Natural Resources Conservation Service
Application Ranking Summary
FY17 Tribal Diversified Farms

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Point(s)
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.	250
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)?	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
Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)	
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
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?	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
Soil Health:– Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)	
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
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.	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
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?	10
7. b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	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	Point(s)
State Category One Ranking Criteria – Conservation Activity Plan 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 state 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 state level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	640
State Category Two Ranking Criteria – SOIL EROSION: Sheet and Rill On cropland, conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations promotes soil health and reduces sheet and rill erosion, as estimated by RUSLE2; and, includes a combination of vegetative and management practices such as residue and tillage management, cover crop, or conservation crop rotation where erosion is estimated at – (Select "Yes" to One Answer Only, if applicable)	
2. a. Greater than 2T; after treatment estimated soil loss will not exceed T.	10
2. b. Less than 2T; after treatment estimated soil loss will not exceed T.	5
State Category Three Ranking Criteria – SOIL EROSION: Wind On cropland or land adjacent to cropland, conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations may include practices such as windbreak/shelterbelt establishment, windbreak/shelterbelt renovation or herbaceous wind barriers; or, may include practices that promote soil health such as residue and tillage management, cover crop, or conservation crop rotation. Treatment will reduce wind erosion as estimated by WEPS by – (Select "Yes" to One Answer Only, if applicable)	

3. a. Greater than 50 percent; and, total annual soil loss is estimated to not exceed T after treatment.	10
3. b. 20 to 49 percent; and, total annual soil loss is estimated to not exceed T after treatment.	5
3. c. Less than 20 percent; and, total annual soil loss is estimated to not exceed T after treatment.	3
State Category Four Ranking Criteria – SOIL EROSION: Ephemeral Gullies (Select "Yes," if applicable)	
4. a. On cropland, conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations includes vegetative, structural or management practices for actively eroding ephemeral gullies that will result in control of surface water runoff to stabilize small channels and prevent reoccurrence of new channels.	10
State Category Five Ranking Criteria – SOIL EROSION: Classic Gullies (Select "Yes," if applicable)	
5. a. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations includes vegetative, structural or management practices for actively eroding classic gullies that will result in control of surface water runoff to stop progression of head cutting and widening of existing gully.	10
State Category Six Ranking Criteria – SOIL EROSION: Excessive Bank Erosion from Streams, Shorelines or Water Conveyance Channels (Select "Yes," if applicable)	
6. a. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations will reduce soil loss on channel banks where current agricultural and/or livestock management activities are impacting streambank stability and integrity.	15
State Category Seven Ranking Criteria – SOIL QUALITY DEGRADATION: Compaction (Select “Yes” to All Applicable Answers)	
7. a. On pastureland, conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations will reduce soil compaction on pastureland from livestock on wet soils.	10
7. b. On rangeland, conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations results in reducing compaction due to livestock traffic and heavy use by implementing practices to move livestock away from this site and/or mechanical or vegetative practices to reduce compaction.	10
7. c. On cropland, conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations will result in implementation of one or more practices to physically break up a compacted layer or reduce soil compacting activities, such as, (329) Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till, (324) Deep Tillage (not more than once every 5 years), or (340) Cover Crop, etc.	10
State Category Eight Ranking Criteria – SOIL QUALITY DEGRADATION: Organic Matter Depletion (Select “Yes” to All Applicable Answers)	
8. a. On cropland, conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations will result in increased soil organic matter through implementation of a no-till system (329 – Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till) or a reduced tillage system (345 – Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till).	10
8. b. On cropland, conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations will result in increased soil organic matter by planting a cover crop (340 – Cover Crop) during times in the crop rotation that are seasonally fallowed or when a cash crop is normally planted.	15
8. c. On cropland, conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations will result in increased soil organic matter by adding a high residue crop to the normal rotation (328 – Conservation Crop Rotation).	10

