



United States Department of Agriculture

Attachment D

Name and Acronym: WORKING LANDS FOR WILDLIFE (WLFW)

Description/Summary:

Working Lands for Wildlife (WLFW) is a partnership that leverages capabilities and resources, targets assistance where it is most needed, cooperatively engages state and local partners, and works collaboratively with agricultural producers, forest land managers, and Tribes. NRCS and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) have selected seven at-risk species whose decline can be reversed given sufficient resources and landowner participation. Working Lands for Wildlife will promote voluntary, incentive-based conservation on private and Tribal lands. Only 2 of the 7 species identified occur in Utah, the southwestern willow flycatcher (SWFL) and the sage grouse (both greater and Gunnison).

The following land uses are approved for WLFW:

Land Use Type
Crop
Forest
Range
Farmsteads
Pasture

The following resource concerns are approved for WLFW:

Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat
Inadequate Habitat - Food
Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter
Inadequate Habitat - Water
Inadequate Habitat - Habitat Continuity (Space)
Degraded Plant Condition
Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health
Excessive Plant Pest Pressure
Wildfire Hazard, Excessive Biomass Accumulation
Soil Erosion
Sheet and Rill erosion
Wind Erosion
Streambank, Shoreline, Water Conveyance Channels
Livestock Production Limitation
Inadequate Feed and Forage
Inadequate Shelter
Inadequate Water

Note: No additional resource concerns may be used to support WLFW.

The following core conservation practices are eligible for WLFW. Note, at least one core practice is required in each contract or must be supported by a conservation plan that contains the core practice documented as either planned within the contract period or already applied on the land under contract.

The following core conservation practices are eligible for WLFW: Core Practices	SWFL	Sage Grouse
395 - Stream Habitat Improvement and Management	X	
643 - Restoration & Management of Rare & Declining Habitats	X	
644 - Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management	X	
645 - Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	X	X
647 - Early Successional Habitat Development & Management	X	

The following is a list of supporting conservation practices that are eligible for use for WLFW. No other conservation practices may be used in WLFW as they have not been addressed in the conference report or biological opinion.

Supporting Practices	SWFL	Sage Grouse
314 - Brush Management	X	X
315 - Herbaceous Weed Control	X	X
327 - Conservation Cover	X	X
328- Conservation Crop Rotation		X
338 - Prescribed Burning		X
340 - Cover Crops		X
342 - Critical Area Planting		X
351 - Water Well Decommissioning		
378 - Pond		X
380- Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment		X
382 - Fence	X	X
384 -Woody Residue Treatment /Forest Slash Treatment	X	X
386 - Field Borders	X	
388- Irrigation Field Ditch Irrigation System		X
390 - Riparian Herbaceous Cover	X	X
391 - Riparian Forest Buffer	X	X
393 - Filter Strip		
394 - Fire Break		X
396 - Aquatic Organism Passage		
410 - Grade Stabilization	X	X
430AA-GG - Irrigation Water Conveyance-Pipeline		X
441- Irrigation System, Micro Irrigation		X

Supporting Practices	SWFL	Sage Grouse
442- Irrigation System, Sprinkler System		X
443- Irrigation System, Surface and Subsurface		X
449 - Irrigation Water Management	X	X
472 - Access Control	X	X
490 - Tree Shrub Site Preparation	X	
500 - Obstruction Removal	X	X
511 - Forage Harvest Management	X	X
512 - Forage & Biomass Plantings	X	X
516 - Livestock Pipeline	X	X
528 - Prescribed Grazing	X	X
533 - Pumping Plant		X
548- Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment		X
550 - Range Planting		X
560 - Access Road		X
561 - Heavy Use Area Protection	X	X
574 - Spring Development		X
575 - Animal Trails and Walkways	X	
580 - Streambank and Shoreline Protection	X	
582 - Open Channel	X	
584 - Channel Bed Stabilization	X	
587 - Structure for Water Control	X	
595 - Integrated Pest Management	X	

Supporting Practices	SWFL	Sage Grouse
612 - Tree / Shrub Establishment	X	
614 - Watering Facility	X	X
642 - Water Well	X	X
643 - Restoration of Rare and Declining Habitats		X
644- Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management		X
645 - Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	X	X
654- Road/Trail/Landing Closure and Treatment		X
655 - Forest Harvest Trails & Landings	X	
657 - Wetland Restoration	X	
659 - Wetland Enhancement	X	
666 - Forest Stand Improvement	X	
734- Fish and Wildlife Structure		X

