LOWER ARKANSAS VALLEY WATERSHED
Ranking Criteria FY-03 EQIP
WATER QUALITY (C1)

1. Salt, selenium, sediment, or agrochemical control in a documented problem area. If yes, 10pts

. _____ pts.

2. Improvement in efficiency for the irrigation system on the contracted acres.

Improvement in irrigation efficiency= _____ pts.

Example: Participant is improving his system to 80 % efficiency from 30% efficiency (80% - 30%)= 50 points

3. Irrigation induced soil saved within 1/2 mile of a receiving permanent water source:

2 times index change= _____ points (nearest tenth)

_____ pts. (nearest tenth)

4. Contracted Acres of New Nutrient Management (MUST MEET PRACTICE STANDARD 590) .

yes or no? yes equals 10 points _____ pts.

TOTAL WATER QUALITY _____PTS. (Nearest tenth)

Minimum points needed for funding consideration = 13 points

Tie Breaking Criteria will be the highest points scored in element 1, then element 2, then element 3, and then element 4.

LOWER ARKANSAS VALLEY WATERSHED
Ranking Criteria FY-03 EQIP
SOIL EROSION (C2)

1. REDUCED SHEET AND RILL EROSION. Is the planned average (weighted for offered fields) sheet and rill rotational soil loss (t/ac/yr) predicted to be:
   a. less than T (20 pts)
   b. equal to T (10 pts)
   c. greater than T but less than 2T (5 pts)
   d. greater than 2T (0 pts)

Note: No points shall be awarded if the existing level of treatment is less than T.
T=Soil Loss Tolerance.
_____points

2. REDUCED WIND EROSION. Is the planned average (weighted for offered fields) wind erosion rotational soil loss (t/ac/yr) predicted to be:
   a. less than T (20 pts)
   b. equal to T (10 pts)
   c. greater than T but less than 2T (5 pts)
   d. greater than 2T (0 pts)

Note: No points shall be awarded if the existing level of treatment is less than T.
T=Soil Loss Tolerance.
_____points

3. REDUCED IRRIGATION-INDUCED EROSION. Is the planned average (weighted for offered fields) irrigation-induced erosion rotational induced rotational index (t/ac/yr) predicted to be?
   a. 1 or less (20 pts)
   b. greater than 1 & less than 3 (10 pts)
   c. 3-5 (5 pts)
   d. >5 (0 pts)

_____points

4. PERMANENT VEGETATIVE COVER. Is the percent of the cropland acreage in the offered Tract(s) converted to adapted perennial species to be:
   a. 1% or less (0 pts)
   b. 1-15% (15 pts)
   c. 15-30% (30 pts)
   d. 30-60% (45 pts)
   e. >60% (60 pts)

_____points

Adapted perennial species include native and introduced grasses, forbs, and trees

5. SOIL QUALITY. A change in the tillage system results in crops being no-tilled in the rotation:
   a. for every no-till summer annual broadleaf type crop (12 pts)
   b. for every no-till summer annual grass type crop (10 pts)
   c. for every no-till winter annual broadleaf type crop (8 pts)
   d. for every no-till winter annual grass type crop (6 pts)

   summer annual broadleaf crops; sunflower, drybean, soybean
   summer annual grass crops; corn, millet, sorghum
   winter annual broadleaf crops; canola
   winter annual grass crops; wheat, barley

_____points

Examples:

(1) If a farmer wants to no-till the sorghum in a winter wheat-sorghum-sunflower-fallow rotation. He gets 10 points.

(2) If a farmer wants to no-till both the sorghum and sunflower he gets 22 points (12+10)

(3) If the same farmer wants to go completely no-till, he gets 28 points (12+10+6)

_____points

TOTAL POINTS = _____PTS. (Nearest tenth)

Minimum points needed for funding consideration = 15 points

Tie Breaking Criteria will be the highest points scored in element 5.

LOWER ARKANSAS VALLEY WATERSHED
Ranking Criteria FY-03 EQIP
GRASSLAND (C3)

1A. Targeting of rangeland with lowest similarity index

Multiply % of total acres by the points offered for each range similarity index group.

