

**Natural Resources Conservation Service
Application Ranking Summary
FY17 Catastrophic Fire Recovery**

STRIKETHROUGH TEXT FOR NATIONAL CRITERIA IS NOT APPLICABLE TO THIS FUND POOL. DO NOT ANSWER THESE CRITERIA.

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
<p>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.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	250
<p>Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)</p>	
<p>2. a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?</p>	15
<p>2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?</p>	10
<p>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)?</p>	10
<p>2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a “non-impaired water body”?</p>	10
<p>2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?</p>	10
<p>Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)</p>	
<p>3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.</p>	15
<p>3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on farm water use?</p>	10
<p>3. c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed wide project?</p>	10
<p>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?</p>	10
<p>Air Quality – Will the proposed project improve air quality by: (select all that apply)</p>	
<p>4. a. Meeting on farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?</p>	10
<p>4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?</p>	10
<p>4. c. Implementing practices that reduce on farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?</p>	10
<p>4. d. Implementing practices that increase on farm carbon sequestration?</p>	10
<p>Soil Health: – Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)</p>	
<p>5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil “T”)?</p>	10
<p>5. b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?</p>	10
<p>Wildlife Habitat – Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat by: (select all that apply)</p>	
<p>6. a. Implementing practices benefitting threatened and endangered, at risk, candidate, or species of concern.</p>	10
<p>6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or other set aside program?</p>	10
<p>6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?</p>	10
<p>6. d. Implementing land based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?</p>	10
<p>Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project improve plant and animal communities by: (select all that apply)</p>	
<p>7. a. Implementing practices that result in the management control of noxious or invasive plant species on non cropland?</p>	10
<p>7. b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?</p>	10

Energy Conservation – Will the proposed project reduce energy use by: (select all that apply)	
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
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?	10
State Issues Addressed	
Issue Questions	Responses
Severity of Fire and Risk of Soil Erosion Conservation treatments in the EQIP schedule of operations are planned on forestland and/or rangeland to mitigate, minimize and/or control soil erosion where: (Select “Yes” to Only One Answer)	
1. a. At least 90 percent of the treatment unit is designated ‘Severely’ burned by either the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) or a NRCS Conservationist using USFS protocols for post fire soil burn severity in USFS RMRS-GTR-243.	250
2. b. At least 50 percent of the treatment unit is designated ‘Moderately’ burned by either the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) or a NRCS Conservationist using USFS protocols for post fire soil burn severity in USFS RMRS-GTR-243.	150
Local Issues Addressed	
Issue Questions	Responses
SOIL EROSION: Sheet and Rill Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations will provide ground cover on sites to reduce sheet and rill soil erosion from rainfall and treatment area is located in burned areas where the inherent, undisturbed, soil EHR is: (Select “Yes” to One Answer Only, if applicable)	
1. a. ‘Severe’ or ‘Very Severe’ and slopes are greater than 20 percent.	50
1. b. ‘Severe’ or ‘Very Severe’ and slopes are less than 20 percent.	25
SOIL EROSION: Sheet and Rill (Select “Yes” to All Applicable Answers)	
2. a. Conservation treatment may either include NRCS conservation practice, 472 – Access Control or 528 – Prescribed Grazing, in the EQIP application schedule of operations to defer post fire grazing to allow vegetation establishment on burned sites, reducing sheet or rill erosion to tolerable levels.	17
2. b. Conservation treatment will result in implementation of infrastructural replacement, including grazing management, that will allow vegetation establishment on grazed range or grazed forest burned sites to appropriate levels and protect soils resources.	17
2. c. Conservation treatments will result in implementation of chemical, vegetative and/or mechanical treatments to facilitate a grazing management strategy that will manage livestock to control and manage access on existing grazed range or grazed forest burned sites.	16
SOIL EROSION: Classic Gullies The erosion hazard rating (EHR) will be determined using the assessment protocol, “Erosion Surface Soil Erosion Hazard RM-87 (4/84)”, from the California State Board of Forestry, Technical Rule Addendum Number 1, Revised February 1, 1990, “Procedure for Estimating Surface Soil Erosion Hazard Rating,” Conservation treatment will maintain soil stability through installation of practices that reduces concentrated overland flow and treatment sites include roads, trails, and/or culvert systems located in burned areas with an inherent soil EHR of: (Select “Yes” to Only One Answer, if applicable)	
3. a. ‘Extreme’ or ‘High’ and greater than 4 percent surface grade.	50
3. b. ‘Moderate’ and greater than 10 percent surface grade.	25

