

NRCS Colorado Environmental Quality Incentive Program/EQIP 2003 Ranking Criteria – Rio Grande Watershed

Watershed Water Quality / Quantity Resource Concerns FY -2003 Ranking Criteria

APPLICANT: Enter Applicant's name here		Group? Yes/No	
Total Irrigated Acres Benefited	Cost Share	C/S per acre	\$350 Max for Irrigation Practices
130	10000	\$ 76.92	

1. FIRS Gross Efficiency - Net Change

W/O Project	With Project	Points
65	72	7

Soil moisture monitoring, scheduling and skill and action may not be changed unless IWM is contracted & paid for. Also no field factors will be changed unless based on individual contracts. Contact Area Engineer for unusual situations.

Double the points for small acreage tracts devoted to surface irrigation on culturally impacted areas of the SLV or for Limited Resource Farmers.

Culturally Impacted or LRF NOT Culturally Impacted or LRF

2. Benefited acres are in Priority Area (See Map for Declining Groundwater and High Nitrate Area, copy available, NRCS, Alamosa AO)

<input checked="" type="radio"/> In Priority Area <input type="radio"/> NOT in Priority Area	Points
	10

3. Groundwater Recharge ?

Applying surface water rights through sprinkler rather than only pumped groundwater. Acres benefited by New or Existing g. w. recharge facilities. (**priority area only**) Practices total acres cannot exceed **Total Acres Benefited**

Acres	Points
65	10.0
	0.0
65	

Points = (Acres / Total acres benefited) x 20 (surface water through sprinkler)

Points = (Acres / Total acres benefited) x 10 (recharge facilities)

4. Nutrient Mgt. Contracted:

40 Acres	Points
	3.1

Nutrient management points only for (595) on Annual Cropland with Nitrogen Applied.

Points = (Contracted Acres / Total acres benefited) x 10

5. Structures for Group or Individual

	points ea	Number	
Irrigation Diversion Structure:	20	1	
Measuring Structures	1	0	
Group Division Structures:	5	5	
Water Control Structures:	2	0	Max 25 points
			Points
			25

Minimum Points for EQIP Eligibility 30 Points

Total Points
55.08

No EQIP water quality points will be awarded for any applicant on non-irrigated land, or whose project will increase consumptive use on acreage only partially irrigated in the past. Non irrigated land is defined on land that has had no adjudicated water right, or where water rights are involved in abandonment procedures by CO Div of Water Resources.

Cost share for installing new center pivot or other sprinkler systems will be limited to 25%.

Total cost share for all Group irrigation practices will not exceed 20% of Watershed Funding.

Grassland State Wide Issue

Rio Grande Watershed Range and Pasture Land Resource Concerns.

Applicant Name:

1. Ground Cover Improved

Pasture or Range Seeding
Brush Management

ACRES	% ACRES
100	36%
70	25%

(Max 10 points)
(Max 5 points)

Points
3.6
1.3

$(\text{Acres Seeding} / \text{total acres}) \times 10 = \text{points}$
 $(\text{Acres Brush Mgt.} / \text{total acres}) \times 5 = \text{points}$

2. Range Ecological Cond. or Past. Prod.

Acres of 5 largest fields currently in each class.

	Poor	Fair	Good
field 1	60	100	
field 2	60	60	
field 3			
field 4			
field 5			
total	120	160	0
Total ac.	280		

Poor Fair Good
Range < 25% < 50% >50% **Index (ac)**
range percent is based on ecological condition
Pasture <25% < 50% >50% **lbs. / ac**
pasture percent is based on potential production

Points
12.1

(Max 15 points)

$(\% \text{ Poor} \times 15) + (\% \text{ Fair} \times 10) + (\% \text{ Good} \times 5) = \text{points}$

Claim points only if a positive trend is definite based on applied practices.

