

Natural Resources Conservation Service
Application Ranking Summary
FY16 Southwestern Willow Flycatcher

STRIKETHROUGH TEXT FOR
NATIONAL CRITERIA ARE NOT
APPLICABLE - DO NO ANSWER
THESE CRITERIA.

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Point(s)
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
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
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
Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)	
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
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
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
Soil Health: – Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	10
5. b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil till and structure?	10
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
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

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
7. b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	10
Energy Conservation – Will the proposed project reduce energy use by: (select all that apply)	
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
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
State Issues Addressed	
Issue Questions	Point(s)
Species Presence	
1. a. Is there credible verification of species occurrence (for example, photos, Heritage Database, USFWS, NRCS or State fish and wildlife agency documentation)? This should not be taken to imply that a site visit is required?	200
1. b. Based upon available species occurrence data and information, can the target species reasonably be assumed to occur within the offered area?	100
Distance to Known Populations	
2. a. The offered area shares a common border with an area with known populations of the target species.	50
2. b. The offered area is proximal to an area with a known population of the target species. Proximal means within the accepted normal species dispersal ability.	35
Scheduled Conservation Practices	
3. a. Will 75 percent or more of the practices be located within the “Focal Area”?	15
Local Issues Addressed	
Issue Questions	Point(s)
Local Category One – Grazing in Riparian Zone (Select “Yes” to One Answer Only, if applicable)	
1. a. No grazing occurs in the riparian area throughout the year.	50
1. b. Occasional grazing is allowed in the riparian area throughout the year except during the period of May 15 to August 15 with a prescribed grazing plan on the entire planning area.	25
1. c. Grazing in riparian areas occasionally occurs throughout the year with a prescribed grazing plan on the entire planning area.	15
Local Category Two – Hydrology can be described as one of the following: (Select “Yes,” if applicable)	
2. a. Hydrology is functional and nesting habitat can naturally develop once stressors are removed.	50
2. b. Hydrology is impaired but can be restored, and nesting habitat will likely be restored within the planning area.	25
Local Category Three – The floodplain width is, for side where conservation plan would occur, or average of both sides, if applicable: (Select “Yes,” if applicable)	
3. a. Greater than 300 feet wide	50
3. b. Between 200 to 300 feet wide	35
3. c. Between 100 to 200 feet wide	15
3. d. Between 30 to 100 feet wide	5
3. e. Less than 30 feet wide	0

Local Category Four – The Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG) overall score improvement is: (Select "Yes," if applicable)	
4. a. 0.2 or greater	50
Local Category Five – Habitat and planting in riparian areas can be described as one of the following: (Select "Yes" to One Answer Only, if applicable)	
5. a. Habitat is primarily composed of native plantings and vegetation with adequate water for establishment.	50
5b. Planned habitat is primarily native, with increased natives composition due to competitive release once invasives have been removed	35
5. c. Habitat is composed of native plantings and vegetation with minimal approved non-natives.	20
5. d. Habitat is primarily composed of approved non-natives.	5