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Ranking Tool Summary for FY2015 - Wildlife - Wildlife Habitat Creation (Released 11/06/2014)

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); • Restore rare or declining habitat: Longleaf Pine Historic Range (Accomac, Northampton, Brunswick, Greenville, Sussex, Prince George, Southampton, Isle of Wight, Surry, Suffolk, Chesapeake, Virginia Beach, James City and York Counties; 643).

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 MediumCategory	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 appropriate habitat evaluation worksheet).	
	1	The planned habitat is >50 points and at least 60 points higher than the benchmark.	75
	2	The planned habitat is >50 points and 40-59 points higher than the benchmark.	50
	3	The planned habitat is >50 points and 20-39 points higher than the benchmark.	25
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.	25
	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
3		Upland Wildlife Habitat Creation Questions: Select only one answer	
	1	The planned area will serve as a >50 ft wide corridor for wildlife travel.	50
	2	The planned area will serve as a 35-49 ft wide corridor for wildlife travel.	30
4		For the questions below, will the proposed practices protect, promote or create any of the following rare or declining habitats: (Answer all that apply)	
	1	Oak Savanna Restoration	100
	2	Prescribed burning will be used to manage oak savannas	25
	3	Longleaf Pine Planting	100
	4	Prescribed burning will be used to manage longleaf pine	25
	5	Eastern Shore Bird Habitat Development	100
5		Answer each of the following that apply	
	1	Planting of pollinator habitat (327) containing a minimum of 2 native warm season	50

		grass species and 9 native wildflower species is planned.	
	2	Prescribed burning will be used to manage the proposed wildlife habitat.	25
6		Aquatic Wildlife Habitat Questions: Answer each of the following that apply:	
	1	The project will restore historic anadromous or catadromous species migration (through stream blockage removal).	125
	2	The historic upstream usable area available to aquatic species due to stream blockage removal is greater than 25 stream miles.	25
	3	Stream length offered for restoration is greater than 0.5 miles.	25
	4	The project will restore native brook trout habitat.	175
Maximum Points:			Total Points
			1055

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 Medium Category	The score for addressing State Issues is in the Low Category

Questions:

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
1		General Questions	
	1	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
	2	The project will occur within 2 miles of a listed water (Toolkit layer "T&E Water) and improve stream quality?	60
2		Upland Wildlife Habitat Creation 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)?	80
	2	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
	3	The location of the planned Eastern Shore Bird Habitat area (Code 643) is within one mile from either coastline (bayside or oceanside).	25
3		Aquatic Wildlife Habitat Creation 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?	25
	2	The project includes a Living Shoreline or a restoration of submerged aquatic vegetation practice in a Chesapeake Bay tributary.	25
	3	The project includes the creation of riparian buffers (> 35ft wide).	50
Maximum Points:			Total Points
			350

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)
- Mulching (484)
- 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)
- 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)
- 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)
- Deep Tillage (324)
- Early Successional Habitat Development/M (647)
- Fence (382)
- Field Border (386)
- Firebreak (394)
- Forest Stand Improvement (666)
- Hedgerow Planting (422)
- Herbaceous Weed Control (315)
- Mulching (484)
- 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)
- 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)
- Mulching (484)
- 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)
- 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)
- Mulching (484)
- 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)
- 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)
- 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)