NRCS Approved Resource Concerns									
	Access Control	Access Road	Animal Trails and Walkways	Brush Management	Channel Bed Stabilization	Conservation Cover	Cover Crop	Critical Area Planting	Fence
	472	560	575	314	584	327	340	342	382
Practice Code =									
Soil Erosion - Sheet and Rill	X	0	0	X	0	X	X	X	X
Soil Erosion - Wind	X	0	0	X	0	X	X	X	0
Soil Erosion - Streambank and Shoreline	X	0	0	0	X	X	0	X	0
Degraded Plant Condition - Plant Productivity or Health	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Degraded Plant Condition - Excess Pests	X	0	0	X	X	X	X	X	0
Degraded Plant Condition - Wildfire Hazard from Accumulated Biomass	X	X	0	X	0	0	0	0	0
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat - Food	X	0	0	X	X	X	X	X	0
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter	X	0	0	X	X	X	X	X	0
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat - Water	X	0	0	0	X	0	0	0	0
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat - Habitat Continuity (Space)	X	0	0	X	X	X	X	X	0
Livestock Production Limitation - Inadequate Feed and Forage	X	0	X	X	0	0	X	0	X
Livestock Production Limitation - Inadequate Shelter	0	0	X	0	0	0	0	0	0
Livestock Production Limitation - Inadequate Water	0	0	X	0	0	0	0	0	0

NRCS Approved Resource Concerns									
	Field Border	Firebreak	Forage and Biomass Planting	Forage Harvest Management	Forest Stand Improvement	Forest Trails and Landings	Grade Stabilization Structure	Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment	Heavy Use Area Protection
	386	394	512	511	666	655	410	548	561
Practice Code =									
Soil Erosion - Sheet and Rill	X	0	X	X	X	0	0	X	X
Soil Erosion - Wind	X	0	X	X	0	0	0	X	X
Soil Erosion - Streambank and Shoreline	X	0	0	0	0	0	X	0	0
Degraded Plant Condition - Plant Productivity or Health	X	0	X	X	X	X	0	X	X
Degraded Plant Condition - Excess Pests	X	0	0	0	X	X	0	0	X
Degraded Plant Condition - Wildfire Hazard from Accumulated Biomass	0	X	0	0	X	X	0	0	0
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat - Food	X	0	X	X	X	X	X	0	0
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter	X	0	X	X	X	X	X	0	0
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat - Water	0	0	0	0	0	0	X	0	0
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat - Habitat Continuity (Space)	X	0	0	0	X	0	0	0	0
Livestock Production Limitation - Inadequate Feed and Forage	0	0	X	X	X	X	0	X	0
Livestock Production Limitation - Inadequate Shelter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Livestock Production Limitation - Inadequate Water	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

NRCS Approved Resource Concerns	Herbaceous Weed Control	Integrated Pest Management	Irrigation Field Ditch	Irrigation Pipeline	Irrigation System, Micro-irrigation	Irrigation System, Sprinkler	Irrigation System, Surface & Subsurface	Irrigation Water Management	Obstruction Removal
Soil Erosion - Sheet and Rill	X	X	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Soil Erosion - Wind	X	X	0	0	0	X	X	X	0
Soil Erosion - Streambank and Shoreline	X	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Degraded Plant Condition - Plant Productivity or Health	X	0	X	X	X	X	X	X	0
Degraded Plant Condition - Excess Pests	X	0	0	0	X	X	X	X	0
Degraded Plant Condition - Wildfire Hazard from Accumulated Biomass	X	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat - Food	X	X	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter	X	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat - Water	0	0	X	0	X	X	X	0	0
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat - Habitat Continuity (Space)	X	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	X
Livestock Production Limitation - Inadequate Feed and Forage	X	0	0	0	X	X	X	X	0
Livestock Production Limitation - Inadequate Shelter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Livestock Production Limitation - Inadequate Water	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

