

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Application Evaluation Ranking Tool (AERT)

State Questions

Natural Resources Conservation Service – Idaho

If the application is for the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign a significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering “Yes” to the following question.

1. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan? If answer is yes, do not answer any other State questions. If the answer is no, proceed with the evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.

Answer one of the following planning questions only if applicable to this application.

2. Was a progressive conservation plan developed to treat 30% or more of the identified resource concerns on the application acres prior to the application cutoff?
3. Was a Resource Management System (RMS) plan developed to treat the identified resource concerns on the application acres prior to the application cutoff?
4. Was a RMS conservation plan developed to treat the identified resource concerns on the entire agricultural operation prior to the application cut off?

Answer all of the following questions that apply to this application.

5. Will the planning criteria for Soil Erosion-Ephemeral Gully and/or Classic Gully be met with the installation of conservation practices in this application where it was not met on benchmark conditions?
6. Will the planning criteria for Water Quality-Excessive Nutrients and/or Excessive Sediment in surface water be met with the installation of conservation practices in this application where it was not met on benchmark conditions?
7. Will the planning criteria for Air Quality Impacts-Emissions of Particulate Matter and Objectionable Odors be met with the installation of a windbreak, shelterbelt, or tree planting?
8. Will the planning criteria for Degraded Plant Condition-Excessive Plant Pest Pressure be met through the use of Herbaceous Weed Control or Integrated Pest Management?
9. Will the planned practices reduce the risk of wildfires? E.g. Forest thinning, forest pruning, green strips, fire breaks, fuel breaks, prescribed burning
10. Will Nutrient Management be applied for 3 years?
11. Will Pest Management be applied for 3 years?

Cropland

12. Will the planned practices improve the soil condition index to meet or exceed the planning criteria?

Answer one of the next two questions on soil erosion reduction as a result of contract implementation. Use the appropriate NRCS tool for the erosion type being addressed. If multiple erosion types occur, use the most predominant.

13. Is the average soil loss reduced by more than 5 tons/acre?
14. Is the average soil loss reduced by less than 5 tons/acre?

Answer one of these two conservation tillage questions only if the practices are planned in the contract.

15. Will Residue Management-Mulch Till be contracted for 3 years?
16. Will Residue Management-No till/Strip till/Direct seed be contracted for 3 years?

Irrigated Land

17. Will the planning criteria for Soil Erosion – Sheet and Rill (Includes irrigation induced) and/or Wind Erosion be met with the installation of the conservation practices in this application where it was not met on benchmark conditions?
18. Will the planned conservation practices convert the existing irrigation system to a sprinkler irrigation system or to a drip irrigation system?
19. Will irrigation water management be applied for 3 years?

Answer one of the next three questions on reduction in gross water applied. Average for all acres in the application.

20. Is estimated reduction in gross water applied more than 21%
21. Is estimated reduction in gross water applied 12-21%
22. Is estimated reduction in gross water applied less than 12%?

Answer one of the next two questions if a gravity pressurized sprinkler system is planned for implementation in the contract.

23. Do the planned conservation practices include the installation of a 50 to 99% gravity pressurized sprinkler irrigation system? This can either be through improvement to an existing or the result of a new system installation?
24. Do the planned conservation practices include the installation of a 100% gravity pressurized sprinkler irrigation system? This can either be through improvement to an existing or the result of a new system installation.

Grazing Land

25. Will the planned conservation practices allow the applicant to meet the planning criteria for Livestock Production Limitation – Inadequate Water where they have not been met on benchmark condition?
26. Will prescribed grazing be applied for 3 years?
27. Will the prescribed grazing plan incorporate multiple grazing units with rest periods during the growing season?
28. Will brush management be applied on the application acres where woody species have been determined to be invasive?

29. Will Range Planting be applied on the application acres which will result in an improved range health?

Forest Land

30. Will the planned practices promote tree species which are most adapted and suitable to improve forest health?
31. Will the planned practices be applied within an Idaho Forest Action Plan Priority Landscape Area and within the boundaries of a cooperatively developed project?
32. Will the planned practices improve forest productivity by managing to proper stocking levels?
33. Will the planned practices address insect and disease problems?

Species of Concern

34. Will the planned practices directly benefit a listed Endangered or Threatened species and/or its designated critical habitat?
35. Will the planned practices directly benefit a Candidate or Proposed Candidate species and/or its designated critical habitat?
36. Will the planned practices benefit multiple Species of Concern?

Stream bank Erosion

37. Has the design been complete and have permits been applied for?
38. Will the treatment (i.e. a contracted practice) include installation (according to standards and specifications) of a buffer (e.g. riparian forest buffer) within the riparian area?
39. Will the planned conservation practices have a direct positive effect on habitat used by an existing species of concern or T&E species?

Answer one of the next two questions if stream bank or shoreline protection will be addressed.

40. Erosion will be reduced by 1-10 cu. Ft. per linear foot/year.
41. Erosion will be reduced by over 10 cu. Ft. per linear foot/year.