

EQIP FY23 Alaska Ranking Questions

*subject to change based on NHQ requirements

- Only financially assisted conservation practices with an identified Resource Concern will be considered during the application ranking.
 - Ranking questions may be answered “Yes” when one or more of the Resource Concerns are being treated to the Planning Criteria level as described on the CPA-52. *Reference the National Resource Concern List and Planning Criteria.*
 - All questions that garnish points must have documentation in DMS which supports the selection.
 - All conservation practices must result in a positive conservation benefit as determined by CART Assessment.
 - When answering ranking questions, only consider the resource concerns, eligible land, and conservation practices that are eligible for each fund pool.
 - For example:
 - The practice schedule and assessment included crop fields 1, 2, 3, 10, 11, and pasture fields 200 and 201.
 - The client is interested and eligible to compete in the Soil Health fund pool on crop fields 1, 2, 3. You would not consider crop fields 10, 11 or the pasture fields nor any of the associated practices on those fields when ranking the Soil Health fund pool.
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General – Beginning Farmer – Socially Disadvantaged – Organic Fund Pools

Land Use: Crop, Forest, Range, Pasture, Associated Ag Land, Farmstead

Organic Only

- *The organic modifier must be assigned to all land uses offered for enrollment.*
- *Land transitioning to organic must be assigned the organic modifier*

Applicability

General: Is the planned land unit(s) in Alaska? **Geospatial**

Geospatial Definition

NRCS State Boundaries

Layer Geometry: esriGeometryPolygon

Intersection Type: Intersect

1.	Field Name:	Operator:	Value:
	STATENAME	Equal =	Alaska

Beginning Farmer: Did the applicant self-certify as a beginning farmer or rancher on the NRCS-CPA-1200, “Conservation Program Application?”

Socially Disadvantaged: Did the applicant self-certify as a socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher on the NRCS-CPA-1200, “Conservation Program Application?”

Organic Fund Pool: Is the land offered for enrollment one of the following per the NRCS-CPA-1200, “Conservation Program Application”: Certified Organic, Transitioning to be Certified, Exempt from Organic Certification?

Program Ranking Questions

- Will the practice schedule improve existing conservation practices or systems that are in place at the time of application?
 - yes = 100 points
 - no = 0 points
 - *Beginning Farmer & Socially Disadvantaged Fund Pools only:*
 - Did the applicant self-certify as a veteran farmer or rancher (VFR) on the NRCS-CPA-1200 Program Application?
 - yes = 20 points
 - no = 0 points
 - Is the applicant an FSA-eligible CRP-TIP participant applying for EQIP within the last year of the CRP contract? (Yes/No) (10 points)
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- Is the applicant an FSA-eligible CRP-TIP participant who is beginning the organic certification process? (Yes /No) (5 points)

Resource Ranking Questions

1. Does the practice schedule address the resource concern Aquatic Habitat for Fish and Other Organisms or includes practices that will address the resource concern Elevated Water Temperature (must be documented on CPA-52 and CART assessment)?

- None = 0 points
- One = 20 points
- Both = 30 points

2. Does the practice schedule address the following resource concerns for forest land health and/or wildfire hazard reduction (must be documented on CPA-52 and CART assessment)?

- a. Plant Productivity and Health
- b. Plant Structure and Composition
- c. Wildfire Hazard from Biomass Accumulation
 - No = 0 points
 - Yes, One Resource Concern = 5 points
 - Yes, Two Resource Concerns = 10 points
 - Yes, Three Resource Concerns = 15 points

3. Does the practice schedule address the following resource concerns for soil health (must be documented on CPA-52 and CART assessment)?

- a. Aggregate instability
 - b. Compaction
 - c. Concentration of Salts and Other Chemicals
 - d. Organic Matter Depletion
 - e. Soil Organism Habitat Loss or Degradation
 - f. Subsidence
 - No = 0 points
 - Yes, One to Three Resource Concerns = 5 points
 - Yes, Four to Six Resource Concerns = 15 points
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Urban Fund Pool

Land Use: Crop, Forest, Range, Pasture, Associated Ag Land, Farmstead - [with the Urban modifier](#)

Applicability: Do the planned land unit(s) have the Urban modifier?

