NRCS Colorado Environmental Quality Incentive Program/EQIP Ranking Criteria FY-03

Ranking Criteria FY-03 EQIP

Upper Arkansas Watershed

Non-Point Source Reduction – Water Quality/Quantity

Applicant Name:

1. Salt, selenium, sediment, or agrochemical control in a documented problem area. If yes, 2 points.

Points

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

Efficiency based on FIRI (FIRS2) Ver 2.7 calculations Points

Irrigation efficiency BEFORE =

Irrigation efficiency AFTER =

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

3. Benefit to multiple landowners (I.E. group projects such as a ditch lining. 1 point for every operating unit identification number. No points for individual projects.

Number of Operating Units Points

4. Contracted Acres of New Nutrient Management (MUST MEET PRACTICE STANDARD 590) . Yes equals 10 points

Points

TOTAL POINTS

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

Grassland State Wide Issue

Upper Arkansas Watershed Range and Pasture Land Resource Concerns.

Applicant Name:

1. Ground Cover Improved

	ACRES	% ACRES		Points
Pasture or Range Seeding	100	36%	**(Max 10 points)**	3.6
Brush Management	70	25%	**(Max 5 points)**	1.3

(Acres Seeding / total acres) x 10 = points
(Acres Brush Mgt. / total acres) x 5 = points

2. Range Ecological Cond. or Past. Prod.

Acres of 5 largest fields currently in each class.

	Poor	Fair	Good		Poor	Fair	Good	
field 1	60	100		Range	< 25%	< 50%	>50%	**Index (ac)**
field 2	60	60			range percent is based on ecological condition			
field 3				Pasture	<25%	< 50%	>50%	**lbs. / ac**
field 4					pasture percent is based on potential production			
field 5				**total**				
Total ac.	120	160	0	280		**(Max 15 points)**		

Points: 12.1

(% Poor x 15) + (%Fair x 10) + (%Good x 5) = 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)

Points: 15

- ○ Switchback grazing system — 5 Points
- ○ Rest-Rotation sytstem — 10 Points
- ◉ Deferred-Rotation — 15 Points

Improve to High intesity, short duration system with expected:

- ○ Minimum Forage Improvement — 19 Points
- ○ Moderate Forage Improvement — 21 Points
- ○ High Forage Improvement — 23 Points
- ○ Exceptional Forage Improvement — 25 Points

4. Animal Distribution (Max 25 pts)

Facilitating Practices

	Extent			Points
New livestock water facilities:	1	Number	5 points each	6.9
New field subdivisions (fencing)	2500	Feet	1 point each .25 mile	

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)

Points: 0

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

○ Applying CRMP ◉ No CRMP

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

Points: 0

Not permitted for small acreage hobby farms or subdivision ranchettes.

○ Applicable ◉ Not Applicable

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

Mininimum Points 30

Ranking Criteria FY-03 EQIP
Reduction In Soil Erosion
Upper Arkansas Watershed

Applicant Name:

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:

			Input Values	Points
a. less than T	(20 pts)		"T"	
b. equal to T	(10 pts)	Soil Loss, t/ac/yr		
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.

2. REDUCED WIND EROSION. Is the planned average (weighted for offered fields) wind erosion rotational soil loss (t/ac/yr) predicted to be:

			Input Values	Points
a. less than T	(20 pts)			
b. equal to T	(10 pts)		"T"	
c. greater than T but less than 2T	(5 pts)	Soil Loss, t/ac/yr		
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.

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?

			Input Values	Points
a. 1 or less	(20 pts)			
b. greater than 1 & less than 3	(10 pts)			
c. 3-5	(5 pts)	Rotational Index		
d. >5	(0 pts)			

4. PERMANENT VEGETATIVE COVER. Is the percent of the cropland acreage in the offered Tract(s) converted to adapted perennial species to

			Input Values	
a. 1% or less	(0 pts)			
b. 1-15%	(15 pts)	Acres Converted		Points
c. 15-30%	(30 pts)	Total Acres		
d. 30-60%	(45 pts)			
e. >60%	(60 pts)			

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:

Check all that apply

a. for every no-till summer annual broadleaf type crop	(12 pts)	Points
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

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)

6. REDUCED GULLY AND EPHEMERAL GULLY EROSION. Is the cropland in the offered field (s) adversely affected by ephemeral gully and/or

Pick one

a. High= >50% of cropland area in fields affected	(20 pts)	Points
b. Medium= 25-50% of cropland area in field affected	(15 pts)	
c. Low= <25% of cropland area in field affected	(10 pts)	

Tie Breaking Criteria: 1. Soil Erodibility

TOTAL PONTS

Upper Arkansas Watershed EQIP Wildlife Ranking Criteria
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 my new name
Name:

35 POINTS REQUIRED TO BE ELIGIBILE FOR EQIP OR WHIP

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

10
points
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.

15 Points
7 Points
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 o species on this item). Project must occur in a documented habitat for the selected species. See Instructions for species.

List species here _____ 10 Points

List species here _____ 7 Points

List species here _____ 5 Points

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.

10 Points
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.)

10 Points
0 Points Total Points

6) Three points for each partner contributing dollars or in-kind contributions. This does not include the landowner nor NRCS. Examples are Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited, etc. No more than 12 points (4 different partners) maximum for this factor.

Total Points

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

10 Points
5 Points
0 Points Total Points

8) Cost share dollars must be spent primarily for wildlife habitat improvements. Secondary benefits for irrigation or grazing, etc. must be minor.

Enter Cost share dollars and Contracted acres here Up to $100/Ac 10 Points

Cost Share Dollars =	$100 - $500/Ac	5 Points
Contracted Acres =	Greater than $500/Ac	0 Points

Total Points

Total Ranking Points =