

Natural Resources Conservation Service

**Application Ranking Summary
NE Cottontail WLFW Initiative**

Program:	Ranking Date:	Application Number:
Ranking Tool: NE Cottontail WLFW Initiative		Applicant:
Final Ranking Score:		Address:
Planner:	Telephone:	
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.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a “non-impaired water body”?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)	
3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Soil Health :- Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil “T”)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?	
6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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 <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Energy Conservation– Will the proposed project reduce energy use by: (select all that apply)	
8. a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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 <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
Species Presence [Credible occurrence documentation must be from 2009 or later]	
1. a. Is there credible verification of species occurrence (for example, photos, Heritage Database, USFWS, NRCS or State fish and wildlife agency documentation)? This should not be taken to imply that a site visit is required	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Distance to Known Populations: (answer only one) [Known populations must be from 2009 or later; Accepted Dispersal Distance = 3 km]	
2. a. The offered area shares a common border with an area with known populations of the target species.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. b. The offered area is proximal to an area with a known population of the target species. Proximal means within the accepted normal species dispersal ability.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
Project Size (total habitat area as defined in WHEG, not just area of work): ANSWER ONLY ONE CHOICE	
1. a. The project size is >25 ac	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. b. The project size is 12 - 25 ac	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. c. The project size is 6 - 12 ac	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. d. The project size is < 6 ac AND there is an existing habitat patch (5+ acre thicket or young forest with high density stem/ac) within 1 mile from site - documented in Biologist Report	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. e. The project size is < 6 ac	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Suitability for NEC Habitat: ANSWER ONLY ONE CHOICE	
2. a. The parcel is primarily mature forest and will require extensive clearing and type-conversion in order to meet habitat needs described in CT NEC support documentation	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. b. The parcel is currently highly suitable to supporting NEC population according to habitat needs described in CT NEC support documentation. There are thickets and shrubby growth on site and basic, continuing maintenance is all that is required	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. c. The parcel is currently agricultural land which would be taken out of production and planted with appropriate mix of trees/ shrubs/ herbaceous plants and grasses	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. d. The parcel is not suitable for NEC habitat – it may be too small, surrounded by inhospitable habitat, isolated by major transportation, etc	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. e. The parcel is potentially suitable to supporting NEC population according to habitat needs described in CT NEC support documentation. It is young woodland or grassland and moderate intervention, such as selective thinning or planting may be required, followed by vegetation maintenance	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Invasive Plants: ANSWER ONLY ONE CHOICE	

3. a. The project area has a minor invasive species problem (< 10% of project area covered) or the majority of the invasive species is multiflora rose which will be left untreated as it currently provides habitat to a known population of NEC.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. b. The project area has a moderate invasive species problem (10%-25% of project area covered) and the Schedule of Operations includes practices to address the resource concern.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. c. The project area has a prevalent invasive species problem (25%-50% of project area covered) and the Schedule of Operations includes practices to address the resource concern.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. d. The project area has prohibitive invasive species problem (> 50% of project area covered)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Management Intensity: ANSWER ONLY ONE CHOICE	
4. a. This project requires minor management - selective tree removal\brush renovation\single treatment	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. b. This project requires medium management - moderate level cutting\tree or shrub plantings\multiple treatments	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. c. This project requires extensive management - heavy level cutting or type conversion\multiple treatments	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. d. This project requires treatment beyond the scope of NRCS programs – it is too expensive or not feasible	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Distance from nearest existing habitat patch (5+ acre thicket or young forest with high density stem/ac - as shown on map or supporting documents) ANSWER ONLY ONE CHOICE	
5. a. Nearest patch is within 2 km, or is within 5 km, and connected by a continuous corridor	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. b. Nearest patch is within 2-3 km miles, with no continuous connection	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. c. Nearest patch is > 3 km away, with no continuous connection	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Degree of Cooperation by Producer - Answer all that are applicable	
6. a. Does the contract application involves land that has been permanently protected through federal, state, local government programs or private land trusts?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. b. Have other Federal, State, local, or non governmental organization financial resources been committed to this project?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. c. If the applicant has an existing EQIP contract, has it been, and is it now, on schedule and in full compliance?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. d. If the applicant had any prior contracts, was the most recent contract Completed on schedule and in full compliance?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. e. Is this the applicant's first EQIP application?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. f. Does the applicant have any contracts that are currently in violation (with a CPA-153) or have any contracts that were terminated for failure to comply with contract terms and provisions within the last 3 years?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Land Use:

Resource Concerns	Practices
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Ranking Score

<p>Efficiency:</p> <p>Local Issues:</p> <p>State Issues:</p> <p>National Issues:</p> <p>Final Ranking Score:</p>

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:

NRCS Representative:	Applicant Signature Not Required on this report for Contract Development unless required by State policy:
Signature Date:	Signature Date: