Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary
Gunnison-Dolores WS - Grazingland Health

Program: EQIP 2014	**Ranking Date:**
Ranking Tool: Gunnison-Dolores WS - Grazingland Health	
Final Ranking Score:	
Planner:	
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.	250 Point(s)
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 Point(s)
2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	10 Point(s)
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 Point(s)
2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a "non-impaired water body"?	10 Point(s)
2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	10 Point(s)
Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)	

3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.	15 Point(s)
3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	10 Point(s)
3. c.Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	10 Point(s)
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 Point(s)
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 Point(s)
4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?	10 Point(s)
4. c.Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?	10 Point(s)
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	10 Point(s)
Soil Health:– Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	10 Point(s)
5. b.Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	10 Point(s)
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 Point(s)
6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?	10 Point(s)
6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	10 Point(s)
6. d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	10 Point(s)

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 Point(s)
7. b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	10 Point(s)
Energy Conservation– Will the proposed project reduce energy use by: (select all that apply)	
8. a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	10 Point(s)
8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	10 Point(s)
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 Point(s)

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
Maintaining Grasslands	
1. Is the project to be installed on land that has been withdrawn or expired from CRP (or will be in the next year), and will it facilitate keeping the land in grassland instead of being annually cropped?	50 Point(s)
2. Will the contracted practice(s) result in perennial vegetation establishment on lands that had previously been used for annual crop production?	50 Point(s)
Type of Grazing System. Answer only ONE of the following questions (3 - 6), if applicable.	
3. Through this contract, will participant implement a grazing management plan to facilitate a high intensity, short duration rotational grazing management system?	150 Point(s)
4. Through this contract, will participant implement a grazing management plan to facilitate a rest-rotation grazing management system?	100 Point(s)
5. Through this contract, will participant implement a grazing management plan to facilitate a deferred rotation grazing management system?	75 Point(s)

6. Through this contract, will participant implement a grazing management plan to facilitate a switchback grazing management system?	50 Point(s)
Water Quality	
7. Will the contracted practice(s) result in accelerated and/or vegetative measures that increase plant diversity and/or control soil erosion on or around waterbodies and riparian areas?	30 Point(s)
Adequate Water	
8. Will the contracted practice(s) result in improved grazing distribution with the installation of permanent water sources with spacing based on terrain and travel distance?	30 Point(s)
9. Will the contracted practice(s) result in improved grazing distribution with the installation of cross fences?	30 Point(s)
Other	
10. If selected for funding, will this be the applicant's first EQIP implementation contract?	20 Point(s)
11. Are contracted acres involved with a formal Coordinated Resource Management Plan (CRMP) or Area-wide Plan?	20 Point(s)
12. Will the contract result in applying a Resource Management System for the Conservation Management Unit (CMU)?	20 Point(s)

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
Grazing system. Answer only ONE of the following questions (1-2), if applicable.	
1. Will the contract include a grazing management plan with adequate fencing and livestock water to facilitate a rest-rotation system or deferred–rotation (3-4 pastures)?	80 Point(s)
2. Will the contract include a grazing management plan with adequate fencing and livestock water to facilitate a high-intensity short-duration system (5 or more pastures)?	100 Point(s)
Answer any of the following questions (3-7), if applicable.	
3. Are the contracted acres involved with a coordinated resource management plan with other federal or state agencies?	30 Point(s)

4. Does the proposed contract include practices to improve grazing land health by increasing plant diversity with the re-establishment (planting) of native forbes, grasses and/or shrubs on native rangeland?	30 Point(s)
5. Does the proposed contract include practices to improve grazing land health by increasing plant diversity with the establishment (planting) of introduced plant species on pasture?	30 Point(s)
6. Does the proposed contract include practices to improve grazing land health by increasing plant health and vigor with the application of brush management?	30 Point(s)
7. Does the proposed contract improve grazed pasture health and vigor with the installation of irrigation structures or gated pipe?	30 Point(s)

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.