitability index score of 8 or higher for all Habitat ranking categories according to E-904 Bobwhite Quail habitat Evaluation and Management Guide?	60 Point(s)
6. c. Fish and Wildlife Habitat: Will the planned treatment result in a habitat suitability index score of 6 or higher for all Habitat requirement categories according to E-904 Bobwhite Quail habitat Evaluation and Management Guide?	20 Point(s)
Fish and Wildlife Habitat: Answer only one of the following 2 questions related to control of invasive species..	
7. a. Fish and Wildlife Habitat: Will the proposed project control a locally identified invasive or noxious species (eastern redcedar, sericia lespedeza, etc) that has a negative impact on Bobwhite Quail habitat as identified in the Wildlife Habitat Plan on a majority of the contract acres where this species is found?	50 Point(s)
7. b. Fish and Wildlife Habitat: Will the proposed project control a locally identified invasive or noxious species (eastern redcedar, sericia lespedeza, etc) that has a negative impact on Bobwhite Quail habitat as identified in the Wildlife Habitat Plan on a portion of the contract acres where the species is found?	20 Point(s)