8. d. On cropland, conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations will result in increased soil organic matter by applying mulch (484 – Mulching) with the specific purpose of increasing soil organic matter (not applicable to synthetic mulch).	10
8. e. On cropland, conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations will result in increased soil organic matter by planting a cover crop mixture of three or more species that includes at least one grass and one legume.	15
8. f. On cropland, the EQIP schedule of operations includes one of the scenarios listed above for at least 3 years.	20
8. g. On rangeland, conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations results in implementation of structural and/or vegetative practices to manage livestock grazing to improve soil organic matter content by maintaining residual dry matter (RDM) levels developed by University of California Cooperative Extension.	20
State Category Nine Ranking Criteria – INSUFFICIENT WATER: Inefficient Moisture Management (Select "Yes", if applicable)	
9. a. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations results in implementation of structural, vegetative, or management practices to improve water retention on-site to hold precipitation within the soil profile.	10
State Category Ten Ranking Criteria – INSUFFICIENT WATER: Inefficient Use of Irrigation Water California Irrigation Water Savings Tool found in the California eFOTG Section 1, Resource Assessment Tools. Level I = Basic Irrigation Water Management; Level 2 = Intermediate Irrigation Water Management; Level III = Advanced Irrigation Water Management (Select "Yes" to One Answer, if applicable)	
10. a. On cropland and/or pastureland, conservation treatment will achieve Level II or III irrigation water management according to NRCS CA Bulletin 201-11-3, and the farm operation ranks as “High” in need for 449 – Irrigation Water Management as determined from the irrigation scheduling planning tool.	20
10. b. On cropland and/or pastureland, conservation treatment will achieve Level II or III irrigation water management according to NRCS CA Bulletin 201-11-3, and the farm operation ranks as “Medium” or "Low" in need for 449 – Irrigation Water Management as determined from the irrigation scheduling planning tool.	10
10. c. On cropland and/or pastureland, conservation treatment will achieve Level I irrigation water management according to NRCS CA Bulletin 201-11-3.	5
State Category Eleven Ranking Criteria – INSUFFICIENT WATER: Inefficient Use of Irrigation Water California Irrigation Water Savings Tool found in the California eFOTG Section 1, Resource Assessment Tools. On cropland and/or pastureland, conservation treatment includes implementation of IWM and/or an irrigation system that results in an increase of: (Select "Yes" to One Answer Only, if applicable)	
11. a. more than 30 percent annual water savings.	15
11. b. 15 to 30 percent annual water savings.	10
11. c. 10 to 14 percent annual water savings.	5

State Category Twelve Ranking Criteria – WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excess Nutrients 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 (Select "Yes" to All Applicable Answers)	
12. a. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations will minimize the transport of nutrients to a surface waterbody on the 303(d) list for the pollutant category, "Nutrients," where an existing pathway to the surface water exists; and, conservation treatment includes management, vegetative and/or structural practices.	20
12. b. On cropland, conservation treatment will result in development and implementation of a nutrient management plan according to NRCS conservation practice standard, 590 – Nutrient Management, to reduce the potential for off-site transport of nutrients to surface water.	10
12. c. On cropland, conservation treatment will result in implementation of vegetative practice(s) that will reduce the potential for nutrients to enter surface water.	10
12. d. On pastureland and/or rangeland, conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations will minimize transport of nutrients in surface water runoff to a water body. Treatment occurs in uplands adjacent to surface water body under consideration.	10
12. e. On pastureland and/or rangeland, conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations will control livestock access to a water body to minimize or eliminate animal wastes in a surface water body. Treatment occurs within riparian area of water body under consideration.	10
State Category Thirteen Ranking Criteria – WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excess Nutrients in Groundwater The California State Water Resources Control Board map, "Hydrogeologically Vulnerable Areas and High Use Groundwater Basins," map is available at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/gama/docs/hydro_areas.pdf On cropland, conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations includes management practice(s) and the treatment area is located within: (Select "Yes" to One Answer Only, if applicable)	
13. a. A Hydrogeologically Vulnerable Area.	15
13. b. A High Use Ground Water Basin Area, but not a Hydrogeologically Vulnerable Area.	10
State Category Fourteen Ranking Criteria – WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Pathogens and Chemicals from Manure, Bio-Solids, or Compost Applications Transported to 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 (Select "Yes" to All Applicable Answers)	
14. a. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations will minimize the transport of pathogens and chemicals from manure, bio-solids or compost applications to a surface waterbody on the 303(d) list for the pollutant category, "Pathogens," where an existing pathway to the surface water exists; and, conservation treatment includes management, vegetative and/or structural practices.	15
14. b. On cropland, conservation treatment will result in development and implementation of a nutrient management plan according to NRCS conservation practice standard, 590 – Nutrient Management, to reduce the potential for off-site transport of pathogens and chemicals to surface water.	10

