

**Natural Resources Conservation Service**

**Application Ranking Summary**

**CO Lesser Prairie Chicken Initiative**

<b>Program:</b>	<b>Ranking Date:</b>	<b>Application Number:</b>
<b>Ranking Tool:</b> CO Lesser Prairie Chicken Initiative		<b>Applicant:</b>
<b>Final Ranking Score:</b>		<b>Address:</b>
<b>Planner:</b>	<b>Telephone:</b>	
<b>Farm Location:</b>		

**National Priorities Addressed**

<b>Issue Questions</b>	<b>Responses</b>
<b>Clean and Abundant Water: Water Quality - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:</b>	
1. a. Meet regulatory requirements relating to animal feeding operations, or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. b. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a designated impaired water body?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. c. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a water body?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
<b>Clean and Abundant Water: Water Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:</b>	
2. a. Increase groundwater recharge in identified groundwater depletion areas ( <a href="http://water.usgs.gov/ogw/rasa/html/TOC.html">http://water.usgs.gov/ogw/rasa/html/TOC.html</a> )?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. b. Conserve water from irrigation system improvements and result in estimated water savings of at least 5% and saved water will be available for other beneficial uses?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. c. Conserve water in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
<b>Clean Air: Treatment of Air Quality from Agricultural Sources - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:</b>	
3. a. Meet regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. b. Reduce green house gases such as methane, nitrous oxide, and volatile organic compounds (VOC)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. c. Increase carbon sequestration?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
<b>High Quality, Productive Soils Erosion Reduction - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:</b>	
4. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
<b>Healthy Plant and Animal Communities Wildlife Habitat Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:</b>	
5. a. Benefit threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern as identified in a State wildlife plan?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. b. Retain wildlife and plant benefits on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
<b>High Quality, Productive Soils, Healthy Plant and Animal Communities: Special Environmental Efforts/Initiatives - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:</b>	
6. a. Eradicate or control noxious or invasive species?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. b. Increase, improve or establish pollinator habitat?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. c. Implement precision agricultural methods?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. d. Properly dispose of animal carcasses?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. e. Implement an Integrated Pest Management plan?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
<b>Energy Conservation – Will the proposed project assist the producer to:</b>	
7. a. Reduce energy consumption on the agricultural operation?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. b. Increase on-farm energy efficiency with more efficient equipment?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

7. c. Assist in implementing energy conservation measures that reduce emissions from GHGs and air pollutants?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Business Lines - Conservation Implementation Additional Ranking Considerations - Will the proposed project result in:	
8. a. Implementation of all planned conservation practices within three years of contract obligation?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. b. Improvement of existing conservation practices or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is accepted, or will complete an existing conservation system?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Does the applicant meet the following conditions:	
9. a. If the applicant has an existing EQIP contract, has it been, and is it now, on schedule and in full compliance?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
9. b. Did the applicant successfully complete any past contract(s) in full compliance?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
9. c. Is this the applicant's first EQIP application?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

#### State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Is there a documented active lek on or within 2 miles of the acres that will be under contract if approved? (If the lek is located on the applicants operation they must be willing to share this information in order to receive points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. If the contract includes expired CRP acres or 2012 expiring CRP acres, the acres will be either maintained or enhanced as permanent vegetation?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. Will the contracted acres include treatment of woody vegetation to improve LEPC habitat if approved?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. Will the contract acres include cropland acres that will be converted to LEPC habitat?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. Will a Prescribed Burn Plan that promotes LEPC habitat be applied under contract?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. Will Prescribed Grazing that promotes LEPC habitat be applied under contract?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. Is the application supported by an approved NRCS Conservation Plan, less than five years old, that addresses concerns of the LEPC?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

#### Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) value change due to proposed project as measured using Colorado's Lesser Prairie Chicken Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide. Answer only one of questions 1a - 1g.	
1. a.) Will implementation of the planned project increase the overall Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) by .7 -1.0 habitat factor value points?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. b.) Will implementation of the planned project increase the overall Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) by .6 habitat factor value points?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. c.) Will implementation of the planned project increase the overall Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) by .5 habitat factor value points?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. d.) Will implementation of the planned project increase the overall Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) by .4 habitat factor value points?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. e.) Will implementation of the planned project increase the overall Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) by .3 habitat factor value points?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. f.) Will implementation of the planned project increase the overall Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) by .2 habitat factor value points?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. g.) Will implementation of the planned project increase the overall Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) by .1 habitat factor value points?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Amount of lesser prairie chicken habitat under control of the applicant that will be treated by proposed project;	
1. a.) Does the project treat 100% of the existing or potential lesser prairie chicken habitat under control of the applicant?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. b.) Does the project treat 50-99% of the existing or potential lesser prairie chicken habitat under control of the applicant?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. c.) Does the project treat less than 50% of the existing or potential lesser prairie chicken habitat under	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

control of the applicant?	
Percent of identified threats treated by the proposed project; (Refer to Colorado Threats Checklist that is applicable to the priority area the project is in).	
1. a.) Does the project address 100% of the threats identified for lesser prairie chicken in the project location?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. b.) Does the project address 75-99% of the threats identified for lesser prairie chicken in the project location?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. c.) Does the project address 50-74% of the threats identified for lesser prairie chicken in the project location?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. d.) Does the project address less than 50% of the threats identified for lesser prairie chicken in the project location?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Prairie Chicken Initiative projects	
1. Will the planned project help to alleviate collision or predator problems caused by fences?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. Will the proposed project restore previously converted (pasture, hay, cropland etc., sand sagebrush habitat) back to sand sagebrush habitat?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. Has the project been reviewed and ranked with this ranking tool by an NRCS or NRCS/Partner biologist that is familiar with lesser prairie chicken habitat in the area, and, does the biologist agree that the planned project will benefit lesser prairie chicken?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. Are there partners involved (other than the participant and NRCS) that will contribute money (not in-kind) to the project?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

**Land Use:**

Resource Concerns	Practices
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**Ranking Score**

<p>Efficiency:</p> <p>Local Issues:</p> <p>State Issues:</p> <p>National Issues:</p> <p><b>Final Ranking Score:</b></p>
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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.

Notes:

<p><b>NRCS Representative:</b></p>  <p><b>Signature Date:</b></p>	<p><b>Applicant Signature Not Required on this report for Contract Development unless required by State policy:</b></p>  <p><b>Signature Date:</b></p>
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