

New Mexico		Conservation Stewardship Program- Non-Industrial Private Forest Ranking Criteria		FY2021
Ranking Pools	Applicability	Explanation	Points	
NIPF- Renewal	Is most of the land in the operation located in New Mexico?	The contract will be administered by NM if the majority of the land is located in the state. If some of the land in the operation is located in an adjoining state it must be included in the contract with NM.	0	
NIPF-Renewal-BFR	Did the applicant self-certify as a beginning farmer or rancher on the NRCS-CPA-1200, "Conservation Program Application?" (Yes = applicable; No = not applicable)	Self-certification at the time of application is sufficient to rank in the BFR funding pool. NM may require documentation to support the BFR self-certification prior to obligation.	0	
NIPF-Renewal-SD	Did the applicant self-certify as a socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher on the NRCS-CPA-1200, "Conservation Program Application?" (Yes = applicable; No = not applicable)	Self-certification at the time of application is sufficient to rank in the SD funding pool. Additional documentation is not required.	0	
Ranking Pools	Category	Explanation	Points	
NIPF-Renewal NIPF-Renewal-BFR NIPF-Renewal-SD	Is the application eligible for renewal?	If the application is not eligible for renewal it must not be ranked.	0	
Ranking Pools	Program Questions	Explanation	Total 200 points	
All	What percent of the operation will have an activity scheduled with this application? a. 75% or more b. 50- 74% c. 25- 49% d. 10- 24% e. less than 10%	Priority is given to applications that will implement more conservation.	a. 100 b. 75 c. 50 d. 25 e. 0	
All	Will an activity be contracted in a source water priority area?	An agency goal is to provide at least 10% of financial assistance to activities that protect drinking water sources. NRCS determined source water protection areas are used.	If yes, 75 points	
NIPF-Renewal-BFR NIPF- Renewal - SD	Does the applicant meet the NRCS definition of a veteran farmer or rancher (VFR)?	Priority is given to applicants who meet the definition of VFR only in the fund accounts for BFR and SD.	If yes, 20 points	
Agland-Renewal- BFR Agland- Renewal- SD	Did the applicant participate in the CRP Transition Incentives Program (TIP), and land included in the CSP application has come out of CRP within the last two years? (Yes/No) (5 to 20 pts)	Between 5-20 points must be given for this criteria.	If yes, 5 points	

Ranking Pools	Resource Questions	Explanation	Total 200 points
All	<p>At the time of application, how many State priority resource concerns categories are met on forest land?</p> <p>a. 5 State priority resource concerns are met on forest land. b. 4 State priority resource concerns are met on forest land. c. 3 State priority resource concerns are met on forest land. d. 2 State priority resource concerns are met on forest land. e. 1 State priority resource concerns is met on forest land. f. No state priority resource concerns</p>	<p>More priority to operations that are meeting conservation objectives at the beginning of the contract.</p>	<p>a. 25 b. 20 c. 15 d. 10 e. 5 f. 0</p>
All	<p>By the end of the contract, how many State priority resource concerns will be met on forest land?</p> <p>A. 5 State priority resource concerns will be met on forest land. b. 4 State priority resource concerns will be met on forest land. c. 3 State priority resource concerns will be met on forest land.</p>	<p>More conservation benefits are expected with more resource concerns that will be met at the end of the contract. At least 2 must be met to be eligible.</p>	<p>a. 35 b. 28 c. 21 d. 14 e. 7 f. 0</p>
All	<p>Will a contracted activity improve habitat for wildlife or reduce the risk of pest damage to trees?</p>	<p>At least one scheduled activity must specifically state that it is designed to improve habitat for a desired wildlife species.</p>	<p>If yes, 40 points</p>
All	<p>Will the threat of wildfire be reduced with a contracted activity (Fuel break, fire break, forest stand improvement, woody residue treatment, etc.)?</p>	<p>No minimum is needed. There must be a reduction of woody material with the contracted activity.</p>	<p>If yes, 40 points</p>
All	<p>Will existing fence be retrofitted at key crossing areas to meet the NRCS requirement for wildlife friendly fence (CPS 382)?</p> <p>a. At least 900 feet if total fence is more than a mile or at least 75% of total fence if total fence is a mile or less b. At least 600 feet if total fence is more than a mile or at least 50% of total fence if total fence is a mile or less c. At least 300 feet if total fence is more than a mile or at least 25% of total fence if total fence is a mile or less d. Less than 300 feet if total fence is more than a mile or less than 25% of total fence if total fence is a mile or less</p>	<p>Priority is given to applications that will implement more conservation. The practice standard for fence requires at least 100 yards of wildlife friendly fence for connectivity. This may not be achievable on small acreage.</p>	<p>a. 15 b. 10 c. 5 d. 0</p>
All	<p>Will existing troughs be retrofitted with an escape ramp to reduce mortality of wildlife? This is not permissible on troughs where NRCS funding has already been provided in CSP or EQIP.</p> <p>a. On 100% of troughs that do not have functional escape ramps. b. On 75-99% of the troughs that do not have functional escape ramps. c. On 50-74% of the troughs that do not have functional escape ramps. d. On less than 50% of the troughs that do not have functional escape ramps. No points.</p>	<p>Priority is given to applications that will implement more conservation. At least half of the troughs must be retrofitted to earn points. To be functional the escape ramps do not need to meet NRCS standards but must serve the intended goal of allowing wildlife to safely escape from drowning.</p>	<p>a. 5 b. 4 c. 2 d. 0</p>