

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary

PST DEGR. PLANT COND. - Prod.

<b>Program:</b>	<b>Ranking Date:</b>	<b>Application Number:</b>
<b>Ranking Tool:</b> PST DEGR. PLANT COND. - Prod.		<b>Applicant:</b>
<b>Final Ranking Score:</b>		<b>Address:</b>
<b>Planner:</b>	<b>Telephone:</b>	
<b>Farm Location:</b>		

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"/>
<b>Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)</b>	
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"/>
<b>Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)</b>	
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"/>
<b>Air Quality - Will the proposed project improve air quality by: (select all that apply)</b>	
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"/>
<b>Soil Health :- Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)</b>	
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"/>
<b>Wildlife Habitat – Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat by: (select all that apply)</b>	
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
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 state priority category	
1. 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 state level questions. If answer is “No”, proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section. 100 Point(s)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
A screen tool will be used on all FY19 EQIP applications that were received and completely eligible prior to the application cutoff. If this application did not receive a high priority, please stop and do not continue ranking. (Ranking medium priority applications need approval from the State Con). You may only tag practices in the ranking tool that are included in the uploaded AD-1155. All applications need to have an application cost prior to ranking. (not just an estimate) If the plan is competing in multiple pools, upload the toolkit plan to the application most likely to be funded prior to ranking. Plan maps will clearly identify all contracted CINs and use official NRCS NPPH symbols. Only award points for conservation practices or activities that will be financially assisted in this EQIP contract. Changing or adjusting practices or extents after the application has been submitted for evaluation to achieve a better ranking score is not allowed in EQIP.	
1. 1. Will contracted practices assist the applicant in complying with at least one of the following: AFO/CFO, Tribal or Forest Practices Act laws and regulations, Water quality compliance on DOE designated water bodies, The Food Quality Protection Act? Identify: _____, _____ 5 Point(s)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. 2. Will the contract assist the applicant in implementing an existing comprehensive RMS plan (signed after 9/21/2008) that has been developed for the participant's entire Ag Operation(s)? (Forest Stewardship plan must meet the requirements for RMS to receive points) 15 Point(s)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. 3. If selected for contracting, this application will allow the participant to become a first time adopter using all of the planned practices included on the AD-1155. Consider adopted practices on all associated agricultural operation(s) that they are involved in. 30 Points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. 4. Answer YES if the State Conservationist has provided approval to rank applications for this pool that are screened as Medium and this application has been screened as such (medium). (No Lows) -200 Point(s)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. 5. Degree of conservation benefit: There are CINs included in the application that only address a resource concern that already meets planning criteria. -100 Point(s)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Tribal resource concern treatment:	
6. 6. Regardless of location, do all of the practices treat a Tribal resource concern according to the TRA? <a href="https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/ma_in/wa/technical/">https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/ma_in/wa/technical/</a> 5 Point(s)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Likelihood that applicant will complete and maintain contracted practices:	

