

**Natural Resources Conservation Service
Application Ranking Summary
Gunnison-Dolores WS - Soil Health**

Program: EQIP 2014	Ranking Date:
Ranking Tool: Gunnison-Dolores WS - Soil Health	
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
Soil Condition. Answer only ONE of the following questions (1-3), if applicable.	
1. Does this contract include conversion from existing tillage operations to a No-till or Strip till system (329) on 75% or more of the contracted acres?	50 Point(s)
2. Does this contract include conversion from existing tillage operations to a No-till or Strip till system (329) on 50-74% of the contracted acres?	30 Point(s)
3. Does this contract include conversion from existing tillage operations to a No-till or Strip till system (329) on < 50% of the contracted acres?	10 Point(s)
Soil Condition	
4. Will the contracted practice(s) result in diversification of the cropping system?	50 Point(s)
5. Will the contracted practice(s) include Prescribed Grazing (528) to reduce accelerated soil erosion, and maintain or improve soil condition?	50 Point(s)

6. Will the contracted practice(s) include Waste Recycling (633) to protect or improve the quality of natural resources and the environment?	50 Point(s)
Soil Erosion	
7. Through this contract, will cover crops (CPS 340) be added to the crop rotation?	50 Point(s)
8. Will the contracted practice(s) result in establishment of perennial vegetation on lands that were annually cropped?	20 Point(s)
Nutrient Application. Answer only ONE of the following questions (9-11), if applicable.	
9. Does the contracted conservation treatment improve the application timing and method of nutrient application on > 75% of the contracted acres?	50 Point(s)
10. Does the contracted conservation treatment improve the application timing and method of nutrient application on 50 - 75% of the contracted acres?	30 Point(s)
11. Does the contracted conservation treatment improve the application timing and method of nutrient application on <50% of the contracted acres?	10 Point(s)
Soil Erodibility. Answer only ONE of the following questions (12-15), if applicable.	
12. Is the Erosion Factor (I divided by T) >30? (based on the 1/1/90 frozen HEL list)	40 Point(s)
13. Is the Erosion Factor (I divided by T) > 18 - 30? (based on the 1/1/90 frozen HEL list)	30 Point(s)
14. Is the Erosion Factor (I divided by T) 13 - 18? (based on the 1/1/90 frozen HEL list)	20 Point(s)
15. Is the Erosion Factor (I divided by T) < 12? (based on the 1/1/90 frozen HEL list)	10 Point(s)
Soil Erodibility	
16. Will the contracted practice(s) include Contour Buffer Strips (332) to reduce sheet and rill erosion?	15 Point(s)
17. Will the contracted practice(s) include Stripcropping (585) to reduce wind and water erosion?	15 Point(s)
Other	
18. If selected for funding, will this be the applicant's first EQIP implementation contract?	10 Point(s)

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
Irrigated (Answer either questions 1-8 or questions 9-13, but not both.)	
1. Will the diversity of the crop rotation increase and soil compaction be reduced by inclusion of cover crops or other cash crops into the rotation?	23 Point(s)
2. Will the participant plant a winter cover crop or perennial forage crop?	23 Point(s)
3. Will a multi-species cover crop be used to increase diversity of cover crop?	40 Point(s)
4. Will soil health on pasture/hayland be improved by rotating to a multi-species cover crop prior to re-establishment?	23 Point(s)
5. Will the contract have a nutrient management plan that credits nutrients from application of compost or manure?	40 Point(s)
6. a. Is the weighted Soil Erodibility (I, tons/acre) greater than or equal to 134? (Answer only ONE of questions 6a-6c, if applicable.)	20 Point(s)
6. b. Is the weighted Soil Erodibility (I, tons/acre) between 86 and 134? (Answer only ONE of questions 6a-6c, if applicable.)	30 Point(s)
6. c. Is the weighted Soil Erodibility (I, tons/acre) less than or equal to 86? (Answer only ONE of questions 6a-6c, if applicable.)	40 Point(s)
7. Will the contract include seeding to permanent native cover on idle cropland acreage in pivot corners?	21 Point(s)
8. Will the participant implement a conservation crop rotation with this contract which includes a variety of species (grasses, broadleaves, cool season, and warm season)? Only answer yes if the contracted acres are not currently in such a rotation.	40 Point(s)
Non-irrigated (Answer either questions 1-8 or questions 9-13, but not both.)	
9. Will the crop rotation intensity and soil compaction be reduced by inclusion of a fallow year with early-terminated cover crop?	25 Point(s)
10. a. Will contracted practices result in more than 50 percent of the non-irrigated cropland on contracted acres converted to perennial cover? (Answer only ONE of questions 10a-10c, if applicable.)	150 Point(s)

10. b. Will contracted practices result in 25-50 percent of the non-irrigated cropland rotation on contracted acres converted to perennial cover? (Answer only ONE of questions 10a-10c, if applicable.)	100 Point(s)
10. c. Will contracted practices result in less than 25 percent of the non-irrigated cropland rotation on contracted acres converted to perennial cover? (Answer only ONE of questions 10a-10c, if applicable.)	50 Point(s)
11. Will wind and/or water erosion be treated by reducing moldboard plowing and increasing crop residue cover over winter and during fallow years?	25 Point(s)
12. Will gully and/or ephemeral erosion be treated on slopes that exceed three percent?	25 Point(s)
13. Will severely eroding pastureland or rangeland be re-established on contracted acres?	25 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