

**Natural Resources Conservation Service
Application Ranking Summary
LPCI**

Program: EQIP 2014	Ranking Date:
Ranking Tool: LPCI	
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
1. Is there a documented lek on or within 2 miles of the offered acres that will be under contract if approved? (If the lek is located on the applicant's operation they must be willing to share this information with NRCS in order to receive points).	100 Point(s)
2. Will the offered acres include expired or expiring (this calendar year) Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres that will be maintained, enhanced, and or established to LEPC habitat? These acres must be managed under Conservation Practice Standard 645 Upland Wildlife Habitat Management.	100 Point(s)
3. Will the offered acres include treatment of woody vegetation to improve LEPC habitat?	100 Point(s)
4. Will the offered acres include cropland or noncropland acres that will be converted to LEPC habitat to address a need identified in the Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG)?	25 Point(s)
5. Will a prescribed burn plan promoting LEPC habitat be applied under contract?	50 Point(s)

6. Is the application supported by a current (less than 5 years old) approved NRCS conservation plan that addresses LEPC concerns?	25 Point(s)
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Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
Extent Addressed. Will implementation of the proposed project: answer only ONE of the following questions (1-7). Use the Lesser Prairie Chicken WHEG overall HSI improvement score (FOTG, Section I, Bio. Tech Note 40). If using more than WHEG on the project area, use a weighted average. *at least one threat must be addressed to be eligible for this initiative (HSI improvement score cannot be zero).	
1. Increase the overall Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) by 0.7 - 1.0?	100 Point(s)
2. Increase the overall Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) by 0.6?	70 Point(s)
3. Increase the overall Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) by 0.5?	60 Point(s)
4. Increase the overall Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) by 0.4?	50 Point(s)
5. Increase the overall Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) by 0.3?	30 Point(s)
6. Increase the overall Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) by 0.2?	20 Point(s)
7. Increase the overall Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) by 0.1?	10 Point(s)
Amount of Lesser Prairie Chicken habitat under control of the applicant that will be treated by proposed project: answer only ONE of the following questions (8-11).	
8. Project will enhance or restore 100% of the existing or potential lesser prairie-chicken habitat which is under the control of the applicant?	50 Point(s)
9. Project will enhance or restore 50-99% of the existing or potential lesser prairie chicken habitat which is under the control of the applicant?	30 Point(s)
10. Project will enhance or restore less than 50% of the existing or potential lesser prairie chicken habitat which is under the control of the applicant?	10 Point(s)
Percent of identified threats treated by the proposed project. Answer only ONE of the following questions (12-15). Refer to Colorado Threats Checklist that is applicable to the priority area the project is in.	

11. Does the project address 100% of the threats identified for lesser prairie chicken in the project location?	50 Point(s)
12. Does the project address 75-99% of the threats identified for lesser prairie chicken in the project location?	40 Point(s)
13. Does the project address 50-74% of the threats identified for lesser prairie chicken in the project location?	30 Point(s)
14. Does the project address less than 50% of the threats identified for lesser prairie chicken in the project location?	10 Point(s)
Answer any of the following questions (16-19), if applicable.	
15. Will the project include establishing or promoting forb cover and diversity (LPC brood habitat) on greater than 5% of the offered acres?	10 Point(s)
16. Will the proposed project restore previously converted (pasture, hay, cropland, etc.) back to sand sagebrush habitat?	10 Point(s)
17. Defer grazing on more than 25% of the offered acres, for at least two years to develop LPC nesting habitat? Using practices 472 or 528 with a deferment schedule.	10 Point(s)
18. Collaboration - Will the proposed project be involved with a formal Coordinated Resource Management Plan (CRMP) or Area-wide Plan?	20 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.