

# EQIP FY24 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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## **EQIP: CPA DIA CEMA Fund Pool (ACT NOW)**

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

**Applicability:** Does the practice schedule include a CPA, DIA, or CEMA?

*Hover Text: If the application includes a CPA/DIA/CEMA, select yes.*

### **Program Ranking Questions**

1. On the CCC1200 application, did the applicant self-certify as a Historically Underserved (HU) client (Beginning Farmer Rancher, Socially Disadvantaged Farmer Rancher, Limited Resource Farmer Rancher, Veteran Farmer Rancher) participant, AND the same HU status has been entered into Protracts applicant information?  
Yes (5 points)  
No (0 points)
2. Does the practice schedule include a planned CPA, DIA, and/or CEMA?  
Yes (195 points)  
No (0 points)

### **Resource Ranking Questions**

3. Does the application include a planned CPA, DIA, and/or CEMA?  
Yes (200 points)  
No (0 points)
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## **EQIP: High Tunnel (ACT NOW)**

**Land Use:** Crop

**Applicability:** Does the practice schedule contain the conservation practice High Tunnel System?

Yes = applicable

No = not applicable

### **Program Ranking Questions**

1. Does the application include only the high tunnel structure conservation practice?
  - i. Yes = 200 points
  - ii. No = 0 points
  
2. Does the application include any other conservation practices, besides the high tunnel system?
  - i. Yes = -200 points
  - ii. No = 0 points

### **Resource Ranking Questions**

1. Does the application practice address the resource concern Degraded Plant Condition?
    - i. Yes = 200 points
    - ii. No = 0 points
  
  2. Does the application address any other resource concern(s)?
    - iii. Yes = -200 points
    - iv. No = 0 points
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## EQIP: General – Beginning Farmer – Socially Disadvantaged – Organic Fund Pools

Fund Pool	Applicable Land Use
General	All land uses
BF	All land uses
SD	All land uses
Organic	Crop, Forest, Range, Pasture, Farmstead, Associated Agricultural Land Must have Organic Modifier (including land that is transitioning)

### 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**

The screenshot shows a web-based Layer Search interface. At the top, there is a search bar containing the text 'state\_a\_ak\_FY2023'. Below the search bar, it indicates 'Layer Geometry: esriGeometryPolygon'. Underneath, the 'Intersection Type' is set to 'Intersect'. A section titled 'Selected Fields for Comparison:' contains a table with one row: '1. Field Name: name, Operator: Equal =, Value: Alaska'. At the bottom, there is a section for 'Available Fields'.

**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

1. 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
2. *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

- Did the applicant participant in the CRP Transition Incentives Program (TIP), and land included in the EQIP application has come out of CRP within the last two years? (Yes/No) (20 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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## **EQIP: Organic Transition Initiative (OTI)**

**Land Use:** Crop, Forest, Range, Pasture, Farmstead, Associated Agricultural Land - Must have Organic Modifier

### **Applicability**

Is the applicant planning to, or currently in the process of, transitioning to organic production and self-certified as transitioning to organic production?

### **Program Ranking Questions**

1. Does the practice schedule include the core conservation practice code 823 (Organic Management)?
  - yes = 200 points
  - no = 0 points

### **Resource Ranking Questions**

1. Does the application include the core conservation practice code 823 (Organic Management)?
    - yes = 100 points
    - no = 0 points
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## EQIP: Urban Fund Pool

**Land Use:** All Land Uses - 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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## EQIP: Wildlife Fund Pool

**Land Use:** All

**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)

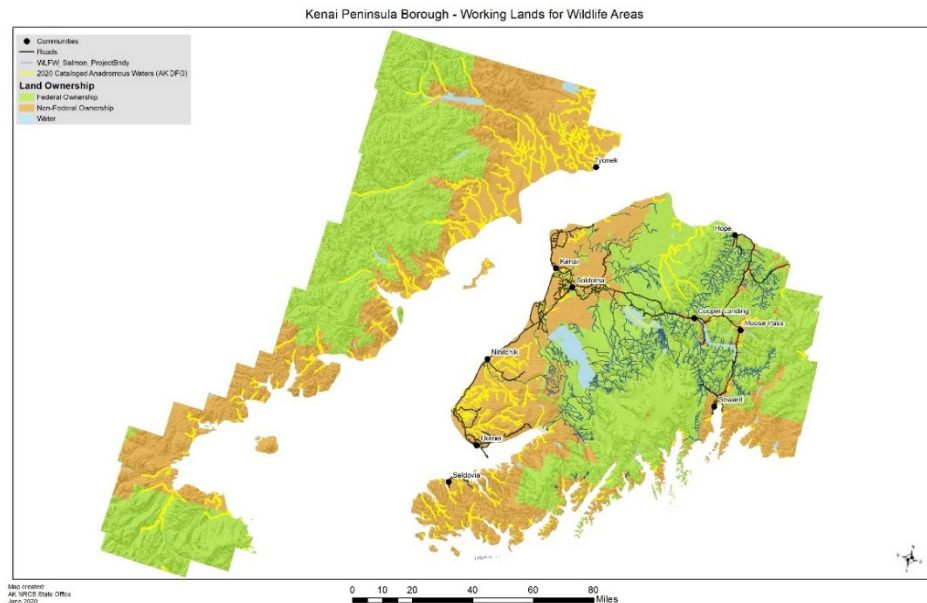
### Resource Ranking Questions

- 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)?
    - a. None (0 points)
    - b. One (5 points)
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- c. Two (10 points)
  - d. 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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## EQIP: Working Lands for Wildlife Fund Pool



**Land Use:** All

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

**Category:** Geospatial – state of Alaska

### 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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## EQIP: 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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## EQIP: On Farm Energy Fund Pool

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

**Applicability:** Does the practice schedule contain at least one core energy practice (374, 449, 533, 670, 672) and address inefficient energy use?

Yes = applicable

No = not applicable

### Program Ranking Questions

1. Is the primary purpose of the practice schedule to address the resource concern inefficient energy use?
  - Yes = 100 points
  - No = 0 points

### Resource Ranking Questions

Does the practice schedule include implementation of:

1. One conservation practice with a documented positive energy improvement (5 points)
  2. Two conservation practices with a documented positive energy improvement (10 points)
  3. Three conservation practices with a documented positive energy improvement (15 points)
  4. Four or more conservation practices with a documented positive energy improvement (20 points)
  5. No positive energy improvement (-200 points)
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## EQIP IRA Pool

**Land Use:** All land uses

**Applicability:** Does this application meet the requirements of IRA to sequester carbon, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and mitigate the impacts of climate change while building resilience to strengthen the agricultural operation?

### Program Ranking Questions

1. How many conservation practices from the Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry (CSAF) Mitigation Activities List FY2024 are part of the application?
  - a. Zero = -200 points
  - b. One = 25 points
  - c. Two or Three = 50 points
  - d. Four or more = 100 points

### Resource Ranking Questions

1. To what level is the Emissions of GHG resource concern met (see CART roll up results and select the component with the highest result)?
    - a. Not met, did not improve on existing condition 0 points
    - b. Not met, some improvement over the existing condition 25 points
    - c. Meets 50 points
    - d. Exceeds 100
    - e. Not applicable 0 points
  
  2. To what level is the organic matter depletion resource concern met (see CART roll up results and select the component with the highest result)?
    - a. Not met, did not improve on existing condition 0 points
    - b. Not met, some improvement over the existing condition 25 points
    - c. Meets 50 points
    - d. Exceeds 100
    - e. Not applicable 0 points
-