14. c. On cropland, conservation treatment will result in implementation of vegetative practice(s) that will reduce the potential for pathogens and chemicals to enter surface water.	10
14. d. On pastureland and/or rangeland, conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations will minimize transport of pathogens and chemicals in surface water runoff to a water body. Treatment occurs in uplands adjacent to surface water body under consideration.	10
14. e. On pastureland and/or rangeland, conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations will control livestock access to a water body to minimize or eliminate animal wastes in a surface water body. Treatment occurs within riparian area of water body under consideration.	10
State Category Fifteen Ranking Criteria – WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Pesticides Transported to Surface Water NRCS Agronomy Technical Note 5 (February 2011) is found at: www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb1043138.pdf (Select "Yes" to One Answer Only, if applicable)	
15. a. On cropland, conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations includes any combination of NRCS conservation practices or IPM techniques from NRCS Agronomy Technical Note 5, Tables 1 and 2 (February 2011) that results in a reduction of the WIN-PST surface water hazard rating for at least one pesticide to 'Low' or 'Very Low' and adoption of a Year-Round University of California Integrated Pest Management (UC IPM), when available for the crop or other comparable protocol.	30
15. b. On cropland, conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations includes any combination of NRCS conservation practices or IPM techniques from NRCS Agronomy Technical Note 5, Tables 1 and 2 (February 2011) that results in a reduction of the WIN-PST surface water hazard rating to 'Low' or 'Very Low' for at least one pesticide.	20
State Category Sixteen Ranking Criteria – 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 (Select "Yes" to All Applicable Answers)	
16. a. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations will minimize and mitigate water quality impacts associated with sediments in runoff water from the treatment unit to a surface water body on the 303(d) list for the pollutant category 'Sediments," where an existing pathway to the surface water exists; and, conservation treatment includes management, vegetative and/or structural practices.	15
16. b. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations stabilizes roads and/or roadsides that are chronic sources of sediment carried in runoff water; treatment on roads and/or roadsides will control erosion and reduce sediment delivery from the road to a surface water body.	10
16. c. On cropland, conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations will reduce off-site transport of suspended sediment during winter storm events to a surface water body or wetland complex where an existing pathway to the waterbody exists.	10
16. d. On cropland, conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations will reduce off-site transport of suspended sediment during irrigation events to a surface water body or wetland complex where an existing pathway to the waterbody exists.	10

16. e. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations will minimize transport of sediments in surface water runoff to a water body. Treatment occurs in uplands adjacent to surface water body under consideration.	10
16. f. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations will control livestock access to a water body where sediment is observed. Treatment occurs within riparian area of water body under consideration.	10
State Category Seventeen Ranking Criteria – WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Elevated Water Temperature (Select "Yes" to One Answer Only, if applicable)	
17. a. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations addresses factors that contribute to high water temperatures on a stream known to support a fishery.	20
17. b. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations addresses factors that contribute to high water temperatures for a stream waterbody that does not support a fishery.	10
State Category Eighteen Ranking Criteria – DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION: Undesirable Productivity and Health (Select "Yes" to One Answer Only, if applicable)	
18. a. On pastureland, conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations manages livestock distribution according to an approved prescribed grazing plan to control access, duration and timing of livestock grazing in each field for improved productivity, health and vigor of key forage species. CPS 528 – Prescribed Grazing is scheduled in the EQIP schedule of operations.	20
18. b. On pastureland, conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations improves plant productivity health and vigor by implementation of vegetative or structural practices.	15
State Category Nineteen Ranking Criteria – DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION: Undesirable Productivity and Health (Select "Yes," if applicable)	
19. a. On rangeland, conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations includes CPS 528 – Prescribed Grazing to design and implement a grazing management plan to control the access, duration and timing of livestock grazing in each field for improved productivity, health and vigor of key forage species. Structural and/or vegetative practices may also be include the EQIP schedule of operations, in addition to CPS 528, if needed to support the grazing management plan.	20
State Category Twenty Ranking Criteria – DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION: Inadequate Structure and Composition (Select "Yes," if applicable)	
20. a. On pastureland, conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations results in implementation of NRCS conservation management practice, CPS 528 - Prescribed Grazing, which is included in the EQIP application schedule of operations. Prescribed grazing will result in livestock distribution for uniform forage use and adequate rest of pastures.	20