3. Plant Diversity and Vigor (Improve mgt. to one of the below systems (Max 25 points))

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| <input type="radio"/> Switchback grazing system | 5 Points |
| <input type="radio"/> Rest-Rotation system | 10 Points |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> Deferred-Rotation | 15 Points |

Points
15

Improve to High intensity, short duration system with expected:

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| <input type="radio"/> Minimum Forage Improvement | 19 Points |
| <input type="radio"/> Moderate Forage Improvement | 21 Points |
| <input type="radio"/> High Forage Improvement | 23 Points |
| <input type="radio"/> Exceptional Forage Improvement | 25 Points |

4. Animal Distribution (Max 25 pts)

Facilitating Practices

Extent

New livestock water facilities: 1 Number 5 points each
New field subdivisions (fencing) 2500 Feet 1 point each .25 mile

Points
6.9

5. Wildlife Value (5 pts)

Riparian Enhancement (Scheduled Improvement)

- Has Wildlife Value Has NO Wildlife Value

Points
0

6. Prescribed Grazing Conducted with State or Federal (10 pts)

Year around grazing plan (Coordinated Resource Management Planning, CRMP)
Regular meetings with federal or state partners are held.

- Applying CRMP No CRMP

Points
0

7. Small Acreage, Irrigated Pasture/Range units of Culturally Impacted areas and/or Limited Resource Ranchers of Southern Colorado (5 pts)

Not permitted for small acreage hobby farms or subdivision ranchettes.

- Applicable Not Applicable

Points
0

Total Points not to exceed 100 Points **38.9**

Minimum Points 30

Soil Erosion/Soil Quality Resource Concern

FY 2003 Ranking Criteria

Applicant Name:

Wind Erosion

(1) Tons of soil saved (cropland average annual)

PTS. = T/Ac. X 5
(not to exceed 30 pts.)

Input Values	Points
5.0	25

Tons/Acre/year

(2) Planned wind erosion rotational soil loss (t/ac/yr)

Less than T = **20 pts.**
>=T and <=2T = **10 pts.**
>3T or existing erosion already below T = **0 pts.**

Input Values	Points
5.0	20
4.0	

T value
Wind erosion, t/ac/yr

T = tolerable soil loss factor ; input T/Ac/yr only when reduction g.t. one Ton/Ac/yr.

(3) Pivot corners established or to be established in permanent vegetative cover

<p>(existing or contracted; mowed weeds OK as managed annual cover)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> 100% of corners = 20 pts.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> 75% of corners = 15 pts. (25 % in managed annual cover)</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> 50 - 75% of corners = 10 pts. (25 - 50% in managed annual cover)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> LT 50% of corners = 5 pts. (over 50% in managed annual cover)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> No corners . Surface irrigated crop (greater than 50% converted to perennial cover) = 10 pts</p>	10
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Soil Quality/OM Improvement/Microbial Diversity in Annual Cropland Rotations

Crops and acreages (%) based on cropland on Offerred Tract

- (4) Increasing high residue crop by 20% = **10 pts.** 0
- (5) Adding new alfalfa acreage by 20% = **10 pts.**
normal re-establishment of alfalfa not eligible 0
- (6) High Residue Crops (winter and spring) 0
- 100% returned with mulch till = **10 pts.**
- Straw moldboard plowed or baled off = **0 pts.**
- (7) Existing winter wheat in rotation(g.t. 20%) = **10 pts.** 10
- (8) Additional winter wheat (g.t. 20%) = **10 pts.**
- (9) Adding compost to acreage (1 ton/ac/yr) = **10 pts.** 0
- (10) Additional crops added to rotation 5
- Green manure (hayed or grazed) = **10 pts.**
- Corn/rye/sorghum/sudan returned to soil (2 ton/ac) = **10 pts.**
- Canola returned to soil = **5 pts.**

TOTAL SOIL POINTS =====> 70

Minimum points for eligibility 30 points

- Tie-Breaking Criteria:**
1. Soil Erodibility
 2. Date of signup

Streambank Stabilization 2003 EQIP Ranking Criteria

MINIMUM POINTS REQUIRED FOR FUNDING IS 15 POINTS

Applicant Name

EQIP COST SHARE

Cost per ft of protected length

1. Location:

Choose One

<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Project to be installed in Conejos or Rio Grande River	10 points	Points
<input type="radio"/>	Project to be installed in other streams	5 points	10