Enter as a decimal

range similarity index, 0-25, 15 Pts. X ___ (% of total acres) = _____points (Nearest 100th)

range similarity index, 26-50, 10 Pts. X___ (% of total acres) = _____points "

range similarity index, 51-75, 5 Pts. X ___ (% of total acres) = _____points "

range similarity index, 76-100, 0 Pts.

1A Points _____ (Nearest 100th)

Both 1A and 1B cannot be used on the same acreage within the tract.

1B. Pasture productivity potential

(current productivity/potential productivity)(100)
current productivity lbs./Ac
potential productivity lbs./Ac

Multiply % of total acres by the points offered for each potential productivity group.
.

Enter as a decimal

potential productivity 0-25% 15 Pts. X ___ (% of total acres) = ____points (Nearest 100th)

potential productivity 26-50% 10 Pts X ___ (% of total acres) = ____points "

potential productivity 51-75% 5 Pts X ___ (% of total acres) = ____points

potential productivity 76-100% 0.00 pts.

1B Points _____ (Nearest 100th)

2. Installation of cost shared practices will allow the producer to establish or enhance one of the following:

Switchback grazing system 5 Points
Rest-rotation system 10 Points
Deferred-Rotation grazing system 15 Points

High intensity, short duration system: (one herd system)

Minimum Forage Improvement achieved 17 Points
Moderate Forage Improvement achieved 19 Points
High Forage Improvement achieved 21 Points
Exceptional Forage Improvement achieved 23 Points

#2. Points _____ pts.

Tie Breaking Criteria will be the highest points scored in element 1a or 1b.

LOWER ARKANSAS VALLEY WATERSHED
EQIP/WHIP FY-03 Ranking Criteria (C4)

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

WHEN USING FOR WHIP YOU MUST HAVE A MINIMUM OF 30 POINTS

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	
Outside wildlife areas	0	_____

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, or warmwater stream	15	
Midgrass/sand sage, foothills, cropland, coldwater stream	7	
Wetland, p-j, deciduous/coniferous woodland, other	1	_____

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).

A State species of special concern, a state threatened species, a Federal candidate species, or a declining species 10 points

Includes: lesser prairie chicken, long-billed curlew, Cassin's sparrow
Columbian sharp-tailed grouse
Gunnison's sage grouse
northern sage grouse
mountain plover, burrowing owl, black-tailed prairie dog,
greater prairie chicken, upland sandpiper
east slope warmwater fish (see attached species list)
Colorado River cutthroat trout
Greenback cutthroat trout
Rio Grande cutthroat trout
piping plover
greater sandhill crane
long-billed curlew
kit fox
mule deer west of Interstate 25 or south of U.S. Highway 50 and west of U.S. Highway 287/385

OR

A state endangered or a Federal threatened or endangered species 7 points

Includes: black footed ferret
plains sharp-tailed grouse
Colorado pikeminnow
humpback chub
razorback sucker
bonytail chub
Preble's meadow jumping mouse
bald eagle
fish-Colorado River species
southwest willow flycatcher

OR

Declining native species, or economically important species 5 points

Includes: grassland birds
pheasant
northern bobwhite
scaled quail
bighorn sheep (desert and Rocky Mountain)
pronghorn
elk
mule deer east of Interstate 25 or north of U.S. Highway 50 and East of U.S. Highway 287/385

white-tailed deer
trout (stream habitat only)
turkey

OR

Species with stable or increasing populations, or not otherwise listed 2 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.

_____

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
No = 0 _____

6) Three points for each partner contributing dollars towards the participants cost. No more than 12 points (4 different partners) maximum for this factor. Participant is not counted as a partner.

_____

7) Proximity to occupied dwelling measured from dwelling to center of area treated.

