### National Priorities Addressed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue Questions</th>
<th>Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Yes O or No O</td>
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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.  

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)?  
2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?  
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)?  
2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a “non-impaired water body”?  
2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?  

Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)  

3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.  
3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?  
3. c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?  
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?  

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?  
4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?  
4. c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?  
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?  

Soil Health:– Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)  

5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil “T”)?  
5. b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?  

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.  
6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation
Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?  
Yes O or No O

6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?  
Yes O or No O

6. d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?  
Yes O or No O

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?  
Yes O or No O

7. b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?  
Yes O or No O

Energy Conservation– Will the proposed project reduce energy use by: (select all that apply)

8. a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?  
Yes O or No O

8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?  
Yes O or No O

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?  
Yes O or No O

State Issues Addressed

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<tr>
<td>Habitat Priority - Select ONE of the following if applicable.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Is the application primarily located in an area identified by the state as Priority 1?</td>
<td>Yes O or No O</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Is the application located primarily in an area identified by the state as Priority 2?</td>
<td>Yes O or No O</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Is the application located primarily in an area identified by the state as Priority 3?</td>
<td>Yes O or No O</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Is the application not located primarily in an area identified by the state as Priority 1-3?</td>
<td>Yes O or No O</td>
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Enrolled Acreage - Select ONE of the following. Enrolled acreage must be greater than 0. "Enrolled" = percentage of sagebrush/grassland being contracted in EQIP as compared to total sagebrush/grassland in the entire operation.

5. 100% of eligible sagebrush/grassland is enrolled.  
Yes O or No O

6. >50% of eligible sagebrush/grassland is enrolled.  
Yes O or No O

7. <50% of eligible sagebrush/grassland is enrolled.  
Yes O or No O

Percent of Identified Threats Treated - Select ONE of the following. At least one threat must be addressed to be eligible for the initiative.

8. 100% of identified threats addressed.  
Yes O or No O

9. >75% (76%-99%) of identified threats addressed.  
Yes O or No O

10. >50% (51%-75%) of identified threats addressed.  
Yes O or No O

11. <50% (0%-50%) of identified threats addressed.  
Yes O or No O

Local Issues Addressed

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<tr>
<td>Habitat Seeding. Select one option if applicable.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Is the planting a native range planting with at least 3 grass species, 2 native perennial forbs and sagebrush?</td>
<td>Yes O or No O</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Is the planting a native range planting with at least 3 grass species and 2 perennial forbs (native or introduced forbs)?</td>
<td>Yes O or No O</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Is the planting introduced species which includes at least 3 grass species and 2 perennial forbs?</td>
<td>Yes O or No O</td>
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<tr>
<td>Select all that apply.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Does the application include planting a mesic area back to perennial vegetation?</td>
<td>Yes O or No O</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Is the planting 4 miles or less from a confirmed active (CA) or confirmed inactive (CI) lek according to the most recent MTFWP data?</td>
<td>Yes O or No O</td>
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## Land Use:

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<th>Resource Concerns</th>
<th>Practices</th>
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**Ranking Score**

- Efficiency:
- Local Issues:
- State Issues:
- National Issues:

**Final Ranking Score:**

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.

**Notes:**

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<tr>
<th>NRCS Representative:</th>
<th>Applicant Signature Not Required on this report for Contract Development unless required by State policy:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Signature Date:</td>
<td>Signature Date:</td>
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