

Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Application Ranking Summary  
FY17 NWQI - Salt River

STRIKETHROUGH TEXT FOR NATIONAL CRITERIA IS NOT APPLICABLE TO THIS FUND POOL DO NOT ANSWER THESE CRITERIA.

**National Priorities Addressed**

Issue Questions	Point(s)
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.	250
<del>Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)</del>	
2. a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?	15
2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	10
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)?	10
2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a "non-impaired water body"?	10
2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	10
<del>Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)</del>	
3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.	15
3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	10
3. c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	10
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?	10
<del>Air Quality – Will the proposed project improve air quality by: (select all that apply)</del>	
4. a. Meeting on farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	10
4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?	10
4. c. Implementing practices that reduce on farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?	10
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on farm carbon sequestration?	10
<del>Soil Health: – Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)</del>	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	10
5. b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	10
<del>Wildlife Habitat – Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat by: (select all that apply)</del>	
6. a. Implementing practices benefitting threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern.	10
6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?	10
6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	10
6. d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	10
<del>Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project improve plant and animal communities by: (select all that apply)</del>	

7. a. Implementing practices that result in the management control of noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	10
7. b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	10
Energy Conservation – Will the proposed project reduce energy use by: (select all that apply)	
8. a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	40
8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	40
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?	10
<b>State Issues Addressed</b>	
<b>Issue Questions</b>	<b>Point(s)</b>
State Category One – Conservation Activity Plan 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 this question will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the state ranking category.	
1. a. Is the program application for development of a TSP prepared 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.	400
Water Quality – EPA Watersheds:	
2. a. Does the application include core conservation practices that will be implemented within ¼ mile of a stream or water body that is threatened (i.e., receives significant runoff of excess nitrogen and/or phosphorous), on the EPA 303(d) list, or is impaired with a TMDL in place and therefore not on the 303(d) list (or other critical stream or water body authorized by the Regional Conservationist)?	100
Geographic Impacts: (All of the following must be true)	
3. a. Are core conservation practices planned on the offered acres? i. Greater than 75 percent of the offered acres are within the focused watershed; and, ii. Greater than 75 percent of the offered acres have a core conservation practice planned for application.	125
Collaborative Efforts:	
4. a. Are core conservation practices planned within an existing State agency or other non-USDA water quality project area addressing the same or similar pollutants?	75
Effort to address watershed impairments:	
5. a. Does this program application include the implementation of a system of conservation practices which address the primary watershed impairments?	50
High Risk Soils:	
6. a. Are core conservation practices to be implemented on offered acres with a majority of soil types that are classified hydrologic group D (high runoff) or group A (high infiltration)?	50
<b>Local Issues Addressed</b>	
<b>Issue Questions</b>	<b>Point(s)</b>
Local Category One – Conservation Activity Plan 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 this question will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the local ranking category.	

1. a. Is the program application for development of a TSP prepared 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.	250
Local Category Two – Nutrient Management on Animal Feeding Operations (WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excess Nutrients in Surface Water) (Select "Yes" to all applicable questions if an existing entry pathway to surface water for nutrient and organic materials exists; and, the agricultural operation is an animal feeding operation such as a dairy.)	
2. a. Conservation treatment increases storage capacity or reduces storage requirement to fully match wastewater storage need as determined from the NRCS Dairy Planning Tool, a Waste Management Plan (WMP), a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) or another approved tool as appropriate. (If "Yes" to 2.a. then 2.b. must be "No")	20
2. b. Conservation treatment increases storage capacity or reduces storage requirement but results in less than full wastewater storage need as determined from the NRCS Dairy Planning Tool, a Waste Management Plan (WMP), a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) or another approved tool as appropriate. (If "Yes" to 2.b. then 2.a. must be "No")	5
2. c. Conservation treatment includes NRCS conservation practice, 528 – Prescribed Grazing, which includes the design and implementation of a grazing system that will manage transport of nutrients to a surface water body. Prescribed grazing will be timed in coordination with irrigation scheduling to minimize the fate and transport of nutrients; and, if needed to facilitate the grazing management plan, structural and/vegetative practices are scheduled.	15
2. d. Conservation treatments within 100 feet from a perennial, intermittent, or ephemeral stream the riparian zone will be improved an the Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG) score is equal to or greater than 0.5 ( $\geq 0.5$ ) on the WHEG Riparian worksheet; livestock will be excluded from riparian areas except during designated brief grazing periods.	5
2. e. Conservation treatments within 100 feet from a perennial, intermittent, or ephemeral stream the riparian zone will be improved and the WHEG score is equal to or greater than 0.5 ( $\geq 0.5$ ) on the WHEG Riparian worksheet; livestock will be excluded from riparian areas expect during non-critical periods, March 15th to October 1st.	5
2. f. Conservation treatments will control livestock access to and/or improve riparian vegetative cover of a perennial, intermittent or ephemeral stream(s) to minimize potential impacts to surface water quality.	5
2. g. Conservation treatment will establish vegetation to filter surface water runoff entering a waterway.	5
2. h. Conservation treatment results in permanent exclusion of livestock to waterways.	5
2. i. Conservation treatment provides for sufficient off-stream water for current class and stocking rate of livestock operation and results in managed livestock exclusion to waterways.	5
Local Category Three – Nutrient Management on Cropland and/or Pastureland (WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excess Nutrients in Surface Water) (Select "Yes" to all applicable questions if an existing entry pathway to surface water for nutrient and organic materials exists; and the agricultural operation is cropland or pastureland not associated with an animal feeding operation such as a dairy.)	
3. a. Conservation treatments within 100 feet from a perennial, intermittent, or ephemeral stream the riparian zone will be improved an the Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG) score is equal to or greater than 0.5 ( $\geq 0.5$ ) on the WHEG Riparian worksheet; livestock will be excluded from riparian areas except during designated brief grazing periods.	5