> 1/4 mile = 10
1/8 - 1/4 mile = 5
< 1/8 mile = 0 _____

Total points (Maximum of 77 points possible) _____

LOWER ARKANSAS VALLEY WATERSHED
Ranking Criteria FY-03 EQIP
LIVESTOCK WASTE MANAGEMENT (C5)

1. Location of existing facility:

   1A. 100 yr. Floodplain (yes=10 pts.) _____ pts.

   1B. Depth to groundwater
   100/depth in ft. _____ pts.

   1C. Distance to surface water
   1000/Distance in ft. _____ pts.

2. Plan Components:

	adequate 0.0 pts.	exists inadequate 5 pts.	nonexistent 10 pts.
Collection and Transport	____	____	____
Storage or Treatment	____	____	____
Seepage Control	____	____	____
Transfer and Utilization	____	____	____

Sum Points _____

TOTAL POINTS = _____PTS. (Nearest tenth)

Minimum points needed for funding consideration = 31 points

Tie Breaking Criteria will be the highest points scored in element 1A, then 1B, then 1C.

LOWER ARKANSAS VALLEY WATERSHED
INSTRUCTIONS

Water Quality

NOTE: Bench mark value reflects current conditions not worse case scenario

1. Must be identified in Resource Planning Handbook, Colo. Dept of Health, Watershed Assessment etc. (List documents)

   Practices must address a concern in a documented problem area.

2. Use the version of FIRS, which has been certified to be used on the new CCE computers. It can be downloaded to your machine by going to http://servicecenter.usda.gov/release/ through Netscape. It is named FIRS2 in the alphabetical listing of certified software. You have to click on the word "download" in blue to download the program. I suggest you create a folder for it before downloading.

3. Permanent water should be determined from the key at the bottom of USGS Quad sheets. Irrigation ditches are not to be considered as permanent water courses regardless of their identification on the a Quad sheet.

   Index = Colo. Irr. Induced erosion Index, using dominant soil K, A weighted average of crop rotation is calculated.

   Water source must have potential to be impacted by the eroded soil.

   2 per point of index change

4. New and or improved efforts that meet 590 practice standard for Colorado NRCS

LOWER ARKANSAS VALLEY WATERSHED
INSTRUCTIONS

Soil Erosion-

NOTE: Benchmark value reflects current condition not worse case scenario

1. Use RUSLE calculated for each field

2. Use WEQ (management period not annual method)
   Total tons equals sum of all fields offered

3. Index = Colo. Irr. Induced Erosion Index

   Use Dominate Soil K (each field)
   Weighted Average of Crop Rotation (each field)
   Sum of all fields

4. Gully or Ephemeral erosion

5. Permanent Vegetative Cover
   A minimum of 75% adaptive perennial grass

   Adaptive perennial species include:
   Native & introduced grasses, forbs, shrubs, and trees

LOWER ARKANSAS VALLEY WATERSHED
INSTRUCTIONS

GRASSLAND

NOTE: Benchmark value reflects current condition not worse case scenario

1A. SI = National Range and Pasture Handbook similarity index

1B. Pasture productivity potential

2. Grazing system must be implemented or increased in intensity to receive pts.
   Example: A producer using deferred-rotation grazing at sign-up would receive zero pts. A producer using a deferred-rotation grazing system and going to a High Intensity system using 8-12 pastures gets points. A producer must go to a higher level system to get points.

   A change in the number of pastures within a High Intensity system does not constitute a change in the system.

   High Intensity Grazing includes the following:
   HRM, HISD, HILF (all those found in the National Range Handbook)

LOWER ARKANSAS VALLEY WATERSHED INSTRUCTIONS

LIVESTOCK WASTE MANAGEMENT

1A. 100 year flood plain - Score this factor 10 points if any part of the livestock operation is located within the mapped boundary of a 100 year flood plain as designated and approved by the Colorado Water Conservation Board.

1B. Depth to groundwater - Determine the least distance from the ground surface to the top of the seasonal high water table or aquifer at the livestock facility, using information from on-site investigations, information provided by the owner, soil survey reports, well completion reports, etc., as available and appropriate. Divide 100 by the depth in feet to compute the score for this factor. The maximum value allowed is 10.