NRCS Approved Resource Concerns	Open Channel	Livestock Pipeline	Pond	Prescribed Burning	Prescribed Grazing	Pumping Plant	Range Planting	Restoration and Mgmt of Rare or Declining Habitats	Riparian Forest Buffer
Soil Erosion - Sheet and Rill	0	0	0	X	X	0	X	C/X	X
Soil Erosion - Wind	0	0	0	X	X	0	X	C/X	X
Soil Erosion - Streambank and Shoreline	X	0	X	X	X	0	X	0	X
Degraded Plant Condition - Plant Productivity or Health	0	X	X	X	X	X	X	C/X	X
Degraded Plant Condition - Excess Pests	0	0	0	X	X	0	X	C/X	X
Degraded Plant Condition - Wildfire Hazard from Accumulated Biomass	0	0	0	X	X	0	0	0	0
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat - Food	0	0	X	X	X	0	X	C/X	X
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter	0	0	X	X	X	0	X	C/X	X
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat - Water	0	0	X	0	0	0	0	C/X	X
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat - Habitat Continuity (Space)	0	0	X	X	X	0	X	C/X	X
Livestock Production Limitation - Inadequate Feed and Forage	0	0	0	X	X	0	X	C/X	X
Livestock Production Limitation - Inadequate Shelter	0	0	0	0	X	0	0	0	X
Livestock Production Limitation - Inadequate Water	0	X	X	0	0	X	0	0	0

NRCS Approved Resource Concerns	Riparian Herbaceous Cover	Road/Trail/Landing Closure and Treatment	Spring Development	Stream Crossing	Streambank and Shoreline Protection	Structure for Water Control	Tree/Shrub Establishment	Tree/Shrub Site Preparation	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management
Practice Code =	390	654	574	578	580	587	612	490	645
Soil Erosion - Sheet and Rill	X	X	0	0	0	0	X	0	C/X
Soil Erosion - Wind	X	X	0	0	0	0	X	0	C/X
Soil Erosion - Streambank and Shoreline	X	X	X	X	X	0	X	0	C/X
Degraded Plant Condition - Plant Productivity or Health	X	X	X	0	X	0	X	X	C/X
Degraded Plant Condition - Excess Pests	X	0	0	0	X	0	X	X	C/X
Degraded Plant Condition - Wildfire Hazard from Accumulated Biomass	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	X	0
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat - Food	X	X	0	0	X	0	X	0	C/X
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter	X	X	0	0	X	0	X	0	C/X
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat - Water	X	X	X	0	0	X	0	0	0
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat - Habitat Continuity (Space)	X	X	X	0	X	0	X	0	C/X
Livestock Production Limitation - Inadequate Feed and Forage	X	X	X	X	X	0	0	0	C/X
Livestock Production Limitation - Inadequate Shelter	0	0	0	0	0	0	X	0	0
Livestock Production Limitation - Inadequate Water	0	0	X	X	0	X	0	0	0

NRCS Approved Resource Concerns	Water Well	Watering Facility	Wetland Enhancement	Wetland Restoration	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment	Woody Residue Treatment
Practice Code =	642	614	659	657	644	380	384
Soil Erosion - Sheet and Rill	X	X	0	0	0	X	X
Soil Erosion - Wind	X	X	0	0	0	X	X
Soil Erosion - Streambank and Shoreline	0	X	0	0	0	0	0
Degraded Plant Condition - Plant Productivity or Health	X	X	X	X	C/X	X	X
Degraded Plant Condition - Excess Pests	0	0	X	X	C/X	X	X
Degraded Plant Condition - Wildfire Hazard from Accumulated Biomass	0	0	0	0	0	0	X
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat - Food	0	0	X	X	C/X	X	0
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter	0	0	X	X	C/X	X	0
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat - Water	X	X	X	X	C/X	0	0
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat - Habitat Continuity (Space)	0	X	X	X	C/X	X	0
Livestock Production Limitation - Inadequate Feed and Forage	X	X	X	X	C/X	X	X
Livestock Production Limitation - Inadequate Shelter	0	0	0	0	0	X	X
Livestock Production Limitation - Inadequate Water	X	X	0	0	0	0	0

Screening is required for each eligible WLFW-Southwestern Willow Flycatcher application. Business rules for ranking questions are available on the programs Utah SharePoint site: Programs -> FY 2014 -> Business Rules

Additional Initiative Guidance:

1. It is important to remember that each conservation practice used for WLFW (both sage grouse and southwestern willow flycatcher) has specific conservation measures associated with it that must be considered and included in planning and implementation. These conservation measures are found in the Conference Report for sage grouse and the Biological Opinion for southwestern willow flycatcher. Both of these documents are found in eFOTG Section 1/References and resources/ Sage Grouse initiative *OR* Southwestern Willow flycatcher.
2. The WHEGs, threats checklist, maps and other tools needed for planning and ranking application can be found in eFOTG section 1/References and Tools/Sage grouse initiative and section 1/References and Tools/Southwestern willow flycatcher.
3. **Juniper Treatment (SGI)**

NRCS conservation practice standards identify certain criteria which must be met upon implementation of the practice based on the resource concern that is addressed through the practice. Brush Management (314) states that the practice will be planned and applied in a manner to meet the habitat requirements of the wildlife species of concern. Under the NRCS Sage Grouse Initiative (SGI), sage grouse is the identified species of concern. As such, the criteria below have been identified for the use of 314 and Woody Residue Treatment (384) in implementing the SGI in regards to treatment of juniper.

