

FY16 NRCS-Local Working Group (LWG) Data Collection Process

State Resource Assessment - Identify LWG Priorities:

LWGs and tribes have provided input to the WA State Resource Assessment (2012-2015) (WA SRA), which resulted in identification of ten priority resource concerns, along with two state initiatives for energy and Puget Sound salmon. In addition, at risk acres, acres needing treatment, and priority treatment acres have been quantified for each priority resource concern on five land uses.

As mandated by national for resourced based funding allocations, 100% of the state's FY 2016 funding allocation will be expended addressing the 10 priority resource concerns and initiatives. Resource concerns not identified in the WA SRA are not eligible for a funding pool in FY 2016. In order to further focus scarce resources, *LWGs are being asked to designate their top three priority resource concerns* from among those state priority resource concerns in the WA SRA to assign no less than 75% of allocations towards, with the remainder of 25% towards other state resource priorities.

The FY 2016 LWG Data Collection Information regards how we are providing more flexibility to identify various national and statewide initiatives LWG's may want to participate with, as well as to compile any prioritized local projects for STAC consideration. This information is provided in separate Initiative or project tabs.

Submittal Requirements:

- ❖ *All DCs are required to submit completed FY 2016 LWG Worksheets to ASTC-O and ASTC-P by no later than May 29, 2015.*

Identify EQIP general priorities and funding pools:

1. Incorporate results of SRA into local planning. Designate the top three priority resource concerns in your local working group.
2. Determine how to allocate the LWG's funds for EQIP. 75% of the LWG's allocation for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program will be expended on the LWG's top 3 priority resource concerns.
3. It is left up to the LWG to determine how they want to split the 25% across any of the remaining priority resource concerns identified in the WA SRA.
4. Record the LWG decisions on the Summary tab.
5. *A statewide screening tool will be applied to all applications to ensure applications treating priority resource concerns in priority treatment areas are funded first.*

Provide Information by Land Use:

1. For each priority resource concern, recommend the programs to address the resource concern.
2. Designate the percentage funding the LWG wishes to allocate to this land use and resource concern. Record on the Land Use and also on the Summary tabs.
3. Review hold-downs for key practices that address priority resource concerns.
4. Estimate the Priority Treatment Acres that will be addressed with this funding pool.
5. Designate priority watersheds, if desired, that will receive higher ranking points for this funding pool.
6. There is a separate Tab for the summarization of Practice Standards for all Landuse.

Formulate Ranking Questions:

1. Review the National and State level ranking questions on "questions" tab
2. If desired, develop one to three (no more than five) ranking questions for funding pools.
3. Designate the point values for each question.
4. Ranking Questions should provide high points for priority watersheds/treatment acres identified.
5. There is a separate Tab for summarization of Ranking Questions for a Land use Accounts.

Provide Information for National and State Initiatives:

The intention of these two tabs is to offer LWG the opportunity to identify and provide specific priorities on initiatives with meaningful information regarding treatment goals, practices and treatment emphasis, as opposed to previous years where all initiatives were offered without any input, resulting with ineffective strategies to manage initiatives at a statewide basis.

All National Initiatives listed are required to be offered statewide

For each Initiative designate "Yes" if it is a priority for the LWG, or "No" if it is not. If answer is "No" – no further information is requested

- If you answered "Yes" proceed with providing local specifics under the "Objectives" block, providing meaningful info on location of interest (WS), partners and objectives for initiative.
- Estimate the Priority Treatment Acres that will be addressed with this Initiative.
- Provide practice lists applicable and any hold-down information

Provide Information for Local Projects:

- This tab is intended for LWG to provide any unique partnership projects that are priorities in the area, which LWG would like to be shared for statewide awareness and support.
- Provide Priority projects in the order of importance with designating Type of project with pull-down options within "Emphasis Area" blocks.
- Provide Project specifics, including but not limited to the following; Project objectives, locations, partners and scale and scope of project.
 - ❖ This information may be used for internal (NRCS Statewide) and external (STAC and partnerships) budget and technical and program delivery purposes, as appropriate.