

## Ranking Tool Summary

### for FY2018 - Wildlife-Wildlife Habitat Management

#### National Priorities:

Questions:

| Number | Question                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Points |
|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| 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    |
| 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     |
| 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     |
| 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 (CO <sub>2</sub> ), methane (CH <sub>4</sub> ), and nitrous oxide (N <sub>2</sub> O)?                                                                                | 10     |
| 4      | d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?                                                                                                                                                                                                | 10     |
| 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     |
| 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     |
| 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     |
| 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     |
| 9      | a. Enhancement of existing conservation practice(s) or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is received?                                                                                                                                | 10     |
|        | Total Points                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 500    |

## State Issues:

### Questions:

| Sub-heading Number                  | Question Number | Question                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Points |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| 1                                   |                 | The application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) the agency will assign ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1.1 will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the State priority category. |        |
|                                     | 1               | The program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer "Yes" do not answer any other state level questions if answer "No" proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.                                                                                                    | 300    |
| 2                                   |                 | Comprehensive Wildlife Land use Plan                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |        |
|                                     | 1               | Site has a comprehensive wildlife management plan developed by a natural resource professional with defined wildlife objectives which addresses all habitat types on the site. (Answer Yes to 1 of 2.1-2.3)                                                                                                                                           | 80     |
|                                     | 2               | Site has a wildlife management plan that addresses only one wildlife species OR only one habitat type. (Answer Yes to 1 of 2.1-2.3)                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 40     |
|                                     | 3               | Site does NOT have a wildlife management plan that meets either question 2.1 or 2.2 above. (Answer Yes to 1 of 2.1-2.3)                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 0      |
| 3                                   |                 | Potential for Resource Development or Improvement                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |        |
|                                     | 1               | Establishment of habitat is being addressed. (Answer Yes to one of 3.1 - 3.2)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 40     |
|                                     | 2               | Enhancement of existing habitat type is being addressed. (Answer Yes to one of 3.1 - 3.2)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 20     |
| 4                                   |                 | Inadequate Habitat Cover/Shelter- Size of Project Area                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |        |
|                                     | 1               | Size of planned project is > 100 acres. (Answer Yes to 1 of 4.1-4.5)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 80     |
|                                     | 2               | Size of planned project is > 51 - 100 acres. (Answer Yes to 1 of 4.1-4.10)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 55     |
|                                     | 3               | Size of planned project is > 11 - 50 acres. (Answer Yes to 1 of 4.1-4.5)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 35     |
|                                     | 4               | Size of planned project is > 6 - 10 acres. (Answer Yes to 1 of 4.1-4.5)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 20     |
|                                     | 5               | Size of planned project is <= 5 acres. (Answer Yes to 1 of 4.1-4.5)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 0      |
| 5                                   |                 | Privately Owned land under a Conservation Easement                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |        |
|                                     | 1               | Project will be applied to land that is under a permanent Conservation Easement.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 30     |
| 6                                   |                 | Contribution to Resource Management System                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |        |
|                                     | 1               | The Agreement will contribute to applying the planned Resource Management System for the property.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 30     |
| 7                                   |                 | Habitat Continuity Space                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |        |
|                                     | 1               | A patch of >40 acres of a similar habitat type is within the identified distance for the taxonomic group identified in the comprehensive wildlife management plan (see attached taxonomic group table)                                                                                                                                                | 40     |
| Maximum Points: 300    Total Points |                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 770    |

