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## Ranking Tool Summary

### for FY2016 - Wildlife - Wildlife Habitat Creation

(Released 01/05/2016 )

#### Description:

Description: This tool applies ONLY to the following project types • Creation of new, early successional habitat (for pollinator habitat use Wildflower Meadows for Wildlife, 327); • Establish native hardwood forests (primarily oaks) to create widely spaced hardwoods with early successional understory (savannas; use 612 and coordinate with the State Biologist);

#### Land Uses:

Associated Agriculture Land, Crop, Forest, Pasture

#### Efficiency Score:

Scoring Multiplier: 100.000

Scoring Ranges and Results Text:

High: 100 - 75	Medium: 74 - 50	Low: 49 - 1
The conservation practices in this application score in the High range.	The conservation practices in this application score in the Medium range.	The conservation practices in this application score in the Low range.

#### Optional Notes:

#### National Priorities:

Scoring Multiplier: 1.000

Scoring Ranges and Results Text:

High: 128 - 100	Medium: 99 - 50	Low: 49 - 1
The score for addressing National Issues is in the High Category	The score for addressing National Issues is in the Medium Category	The score for addressing National Issues is in the Low Category

#### Questions:

Number	Question	Points
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
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
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	10

	crops with lower water consumptive use, the rotation of crops, or the modification of cultural operations?	
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
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
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
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
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
9	a. Enhancement of existing conservation practice(s) or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is received?	10
	Total Points	500

**State Issues:**

Scoring Multiplier: 1.000

Scoring Ranges and Results Text:

High: 400 - 270	Medium: 269 - 140	Low: 139 - 1
The score for addressing State Issues is in the High Category	The score for addressing State Issues is in the Medium Category	The score for addressing State Issues is in the Low Category

**Questions:**

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
1		General Questions: Select only one answer (use the Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Tool [WHET] to determine planned habitat value and	
	1	The planned habitat is >75 points and WHET score is = 90 points.	275
	2	The planned habitat is >75 points and WHET score is 80-89 points	250
	3	The planned habitat is >75 points and WHET score is 70-79 points	225
	4	The planned habitat is >75 points and WHET score is 60-69 points	200
	5	The planned habitat is >75 points and WHET score is 50-59 points	175
	6	The planned habitat is >75 points and WHET score is 40-49 points	150
	7	The planned habitat is >75 points and WHET score is 30-39 points	125
	8	The planned habitat is >75 points and WHET score is 20-29 points	100
2		Answer each of the following that apply	
	1	There is an existing wildlife habitat plan approved by the State Biologist or Private Lands Biologist on the land proposed for contract.	100

	2	Livestock that had access to the wildlife habitat area prior to the contract, will be excluded from wildlife habitat. (if there are no livestock to exclude from the treatment area, the answer to this question is "no.")	25
Maximum Points: 400    Total Points			1625

**Local Issues:**

Scoring Multiplier: 1.000

Scoring Ranges and Results Text:

High: 250 - 170	Medium: 169 - 90	Low: 89 - 1
The score for addressing State Issues is in the High Category	The score for addressing State Issues is in the MediumCategory	The score for addressing State Issues is in the Low Category

**Questions:**

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
1		Local Terrestrial Wildlife Habitat Questions	
	1	The project will benefit Early Successional species in the Quail Action Plan focus Districts (Big Walker, Headwaters, Culpeper, Three Rivers, Chowan Basin, Halifax)?	50
	2	The project will provide habitat for a Federal or State listed (i.e. threatened, endangered, or species of concern) terrestrial species that is documented within 2 miles of the project site (refer to Toolkit layers)	50
	3	Applicant actively manages a previously-established wildlife habitat project >2 acres in size (excluding food plots)	50
2		Local Aquatic Wildlife Habitat Questions	
	1	The project will occur in a state listed impaired watershed shown on the Toolkit GIS layer "Impaired Waters of Virginia" and improve water quality?	50
	2	The project will provide habitat for a Federal or State listed (i.e. threatened, endangered, or species of concern) aquatic species that is documented within 2 miles of the project site (refer to Toolkit layers)	50
Maximum Points: 250    Total Points			250

**Selected Resource Concerns and Practices:**

Degraded Plant Condition: Excessive Plant Pest Pressure

- Brush Management (314)
- Conservation Cover (327)
- Critical Area Planting (342)
- Early Successional Habitat Development/M (647)
- Field Border (386)
- Forest Stand Improvement (666)
- Hedgerow Planting (422)
- Herbaceous Weed Control (315)
- Prescribed Burning (338)
- Restoration and Management of Rare and D (643)
- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
- Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
- Stream Habitat Improvement and Managemen (395)
- Streambank and Shoreline Protection (580)
- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490)
- Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)
- Wetland Creation (658)
- Wetland Enhancement (659)

