



<http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov>

Applicant Name:	County:
Application No:	Field Office:
Evaluator Name:	Date:

This screening worksheet must be completed 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 EQIP program benefits are managed efficiently to address priority conservation needs. Completion of this worksheet and documentation does not constitute an agreement to provide EQIP program benefits nor approval of a program contract. The original screening worksheet should be filed with the applicant case file or EQIP program file and, 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.

Screening Questions:

1. Is the proposed treatment area located in potential sage-grouse habitat within Deschutes, Crook, Lake, Harney, Malheur, Grant, or Baker counties?
Y = Proceed to Q2, N = Low Priority.
2. Is the proposed treatment area on a site that is likely to support sage-grouse after treatment (e.g. lands are not fragmented by major transmission lines or planned for development)?
Y = Proceed to Q3, N = Low Priority.
3. Does the proposed treatment area contain Phase I or II conifer encroachment?
Y = Proceed to Q4, N = Low Priority.
4. Is the majority of the proposed contract area located within one of the Oregon SGI Focal Project Areas?
Y = High Priority, N = Proceed to Q5
5. Is the majority of the proposed contract area located outside of the Oregon SGI Focal Project Areas, but within ODFW Sage-Grouse Core or Low Density Area habitat?
Y = Medium Priority, N = Low Priority

High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority
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D.C. Approval:	Date Approved:
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**Sage Grouse Initiative – (EQIP)
Threat: Invasive Conifer
FY2019**

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Ranking Criteria

1. Does the application screen High Priority? 100 points
2. Q2-4: ANSWER ONLY ONE. Is the majority of the proposed treatment area located within one of the Oregon SGI Focal Project Areas for Conifer Encroachment? 160 points
3. Q2-4: ANSWER ONLY ONE. Is the majority of the proposed treatment area located outside of the Oregon SGI Focal Project Areas for Conifer Encroachment, but within ODFW Sage-Grouse Core Area habitat? 100 points
4. Q2-4: ANSWER ONLY ONE. Is the majority of the proposed treatment area located outside of the Oregon SGI Focal Project Areas for Conifer Encroachment, but within ODFW Sage-Grouse Low Density habitat? 10 points
5. Will the proposed treatment improve direct connectivity to a larger, open sagebrush habitat? 30 points
6. Is the proposed treatment area predominantly flat or gently sloping hills (approx. < 15% slope)? 25 points
7. Does the understory vegetation of the proposed treatment area consist primarily of native grasses, forbs, and shrubs? 50 points
8. Is the proposed treatment area free of old-growth juniper, pine, or pockets of trees that would be left even after treatment? 45 points
9. Is the participant currently following a grazing strategy that allows for full growing season rest at least 1 out of 5 years, or is the application/planned contract going to include 528 prescribed grazing to address sage-grouse related resource concerns? 40 points

NOTE: Upland Wildlife Habitat Management is required in every SGI conservation plan but a payment incentive will not be provided.

Conservation Practice Summary List
Threat: Invasive Conifer
FY2019

- 314 - Brush Management
- 315 - Herbaceous Weed Control
- 342 - Critical Area Planting
- 382 - Fence
- 383 - Fuel Break
- 384 - Woody Residue Treatment
- 394 - Firebreak
- 472 - Access Control
- 500 - Obstruction Removal
- 528 - Prescribed Grazing
- 550 - Range Planting
- 595 - Integrated Pest Management
- 649 - Structures for Wildlife