3. b. Conservation treatments within 100 feet from a perennial, intermittent, or ephemeral stream the riparian zone will be improved and the WHEG score is equal to or greater than 0.5 ( $\geq 0.5$ ) on the WHEG Riparian worksheet; livestock will be excluded from riparian areas expect during non-critical periods, March 15th to October 1st.	5
3. c. Conservation treatments will control livestock access to and/or improve riparian vegetative cover of a perennial, intermittent or ephemeral stream(s) to minimize potential impacts to surface water quality.	5
3. d. Conservation treatment will establish vegetation to filter surface water runoff entering a waterway.	5
3. e. Conservation treatment results in permanent exclusion of livestock to waterways.	5
3. f. Conservation treatment provides for sufficient off-stream water for current class and stocking rate of livestock operation and results in managed livestock exclusion to waterways.	5
Local Category Four – Pathogen Management (WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excess Pathogens and Chemicals from Manure, Bio-solids or Compost Applications Transported to Surface Water) (Select "Yes" to all applicable questions if an existing entry pathway to surface water for pathogens exists.)	
4. a. Conservation treatment on and/or directly adjacent to farmed fields will establish vegetation to filter surface water runoff entering a waterway.	5
4. b. Conservation treatment will reduce soil loss on channel banks where current agricultural management activities are impacting streambank stability and integrity; treatment will include vegetative practices such as filter strips, riparian herbaceous cover and/or riparian forest buffer.	5
4. c. Conservation treatment results in implementation of NRCS conservation management practice, 528 – Prescribed Grazing, which includes the design and implementation of a grazing system that will manage transport of pathogens to adjacent water bodies. Prescribed grazing will be timed in coordination with irrigation scheduling to minimize the fate and transport of nutrients and organics. If needed to facilitate the grazing management plan structural and/vegetative practices are scheduled.	5
4. d. Conservation treatment provides for sufficient off-stream water for current class and stocking rate of livestock operation and results in managed livestock exclusion to waterways.	5
Local Category Five – Riparian Restoration to Reduce Surface Water Temperatures (WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Elevated Water Temperature) (Select "Yes" to One Answer Only, if applicable)	
5. a. Proposed conservation treatment will reduce surface water temperatures by planting native riparian species, or using other approved vegetation management practices, along 100 percent of all Class I and II streams on the planned land unit.	23
5. b. Proposed conservation treatment will reduce surface water temperatures by planting native riparian species, or using other approved vegetation management practices, along at least 50 percent of all Class I and II streams on the planned land unit.	15
5. c. Proposed conservation treatment will reduce surface water temperatures by planting native riparian species, or using other approved vegetation management practices, along 100 percent of all Class I streams on the planned land unit.	15
5. d. Proposed conservation treatment will reduce surface water temperatures by planting native riparian species, or using other approved vegetation management practices, along at least 50 percent of all Class I streams on the planned land unit.	10
Local Category Six – Soil Erosion and Sediment Transport (WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excessive Sediment in Surface Water) (Select "Yes" to all applicable questions if an existing entry pathway to surface water for sediment exists.)	