- Wetland Restoration (657)
- Degraded Plant Condition: Inadequate Structure and Composition
  - Brush Management (314)
  - Conservation Cover (327)
  - Critical Area Planting (342)
  - Early Successional Habitat Development/M (647)
  - Field Border (386)
  - Forest Stand Improvement (666)
  - Hedgerow Planting (422)
  - Herbaceous Weed Control (315)
  - Prescribed Burning (338)
  - Restoration and Management of Rare and D (643)
  - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
  - Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
  - Stream Habitat Improvement and Managemen (395)
  - Streambank and Shoreline Protection (580)
  - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
  - Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490)
  - Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)
  - Wetland Creation (658)
  - Wetland Enhancement (659)
  - Wetland Restoration (657)
- Degraded Plant Condition: Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health
  - Brush Management (314)
  - Conservation Cover (327)
  - Critical Area Planting (342)
  - Early Successional Habitat Development/M (647)
  - Field Border (386)
  - Firebreak (394)
  - Forest Stand Improvement (666)
  - Hedgerow Planting (422)
  - Herbaceous Weed Control (315)
  - Prescribed Burning (338)
  - Restoration and Management of Rare and D (643)
  - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
  - Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
  - Stream Habitat Improvement and Managemen (395)
  - Streambank and Shoreline Protection (580)
  - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
  - Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490)
  - Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)
  - Wetland Creation (658)
  - Wetland Enhancement (659)
  - Wetland Restoration (657)
- Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter
  - Aquatic Organism Passage (396)
  - Brush Management (314)
  - Conservation Cover (327)
  - Critical Area Planting (342)
  - Early Successional Habitat Development/M (647)
  - Field Border (386)
  - Forest Stand Improvement (666)
  - Hedgerow Planting (422)
  - Herbaceous Weed Control (315)
  - Prescribed Burning (338)
  - Restoration and Management of Rare and D (643)
  - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
  - Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
  - Stream Habitat Improvement and Managemen (395)
  - Streambank and Shoreline Protection (580)
  - Structures for Wildlife (649)

- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)
- Wetland Creation (658)
- Wetland Enhancement (659)
- Wetland Restoration (657)
- Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Food
  - Brush Management (314)
  - Conservation Cover (327)
  - Critical Area Planting (342)
  - Early Successional Habitat Development/M (647)
  - Field Border (386)
  - Forest Stand Improvement (666)
  - Hedgerow Planting (422)
  - Herbaceous Weed Control (315)
  - Prescribed Burning (338)
  - Restoration and Management of Rare and D (643)
  - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
  - Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
  - Stream Habitat Improvement and Managemen (395)
  - Streambank and Shoreline Protection (580)
  - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
  - Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)
  - Wetland Creation (658)
  - Wetland Enhancement (659)
  - Wetland Restoration (657)
- Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Habitat Continuity (Space)
  - Brush Management (314)
  - Conservation Cover (327)
  - Critical Area Planting (342)
  - Dike (356)
  - Early Successional Habitat Development/M (647)
  - Field Border (386)
  - Firebreak (394)
  - Forest Stand Improvement (666)
  - Hedgerow Planting (422)
  - Herbaceous Weed Control (315)
  - Prescribed Burning (338)
  - Restoration and Management of Rare and D (643)
  - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
  - Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
  - Stream Habitat Improvement and Managemen (395)
  - Streambank and Shoreline Protection (580)
  - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
  - Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)
  - Wetland Creation (658)
  - Wetland Enhancement (659)
  - Wetland Restoration (657)
- Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Water
  - Aquatic Organism Passage (396)
  - Dike (356)
  - Restoration and Management of Rare and D (643)
  - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
  - Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
  - Stream Habitat Improvement and Managemen (395)
  - Structure for Water Control (587)
  - Wetland Creation (658)
  - Wetland Enhancement (659)
  - Wetland Restoration (657)
- Soil Erosion: Classic Gully Erosion
  - Brush Management (314)
  - Conservation Cover (327)

- Critical Area Planting (342)
- Dike (356)
- Firebreak (394)
- Herbaceous Weed Control (315)
- Prescribed Burning (338)
- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490)
- Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)

Soil Erosion: Ephemeral Gully Erosion

- Brush Management (314)
- Conservation Cover (327)
- Critical Area Planting (342)
- Field Border (386)
- Firebreak (394)
- Herbaceous Weed Control (315)
- Prescribed Burning (338)
- Restoration and Management of Rare and D (643)
- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
- Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490)
- Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)

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