Program Ranking Questions

- Practice schedule includes practice(s) to enhance the conservation efforts on urban land?
 - yes = 100 points
 - no = 0 points

Resource Ranking Questions

1. Soil Health- How many of the following resource concerns are being treated and are documented in the CART assessment and CPA-52: a) Aggregate instability b) Compaction c) Concentration of Salts and Other Chemicals d) Organic Matter Depletion e) Soil Organism Habitat Loss or Degradation f) Subsidence
 - a. None: 0 points
 - b. One - two resource concerns: 10 points
 - c. Three – Four resource concerns: 20 points
 - d. Five -Six resource concerns: 30 points
 2. Select the best answer: when one or more of the following resource concern(s) are documented in the CART assessment and CPA-52: 1) Nutrients Transported to Surface Water 2) Nutrients Transported to Ground water 3) Pathogens and Chemicals from Manure, Biosolids or Compost Applications Transported to Surface Water 4) Pathogens and Chemicals from Manure, Biosolids or Compost Applications Transported to Ground Water
 - a. (0 points) Does not apply
 - b. (5 points) Practice Schedule will utilize 1 management practice to address transportation.
 - c. (10 points) Practice Schedule will utilize 2-3 management practices to address transportation.
 - d. (15 points) Practice Schedule will utilize 4+ management practices to address transportation.
 3. The project treatment area is within 500 feet of a stream and a nutrient or pathogen transportation resource concern is being addressed by the practice schedule? (select the best answer)
 - a) 303d listed water body or anadromous - 15 points
 - b) Other perennial stream – 10 points
 - c) Not within 500 feet – 0 points
 4. Does the practice schedule address the resource concern inefficient irrigation water use (documented in the CART assessment and on the CPA 52)?
 - Yes - 10 points
 - No – 0 points
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Wildlife Fund Pool

Land Use: Crop, Forest, Range, Pasture, Associated Ag Land, Farmstead

Applicability: Is the primary focus of the practice schedule addressing either aquatic or terrestrial habitat resource concerns as identified during the planning process and documented via one of the Alaska approved inventory, measurement, or assessment tools?

Program Ranking Questions

1. Does the practice schedule improve *wildlife habitat for the following (choose all that apply)*?
 1. (10 points) Federally listed T/E species
 2. (5 points) Species listed in Appendix A of the 2015 State of Alaska Wildlife Action Plan
 3. (0 points) None of the above

2. What is the status of permits? (choose the best answer)
 - a) No permits are needed, or all permits are in hand – shovel ready (100 points)
 - b) Project being permitted as it is being designed, design at least at 90% complete (80 points)
 - c) Permits have been applied for – but not yet approved/in hand (40 points)
At least 1 permit that is needed is not in hand.
 - d) Permits are needed but have not been applied for (0 points)
 - e) Unknown or other (0 points)

Resource Ranking Questions

- 1) Does the participant have a Wildlife Habitat Action Plan (WHAP) on file which addresses habitat improvements that are included in the practice schedule?
 - a. Yes (25 points)
 - b. No (0 points)

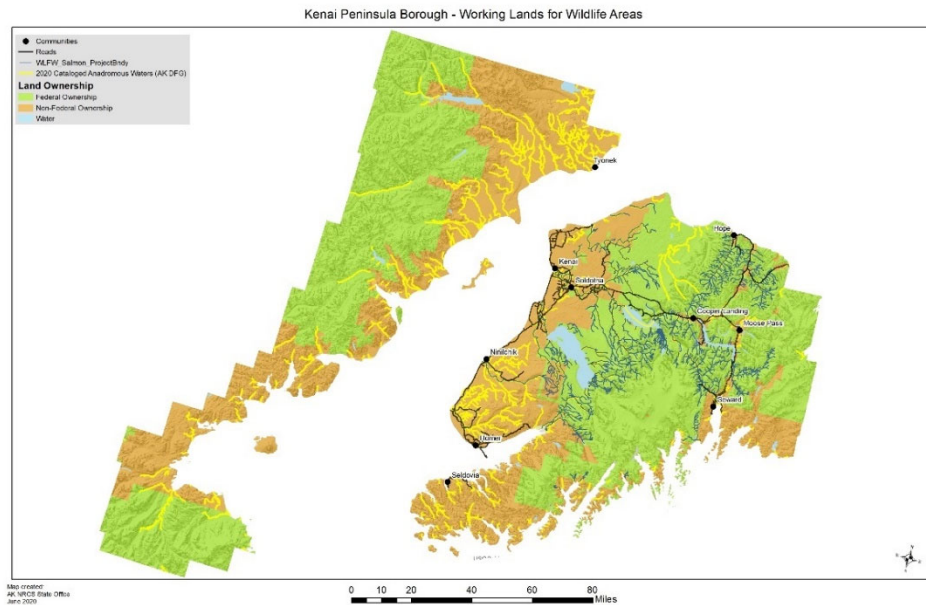
 - 2) Is the primary focus of the practice schedule terrestrial and/or aquatic wildlife habitat improvement? Select all that apply:
 - a. Aquatic (10 Points)
 - b. Terrestrial (10 Points)

 - 3) Terrestrial wildlife habitat – select all that apply:
 - a. Does not apply (0 points)
 - b. Does the conservation plan have a Wildlife Habitat Action Plan (WHAP) or Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG) that identifies ground nesting birds with an emphasis on improving habitat? (10 points)
 - c. The practice schedule includes conservation practices benefiting pollinators. (5 points)

