

Natural Resources Conservation Service
Application Ranking Summary
FY17 Forest Tree Mortality

STRIKETHROUGH TEXT FOR NATIONAL CRITERIA IS NOT APPLICABLE TO THIS FUND POOL. DO NOT ANSWER THESE CRITERIA.

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Point(s)
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
Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)	
2. a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?	15
2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	10
2. c. Reducing impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides on land adjoining a designated "impaired water body" (TMDL, 303d listed waterbody, or other State designation)?	10
2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a "non impaired water body"?	10
2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	10
Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)	
3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.	15
3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	10
3. c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed wide project?	10
3. d. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm water use as a result of changing to crops with lower water consumptive use, the rotation of crops, or the modification of cultural operations?	10
Air Quality – Will the proposed project improve air quality by: (select all that apply)	
4. a. Meeting on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	10
4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?	10
4. c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?	10
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	10
Soil Health: – Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	10
5. b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	10
Wildlife Habitat – Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat by: (select all that apply)	
6. a. Implementing practices benefitting threatened and endangered, at risk, candidate, or species of concern.	10
6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?	10
6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	10
6. d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	10
Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project improve plant and animal communities by: (select all that apply)	
7. a. Implementing practices that result in the management control of noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	10
7. b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	10

Energy Conservation – Will the proposed project reduce energy use by: (select all that apply)	
8. a. Reducing on farm energy consumption?	10
8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	10
Business Lines – Will the practices to be scheduled in the “EQIP Plan of Operations” result in:	
9. a. Enhancement of existing conservation practice(s) or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is received?	10
State Issues Addressed	
Issue Questions	Point(s)
State Ranking Criteria One - Proximity to Completed Fire or Pest Control Projects (Select “Yes” to One Answer Only, if applicable)	
1. a. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations is adjacent or contiguous to a forest management project completed in the last 10 years that addressed fire hazard reduction or bark beetle pest control.	50
1. b. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations is not adjacent or contiguous but within ½ mile of a forest management project completed in the last 10 years that addressed fire hazard reduction or bark beetle pest control.	25
State Ranking Criteria Two - Fire or Pest Control Planning (Select “Yes,” if applicable)	
2. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations is within a fire or pest control plan or other tree mortality hazard reduction plan prepared in cooperation with a public agency, is endorsed by a fire service agency, and/or is in the “High Hazard Area” as defined in the current the Governor’s State of Emergency Proclamation.	25
State Ranking Criteria Three - Landscape Level Fire or Pest Control Reduction (Select “Yes” to One Answer Only, if applicable)	
3. a. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations includes fire or pest control silvicultural practices that affect landscape level firesheds. • Treatment extends greater than 1000 feet from landscaped area of residential structures or the property line of parcels with no structures.	175
3. b. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations includes fire or pest control silvicultural practices that affect landscape level firesheds. • Treatment is greater than 500 feet, but does not exceed 1000 feet, from the landscaped area of residential structures or from the property line of parcels with no structures.	100
3. c. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations includes fire or pest control silvicultural practices that affect landscape level firesheds • Treatment is within 100-500 feet from the landscaped area of residential structures or from the property line of parcels with no structures.	50
State Ranking Criteria Four - Extent of Forest Tree Mortality (Select “Yes” to One Answer Only, if applicable)	
4. a. Greater than 40 percent of the conifers trees on the applicant’s conifer forestland property are dead and dying.	125
4. b. 20 to 40 percent of the conifer trees on the applicant’s conifer forestland property are dead and dying.	100
4. c. Less than 20 percent of the conifer trees on the applicant’s conifer forestland property are dead and dying.	60

Local Issues Addressed	
Issue Questions	Point(s)
<p>Local Ranking Criteria One - DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION: Wildfire Hazard from Excessive Biomass Accumulation (Excess biomass)</p> <p>Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations will remove from property, chip/masticate on site, and/or deck on site dead and dying trees for purposes of reducing fire hazard and spread of pests. (Select "Yes" to One Answer Only, if applicable)</p>	
<p>1. a. Conservation treatments remove all large diameter excess dead and dying trees from the property to an appropriate disposal or wood processing area; and/or chip or masticate and spread to an appropriate depth all excess dead and dying trees and vegetation treated in the project.</p>	125
<p>1. b. Conservation treatments deck all large diameter excess dead and dying trees on the landowners property.</p>	50
<p>Local Ranking Criteria Two - DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION: Inadequate Structure and Composition (Reforestation) (Select "Yes," if applicable)</p>	
<p>2. a. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations includes reforestation on areas where insect-affected stands result in understocked conditions for the site. The management unit will be restocked to soil capacity with 70 percent or greater desirable plant species composition.</p>	25
<p>Local Ranking Criteria Three - DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION: Excessive Plant Pest Pressure (Active Bark Beetle Presence) (Select "Yes," if applicable)</p>	
<p>3. a. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations is planned where conifer trees in the treatment area contain indications of active bark beetle presence as demonstrated by bark beetle boring holes which are exuding fresh/moist pitch, recent boring frass, and only slight discolored tree needles on the majority of the tree canopy.</p>	25
<p>Local Ranking Criteria Four - DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION: Wildfire Hazard from Excessive Biomass Accumulation (Overstocked Stands)</p> <p>Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations will create a vertical break between tree crowns (live and dead portions) and understory vegetation on 70 percent or more of the treatment area where - (Select "Yes" to One Answer Only, if applicable)</p>	
<p>4. a. Stocking is adjusted through a reduction of 200 trees or more and/or a basal area reduction of 45 percent or more to meet stocking targets for a healthy forest as determined by direct field measurement or from the Soil Survey.</p>	50
<p>4. b. Stocking is adjusted through a reduction of 150 trees or more and/or a basal area reduction of 35 percent or more to meet stocking targets for a healthy forest as determined by direct field measurement or from the Soil Survey.</p>	25
<p>4. c. Stocking is adjusted through a reduction of at least 100 trees or more and/ or a basal area reduction of at least 20 percent to meet stocking targets for a healthy forest as determined by direct field measurement or from the Soil Survey.</p>	10

<p>Local Ranking Criteria Five - DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION: Wildfire Hazard from Excessive Biomass Accumulation (Competing Vegetation)</p> <p>Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations will treat understory vegetation which is a major fuel and moisture competition concern.</p> <p>(Select "Yes" to One Answer Only, if applicable)</p>	
<p>5. a. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations will reduce understory canopy cover from 60 percent or more per acre to 10 percent understory canopy cover per acre or less to address an unbalanced forest condition by unwanted, competing vegetation.</p>	50
<p>5. b. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations will reduce understory canopy cover from 45 percent or more per acre to 10 percent understory canopy cover per acre or less to address an unbalanced forest condition by unwanted, competing vegetation.</p>	25
<p>5. c. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations will reduce understory canopy cover from 30 percent or more per acre to 10 percent understory canopy cover per acre or less to address an unbalanced forest condition by unwanted, competing vegetation.</p>	10