

Natural Resources Conservation Service

**Application Ranking Summary
FY15 EQIP Longleaf Pine Initiative**

Program:	Ranking Date:	Application Number:
Ranking Tool: FY15 EQIP Longleaf Pine Initiative	Applicant:	
Final Ranking Score:	Address:	
Planner:	Telephone:	
Farm Location:		

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
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.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a “non-impaired water body”?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)	
3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Soil Health:– Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil “T”)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?	
6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Energy Conservation– Will the proposed project reduce energy use by: (select all that apply)	
8. a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Does this application pertain to land that is contiguous to a protected area such as a National Forest, Military Base, National Wildlife Refuge, State forest, Heritage Reserve, or land protected by a perpetual conservation easement (e.g. WRP, FRPP, GRP, TNC)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. Is the field (acreage) where practice installation will take place located within a state designated priority county (or counties). Aiken, Barnwell, Bamberg, Hampton, Allendale, Berkeley, Williamsburg, Georgetown, Lee, Kershaw, Chesterfield, Beaufort, Darlington.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. Will offered area connect two or more blocks of longleaf pine? (Do Not Answer Question 4 if answering "YES" to this question)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. Are the offered acres adjacent to an existing longleaf pine stand?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. Will this application contain at least one (1) practice that directly benefits threatened and endangered or at-risk wildlife species (plant or animal) as identified by NRCS, South Carolina DNR, the US Fish and Wildlife Service or NOAA Fisheries?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. Will this application contain practices that address the control or eradication of invasive plant species as identified on the list of "Major Invasive Species of Concern in South Carolina" found on the EFOTG, Section 1, General Resources, Section C, Reference List? (314/315)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. Will this application result in a basal area of less than 60 square feet per acre on all of the forested acres in the proposed contract within the life of the contract? (Answer YES if land is already thinned to less than 60).	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. Does the SC Wildlife Habitat Index for this application reflect a habitat net effect benefit of greater than .50? (Planned index value – Existing index value)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
9. Are the offered acres currently enrolled in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Safe Harbor Program?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
10. Has a federally listed T/E species or candidate species been identified on land immediately adjacent to the offered land in this application? (Use T&E GIS Layer)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Does this application pertain to land within the South Carolina Longleaf Pine Priority Area (Reference LLPI Priority Area Map) and contain greater than 50% Tier 1 Highly Suitable longleaf soils?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. Does the application contain all of the following core conservation practices for the Longleaf Pine Initiative: Forest Stand Improvement, Prescribed Burning, and Tree and Shrub Establishment?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. Has a federally listed T/E species or candidate species been identified on the land offered in this application?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. By funding this application, will the activities in the contract result in the restoration of historic longleaf pine-savannah habitat (greater than 75% of the offered acres) within the South Carolina Longleaf Pine Priority Area? (e.g. Cropland, Pastureland, or Hayland Restoration)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. Do greater than 75% of the offered acres in this application currently contain longleaf pine trees but are in	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

need of improvement because they lack a native herbaceous understory community?	
6. Is the applicant willing to execute a prescribed burning regime on the offered acres? (338 Must be in the application)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. Do greater than 75% of the offered acres in this application currently contain Longleaf Pine-Savannah habitat with a basal area of less than 60 and are in need of maintenance practices? (e.g. Prescribed Burning, Brush Management, or Forest Stand Improvement)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Land Use:

Resource Concerns	Practices
--------------------------	------------------

Ranking Score

Efficiency: Local Issues: State Issues: National Issues: Final Ranking Score:

This ranking report is for your information. It does not in any way guarantee funding. When funding becomes available, you will be notified if your application is selected for funding. Some changes to the application may be required before a final contract is awarded.

Notes:

NRCS Representative: Signature Date:	Applicant Signature Not Required on this report for Contract Development unless required by State policy: Signature Date:
---------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------