

*Ranking Tool Summary*  
**for FY2017 - Wildlife-Riverine Habitat**  
(Draft)

**National Priorities:**

Questions:

Number	Question	Points
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
2	a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?	15
2	b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	10
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
2	d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a "non-impaired water body"?	10
2	e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	10
3	a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.	15
3	b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	10
3	c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	10
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
4	a. Meeting on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	10
4	b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?	10
4	c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> ), methane (CH <sub>4</sub> ), and nitrous oxide (N <sub>2</sub> O)?	10
4	d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	10
5	a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	10
5	b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	10
6	a. Implementing practices benefitting threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern.	10
6	b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?	10
6	c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	10
6	d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	10
7	a. Implementing practices that result in the management control of noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	10
7	b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	10
8	a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	10
8	b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	10
9	a. Enhancement of existing conservation practice(s) or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is received?	10
	Total Points	500

## State Issues:

### Questions:

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
1		The application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) the agency will assign ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1.1 will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the State priority category.	
	1	The program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes" do not answer any other State level questions if answer "No" proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	300
2		Resource Management Plan	
	1	Stream segment is located on a property that has a RMS plan developed or reviewed by a natural resource professional that addresses all resources and has been > 90% applied for all resources. (Answer Yes to 1 of questions 2.1-2.5)	85
	2	Stream segment is located on a property that has RMS plan that is being actively applied, water quality BMP's are being used and soil erosion is controlled to T on > 90% of location. (Answer Yes to 1 of questions 2.1-2.5)	65
	3	Site has a RMS plan and soil erosion is controlled to T level on > 90% of land unit. (Answer Yes to 1 of questions 2.1-2.5)	45
	4	Site has no RMS plan but erosion is controlled to T on > 65% of land unit. (Answer Yes to 1 of questions 2.1-2.5)	30
	5	None of the above from questions 2.1-2.4. (Answer Yes to 1 of questions 2.1-2.5)	0
3		Potential Resource Improvement or Protection	
	1	Application is to treat all of the critical in-stream segment(s) and riparian area(s) on applicant's property that would benefit the targeted species. (Answer Yes to 1 of questions 3.1-3.6)	115
	2	Application is to treat one or more entire critical in-stream segment areas on the applicant property that would benefit the targeted species but not all segments. (Answer Yes to 1 of questions 3.1-3.6)	85
	3	Application is part of comprehensive plan that treats in-stream and riparian resources on more than one property. (Answer Yes to 1 of questions 3.1-3.6)	75
	4	Application is to treat only a portion of one or more critical in-stream segment and riparian areas on the applicant property but not the entire critical area. (Answer Yes to 1 of questions 3.1-3.6))	55
	5	Site treats either riparian zone or in-stream resources only. (Answer Yes to 1 of questions 3.1-3.6)	40
	6	None of the above from questions 3.1-3.5 applies for this application. (Answer Yes to 1 of questions 3.1-3.6)	0
4		Habitat Longevity	
	1	Project will be applied to land that is under a permanent conservation easement.	50
5		Planned resource management system	

	1	The agreement will contribute to applying the planned resource management system for the property.	50
Maximum Points: 300    Total Points			995

## Local Issues:

### Questions:

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
1		The application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) the agency will assign ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1.1 will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the Local priority category.	
	1	The program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes" do not answer any other Local level questions if answer "No" proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	350
2		Geographical Priority Area	
	1	Riparian sites located in either the Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Area or Topeka Shiner Critical Habitat or within IDNR recognized Class I cold water stream. (Answer Yes to one of questions 2.1 - 2.3)	80
	2	IDNR recognized site as a Class II cold water stream. (Answer Yes to one of questions 2.1 - 2.3)	40
	3	Project site is in neither of the above identified programs. (Answer Yes to one of questions 2.1 - 2.3)	0
3		State and Federal Wildlife Threatened and Endangered (T&E) or Species of Concern	
	1	Site is verified by a resource professional in writing with the application as providing habitat for an animal State or Federal Threatened, Endangered, or Candidate Species AND the practices and management planned and applied to the site will improve habitat for that identified species. Document in file the species name(s) and a copy of what the habitat improvement will be. (Answer Yes to one of questions 3.1 - 3.3 )	80
	2	Site is verified by a resource professional in writing with the application as providing habitat for an animal listed as a Species of Greatest Conservation Need as identified in the Iowa Wildlife Action Plan or USFWS Region 3 list of birds of conservation concern (website link) AND the practices and management planned and applied to the site will improve habitat for that identified species. (Attach a list with species name(s) and a copy of what the habitat improvement will be.) (Answer Yes to one of questions 3.1 - 3.3)	40
	3	Site is not one of above categories from questions 3.1-3.2	0
4		Potential for Resource Improvement or Protection	
	1	Site is located in a riparian area with either an existing or planned buffer of > 120 feet wide to protect the habitat improvements. (Answer Yes to one of questions 4.1 - 4.3)	110
	2	Site is located in a riparian area with either an existing or planned buffer of 50 – 120 feet wide to protect the habitat improvements. (Answer Yes to one of questions 4.1 - 4.3)	55

	3	Site is located in a riparian area with either an existing or planned buffer of < 50 feet wide to protect the habitat improvements. (Answer yes to one of the questions 4.1 – 4.3)	0
5		Habitat Continuity	
	1	Application is for a group project where two or more adjacent landowners are applying practices to the same habitat resource.	40
	2	Application site is adjacent to (contiguous with) a site under permanent protection by a conservation easement.	40
		Maximum Points: 350    Total Points	835