2. Wildlife Benefits (choose highest points, not cumulative, maximum points = 6):

Choose One

<input type="radio"/>	J-Hooks or V-notch weirs	5 points	Points
<input type="radio"/>	Bendway weirs	4 points	3
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Riprap, irr water retun flow str. revetment, etc.	3 points	Points

Check if Applies

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bioengineering or root wads	1 point additional	Points
			1

3. Extent:

Centerline distance, protected length as defined by Corps of Engineers

<input style="width: 50px;" type="text" value="500"/>	Protected length, feet (NO POINTS)		Points
			Points

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Owns both sides of the stream (Check if Yes)	5 Points	5
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Enter number of adjoining landowners as follows:

<input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/>	Adjoining neighbor(s) applied for stabilization (not funded yet)	5 points each	0
<input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/>	Adjoining neighbors funded or have installed projects	10 points each	0

4. Identified as High Priority:

Check if Applies

<input type="checkbox"/>	Project location is identified as high priority in Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration inventory	5 points	Points
			0

5. Riparian Area:

Check if Applies

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fencing for prescribed grazing installed or planned in contract	10 points	Points
			10
<input type="checkbox"/>	Unobstructed flood plain on offered acres will be maintained for the life of the practices installed.	5 Points	0

TOTAL POINTS =====

RIO GRANDE WATERSHED

Wildlife Ranking Criteria

EQIP FY 2003

Projects must have wildlife habitat improvement as the primary intent for use of funds, and fully described habitat management practices in the conservation plan.

Applicant Name:	my new name								
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35 POINTS REQUIRED TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR EQIP OR WHIP

1) The proposed contract is located within a wildlife area and addresses the target species. See attached map or descriptions (mule deer, mountain plover, and riparian areas) for locations of wildlife areas.

Within a Wildlife Area	10 points		
Outside Wildlife Area	0 points	Total Points	

2) The proposed practice(s) are intended to maintain, enhance, or restore which habitat types? Pick one habitat type only for a maximum of 15 points. Habitat type selected must correspond to habitat used by species selected in #3.

Sagebrush-steppe, riparian, shortgrass, mountain shrub, cold water streams,	15 Points	
Midgrass/sand sage, foothills, cropland,	7 Points	
Wetland, p-j, deciduous/coniferous woodland, other	1 Point	
	Total Points	

3) Project applies practice(s) for: (You should pick the one highest category or species if a species fits in more than one category or if you have more than one species on this item). Project must occur in a documented habitat for the selected species. See Instructions for species.

A State species concern, a state threatened species, a Federal candidate species, or a declining species	
List species here _____	10 Points
A state endangered or a Federal threatened or endangered species	
List species here _____	7 Points
Declining native species, or economically important species	
List species here _____	5 Points
Species with stable or increasing populations, or not otherwise listed	
List species here _____	2 Points
	Total Points

This category becomes a limiting factor if habitat for a state or federal threatened or endangered species is destroyed with the project

4) Practices planned address limiting factors for target species. Species specific practices found in Biology Technical Notes # 10-20 are worth 10 points. If the project is applying practices not listed in the Biology Tech Notes, the local Work Group may assign a point value in concurrence with the NRCS Area Biologist or other designated Area representative. Maximum of 10 points.

Applicable	10 Points	
Not Applicable	0 Points	Total Points

5) Is the project adjacent to a specific habitat enhancement, maintenance, or restoration effort? (i.e. several adjoining landowners all are installing wildlife habitat practices under wildlife habitat programs. Examples include one of the following: CRP (wildlife planting), PHIP, RMEF, DU, Partners for Wildlife, and other programs as approved by NRCS Area Biologist or Area Representative.)

Yes	10 Points	
No	0 Points	Total Points

