

# EQIP 2017 Screening Criteria Worksheet

## Applications to the Wildlife Fund Code must be evaluated using this worksheet.

Instructions: This screening worksheet must be completed for each eligible producer applying for EQIP fund codes listed above. The goal of this screening tool is to ensure that conservation technical assistance and EQIP program benefits are efficiently allocated to address priority conservation needs addressed as priorities in the 2014 Farm Bill. Completion of this worksheet and documentation does not constitute agreement to provide EQIP program benefits nor approval of an EQIP contract. This screening worksheet should be filed with the applicant case file and the screening priority (High, Medium or Low) shall be recorded in ProTracts. Upon request, a copy of the screening worksheet may be provided to the applicant.

**Detailed Screening Criteria Worksheet - Complete for each eligible EQIP applicant**

Applicant Name:		County:	
Application Number:		Field Office:	
Evaluator Name:		Date:	

Instructions: For each eligible applicant, complete the following worksheet.

Step One - Basic Eligibility"		Yes	Action:	No	Action
A.	Is the application on a NRCS CPA 1200 complete, signed and dated?		Yes, Continue To B		If NO, do not process until application is complete.
B.	Do the EQIP planned practices address one or more of the national program priorities? EQIP 515.3B The application must support at least one national program priority.		Yes, Continue To C		If NO, application is ineligible. Do not proceed.
C.	Does the application meet the EQIP policy criteria for producer eligibility, land eligibility, and the proposed project addresses at least one natural resource concern? See EQIP manual Subpart F and CPC manual Subpart C.		Yes, Continue to Step 2		If NO, application is ineligible. Do not proceed.

**Step 2 - Priority determination for ProTracts - Check the box that applies after answering the questions below. Check only 1 Priority**

<p><b>High Priority:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Check Box 1  <b>Rank in Rounds 1 &amp; 2 General EQIP ONLY</b></p> <p><b>Medium Priority:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Check Box 2  <b>Rank in Rounds 1 &amp; 2 General EQIP ONLY</b></p>	<p><b>Low Priority:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Check Box  <b>Do Not Rank Application</b></p> <p><b>No Priority:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Check Box  <b>Ineligible Application</b></p>
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The priority determination of High, Medium or Low must be recorded in Protracts for this applicant

Questions	Answer (circle the answer that applies)	PRIORITY DETERMINATION
1. Does the application address a Maryland priority habitat, as defined in the EQIP Wildlife Guidance? To answer yes, the proposed plan must meet the requirements for the priority habitat in the EQIP Wildlife Guidance. Priority habitats are: Early Successional, Grassland, Wetlands/SWA, Riparian/Stream, Forest Interior. <b>If Yes, set the priority to HIGH. If No, proceed to the next question.</b>	Yes      No	
2. Does the application increase the wildlife habitat on all cropland and pastureland on the tract to 0.7 or greater? <b>If Yes, set the priority to HIGH. If No, proceed to the next question.</b>	Yes      No	
3. Does the application increase the wildlife habitat index on all land units on the tract to 0.5 or greater? <b>If Yes, set the priority to MEDIUM. If No, proceed to the next question.</b>	Yes      No	
4. Does the application result in the establishment, restoration or management of native habitats or vegetation? <b>If Yes, set the priority to MEDIUM. If No, set the priority to LOW.</b>	Yes      No	
<b>FINAL PRIORITY DETERMINATION</b>		

\*Habitat Evaluation Worksheets MUST be completed for each application

D.C. Approval:	Date Approved:
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