 - 4) The practice schedule will improve how many of the following for terrestrial habitat: wildlife habitat: cover (nesting/escape), continuity (travel corridors) and/or graze/ browse (Food)?
None (0 points)
 - a. One (5 points)
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- b. Two (10 points)
 - c. Three (20 points)
- 5) Aquatic habitat – select all that apply:
- a. Does not apply (0 points)
 - b. Habitat improvement is on a perennial stream. (15 points)
 - c. The practice schedule includes conservation practices to improve fish passage. (10 points)
 - d. The practice schedule includes terrestrial practices that will address temperature effects on aquatic habitat. (10 Points)
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Working Lands for Wildlife Fund Pool



Land Use: Crop, Forest, Range, Pasture, Associated Ag Land, Farmstead

Applicability: The project is within the WLFW boundary and is targeting salmon habitat resource concerns.

Category **Geospatial**

Geospatial Definition

county_a_ak_2010

Layer Geometry: esriGeometryPolygon

Intersection Type: Contained

1.

Field Name:
name10

Operator:
Equal =

Value:
Kenai Peninsula

Program Ranking Questions

1. What is the status of permits (choose the best answer)
 - a) No permits are needed, or all permits are in hand – shovel ready (80 points)
 - b) Project being permitted as it is being designed, design at least at 90% complete (60 points)
 - c) Permits have been applied for – but not yet approved/in hand (20 points)
Hover: At least 1 permit that is needed is not in hand.
 - d) Permits are needed but have not been applied for (0 points)
 - e) Unknown or other (0 points)

2. The project is (choose the best answer):
 - a) Within an anadromous stream corridor, at or below one half bankfull (100 points)
 - b) Within two bankfulls (75 points)
 - c) Outside of two bankfulls (50 points)
 - d) Outside the active floodplain (0 points)

3. The project:
 - a) Directly impacts one of the original twenty Mountains to Sea streams (20 points)
 - b) Impacts other streams within the project area (10 points)

Resource Ranking Questions

- 1) Does the practice schedule include practice(s) to prevent sediment from a forest road from entering surface waters?
 - a. Yes (25 points)
 - b. No (0 points)

 - 2) Does the practice schedule include practice(s) that provide for the protection, restoration, development, or enhancement of salmon habitat?
 - a. Yes (25 points)
 - b. No (0 points)

 - 3) Does the practice schedule include practice(s) that remove barrier(s) providing previous underutilized, and/or additional, habitat for salmon species?
 - a. Yes (25 points)
 - b. No (0 points)

 - 4) Does the practice schedule include terrestrial practices that will address temperature effects on aquatic habitat?
 - a. Yes (25 points)
 - b. No (0 points)
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Forestry Fund Pool

Land Use: Forest, Associated Ag Land

Applicability: Is the primary focus of the practice schedule forest health as identified in an NRCS approved Forest Management Plan?

Program Ranking Questions

1. Select the best answer:
 - a. The practice schedule includes practice(s) to address the primary objective of the forest management plan. (100 points)
 - b. The practice schedule includes practice(s) to address concerns listed in the forest management plan. (50 points)

2. Select the best answer:
 - a. The practice schedule includes one conservation practice to address forest health resource concerns as documented on the CPA-52. (10 points)
 - b. The practice schedule includes two conservation practices to address forest health resource concerns as documented on the CPA-52. (25 points)
 - c. The practice schedule includes three or more conservation practices to address forest health resource concerns as documented on the CPA-52. (50 points)

Resource Ranking Questions

1. (35 points) Does the practice schedule address a *water quality concern that is documented on the CPA-52*?

 2. (40 points) Does the practice schedule address a *wildfire hazard from biomass accumulation concern that is documented on the CPA-52*?

 3. (15 points) Does the practice schedule improve *plant productivity and health as documented on the CPA-52*?

 4. (15 points) Does the practice schedule improve *plant structure and composition as documented on the CPA-52*?

