

Ranking Tool Summary

for FY2015 - Wildlife - Habitat Maintenance

(Released 11/06/2014)

Description:

This tool applies to the management of existing wildlife habitat. The following existing habitat types are examples of applicable project types (not all inclusive): Manage existing native hardwood forests (primarily oaks) to create widely spaced hardwoods with early successional understory (codes 666 and 338); Invasive species control (codes 315 for herbaceous and 316 for woody species); Management of existing wetlands and/or riparian buffers - forested or herbaceous (codes 338 and 394); Exclude cattle from existing riparian, wetlands, or wildlife areas (code 382); Stabilize eroding and nonproductive areas (code 342); Develop early successional habitat (code 647).

Land Uses:

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 crops with lower water consumptive use, the rotation of crops, or the modification of cultural operations?	10
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		For questions 1-3, only ONE yes answer may be given (use the appropriate habitat evaluation worksheet).	
	1	The planned habitat is >50 points and at least 60 points higher than the benchmark.	80
	2	The planned habitat is >50 points and 40-59 points higher than the benchmark.	55
	3	The planned habitat is >50 points and 20-39 points higher than the benchmark.	30
2		For question 4-5, only ONE yes answer may be given.	
	4	The planned area will serve as a >50 ft wide corridor for wildlife travel.	55
	5	The planned area will serve as a 35-49 ft wide corridor for wildlife travel.	35
4		General Questions	
	6	There is an existing wildlife habitat plan approved by the State Biologist or Private Lands Biologist on the land proposed for contract.	30
	7	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.")	30
	8	Prescribed burning will be used to manage the upland wildlife or pollinator habitat.	30
	9	The area controlled is either adjacent to or within 0.25 miles of a permanently managed/protected wildlife area.	30
Maximum Points: 400			Total Points 375

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	The project will benefit Early Successional species in the Quail Action Plan focus Districts (Big Walker, Headwaters, Culpeper, Three Rivers, Chowan Basin, Halifax)?	80
	2	The project will occur within 2 miles of and benefit a species that is in the Toolkit layer T&E species (either DGIF or Natural Heritage)?	60
	3	The project will occur within 2 miles of a listed water (Toolkit layer "T&E Water) and improve stream quality?	60
	4	The location of the planned Eastern Shore Bird Habitat area (Code 643) is within 6 miles of the southernmost tip of Northampton County (from outlet of Plantation Creek and south).	25
	5	The location of the planned Eastern Shore Bird Habitat area (Code 643) is within one mile from either coastline (bayside or oceanside).	25
Maximum Points: 250 Total Points			250

Selected Resource Concerns and Practices:

Degraded Plant Condition: Excessive Plant Pest Pressure

- Brush Management (314)
- Critical Area Planting (342)
- Early Successional Habitat Development/M (647)
- Firebreak (394)
- Forest Stand Improvement (666)
- Herbaceous Weed Control (315)
- Prescribed Burning (338)

Degraded Plant Condition: Inadequate Structure and Composition

- Brush Management (314)
- Critical Area Planting (342)
- Early Successional Habitat Development/M (647)
- Forest Stand Improvement (666)
- Herbaceous Weed Control (315)
- Prescribed Burning (338)

Degraded Plant Condition: Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health

- Brush Management (314)
- Critical Area Planting (342)
- Early Successional Habitat Development/M (647)
- Firebreak (394)
- Forest Stand Improvement (666)
- Herbaceous Weed Control (315)
- Prescribed Burning (338)

Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter

- Brush Management (314)
- Critical Area Planting (342)
- Early Successional Habitat Development/M (647)
- Forest Stand Improvement (666)
- Herbaceous Weed Control (315)
- Prescribed Burning (338)

Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Food

- Brush Management (314)
- Critical Area Planting (342)
- Early Successional Habitat Development/M (647)
- Forest Stand Improvement (666)
- Herbaceous Weed Control (315)
- Prescribed Burning (338)

Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Habitat Continuity (Space)

Brush Management (314)

Critical Area Planting (342)

Early Successional Habitat Development/M (647)

Firebreak (394)

Forest Stand Improvement (666)

Herbaceous Weed Control (315)

Prescribed Burning (338)

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