

## **Ranking Questions:**

After review of the ranking questions, it was recommended that changes be made for FY 2023 to coincide with the new resource concerns, changes were made to the resource questions but not the program questions. The only land use that will keep its old ranking questions is Associated Ag Lands. The following are the questions that were discussed upon using. Each ranking pool totals 200 possible points.

### **Range:**

1. Will the proposed contract address 3 or more priority resource concerns as identified by the LWG? 50 Points
2. Will the proposed contract address 1 or 2 priority resource concerns as identified by the LWG? 25 Points
3. Will new infrastructure be installed to replace existing infrastructure that has exceeded their lifespan according to NRCS guidelines. 25 Points
4. Does the proposed contract include a practice to implement a Prescribed Grazing Rotation System that meets proper grazing utilization of the key forage species and defers grazing on contracted acres, on average, greater than 50% of the growing season, such as Prescribed Grazing (528)? 50 Points
5. Does the proposed contract include a practice to implement a Prescribed Grazing Rotation System that meets proper grazing utilization of the key forage species and defers grazing on contracted acres, on average, 25% - 50% of the growing season, such as Prescribed Grazing (528)? 25 Points
6. Will a management practice item be applied to improve wildlife habitat? Ex. 645 25 Points
7. Will a practice item be installed to address concentrated erosion? Ex. 410 Grade Stabilization 25 Points
8. Will a practice item be installed to address Degraded Plant Condition? Ex. 314 Brush Management 25 Points

### **Forest**

1. Will the proposed contract address 3 or more priority resource concerns as identified by the LWG? 50 Points
2. Will the proposed contract address 1 or 2 priority resource concerns as identified by the LWG? 25 Points
3. Will the resource concern wildfire hazard from biomass accumulation be addressed in an area with a Heavy Density reduction? Ex. > 60 sq-ft BA Removed 100 Points
4. Will the resource concern wildfire hazard from biomass accumulation be addressed in an area with a Medium Density reduction? Ex. 60 - 40 sq-ft BA Removed 75 Points
5. Will the resource concern wildfire hazard from biomass accumulation be addressed in an area with a Low-Density reduction? Ex. < 40 sq-ft BA Removed 50 Points
6. Will the proposed treatment retain copses or clumps of trees to provide thermal and hiding cover for wildlife on contracted acres? 25 Points

7. Will a practice Item be installed to address concentrated erosion? Ex. 410 Grade Stabilization 25 Points

#### **Cropland/Pastureland**

1. Will the proposed contract address 3 or more priority resource concerns as identified by the LWG? 50 Points
2. Will the proposed contract address 1 or 2 priority resource concerns as identified by the LWG? 25 Points
3. Will new infrastructure be installed to replace existing infrastructure that has exceeded their lifespan according to NRCS guidelines. 25 Points
4. Does the proposed contract address soil quality limitation, wind & water erosion, or degraded plant condition, with practice items such as (340) Cover Crop, (328) Conservation Crop Rotation, Conservation Tillage (345,329), (512) Forage & Biomass Planting etc. 100
5. Does the proposed contract address the resource concern source water depletion with practice items such as (449) Irrigation Water Management, (441) Microirrigation, (464) Irrigation Land Levelling, etc? 25
6. Irrigation Land Levelling, etc? 25

#### **AFO**

1. Will the proposed contract address 3 or More priority resource concerns as identified by the LWG? 100 Points
2. Will the proposed contract address 1 or 2 priority resource concerns as identified by the LWG? 50 Points
3. Does the proposed contract address the resource concern of Air Quality Emissions? Points 50
4. Does the proposed contract address the resource concern of Field Sediment, Nutrient, and Pathogen Loss? 50 Points

#### **CART Assessment:**

The LWG does not recommend that additional Resource Concern categories be required for CSP. Yes, the LWG does feel that the same RC categories that are required for CSP be required for EQIP, this way all rankings are the same.