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Ranking Tool Summary for FY2016 - Scrub-Shrub Habitat (Draft)

Description:

Welcome to the Scrub-Shrub Bird habitat Wildlife RI Initiative

Land Uses:

Associated Agriculture Land, Forest, Other, Water

Efficiency Score:

Scoring Multiplier: 1.000

Optional Notes:

National Priorities:

Scoring Multiplier: 1.000

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 (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?	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,	10

	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?	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:

Scoring Multiplier: 0.620

Questions:

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
	1	Based upon RIGIS data, is the operation located in a watershed of drinking water supply reservoir including tributaries thereto, surface water quality or water conservation issues are being addressed with proposed practices? (the practice must be listed in the EQIP Handbook - Practices that have a positive effect on Surface Water Quality or Water Quantity")	32
	2	Based upon RIGIS data, is the operation located in a groundwater area mapped GAA or community wellhead and ground water quality or water conservation issues are being addressed with proposed practices? (the practice must be listed in the EQIP Handbook - Practices that have a positive effect on Surface Water Quality or Water Quantity)	20
	3	Based upon RIGIS data, is the operation located in a watershed of class SA waters impacted by agriculture and water quality issues are being addressed with proposed practices? (the practice must be listed in the EQIP Handbook - Practices that have a positive effect on Surface Water Quality or Water Quantity)	32
	4	Based upon the 2014 303d list is the operation located within 1000 feet of the impaired waterbody or having a direct hydrologic connection that is impaired by nutrients (dissolved oxygen or excessive algal growth), pesticides, turbidity or other agricultural pollutants such as bacteria/pathogens and the particular water quality issue(s)) is being addressed with proposed practices? (the practice must be listed in the EQIP Handbook - Practices that have a positive effect on Surface Water Quality or Water Quantity.)	32
	5	Is the site located within 1000 feet of a cold water fishery or Special Resource Protection Waters (SRPW) where conservation practices are being planned to improve and/or protect water quality, water quantity or other habitats related to SRPW designation? The practices must be listed in the EQIP Handbook - Practices that have a positive effect on Surface Water Quality or Water Quantity.)	32
	6	Will soil erosion or soil conservation practices have a positive effect on prime farmland soils or a soil of statewide importance as listed by Rhode Island NRCS? (the practice must be listed in the EQIP Handbook - Practices that have a positive effect on Soil Erosion or Soil Quality.)	32
	7	Are public areas (public roads, school, etc.) or non-farm residences	16

		contiguous to cropland where air quality practices will be implemented? The practices must be listed in the EQIP Handbook - Practices that have a positive effect on Air Quality.)	
	8	Will planned practices enhance protection and are within 1000 feet of T & E species or State listed species?	64
	9	Will planned practices address control of noxious and invasive species?	32
	10	Is the land permanently protected through a conservation easement, purchase of development rights or other mechanism?	16
	11	Has the applicant previously successfully addressed a resource concern?	16
	12	Will planned practices address water quality and/or water quantity resource concerns that are within 300 feet of a private well or other surface waters/wetlands/vernal pools? The planned practices must be listed in the EQIP Handbook - Practices that have a positive effect on Surface Water Quality or Water Quantity.	16
	13	Has the applicant previously developed a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) and is going to implement it under this contract?	32
	14	Will the project enhance or contribute to habitat connectivity and reduce fragmentation through this EQIP Contract?	32
		Maximum Points: Total Points	404

Local Issues:

Scoring Multiplier: 1.610

Questions:

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
1		Proposed Habitat Area	
	1	3 to 5 acres in size	25
	2	5 to 7 acres in size	75
	3	Greater than 7 acres in size	100
2		Is the proposed habitat area in close proximity to other scrub/shrub habitats, such as powerline rights-of-way, recently burned or harvested forest land, or old fields? Note: URI's GIS layer of scrub/shrub habitat can be used to assist in this determination	
	1	Existing scrub-shrub areas are located immediately adjacent to project area	25
	2	Existing scrub-shrub areas are located within 0.25 miles of project area	20
	3	Existing scrub-shrub areas further than 0.25 miles of project area	5
3		Is the proposed habitat area in close proximity to a riparian zone?	
	1	Within 300 feet of a river, stream, or pond	50
	2	Within 1,000 feet of a river, stream, or pond	30
	3	Greater than 1,000 feet away from a river, stream, or pond	20
4		Some shrubland birds prefer taller vegetation (>5 feet) with abundant shrub cover while others prefer lower (<5 feet) vegetation with fewer shrubs and abundant forb cover as foraging habitat. Is the proposed habitat area in close proximity to a grass/forb habitat patch that is at least one acre in size with at least 20 percent forbs?	
	1	Existing forb areas are located immediately adjacent to project area	25
	2	Existing forb areas are located within 0.25 miles of project area	20
	3	Existing forb areas further than 0.25 miles of project area	5
		Maximum Points: 250 Total Points	400

Selected Resource Concerns and Practices:

Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter

- Access Control (472)
- Access Road (560)
- Conservation Cover (327)
- Critical Area Planting (342)
- Early Successional Habitat Development/M (647)
- Filter Strip (393)
- Forest Site Preparation (490)
- Forest Stand Improvement (666)
- Forest Trails and Landings (655)
- Herbaceous Weed Control (315)
- Mulching (484)
- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
- Runoff Management System (570)
- Stream Crossing (578)
- Structures for Wildlife (649)
- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)

Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Food

- Access Control (472)
- Access Road (560)
- Conservation Cover (327)
- Critical Area Planting (342)
- Early Successional Habitat Development/M (647)
- Filter Strip (393)
- Forest Site Preparation (490)
- Forest Stand Improvement (666)
- Forest Trails and Landings (655)
- Herbaceous Weed Control (315)
- Mulching (484)
- Obstruction Removal (500)
- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
- Runoff Management System (570)
- Stream Crossing (578)
- Structures for Wildlife (649)
- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)

Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Habitat Continuity (Space)

- Access Control (472)
- Conservation Cover (327)
- Critical Area Planting (342)
- Early Successional Habitat Development/M (647)
- Filter Strip (393)
- Forest Site Preparation (490)
- Forest Stand Improvement (666)
- Herbaceous Weed Control (315)
- Mulching (484)
- Obstruction Removal (500)
- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
- Runoff Management System (570)
- Stream Crossing (578)
- Structures for Wildlife (649)
- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)

Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Water

- Access Control (472)
- Mulching (484)
- Obstruction Removal (500)
- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
- Stream Crossing (578)
- Structures for Wildlife (649)