State Category Twenty-One Ranking Criteria – DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION: Inadequate Structure and Composition On rangeland, conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations will either: 1) includes any combination of practices to increase plant diversity where the planned land unit was invaded by brush species and herbaceous species should dominate, or 2) results in the design and implementation of a grazing management plan according to CPS 528 - Prescribed Grazing, for restoration of the desired plant community by implementing prescribed grazing on – (Select "Yes" to One Answer Only, if applicable)	
21. a. At least 75 percent of the ranch/livestock operation.	15
21. b. At least 50 percent of the ranch/livestock operation.	10
21. c. Less than 50 percent of the ranch/livestock operation.	5
State Category Twenty-Two Ranking Criteria – DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION: Excessive Plant Pest Pressure California State-listed Noxious Weeds web link: http://plants.usda.gov/java/noxious?rptType=State&statefips=06 (Select "Yes," if applicable)	
22. a. On associated agricultural lands or the farmstead, conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations will manage critical state-listed (A,B, or C) or noxious weeds identified by the County Agricultural Commissioner or Weed Management Group using chemical, biological, or mechanical control methods or a combination thereof to effectively treat the weed populations on non-cropped areas within the treatment unit.	15
State Category Twenty-Three Ranking Criteria – DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION: Excessive Plant Pest Pressure (Select “Yes,” if applicable)	
23. a. On pastureland, conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations will address noxious or invasive weed species through any combination of herbicide, biological, targeted grazing, and/or mechanical treatments.	15
State Category Twenty-Four Ranking Criteria – DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION: Excessive Plant Pest Pressure On rangeland, conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations will address noxious or invasive weed species through any combination of herbicide, biological, targeted grazing, and/or mechanical treatments on – (Select "Yes" to One Answer Only, if applicable)	
24. a. At least 75 percent of the ranch/livestock operation.	15
24. b. At least 50 percent of the ranch/livestock operation.	10
24. c. Less than 50 percent of the ranch/livestock operation.	5
State Category Twenty-Five Ranking Criteria – DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION: Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health (Select ‘Yes’ to All Applicable Answers)	
25. a. On cropland, conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations includes a seasonal high tunnel which will assist the producer to extend the growing season of seasonal crops.	5
25. b. On cropland, conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations includes a seasonal high tunnel which will assist the producer to grow plants in areas where they are not typically suited or adapted to grow.	5

State Category Twenty-Six Ranking Criteria – INADEQUATE HABITAT FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE: Habitat Degradation Food, Water, Cover/Shelter, Habitat Continuity/Space is evaluated using either the Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG) or Pollinator Habitat Assessment (PHA). The 'planned' assessment score must be greater than or equal to 0.5 (>=0.5) for the WHEG or greater than or equal to 90 points (=>90 points) for the PHA. (Select "Yes" to One Answer Only, if applicable)	
26. a. Fish or wildlife habitat improvements in the EQIP schedule of operations directly benefit Federal or State threatened, endangered, rare, proposed, candidate, fully protected and selected species (selected species included: Tricolored blackbird, Western burrowing owl, Foothill yellow-legged frog, Steelhead, Western pond turtle and pollinators) and the WHEG or PHA the 'planned assessment score is met.	15
26. b. Fish or wildlife habitat improvements in the EQIP schedule of operations directly benefit habitat for Species of Special Concern (as identified in Section II under Special Environmental Concerns) animals and the WHEG or PHA the 'planned assessment score is met.	10
State Category Twenty-Seven Ranking Criteria – LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION LIMITATION: Inadequate Livestock Water (Select "Yes," if applicable)	
27. a. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations results in reliable, clean livestock water where access to off-stream water was previously limited. The livestock be available to livestock through a tank/trough system not creeks, ponds, springs or wetlands.	20
State Category Twenty-Eight Ranking Criteria – INEFFICIENT ENERGY USE: Equipment and Facilities Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations includes conservation practices that will result in: (Select "Yes" to One Answer Only, if applicable)	
28. a. at least 30 percent or greater reduction in energy use.	5
28. b. at least 20 percent reduction in energy use.	3
28. c. at least 10 percent reduction in energy use.	1
State Category Twenty-Nine Ranking Criteria – INEFFICIENT ENERGY USE: Farming/Ranching and Field Operations (Select "Yes," if applicable)	
29. a. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations results in implementation of farming, ranching, and field operations practices that result in at least 10 percent reduction in energy use. Practices include those that state "reduce energy use" in the purpose section of the standard.	5
Local Issues Addressed	1432
Issue Questions	Point(s)
Local Category One Ranking Criteria – Conservation Activity Plan 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 state 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 state level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	10

Local Category Two Ranking Criteria – Diversified Farms Resource Priorities (Select "Yes," if applicable)	
2. a. Conservation treatments in the EQIP schedule of operations addresses at least one of the resource concerns identified for the diversified farms tribal fund pool and applicable state ranking criteria have been answered 'yes' in the state section of the application evaluation ranking tool (AERT).	10