1C. Distance to surface waters - Determine the shortest straight-line distance from the livestock facility to surface water downstream from the facility. Surface water includes perennial or ephemeral streams, lakes, reservoirs, ponds, irrigation canals, and wetlands. Distance to surface water may be determined from on-site investigation, aerial photos, topographic maps, etc. Divide the distance in feet into 1,000 to compute the score for this factor. The maximum value allowed is 10.

2. Plan Components - Rate these items for the presence, condition and capacity of existing components compared to the needs of the proposed waste management plan. Existing components are adequate if they meet the needs of the proposed plan without renovation, enlargement or replacement. The rating should be applied regardless of whether or not incentive payments for new components are part of the EQIP bid offered. Enter the appropriate values in the blanks provided, and sum all values to compute the score for this factor.

Collection and transport components are the structural components or equipment used to facilitate capture and collection of the wastes being managed, or to transport the waste to storage or treatment facilities. These may include diversions, terraces, channels, sumps, pumps, pipelines, gutters, scrapers, conveyors, etc.

Storage or treatment components are permanent facilities or equipment for storing or treating the collected wastes as needed to facilitate the nutrient management or waste utilization plan. Storage or treatment components include but are not limited to mechanical or passive screens, settling basins, waste storage structures, evaporation ponds, treatment lagoons, constructed wetlands and grass filter strips.

LIVESTOCK WASTE MANAGEMENT

Seepage control refers to the components needed to restrict seepage from collection, transport, and storage or treatment facilities in order to protect water quality or comply with regulatory requirements. This can include compacted soil, geosynthetic, or concrete liners for earthen pits or channels, as well as subsurface drains for seepage collection or water table management.

Transfer and utilization components are the structural components or equipment needed to facilitate the end use of the wastes in accordance with the waste utilization or nutrient management plan. These components may include but are not limited to pumps, pipelines, hauling or spreading equipment, injection equipment, or biogas production equipment.

LOWER ARKANSAS VALLEY WATERSHED INSTRUCTIONS

Mule Deer Wildlife Area

The mule deer wildlife area covers all land west or south of a line running from Interstate 25 at the Wyoming border, south to U.S. Highway 50, east to U.S. Highway 287/385 and south to the New Mexico border.

Mountain Plover Habitat Area

The mountain plover habitat area covers all land in Colorado east of Interstate 25 on sites suited to shortgrass. In addition, Park County grasslands are included in the mountain plover area.

Riparian Habitat Areas

Riparian areas associated with perennial streams in the South Platte Basin if they support 10 or 7 point fish species. See attached list for species and Area/State Biologist for map of specific reaches.

Riparian areas within designated critical habitats (as per USFWS designation) in the Colorado, Rio Grande, and San Juan Basins for both fish and southwest willow flycatcher. Contact Area or State Biologist if unsure of critical habitat locations.

Riparian areas in Preble's meadow jumping mouse range - Larimer, Boulder, Jefferson, El Paso, Elbert, Weld, and Douglas Counties. Call Area/State Biologist if unsure of exact range.

Colorado Fish Species Designations

Republican River Basin
- State Threatened or Special Concern Species (10 points)
  - Brassy minnow
  - River shiner
  - Plains orangethroat darter
  - Stonecat
- State Endangered Species (7 points)
  - Plains minnow
  - Suckermouth minnow

Arkansas River Basin
- State Threatened or Special Concern Species (10 points)
  - Greenback cutthroat trout
  - Arkansas darter
  - Flathead chub
  - Speckled chub
- State Endangered Species (7 points)
  - Southern redbelly dace
  - Plains minnow
  - Suckermouth minnow

Platte River Basin
- State Threatened or Special Concern Species (10 points)
  - Greenback cutthroat trout
  - Brassy minnow
  - Common shiner
  - Stonecat
  - Plains topminnow
  - Iowa darter
- State Endangered Species (7 points)
  - Northern redbelly dace
  - Plains minnow
  - Suckermouth minnow
  - Lake chub