

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary

Yellowstone Region Ag Sustainability Project

Program:	Ranking Date:	Application Number:
Ranking Tool: Yellowstone Region Ag Sustainability Project		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	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?	
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. Does the proposed project lie in an 8-digit watershed listed on the 303(d)-list AND does the application propose to address a water quality criteria that is listed as an impairment for the stream reach? If the project lies within the reservation boundaries, does the water course and designation continue through the reservation and will the water quality impairment be directly affected? http://svc.mt.gov/deq/wmaDST/default.aspx?requestor=DST&type=CWAIC&CycleYear=2012	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. Does the application include the conversion of a flood irrigation system to a sprinkler system where none of the corners will be flood irrigated (corners can be sprinkler irrigated)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. Does the application include the conversion of a flood irrigation system to a sprinkler system where all of the corners will be converted to dryland?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. Does the application include the conversion of a flood irrigation system to a sprinkler system where all of the corners will be converted to dryland and pollinator habitat will be planted.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. Will the application result in less water being diverted from a dewatered stream reach identified in the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Dewatered Stream list based on an NRCS-approved design? Water savings must be at the diversion point.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. Will a fish screen be contracted for installation at the diversion point on a stream?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. Does the application result in an improving soil health condition from the benchmark condition as determined from the Soil Condition Index (SCI) worksheet (System must result in an SCI of >0.00 on the offered acres) OR will the proposed plan meet the threshold value for the Montana Crop Diversity Tool value of 0.3?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. Does the application include planned practices that will address at least one or more inadequate habitat requirement for fish and wildlife? (quantity or quality of food and/or cover/shelter)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Select the resource concerns identified during the inventory process that will be addressed through practices proposed in this application. The resource assessment must document how the resource was determined to be a concern (visual assessment, volume Calculation, FIRI, irrigation records, soil tests, etc). Select all that apply	
9. Soil Erosion - Sheet, Rill, Wind, and/or Concentrated Flow Erosion	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
10. Soil Condition - Organic Matter Depletion	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
11. Excess/Insufficient Water - Inefficient Use of Irrigation Water	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
12. Water Quality - Excess Nutrients in surface and ground water	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
The eFOTG lists essential practices for Irrigated lands under each land-use. Answer only the questions that apply.	
13. Will Irrigation Water Management (449) be contracted on additional acres?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
14. Will 328 Conservation Crop Rotation, 590 Nutrient Management, AND Residue Management (345 or 329) will be contracted? All three must be in application to be eligible for points.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
15. Will 328 Conservation Crop Rotation, 590 Nutrient Management, and/or Residue Management (345	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

or 329)?	
16. Will Forage Harvest Management (511) be contracted?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
17. Will Prescribed Grazing (528) be contracted?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Select all that apply.	
18. Does the application include the conversion from a pumped irrigation system to a piped gravity flow system? No pumps can be included for payment in the contract to receive these points; however, a 15 HP booster pump is allowable in the system as long as there is an overall 50% decrease in HP requirements.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
19. Does the application include irrigation system improvements that will decrease the required pump size by 10 HP or more?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Select one of the following.	
20. Does the application include an irrigation project that will increase irrigation efficiency by at least 15% as calculated in FIRI according to an NRCS-approved design?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
21. Does the application include an irrigation project that will increase irrigation efficiency by at least 20% as calculated in FIRI according to an NRCS-approved design?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
22. Does the application include an irrigation project that will improve irrigation efficiency by at least 25% as calculated in FIRI according to an NRCS-approved design?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Does the application include practices addressing all identified resource concerns on all irrigated cropland within the operation?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Does the implementation of practices in this application improve soil health from the benchmark condition? (Crop types=cool season grass, cool season broadleaf, warm season grass, warm season broadleaf). Select one of the following:	
2. Will the system be a continuous cropping system with the addition of 1 crop type or cover crop?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. Will the system be a continuous cropping system with the addition of 2 crop types or cover crops?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. Will the system be a continuous cropping system with the addition of 3 crop types or cover crops?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
For annual non-root crops in rotation: Will practices in this application result in a planned STIR value decrease of at least 50 less than the STIR of the current rotation? If so, choose one of the following:	
5. Will the STIR for the planned rotation be greater than or equal to 80?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. Will the STIR for the planned rotation be greater than 20 but less than 80?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. Will the STIR for the planned rotation be less than or equal to 20?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
For annual root crops in rotation: Will practices in this application result in planned crop interval STIR value decrease of at least 50 over the current crop interval STIR value during the root crop interval? If so, choose one of the following: (only answer for the STIR during the root crop interval)	
8. Will the crop interval STIR value for row crops (e.g. beets) be less than or equal to 40, and will there be no full width tillage in the rest of the rotation? (e.g. no ridging in previous crop year, or subsoiling after beet harvest)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
9. Will the crop interval STIR value for row crops (e.g. beets) be between 40 and 55, and will there be no full width tillage in the rest of the rotation? (e.g. no ridging in previous crop year, or subsoiling after beet harvest)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
10. Will the crop interval STIR value for row crops (e.g. beets) be greater than 55 but less than 81?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
SCI	
11. Will the implementation of practices in this application improve the Soil Conditioning Index (SCI) from a negative to a positive value?	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:

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: