

<p>Declining Species Wildlife Habitat EQIP Fund Pool Fiscal Year 2017 Application Screening Worksheet <u>A Screening Worksheet must be completed for each eligible EQIP application.</u></p>		
Applicant Name:		
Evaluator Name:		
Date:	Batching Number:	Application No:
<p>EQIP is a competitive financial assistance program and applications are screened and ranked based on the expected conservation benefits of planned practices in the EQIP schedule of operations. This screening worksheet must be completed for each eligible applicant applying for financial assistance. Applications are accepted on a continuous basis; however, application batching periods are established for purposes of ranking and funding decisions. A screening worksheet can be processed for each application batching period. The goal of this screening tool is to ensure that conservation technical assistance and EQIP program benefits are managed efficiently to address priority conservation needs. Completion of this worksheet and documentation does not constitute an agreement to provide EQIP program benefits nor approval of a program contract. The original screening worksheet should be filed with the applicant case file or EQIP program file and unless the application is determined to be ineligible, the screening priority (High, Medium, and Low) must be recorded in ProTracts. Upon request, a copy of any completed screening worksheet may be provided to the applicant.</p>		
Screening Criteria Questions		
<p>The applicant has reviewed and approved the EQIP schedule of operations that will be uploaded to the NRCS business tool, ProTracts, before or by the ranking deadline.</p>		<p>If Yes, continue to the next question. If No, Low Priority Status in ProTracts.</p>
<p>In the last two EQIP program fiscal years, the applicant:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Had a NRCS contract terminated – and/or, b. Failed to implement contract items in an existing EQIP contract according to the schedule in Form, NRCS-CPA-1155, "Conservation Plan and Schedule of Operations," and the contract was modified to reschedule contract items - installation delays were not due to NRCS error or design delay – and/or, c. Failed to implement rescheduled contract items agreed to according to Form, NRCS-CPA-153, "Agreement Covering Non-Compliance with Provisions of Contract," and Form, NRCS-CPA-1156, "Revision of Plan/Schedule of Operations or Modification of a Contract," – and/or d. Installed conservation practices with financial assistance from NRCS that have not been maintained according to the practice operations and maintenance for the practice lifespan. 		<p>If Yes, Low Priority Status in ProTracts. If No, continue to the next question.</p>

Screening Criteria Questions			
<p>Question 1 and 2 below are true:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Either a or b are true: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Fish or wildlife conservation treatments “predominantly” affecting habitat for Proposed, Candidate or CA Fully Protected plant or animal species. b. Fish or wildlife improvements “predominantly” affecting habitat for Species of Special Concern, as identified by California Department of Fish and Wildlife. 2. Conservation practices in the EQIP schedule of operations are supported by one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The planned Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG) score is greater than or equal to 0.5 (≥ 0.5). • The planned CA Native Bee Pollinator Habitat Assessment score is greater than or equal to 90 (≥ 90)w. 	<p>If Yes, Medium Priority Status in ProTracts. If No, continue to the next question.</p>		
<p>Question 1, 2 and 3 below are true:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conservation practices in the EQIP schedule of operations are supported by a NRCS approved Fish and Wildlife Habitat Management Plan. 2. Either a or b are true: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Fish or wildlife conservation treatments “predominantly” affect habitat for Federal or State threatened, endangered, or rare species. b. Fish or wildlife conservation treatments “predominantly” affect habitat for selected species. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selected species included: Tricolored blackbird, Western burrowing owl, Foothill yellow-legged frog, Anadromous species, Western pond turtle and pollinators. 3. Conservation practices in the EQIP schedule of operations are supported by one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The planned Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG) score is greater than or equal to 0.5 (≥ 0.5). • The planned CA Native Bee Pollinator Habitat Assessment score is greater than or equal to 140 (≥ 140). 	<p>If Yes, High Priority Status in ProTracts. If No, Low Priority Status in ProTracts</p>		
<p>Application Screening Priority:</p>			
<p>Designated Conservationist Approval Signature:</p>		<p>Date Approved:</p>	