

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary

Wildlife Habitat

<b>Program:</b>	<b>Ranking Date:</b>	<b>Application Number:</b>
<b>Ranking Tool:</b> Wildlife Habitat		<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
STATE PRIORITY HABITAT - Answer only one, if applicable. Is the proposed project a priority action in Massachusetts?	
1. a. Grassland restoration/mgmt; pitch pine-scrub oak restoration/mgmt; or young forest-shrubland restoration/mgmt.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. b. Pollinator habitat creation; aquatic organism passage, riparian buffer establishment	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
HABITAT IMPROVEMENT - Answer only one of the following. The habitat assessment score between the current condition and planned condition increased by:	
2. a. More than 0.5 points?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. b. Between 0.3 and 0.5 points?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. c. Less than 0.3 points, OR not applicable	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
BIOMAP - Answer only one of the following. The proposed project is within state designated BioMap 2 areas:	
3. a. Core Habitat or Riparian Areas	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. b. Critical Natural Landscape	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. c. Not in BioMap	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
DEGREE OF THREAT - Select all that apply. What is the degree of imperilment of the targeted species?	
4. a. Federally Listed Species	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. b. State Listed Species	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. c. Species of Conservation Concern	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
NHESP PRIORITY HABITAT - Answer must be yes for both questions, or take neither one.	
5. a. Is the proposed project located within NHESP Priority Habitat?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. b. Will the project benefit the listed species?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
LIKLIHOOD OF SUCCESS - Answer only one of the following. The proposed project:	
6. a. Is technically feasible and likely to achieve the wildlife goals?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. b. Has some potential limitations that may impact success?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. c. Has substantial limitations that will likely impact success?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
BUSINESS LINES - Answer any that apply:	
7. a. The applicant is leveraging other financial assistance for the proposed project.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. b. The applicant has failed to implement past Farm Bill Conservation Program contracts: >= 1 CANCELLED or TERMINATED for non-compliance or cause in the last two years.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. c. The applicant has not implemented past contracts in a timely manner: > 1 year behind schedule with	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

an active CPA-153 Non-Compliance Agreement issued.	
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**Local Issues Addressed**

Issue Questions	Responses
<b>SPECIES WITH DECLINING POPULATIONS</b> - Answer only one, if applicable. The proposed project will benefit:	
1. a. >11 SWAP species	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. b. 9 to 11 SWAP species	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. c. 6 to 8 SWAP species	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. d. 3 to 5 SWAP species	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
<b>LANDSCAPE CONTEXT AND SCALE</b> - Answer must be yes for both questions, or take neither one.	
2. a. Is the proposed project within the proper landscape context?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. b. Is the proposed project of an appropriate scale for the species targeted?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
<b>PROTECTION STATUS OF PROJECT AREA</b> - Answer only one, if applicable. The project area is protected by:	
3. a. Conservation restriction or other permanent conservation status?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. b. Chapter 61/61A or 61B?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
<b>INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL</b> - Answer only one, if applicable. The proposed project includes invasive species control:	
4. a. LOW - distribution low, early infestation, minimal adjacent seed sources	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. b. MEDIUM - distribution is established in scattered areas across the site; several adjacent seed sources	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. c. HIGH - widely distributed and well established across the site; several adjacent seed sources	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

**Land Use:**

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

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

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