

Natural Resources Conservation Service

**Application Ranking Questions
EQIP NE/NY Forestry Initiative**

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
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 state level questions. If answer is “No”, proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section. Yes = 400 Points	400 Point(s)
2. Are the practices planned in this application located in one of the 2013 Forest Priority Areas: Quabbin to Cardigan or Upper Ammonoosuc/Israel River? Yes = 50 Points	50 Point(s)
3. Will at least 10 acres of Timber Stand Improvement be planned as outlined in a forest management plan? Yes = 100 Points	100 Point(s)
4. Early Successional Habitat Management- Will the planned practices maintain or create 5 continuous acres of young forest? Yes = 100 Points	100 Point(s)
5. Will riparian buffers be installed at least 35 feet wide? Yes = 100 Points	100 Point(s)
6. Will coarse woody material be added to first and second order streams to retain sediment and re-engage floodplains? Yes = 50 Points	50 Point(s)

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
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 local level questions. If answer is “No”, proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section. Yes = 250 Points	250 Point(s)
2. Will at least 1 ac of riparian forest buffer be installed through this contract? Yes = 75 Points	75 Point(s)
3. Will stream crossings be resized, repaired or removed? Yes = 50 Points	50 Point(s)
4. Will uneven age management techniques such as group selections, and regeneration harvests be planned to encourage a diversity of species and age classes? Yes = 50 Points	50 Point(s)
5. Will state listed invasive species be controlled by chemical and/or mechanical techniques? Yes = 30 Points	30 Point(s)

6. Is the land under contract protected by a perpetual conservation easement? Yes = 25 Points	25 Point(s)
7. Is the land under contract directly adjacent (must share a direct border) to land protected by a conservation easement or state/county/town owned conservation land? Yes = 10 Points	10 Point(s)
8. This contract does not include wildlife habitat management practices for which the applicant has previously received payments from NRCS. Yes = 10 Points	10 Point(s)