

**Natural Resources Conservation Service
Application Ranking Summary
FY17 Declining Species Wildlife Habitat**

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
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)?	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
Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)	
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
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?	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 (CO ₂), methane (CH ₄), and nitrous oxide (N ₂ O)?	10
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	10
Soil Health:– Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)	
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
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.	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
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?	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?	10
8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	10
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
State Issues Addressed	
Issue Questions	Point(s)
State Category One - Restoration of Native Plant Communities Conservation treatment establishes or enhances native vegetation beneficial to fish or wildlife with a mixed stand consisting of: (Select “Yes” to Only One Answer)	
1. a. 10 or more native species.	50
1. b. 5 to 9 native species.	25
1. c. 1 to 4 native species.	13
State Category Two - Connectivity to Beneficial Habitat Directly Adjacent to Project Beneficial habitats in adjacent land use types consist of riparian, grasslands, shrublands, woodlands, forests, streams, native pastures, and wetlands Conservation treatment will result in beneficial habitat surrounding the project that comprises: (Select “Yes” to Only One Answer)	
2. a. 75 percent or more of the adjacent land use types.	50
2. b. 50-74 percent or more of the adjacent land use types.	38
2. c. 25-49 percent or more of the adjacent land use types.	25
2. d. less than 24 percent of the adjacent land use types.	13
State Category Three - Connectivity to Fully Protected Areas (Select “Yes” to All Applicable Answers)	
3. a. Conservation treatment will enhance habitat and project is directly adjacent to an existing U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Easement, refuge, natural area or other legally protected area that is managed for wildlife.	50
3. b. Conservation treatment land unit is located within the California Essential Habitat Connectivity Designated Area.	35
State Category Four - Project Provide Corridors to Connect Beneficial Habitat for Focal Species (Select “Yes” to Only One Answer)	
4. a. Conservation treatment will restore or enhance undisturbed riparian habitat greater than 100 feet wide or 50 wide and a 1/4 mile in length on both side of stream that remains undisturbed*, except for management practices that benefit wildlife. Habitats are considered disturbed when management and recreational activities have noticeable, persistent impacts to habitat quality; and/or where roads/trails are moderately traveled.	50
4. b. Conservation treatment will restore or enhance undisturbed habitat greater than 100 feet wide, and a 1/4 mile wide in length, that remains undisturbed, except for management practices that benefit wildlife. Habitats are considered disturbed when management and recreational activities have noticeable, persistent impacts to habitat quality; and/or where roads/trails are moderately traveled.	38
4. c. Conservation treatment will restore or enhance undisturbed habitat at least 50 wide, or 25 feet wide on both sides of a stream and a 1/4 mile in length, that remains undisturbed, except for management practices that benefit wildlife. Habitats are considered disturbed when management and recreational activities have noticeable, persistent impacts	25
4. d. Conservation treatment will restore or enhance undisturbed habitat at least 25-50 feet wide and a 1/4 in length that remains undisturbed, except for management practices that benefit wildlife. Habitats are considered disturbed when management and recreational activities have noticeable, persistent impacts to habitat quality; and/or where roads/trails are moderately traveled.	13

State Category Five – Extent of Habitat Improvement (Select “Yes” to Only One Answer)		
5. a. Conservation treatment area is greater than 50 percent of the Common Land Unit (CLU) or greater than 50 acres or 0.5 mile in length; and; conservation treatment area will remain undisturbed after restoration, except for beneficial management practices.		62
5. b. Conservation treatment area is greater than 25 percent of the CLU or greater than 25 acres or 0.25 mile in length; and; conservation treatment area will remain undisturbed after restoration, except for beneficial management practices.		38
5. c. Conservation treatment area is greater than 10 percent of the CLU or greater than 10 acres or 0.10 mile in length; and; conservation treatment area will remain undisturbed after restoration, except for beneficial management practices.		12
5. d. Conservation treatment project is a single point habitat improvement that has a significant benefit.		25
5. e. Conservation treatment is a fish passage project that improves or provides connectivity to significant fish habitat.		62
State Category Six – Landscape Scale Planning (Select “Yes” to Only One Answer)		
6. a. Conservation treatment will address focal species needs as identified in two or more landscape level plans.		25
6. b. Conservation treatment will address focal species needs as identified in one landscape level plan.		6
State Category Seven – Permits (Select “Yes” to Only One Answer)		
7. a. Conservation treatment requires permits and will either, be covered by an existing permit coordination program or have been secured, or will not require any permits.		37
7. b. Conservation treatment requires permits and at least one permit has been secured, but not all remaining permits are complete.		19
State Category Eight – Partnership Contributions		
8. a. Conservation treatment funding will be supported by other government agency or non-government agency contributions of 20 percent or more of the total actual implementation project cost.		38
Local Issues Addressed		
	Issue Questions	Point(s)
Local Category One – Riparian Zone (Select "Yes," if applicable)		
1. a. Conservation treatment will include a beneficial structural and/or management practice within the riparian zone.		50
Local Category Two – Water Quality (Select "Yes," if applicable)		
2. a. Conservation treatment will improve water quality for locally unique or at-risk aquatic species where the Riparian WHEG score is greater or equal to 0.5.		30
Local Category Three – Pollinator Habitat (Select "Yes," if applicable)		
3. a. Conservation treatment will restore or enhance habitat for pollinators using the PHA with a minimum after score of 110 points with a minimum increase of 20 points.		35
Local Category Four – Fish Habitat (Select "Yes," if applicable)		
4. a. Conservation treatment will restore or enhance habitat for anadromous fish or other special status fish species.		35
Local Category Five – Food, Shelter and Cover (Select "Yes," if applicable)		
4. a. Conservation treatment will result in improved food, shelter and/or cover for T&E species where the WHEG is greater or equal to 0.5.		40
Local Category Six – Rare or Declining Habitat for Rare, Endangered or Threatened Plant Species (Select "Yes," if applicable)		
5. a. Conservation treatment will restore or enhance regional or locally identified rare or declining habitats that benefit rare, endangered, or threatened plant species.		30

Local Category Seven – Invasive Species (Select "Yes," if applicable)	
7. a. Conservation treatment will reduce invasive species identified by the local work group, Cal-IPC, or Weed Management Area where the planned WHEG score, in the respective plant community, is 15 percent or greater for estimated cover, but appears controlled. (Exceptions are Arundo, Tamarisk or Eucalyptus where these species percent cover cannot exceed 5 percent).	35