<p>WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excessive Sediment in Surface Water The Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List is found at the State Water Resources Control Board website: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/tmdl/integrated2010.shtml Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations will reduce the potential for direct delivery of sediment to a: (Select “Yes” to One Answer Only, if applicable)</p>	
4. a. Surface water body that supports Federal or State listed endangered, threatened, or candidate aquatic species.	50
4. b. 303(d) listed surface water body for the pollutant category, ‘Sediment’.	30
4. c. Tributary of a surface water body that supports Federal or State listed threatened or endangered aquatic species.	20
4. d. Tributary of a 303(d) listed surface water body for the pollutant category, ‘Sediment’.	10
<p>WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excessive Sediment in Surface Water Conservation treatment will reduce the potential for direct delivery of sediment to a: (Select “Yes” to Only One Answer, if applicable)</p>	
5. a. Class I stream/watercourses as classified under the California Forest Practice Rules. •A Class I watercourse is defined as: 1) Domestic supplies, including springs, on site and/or within 100 feet downstream of the operations area and/or 2) Fish always or seasonally present onsite, includes habitat to sustain fish migration and spawning.	50
5. b. Class II stream/watercourses as classified under the California Forest Practice Rules. • A Class II watercourse is defined as: 1) Fish always or seasonally present offsite within 1000 feet downstream and/or 2) Aquatic habitat for nonfish aquatic species. 3) Excludes Class III waters that are tributary to Class I waters.	25
<p>WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Elevated Water Temperature Post fire conditions have left stream reaches with canopy cover at 70% or less of desired closure rates for the site. Current conditions do not provide for the development of species or large wood recruitment capable of providing desired closure rates and solar exposure is negatively affecting stream temperature. Stream cover is determined by hypsometer sampling, plot sampling, transects, visual assessment, or other protocol appropriate for the site condition. (Select “Yes” to Only One Answer, if applicable)</p>	
6. a. Conservation treatment will establish or specifically develop the riparian area through vegetation management and/or restoration structures to increase shade and lower water temperatures to promote water quality for fish, riparian species and habitat.	50
6. b. Conservation treatment will implement structural practices to prevent livestock access to riparian areas to allow herbaceous and woody vegetation establishment that will shade the stream corridor, reducing water temperatures.	50
<p>DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION: Inadequate Structure and Composition Desirable and/or undesirable species are determined by Ecological Site Description, Vegetative Guide, Terrestrial Vegetation of CA by Barbour et al or State or local noxious weed list. (Select “Yes,” if applicable)</p>	
7. c. Conservation treatment will result in the treatment with 70 percent or greater desirable plant species composition.	50
<p>DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION: Inadequate Structure and Composition (Reforestation) (Select “Yes” to Only One Answer, if applicable)</p>	
8. a. Reforestation (more than 250 trees) will be to within 20 percent of optimal stocking rates for desired species; and, the reforestation treatment area is located on Site II or better soils where the magnitude of success and benefits to wildlife, water quality and quantity will promote a healthy forest. Site Index will be determined by direct field measurement or from the Soil Survey.	50
8. b. Reforestation (more than 150 trees) will be to within 20 percent of optimal stocking rates for desired species; and, the reforestation treatment area is located on Site III or better soils where the magnitude of success and benefits to wildlife, water quality and quantity will promote a healthy forest. Site Index will be determined by direct field measurement or from the Soil Survey.	30
8. c. Reforestation will be to within 20 percent of optimal stocking rates for desired species for the treatment site.	20