The required resource concerns when treating juniper encroachment with 314 in sage grouse habitat are Fish and Wildlife – Inadequate Cover / Shelter and Plant Condition - Productivity, Health, and Vigor. Other appropriate resource concerns may also be selected.

Juniper encroachment into sagebrush-dominated ecological sites reduces the suitability of the habitat for sage grouse for multiple reasons. If left undisturbed, juniper encroachment eventually would reduce, then eliminate the constituent components of quality sage grouse habitat. There is not a single variable that signals the point when the habitat would become unsuitable. Variables that affect the suitability of the habitat for sage grouse related to juniper include percent juniper cover, juniper height, and juniper competition with desirable plant communities (including forb cover and diversity, bunchgrass cover, and sagebrush cover). The effects of juniper encroachment will alter the suitability of the habitat for sage grouse depending on the sage grouse's season of use. The variables mentioned above will affect lekking areas, nesting areas, brood rearing areas, wintering areas, and movement corridors in different ways and at different rates.

There is a growing body of evidence and data showing drastic reductions in sage grouse use as juniper cover increases. Studies indicate a significant negative correlation between juniper cover and lek activity. Leks have shown to become inactive with 4 percent juniper cover. Nesting sage grouse avoid areas within 330 feet of junipers. Strong evidence also shows sage grouse avoidance of areas with juniper encroachment during brood rearing. Trees provide enhanced perching opportunities for avian predators, such as raptors and ravens, which may result in sage grouse avoidance. If areas are not avoided by sage grouse, this could result in higher rates of mortality and nest predation. Data also shows increasing use of areas by sage grouse following juniper removal. One study indicates a doubling of birds on leks 2 years post juniper treatment.

The lands treated with 314 and 384 under SGI should be focused on producing the best grouse habitat possible and maintaining habitat suitability through the lifespan of the practice. The lifespan of 314 and 384 is 10 years. Ideal sage grouse habitat has no juniper. Lands treated with 314 and 384 in SGI will specify post treatment condition of 0 percent

juniper cover. Specifications associated with 314 and 384 for juniper encroachment will include the following criteria, as applicable:

1. Juniper treatment techniques that retain as much existing sagebrush cover as possible should be selected.
2. All trees mechanically removed will be cut as close to the ground as possible.
3. All green growth must be cut to ensure juniper is killed (below the lowest branch).
4. If piling of trees is done, piles will have to be reduced to 6 feet or less in height within 36 months.
5. No trees taller than 5 feet that have been killed through chemical means will be left standing.
6. All remaining live trees (whips) must be treated 12 months to 36 months post chaining.

NRCS Practices for Juniper Treatment

The 2014 payment schedule for Brush Management (314) contains several new scenarios. Projects undertaken with the SGI to remove phase 1 or 2 encroaching juniper by lop and scatter should use the most appropriate scenario from 314 a, b, or c. If the project is a juniper phase 2 or 3 encroachment that will be treated with chaining, the appropriate scenario for the 314 treatment is c. Juniper chaining treatment must be followed up with Woody Residue Treatment (384) to treat remaining juniper whips and meet SGI juniper treatment guidance (above). The appropriate scenario under 384 is lop and scatter - light, medium, or heavy.

Woody Residue Treatment (384)

<u>Scenario</u>	<u>Situation</u>
a) Lop and Scatter, Light	Lop and scatter following chaining - Phase 1 juniper
b) Lop and Scatter, Medium	Lop and scatter following chaining - Phase 2 juniper
c) Lop and Scatter, Heavy	Lop and scatter following chaining - Phase 3 juniper

Brush Management (314)

<u>Scenario</u>	<u>Situation</u>
a) Mech, Small Shrubs, Light	Lop and scatter only - Phase 1 juniper
b) Mech, Small Shrubs, Med	Lop and scatter only - Phase 2 juniper
c) Mech, Small Shrubs, Heavy	Lop and scatter only - Phase 3 juniper OR Chain
d) Chemical, Ground Applied	Juniper chemical treatment
e) Chemical, Aerial Applied	Sagebrush chemical treatment

4. Winter Range Treatment (SGI)

NRCS projects in occupied sage grouse habitat must not harm sage grouse or reduce sage grouse habitat value. NRCS projects in sage grouse habitat should be designed to focus on non-controversial positive effects to sage grouse and should address threats to sage grouse persistence. While it is recognized that there are many potential reasons to reduce sagebrush cover or height that may provide long term benefits to sage grouse, each proposed action must be examined to ensure there will be no negative effects to sage grouse from the loss of winter range.