 5. (30 points) The practice schedule addresses declining tree species populations, or insect and/or disease damage to tree species.
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Soil Health Fund Pool

Land Use: Cropland

Applicability: Is the primary focus of the practice schedule soil health and the Cropland In-Field Soil Health Assessment Worksheet has been completed (available on the AK Soil Sharepoint > Soil Health: https://usdagcc.sharepoint.com/sites/nrcs_alaska/soils/Soil%20Health/Forms/AllItems.aspx)

Program Ranking Questions

1. How many conservation practices that are offered in this fund pool have been adopted on the operation?
 - a. Zero = 100 points
 - b. One = 10 points
 - c. Two-Three = 5 points
 - d. Four or more = 0 points

Resource Ranking Questions

1. How many of the 4 soil health principles (minimize soil disturbance, maximize diversity, maintain a living root in the soil, and maintain soil surface cover/residue) have been identified as a resource concern and are being addressed with the practice schedule:
 - a. All 4 principles of soil health (40 points)
 - b. 3 principles of soil health (30 points)
 - c. 2 principles of soil health (20 points)
 - d. 1 principle of soil health (0 points)
 2. Has organic matter depletion been identified on the CPA-52 as a resource concern and the practice schedule includes conservation practice(s) that will result in a non-negative Soil Conditioning Index (SCI) and a Soil Tillage Intensity Rating (STIR) that is less than 20?
 - Yes (20 points)
 - No (0 points)
 3. Has compaction been identified on the CPA-52 as a resource concern and the practice schedule includes conservation practice(s) to reduce compaction?
 - Yes (20 points)
 - No (0 points)
 4. Has aggregate instability been identified on the CPA-52 as a resource concern and the practice schedule includes conservation practice(s) to improve the stability of soil aggregates. (Existing soil aggregates disintegrate when placed in a cylinder of water or does not meet stability class 6 when slake tests are performed)?
 - Yes (20 points)
 - No (0 points)
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5. Does the practice schedule include conservation practice(s) that address any of the following 7 indicators on the soil health assessment worksheet: soil cover, residue breakdown, water stable aggregates, soil structure, plant roots, biological diversity, and bio-pores? (*soil organism habitat loss or degradation* must be documented on CPA-52 and CART assessment)
 - a. All 7 indicators are addressed (20 points)
 - b. 5-6 indicators are addressed (15 points)
 - c. 3-4 indicators are addressed (10 points)
 - d. 1-2 indicators are addressed (5 points)
 - e. None (0 points)

 6. Will the planned treatment reduce oxidation of organic matter in a histosol leading to a reduction in subsidence?
 - Yes (20 points)
 - No (0 points)

 7. Has concentration of salts or other chemicals been identified on the CPA-52 and the practice schedule includes conservation practice(s) to reduce the SAR or EC of saline or sodium effected soils?
 - Yes (20 points)
 - No (0 points)

 8. Will the practice schedule add diversity to the existing cropping system by adding a new crop type (warm season grass, cool season grass, warm season broadleaf, cool season broadleaf) or diverse cover crop.
 - a. A total of 4 crop types, including the cover crop if used, (with at least 1 new crop type added to the cropping system) will be implemented and documented on the implementation requirements (40 points)
 - b. A total of 3 crop types, including the cover crop if used, (with at least 1 new crop type added to the cropping system) will be implemented and documented on the implementation requirements (30 points)
 - c. Does not apply (0 points)
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CPA DIA CEMA Fund Pool

Land Use: Crop, Forest, Range, Pasture, Associated Ag Land, Farmstead

Applicability: Does the practice schedule include a CPA, DIA, or CEMA? (except 138, 140, 120, 228)

Hover Text: If the application includes a CPA/DIA/CEMA, select yes. Exceptions: 138 and 140 belong in the Organic fund pool and 120 and 228 belong in the On Farm Energy fund pool.

Program Ranking Questions

1. Does the practice schedule include a planned CPA, DIA, and/or CEMA?
Yes (200 points)
No (0 points)

Resource Ranking Questions

2. Does the practice schedule include a planned CPA, DIA, and/or CEMA?
Yes (200 points)
No (0 points)
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On Farm Energy Fund Pool

Land Use: Crop, Forest, Range, Pasture, Associated Ag Land, Farmstead

Applicability: Does the practice schedule include either a Agricultural Energy Design, (120) Agricultural Energy Assessment (228), or practices are recommended as part of an Agricultural Energy Management Plan (AgEMP) or On Farm Audit that meets the ASABE S612 Performing On Farm Energy Audits Comprehensive Type 2 standards, which has been completed or updated within the last four years?

Yes = applicable

No = not applicable

Program Ranking Questions

1. Is the program application for development of a TSP-prepared Agricultural Energy Design (120) or Agricultural Energy Assessment (228)?
 - Yes = 200 points
 - No = 0 points
1. Will the practice schedule implement practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meets ASABE S612 criteria?
 - Yes = 100 points
 - No = 0 points

Resource Ranking Questions

2. Is the program application for development of a TSP-prepared Agricultural Energy Design (120) or Agricultural Energy Assessment (228)?
 - Yes = 100 points
 - No = 0 points
 3. Practice schedule contains - choose the best answer (The Core practices are: 120, 228, 374, 449, 533, 670, 672):
 - The application contains two or more core practices. (100 points)
 - The application contains at least one core practice. (50 points)
 - The application contains no core practices. (0 points)
-