

**Application Ranking Summary
Forestland**

Program: EQIP 2014
Ranking Tool: Forestland

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions
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.
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)?
2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?
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)?
2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a “non-impaired water body”?
2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?
Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)
3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.
3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?
3. c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?
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?
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?
4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?
4. c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?
Soil Health:– Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil “T”)?
5. b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?
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.
6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?
6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?
6. d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?
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?
7. b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?
Energy Conservation– Will the proposed project reduce energy use by: (select all that apply)
8. a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?
8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?
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?

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions
Answer "Yes" or "No" to the following questions:
1. a. Planned EQIP practice(s) include installing buffers on perennial or intermittent streams, wetland, sinkholes, or permanent waterbodies and/or excluding livestock access to streams or forestland.
1. b. Will the practice benefit federally listed threatened or endangered species?
1. c. Will forest stand improvement be planned within the forestland bird conservation area?
1. d. Application includes planned forest stand improvement to improve forest health species diversity and/or planned treatment of eroding areas on forest land.
1. e. For operations of 10 acres or more, the applicant has a current Agriculture Water Quality Act Plan (AWQA), or for forestland, a Forest Stewardship or Forest Management Plan (CAP 106) that includes the Best Management Practices (BMPs) or land unit for which they are requesting financial assistance.

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions
Answer "Yes" or "No" to the following questions:
1. a. Does the tract being treated need some kind of forest stand improvement completed?
1. b. Does the tract include the need for treatment of a forest health issue (i.e. invasive species, non-native or exotic species?)
1. c. Does this application include excluding grazing from woodland with a minimum 30 ft setback?
1. d. Does the tract have adequate regeneration present within the stand?
1. e. Does this application include treatment acres that have been harvested in the past 5-10 years?
1. f. Does this application include treatment acres for reforestation or afforestation?

Land Use:

Associated Agriculture Land;

Forest;

Pasture;

Resource Concerns
Degraded Plant Condition: Excessive Plant Pest Pressure
Degraded Plant Condition: Inadequate Structure and Composition
Degraded Plant Condition: Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health
Degraded Plant Condition: Wildfire Hazard, Excessive Biomass Accumulation
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Habitat Continuity (Space)
Soil Erosion: Classic Gully Erosion
Soil Erosion: Ephemeral Gully Erosion
Water Quality Degradation: Excessive Sediment in Surface Water

Practices
Access Control
Brush Management
Fence
Forest Stand Improvement
Herbaceous Weed Control
Road/Trail/Landing Closure and Treatment
Tree/Shrub Establishment
Tree/Shrub Site Preparation
Woody Residue Treatment