

**Natural Resources Conservation Service
Application Ranking Summary
CO - Wildlife Habitat**

Program: EQIP 2014	Ranking Date:
Ranking Tool: CO - Wildlife Habitat	
Final Ranking Score:	
Planner:	
Farm Location:	

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
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 Point(s)
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 Point(s)
2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	10 Point(s)
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 Point(s)
2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a “non-impaired water body”?	10 Point(s)
2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	10 Point(s)
Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)	

3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.	15 Point(s)
3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	10 Point(s)
3. c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	10 Point(s)
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 Point(s)
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 Point(s)
4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?	10 Point(s)
4. c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO ₂), methane (CH ₄), and nitrous oxide (N ₂ O)?	10 Point(s)
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	10 Point(s)
Soil Health:- Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	10 Point(s)
5. b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	10 Point(s)
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 Point(s)
6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?	10 Point(s)
6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	10 Point(s)
6. d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	10 Point(s)

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 Point(s)
7. b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	10 Point(s)
Energy Conservation– Will the proposed project reduce energy use by: (select all that apply)	
8. a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	10 Point(s)
8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	10 Point(s)
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 Point(s)

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
Priority Habitat/Species	
1. Will the project improve wildlife habitat by restoring or enhancing CO NRCS's State Wildlife Plan identified priority habitat(s)? (FOTG, Section II) Note: priority habitats can be restored/enhanced for a generalized group/guild of wildlife or additional points can be taken if targeting a priority species (see questions 2 and 3).	125 Point(s)
2. Will the project improve wildlife habitat by removing habitat limiting factors for priority species identified in CO NRCS's State Wildlife Plan?	30 Point(s)
3. Will the project improve wildlife habitat by removing habitat limiting factors for species listed as federal/state/Tribal threatened, endangered, candidate or proposed? Generally, points will also be taken for question 2. Note: If "yes", national points should also be awarded for question 6a	30 Point(s)
Priority Issues	

<p>4. Will the project achieve the desired wildlife habitat conditions by enhancing lands on previously enrolled or exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or similar set-aside program? Note: If "yes", national points should also be awarded for question 6b. A 'set-aside program' is one that has reduced or eliminated agricultural production for some period of time.</p>	<p>30 Point(s)</p>
<p>5. Will the project achieve the desired wildlife habitat conditions by restoring native habitat(s) that were converted to cropland, pasture or other agricultural purposes? The site must be capable of restoration to the extent that it meets the desired wildlife habitat conditions.</p>	<p>30 Point(s)</p>
<p>6. Will the project achieve the desired wildlife habitat conditions by enhancing lands for pollinator species (including monarch butterflies)? Note: If "yes", national points should also be awarded for question 6c</p>	<p>15 Point(s)</p>
<p>7. Will the project achieve the desired wildlife habitat conditions by enhancing habitat for state at-risk plant species (Colorado's G1, G2, G3)?</p>	<p>15 Point(s)</p>
<p>8. Will the project achieve the desired wildlife habitat conditions by protecting sensitive areas from adverse impacts? May include, but not limited to, swales-depressions, critical breeding areas, springs, playas, wetlands, riparian and stream edges. The level of protection depends on what is required to achieve the desired wildlife habitat conditions. Ex. creating no pesticide areas, excluding livestock (temp or perm), excluding motorized vehicles/livestock during saturated soil conditions etc.</p>	<p>15 Point(s)</p>
<p>9. Will the project achieve the desired wildlife habitat conditions by modifying or removing infrastructure to reduce habitat fragmentation or degradation? May include, but not limited to, fish barriers, prairie vertical structures, fragmenting roads, detrimental tanks/troughs, entanglement/collision fence, well pads and predator attractants.</p>	<p>15 Point(s)</p>

10. Will the project achieve the desired wildlife habitat conditions by controlling invasive plants/animals that are significantly affecting the habitat for the targeted species? May include, but not limited to, installing a fish barrier, controlling invasive junipers from sage-steppe habitat or tamarisk from a riparian habitat.	15 Point(s)
Collaboration	
11. Will the project be involved with a formal Coordinated Resource Management Plan (CRMP) or Area-wide Plan?	80 Point(s)

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
Extent Addressed - Use the appropriate, state-approved Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (FOTG, Section I, Biology Tech. Note 40) improvement score. Select only ONE of the questions (1-6).	
1. Will implementation of the project increase the overall Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) score by 0.9 - 1.0?	125 Point(s)
2. Will implementation of the project increase the overall Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) score by 0.7 - 0.8?	100 Point(s)
3. Will implementation of the project increase the overall Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) score by 0.5 - 0.6?	50 Point(s)
4. Will implementation of the project increase the overall Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) score by 0.3 - 0.4?	25 Point(s)
5. Will implementation of the project increase the overall Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) score by 0.1 - 0.2?	10 Point(s)
6. Will implementation of the project increase the overall Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) score by 0.0?	0 Point(s)
Expected Outcome - Use the appropriate, state-approved Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (FOTG, Section I, Biology Tech. Note 40) after score. Select only ONE of the following questions (7-9).	
7. Will implementation of the project result in an overall 'after' Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) score of 0.9 - 1.0?	125 Point(s)
8. Will implementation of the project result in an overall 'after' Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) score of 0.7 - 0.8?	100 Point(s)

9. Will implementation of the project result in an overall 'after' Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) score of 0.5 - 0.6?	10 Point(s)
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This ranking report is for your information. It does not in any way guarantee funding. When funding becomes available, you will be notified if your application is selected for funding. Some changes to the application may be required before a final contract is awarded.