

**Plan of Operations for the “Implementing Education, Outreach, and Conservation Practices on Tribal Land for Socially Disadvantaged Producers and Alaska Tribal Conservation Districts” RCPP**

Through RCPP, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) offers financial assistance to agricultural producers to implement on-farm conservation practices. Eligible land is determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and is based on an identified resource concern. Eligible producers may apply for financial assistance on conservation practices that will address the identified resource concerns in the project area.

**Eligible Project Area:** Producers located within the project area are eligible to participate in the project’s EQIP sign-up. The conservation practice(s) identified in the application must be located within the project area to be eligible for financial assistance consideration through the RCPP-EQIP sign-up.

**Eligible Land Uses. The following land uses are potentially eligible:**

- Forest Land
- Associated Ag.

**Eligible Practices and Payment Rates:** Listed below are the practices eligible for the project. Practice [payment rates](#) can be viewed on the NRCS web site.

383	Fuel Break
384	Woody Residue Treatment
660	Tree/Shrub Pruning

**Eligible Resource Concerns:**

Degraded Plant Condition	
	Wildfire hazard, Excessive Biomass Accumulation
	Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health

**Application Period:** Applications may be submitted at any time and those received by May 26, 2020 will be evaluated for funding consideration.

Interested applicants may apply in person at the local USDA Service Center. Applicants may also request RCPP-EQIP assistance by telephone, FAX, e-mail, or letter. Applicants may locate their local office using this link:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ak/contact/local/>

**Funding Pools:** Applications will be placed in the Implementing Education, Outreach, and Conservation RCPP fund pool.

**Ranking:** All rankings will be conducted in the Conservation Application Ranking Tool (CART). States must use the efficiency score calculated in the CART ranking when a tie

breaker is needed between one or more applications. When using the tie breaker, NRCS will select the application with the highest efficiency score first.

The following ranking questions will be evaluated in CART:

Program Questions (Must not exceed 200 points)

1. Does the practice schedule implement practices to reduce wildlife hazard for lands in the forest stewardship plan? (200 points)

Resource Questions (Must not exceed 200 points)

1. Does the practice schedule address a wildfire hazard or excessive biomass accumulation for lands identified and inventoried in an existing forest management plan? (yes/no) (100 points)
2. Does the application include practice(s) to address a plant productivity and health resource concern for lands identified and inventoried in an existing forest management plan? (yes/no) (50 points)
3. Does the application include practice(s) to improve plant productivity and health through reduced incidence of wildfire for lands identified and inventoried in an existing forest management plan?? (yes/no) (50 points)

**Funding:** Available RCPP-EQIP funds will be allocated based on the numerical ranking system set forth on the web site. All ranking will be conducted in ProTracts. If insufficient funds are available to fund all eligible applicants, applications will be held and may be funded with extra RCPP-EQIP funds received later during the fiscal year or deferred to the next ranking period.