6. a. Conservation treatment will reduce sediment delivery to all Class I, II, and III streams on planned land unit by treating 100 percent of practical, treatable, and accessible sediment delivery sites. (If "Yes" to 6.a. then 6.b. must be "No")	15
6. b. Conservation treatment will reduce sediment delivery to all Class I, II, and III streams on planned land unit by treating less than 100 percent, but greater than 75 percent, of practical, treatable, and accessible sediment delivery sites. (If "Yes" to 6.b. then 6.a. must be "No")	10
6. c. Conservation treatment will result in livestock exclusion from 100 percent of all Class I and II streams on the planned land unit. (If "Yes" to 6.c. then 6.d. and 6.e. must be "No")	15
6. d. Conservation treatment will result in livestock exclusion from 100 percent of all Class I streams on the planned land unit. (If "Yes" to 6.d. then 6.c. and 6.e. must be "No")	10
6. e. Conservation treatment will result in livestock exclusion from less than 100 percent but greater than 75 percent of all Class I streams on the planned land unit. (If "Yes" to 6.e. then 6.c. and 6.d. must be "No")	5
6. f. Conservation treatment results in implementation of NRCS conservation management practice, 528 – Prescribed Grazing, which includes the design and implementation of a grazing system that will manage transport of sediments to adjacent water bodies. If needed to facilitate the grazing management plan structural and/vegetative practices are scheduled.	20
6. g. Conservation treatment stabilizes road and roadsides that are chronic sources of sediment carried runoff water during winter storm events. Treatment on roads or roadsides will control erosion and conveyance structures will be properly sized to handle drainage.	5
6. h. Conservation treatment will sufficiently stabilize and prevent lengthening, deepening and widening of existing gullies. Resource assessment is based on visual assessment including estimate of soil loss from the gully and determination of whether gully is relic and stable or actively eroding.	5
6. i. Conservation treatment will reduce soil loss on channel banks where current agricultural management activities are impacting streambank stability and integrity; treatment will include vegetative practices such as filter strips, riparian herbaceous cover and/or riparian forest buffer.	5
6. j. Conservation treatment results in permanent exclusion of livestock to waterways.	5
6. k. Conservation treatment provides for sufficient off-stream water for current class and stocking rate of livestock operation and results in managed livestock exclusion to waterways.	5
6. l. Conservation treatments within 100 feet from a perennial, intermittent, or ephemeral stream the riparian zone will be improved an the Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG) score is equal to or greater than 0.5 ( $\geq 0.5$ ) on the WHEG Riparian worksheet; livestock will be excluded from riparian areas except during designated brief grazing periods used to manage annual grasses.	5
6. m. Conservation treatments within 100 feet from a perennial, intermittent, or ephemeral stream the riparian zone will be improved and the WHEG score is equal to or greater than 0.5 ( $\geq 0.5$ ) on the WHEG Riparian worksheet; livestock will be excluded from riparian areas expect during non-critical periods, March 15th to October 1st.	5
Local Category Seven – INADEQUATE HABITAT FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE: Habitat Degradation Food, Water, Cover/Shelter, Habitat Continuity/Space Habitat Degradation is evaluated using one of the following assessment protocols: Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG) or Pollinator Habitat Assessment (PHA); the 'planned' assessment score must be: greater than or equal to 0.5 ( $\geq 0.5$ ) for the WHEG; equal to or greater than 90 points ( $\geq 90$ points) for the PHA. (Select "Yes" to One Answer Only, if applicable)	

7. a. Fish or wildlife habitat improvements in the EQIP schedule of operations directly benefit Federal or State threatened, endangered, rare, proposed, candidate, fully protected and selected species (selected species included: Tricolored blackbird, Western burrowing owl, Foothill yellow-legged frog, Steelhead, Western pond turtle and pollinators) and the WHEG or PHA the 'planned' assessment score is met.	15
7. b. Fish or wildlife habitat improvements in the EQIP schedule of operations directly benefit habitat for Species of Special Concern (as identified in Section II under Special Environmental Concerns) animals and the WHEG or PHA the 'planned' assessment score is met.	10
Local Category Eight – INADEQUATE HABITAT FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE: Habitat Degradation Food, Water, Cover/Shelter, Habitat Continuity/Space Habitat is evaluated using the following assessment protocols: The Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG) or Pollinator Habitat Assessment (PHA). (Select "Yes" to All Applicable Answers)	
8. a. Riparian Zone: As documented in the Conservation Plan, the conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations will improve the riparian zone that directly benefits fish or wildlife, where the riparian WHEG 'planned' worksheet is greater or equal to 0.5 ( $\geq 0.5$ ).	5
8. b. Multiple Habitat Types: As documented in the Conservation Plan, the conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations will improve multiple habitat types that directly benefits fish or wildlife, improving habitat elements for both upland/riparian, based on the appropriate WHEG that benefit both terrestrial and aquatic habitats and species. The score on the WHEG worksheet for the Land Use/Cover Type is greater than or equal to 0.5 ( $\geq 0.5$ )	7