

**Cerulean Warbler Appalachian Forestland Enhancement RCPP
Screening Tool For Fiscal Year 2017 Applications**
Complete the screening worksheet prior to ranking for each application

Applicant Name:

Evaluator Name:

Date:

Batching Number:

Application No:

This screening worksheet must be completed **prior to ranking** for each eligible producer applying for financial assistance. Applications will be accepted on a continuous basis; however, batching periods are established for purposes of evaluation, ranking, and funding decisions. The goal of this screening tool is to ensure that conservation technical assistance and RCPP-EQIP program benefits are managed efficiently to address priority conservation needs. Completion of this worksheet and documentation does not constitute an agreement to provide RCPP-EQIP program benefits nor approval of a program contract. The original screening worksheet should be filed with the applicant case file or RCPP-EQIP program file. Unless the application is determined to be ineligible, the screening priority (high, medium, and low) must be recorded in ProTracts. Upon request, a copy of any completed screening worksheet may be provided to the applicant.

All applicants must have a MD Forest Stewardship plan for their property that was developed in the last 10 years that can be provided to the NRCS office. If no Forest Stewardship Plan is available, assign the application a Low Priority and refer the Landowner to the Maryland Forest Service for information about developing a Forest Stewardship Plan.

<p>If all "Yes", High Priority Status in Protracts. If "NO" to one or more continue to #2.</p>	<p>1- All of the following must apply for a High Priority CERW project: a- Within a 1.5 mile radius >80% forest cover or >1,800 acres of contiguous forest b- Within CERW focal area c- Within a mature deciduous forest patch >60 acres in size d- Within 5 miles of an area with a known CERW</p>
<p>If all "Yes", Medium Priority Status in Protracts. If "NO" to one or more continue to #3.</p>	<p>2- All of the following must apply for a Medium Priority CERW project: a- Within a 1.5 mile radius >80% forest cover or >1,800 acres of contiguous forest? b- Within CERW focal area c- Within a mature deciduous forest patch > 60 ac. in size d- More than 5 miles from an area with a known CERW population</p>
<p>If "Yes" to one or more, Low Priority Status in Protracts.</p>	<p>3- Any of the following may apply for the project to considered a Low Priority CERW projects: a- Within a 1.5 mile radius, <80% forest cover or <1,800 acres of contiguous forest b- Outside CERW focal area c- Activities creating canopy gaps of 400-1,000 square feet in size have occurred within the proposed project area within the past five years. d- Current basal area of the proposed project is <90 sq.ft. and undesirable understory species are not a concern.</p>