## Local Issues:

### Questions:

| Sub-heading Number | Question Number | Question                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Points |
|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| 1                  |                 | The application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) the agency will assign ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1.1 will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the Local priority category. |        |
|                    | 1               | The program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer "Yes" do not answer any other Local level questions if answer "No" proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.                                                                                                    | 350    |
| 2                  |                 | Geographic Priority Area                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |        |
|                    | 1               | Application site is within Priority Area 1 (>7) of the High Opportunity Area for Cooperative Conservation Actions as identified in the Iowa Wildlife Action Plan. (Answer Yes to 1 of 2.1-2.4)                                                                                                                                                        | 110    |
|                    | 2               | Application site is within Priority Area 2 (4-6) of the High Opportunity Area for Cooperative Conservation Actions as identified in the Iowa Wildlife Action Plan. (Answer Yes to 1 of 2.1-2.4)                                                                                                                                                       | 70     |
|                    | 3               | Application site is within Priority Area 3 (1-3) of the High Opportunity Area for Cooperative Conservation Actions as identified in the Iowa Wildlife Action Plan. (Answer Yes to 1 of 2.1-2.4)                                                                                                                                                       | 35     |
|                    | 4               | Application site is not within any of the High Opportunity Areas for Cooperative Conservation Actions as identified in the Iowa Wildlife Action Plan. (Answer Yes to 1 of 2.1-2.4)                                                                                                                                                                    | 0      |
| 3                  |                 | Eco-regional Resource Priorities                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |        |
|                    | 1               | EQIP application practices address Ecoregion specific priority habitat needs as stated in the Iowa Wildlife Action Plan. (See attached IWAP Ecoregions and identified priority habitat needs)                                                                                                                                                         | 50     |
| 4                  |                 | Pollinators                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |        |
|                    | 1               | The site is verified by a resource professional in writing with the application as providing habitat benefiting native pollinators Y continue to Questions 4.3 – 4.5.                                                                                                                                                                                 | 0      |
|                    | 2               | The site is not verified by a resource professional in writing with the application as providing habitat benefiting native pollinators.                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 0      |
|                    | 3               | A minimum of 80% of the site is greater than 120 feet from areas treated with pesticides.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 20     |
|                    | 4               | At a minimum the site has 3 species of flower plants in each of the three seasons (Spring, Summer, Fall) of which a minimum of 2 are species of milkweed, one native legume and one native bunch grass or clump-forming sedge.                                                                                                                        | 20     |
|                    | 5               | Site has a minimum of 45% native pollinator food resource                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 20     |
| 5                  |                 | Wetlands                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |        |
|                    | 1               | Wetland project is within a Prairie Pothole Joint Venture (PPJV) Priority Area AND within 1 mile of a permanently protected area. EQIP funds are not to be used for the construction of ponds or improvement to impoundments. (Answer Yes to 1 of 5.1-5.4)                                                                                            | 110    |
|                    | 2               | Wetland project is within a PPJV Priority area. EQIP funds are not to be used for the construction of ponds or improvement to impoundments. (Answer Yes to 1 of 5.1-5.4)                                                                                                                                                                              | 55     |

|   |   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |     |
|---|---|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
|   | 3 | Wetland project is within 1 mile of a permanently protected area outside a PPJV Priority Area or is identified as a fen. EQIP funds are not to be used for the construction of ponds or improvement to impoundments. (Answer Yes to 1 of 5.1-5.4)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 30  |
|   | 4 | Wetland project is not within a priority area. EQIP funds are not to be used for the construction of ponds or improvement to impoundments. (Answer Yes to 1 of 5.1-5.4)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 0   |
| 6 |   | Species of Concern                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |     |
|   | 1 | Site is verified by a resource professional in writing with the application as providing habitat for an animal State or Federal Threatened, Endangered, or Candidate Species AND the practices and management planned and applied to the site will improve habitat for that identified species. (Attach a list with specie(s) name(s) and a copy of what the habitat improvement will be.) (Answer Yes to 1 of 6.1-6.2)                                                                                            | 10  |
|   | 2 | Site is verified by a resource professional in writing with the application as providing habitat for an animal listed as a Species of Greatest Conservation Need as identified in the Iowa Wildlife Action Plan or USFWS Region 3 list of birds of conservation concern AND the practices and management planned and applied to the site will improve habitat for that identified species. (Attach a list with specie(s) name(s) and a copy of what the habitat improvement will be.) (Answer Yes to 1 of 6.1-6.2) | 7   |
| 7 |   | Habitat Continuity                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |     |
|   | 1 | Application is for a group project where two or more adjacent landowners are applying practices to the same habitat resource.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 5   |
|   | 2 | Application site is adjacent to (contiguous with) a site under the ownership of a public or non-governmental organization or the adjacent site is protected by a conservation easement.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 5   |
|   |   | Maximum Points: 350    Total Points                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 897 |