

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary Musselshell River Watershed Resiliency

Program:	Ranking Date:	Application Number:
Ranking Tool: Musselshell River Watershed Resiliency		Applicant:
Final Ranking Score:		Address:
Planner:		Telephone:
Farm Location:		

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
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.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a "non-impaired water body"?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)	
3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Soil Health – Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Energy Conservation – Will the proposed project reduce energy use by: (select all that apply)	
8. a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Will the applicant implement conservation practices through an EQIP contract that address the resource concern - Insufficient Water- Inefficient use of Irrigation water and will result in at least a 10% increase in efficiency as defined by running FIRI?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. Will the applicant implement conservation practices through an EQIP contract that address the resource concern Livestock production limitation- Inadequate feed and forage?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. Will the applicant implement conservation practices through an EQIP contract that address the resource concern Degraded plant conditions - Undesirable plant productivity and health and/or inadequate structure and composition? For range and forestland only.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. Will the applicant implement conservation practices through an EQIP contract that improves the Soil Condition Index (SCI) from a negative value to a positive value using WEPS that addresses the resource concern Soil Quality Degradation- Organic matter depletion and/or Compaction?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. Will the applicant implement conservation practices through an EQIP contract that address the resource concern Inadequate Habitat for Fish and Wildlife- Inadequate Habitat- Food, Inadequate Habitat-Water or Inadequate cover/shelter and Inadequate Habitat- Continuity?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. Is the project located within a ½ mile of a water body listed on the MT DEQ 303d list and within the same watershed, AND will the applicant implement conservation practices that will reduce an impairment identified by the Montana DEQ as a cause for the identified water body not supporting a designated beneficial use? https://iaspub.epa.gov/tmdl/attains_state.control? p_state=MT&p_cycle=&p_report_type=T	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. Will the applicant implement conservation practices through an EQIP contract that address the resource concern Water Quality-Degradation-excess nutrients in surface and ground waters?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. Will the applicant implement conservation practices through an EQIP contract that address the resource concern Soil Erosion – Sheet, rill and wind and/or Concentrated flow erosion in the field?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Does the application include all practices required to meet the RMS level on all land uses within the operation?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. Will the planned cropping system implement a reduced tillage or no till system on all acres within the operation?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. Will Cover Crop be contracted on any of the acres in the application?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. Does the project result in the conversion of a flood irrigation system to a sprinkler irrigation system where the water saved will remain in the Musselshell River?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Will IWM be contracted? If so, which level of IWM will be contracted? (select one)	
5. Advanced?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. Intermediate?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. Basic?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
How many carbon sequestering practices from the following list will be contracted? Residue and tillage management, cover crop, forage and biomass planting, range planting, windbreaks and shelterbelts? (select one answer)	
8. 3 or more practices?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
9. 2 practices?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
10. 1 practice?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Is the contracted area located? (select one)	
11. Within a half mile of the Musselshell?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
12. From 1/2 mile to within 1 mile of Musselshell?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Land Use:

Resource Concerns	Practices
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Ranking Score

Efficiency: Local Issues: State Issues: National Issues: Final Ranking Score:
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This ranking report is for your information. It does not in any way guarantee funding. When funding becomes available, you will be notified if your application is selected for funding. Some changes to the application may be required before a final contract is awarded.

Notes:

NRCS Representative: Signature Date:	Applicant Signature Not Required on this report for Contract Development unless required by State policy: Signature Date:
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