7. 7. The applicant did NOT properly operate and maintain previously cost-shared practices, or has prior EQIP contract(s) that have not stayed on schedule with the original AD-1155. Use applicant interviews, staff knowledge and ProTracts searches to make determination. This includes all participants applying as individuals and embedded members of entities, but excludes delays due to NRCS or are outside of the control of the participant. -50 Point(s)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. 8. Applicant has been issued an NRCS-CPA-153 on a current or prior NRCS contract(s) (FY14-18). This includes all participants applying as individuals and embedded members of entities, but excludes delays due to NRCS or are outside of the control of the participant. Excludes approved waivers. -150 Point(s)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
9. 9. Applicant has a current or past contract that needed to be modified due to a delay in implementation of their practice schedule. This includes all participants applying as individuals and embedded members of entities, but excludes delays due to NRCS or are outside of the control of the participant. -15 Point(s)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
10. 10. Cancelled contract: Applicant voluntarily requested cancellation of an obligated contract within the last three years. (FY16, FY17 or FY18) and the status of the cancellation hardship is not documented as being resolved. Example of a resolved hardship would be: The participant has fully recovered from the health issue which necessitated the cancellation. Re-applying in hopes to receive a higher cost-share rate, or hold-down, should not be considered resolving the cancellation hardship. -35 Point(s)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
11. 11. Applicant was pre-approved for a contract during FY18 and chose to cancel prior to obligation. -50 Point(s)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
12. 12. Applicant has never had an NRCS contract terminated, or has never had an NRCS FA contract. This includes all participants applying as individuals and embedded members of entities.) 300 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Contracted Practices: Established eligible practice list and hold-downs: DCs, will monitor contracts to consistently adhere to hold-downs. Holddowns are based on CINs. Splitting a practice into multiple CINs or contracts to avoid the hold-down will not be permitted.	
13. 13. AD-1155 contains only practices that are identified on the current SHPO/THPO agreement as "Undertakings with little to no Potential to Affect Historic Properties". Or, CR has already been reviewed and approved by NRCS. No Potential to Affect Includes: 201, 315, 328, 329, 330, 340, 345, 353, 355, 367, 371, 372, 379, 399, 449, 450, 484, 511, 528, 554, 557, 587, 588, 590, 591, 592, 595, 629, 775, 521A, 521B, 521C, 521D, 589C. There are also 30 other practices that are included if certain criteria is met. Please consult the agreement at: <a href="https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/">https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/</a> 50 Point(s)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
14. 14. Application has a livestock type tagged on the application home screen. Or, includes at least one of the following wildlife practices. • CP 327 – Conservation Cover • CP 390 – Riparian Herbaceous Cover • CP 391 – Riparian Forest Buffer • CP 395 – Stream Habitat Improvement and Management • CP 396 – Aquatic Organism Passage • CP 422 – Hedgerow Planting • CP 472 – Access Control • CP 580 – Streambank and Shoreline Protection • CP 643 – Restoration and Management of Rare or Declining Habitats • CP 644 – Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management • CP 645 – Upland Wildlife Habitat Management • CP 646 – Shallow Water Development and Management • CP 647 – Early Successional Habitat Development/Management • CP 657 – Wetland Restoration • CP 658 – Wetland Creation • CP 659 – Wetland Enhancement 30 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
15. 15. AD-1155 contains only practices that are non-engineering. Or, designs have already been reviewed and approved by NRCS. Engineering practices include: 309 - 313 - 316 - 317 - 319 - 320 - 326 - 350 - 351 - 353 - 356 - 360 - 362 - 367 - 372 - 373 - 374 - 375 - 376 - 378 - 388 - 395 - 396 - 410 - 412 - 428 - 430 - 441 - 442 - 443 - 449 - 450 - 460 - 464 - 500 - 516 - 520 - 521A - 521B - 521C - 521D - 533 - 554 - 558 - 560 - 561 - 570 - 574 - 575 - 578 - 580 - 582 - 584 - 585 - 587 - 590 - 592 - 600 - 605 - 606 - 607 - 608 - 614 - 620 - 629 - 632 - 633 - 634 - 635 - 636 - 638 - 642 - 654 - 655 - 657 - 659 - 670 - 672 - 735 - 775. 20 Point(s)##	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
16. 16. AD-1155 contains all practices with an ESA determination of “no effect” in the CPA-52. Or, ESA consultation has already occurred and NRCS has received concurrence on the proposed practices from FWS or NMFS. 100 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
17. 17. Application is associated with an ALE easement that requires a practice applied as per this plan to treat an endangered species and received points on their easement application ranking. 30 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

#### Local Issues 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 local priority category.	
1. 1a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is “Yes”, do not answer any other local 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"/>
Objectives in this fund pool are to treat overstocked forest stands using mostly pre-commercial thinning, improve stand diversity and age, reduce competing vegetation, and manage livestock in such a way as to increase the productivity and health on all land uses where applicable. Answer yes to all that apply for:	
1. Will the applicant install practices identified in an approved CAP and/or conservation plan or other approved management plan? 125 points.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. Does the planned treatment area include trees that are <40% crown ratio or >600 stems per acre or in need of stand release in a stand approximately 5 years in age and will pre-commercial thinning or stand release be used to improve forest health? 175 points.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. Will practices be installed to facilitate and improve grazing management? 125 points.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Eligible practices, (no hold-downs) Practices must treat the funding pool resource concern(s) priority. DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION—Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health Eligible Practices Access Control (472), Brush Management (314), Fence (382), Forage and Biomass Planting (512), Fuel Break (383), Heavy Use Area Protection (516), Herbaceous Weed Control (315), Nutrient Management (590), Pipeline (516), Prescribed Grazing (528), Pumping Plant (533), Water Well (642), Watering Facility (614), Forest Stand Improvement (666), Mulching (484), Riparian Forest Buffer (391), Tree & Shrub Establishment (612), ,	
10. Practices cont.: Tree/Shrub Pruning (660), Tree & Shrub Site Preparation (490), Woody Residue Treatment (384), Tree/Shrub Pruning (660), Silvopasture Establishment (381),	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><b>Final Ranking Score:</b></p>
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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.

Notes:

<p><b>NRCS Representative:</b></p>  <p><b>Signature Date:</b></p>	<p><b>Applicant Signature Not Required on this report for Contract Development unless required by State policy:</b></p>  <p><b>Signature Date:</b></p>
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