Any practice that reduces sagebrush cover or height in sage grouse winter range under any NRCS program will require NRCS State Office approval. Please submit requests to remove sagebrush in sage grouse winter range to the State Resource Conservationist.

See the following documents in eFOTG: Sage Grouse Winter Range Map and Sagebrush Treatment in Sage Grouse Winter Range Checklist

5. Seed Mixes (SGI)

Seed mixes for SGI shall take into consideration the structural and plant diversity needs of sage grouse during all life cycle stages (lekking, nesting, brood rearing, wintering, etc.) that could be represented in the planning area. Determine the state of the site in the Ecological Site Descriptions and the site potential and consider the associated plant species for seed mixes. Forage needs of livestock and the sustainability of livestock grazing should also be considered. Native plant species should be utilized when possible. The NRCS biologist and rangeland management specialist should collaborate on the seed mixes. DWR habitat biologists should be consulted when determining seed mixes.

Seed mixes for fire breaks have different considerations. Plants shall provide low levels of fuel, be competitive against weeds, and shall establish quickly.

Note the seeding requirements associated with the conservation measures by practice in the SGI Conference Report, repeated in conservation measure 2 & 3:

- All seed mixes should be State-certified weed free. Timing of planting and post-establishment vegetation management will be designed as per local site conditions to meet NRCS practice specifications and NRCS biologist or State Wildlife Agency recommendations.
- Newly seeded/planted sites should be rested from livestock grazing for an appropriate period as determined by NRCS to ensure stand establishment.

6. Coordination with DWR (SGI)

According to the conservation measures in the SGI Conference Report, NRCS shall coordinate with the "State Wildlife Agency", which for Utah is the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR). References to coordination with DWR are found in the following conservation measures (see page 32):

CM 1: NRCS shall coordinate with the various State Wildlife Agencies to identify appropriate restrictions on the placement, extent, configuration, and timing of conservation practice standards and the area where these practice restrictions would apply so as to avoid or minimize physical disturbance to sage-grouse where they may occur.

CM 2 & 3: ...Timing of planting and post-establishment vegetation management will be designed as per local site conditions to meet NRCS practice specifications and NRCS biologist or State Wildlife Agency recommendations...

CM 4: ...NRCS shall coordinate with the State Wildlife Agency to determine overall practice applicability, location, extent, configuration, and timing in conservation practice standard's where removal of sagebrush and associated understory vegetation is the objective...

CM7: Where a conservation practice standard involves the creation of an open water source, excluding livestock watering tanks, follow recommendations from the State Wildlife Agency and design practice to minimize or eliminate the threat of West Nile virus to the species.

CM 9: Where the particular "limited use" conservation practice standard is planned, NRCS shall coordinate with State Wildlife Agency to develop and implement site-specific guidelines to determine practice applicability, location, extent, configuration, and timing to reduce risk to sage-grouse and their habitats.

7. ESA Predictability

The delivery of ESA predictability has been further defined for 2014. Beginning in 2014, all SGI and SWFL WLFW projects shall offer the landowner Endangered Species Act (ESA) predictability. All other NRCS planning in the SGI or SWFL priority areas using the practices

and the conservation measures in the SGI Conference Report or SWFL Biological Opinion may be offered ESA predictability.

Through WLFW, NRCS facilitates ESA predictability for specific conservation practices through consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). ESA predictability exempts landowners from any "incidental take" of the species that may be inadvertently caused by the implementation and maintenance of covered conservation practices identified in a conservation plan. In general, ESA prohibits the "take" of listed species through direct harm or habitat destruction. "Take" includes "harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or attempt to engage in any such conduct." In the 1982 ESA amendments, FWS was authorized to issue permits for the "incidental take" of endangered and threatened wildlife species. Thus, permit holders can proceed with an activity that is legal in all other respects, but that results in the "incidental" taking of a listed species.

ESA predictability is available from FWS to cover practices in the conservation plan (as detailed in the Conference Report/Biological Opinion), if implemented with the appropriate conservation measures in the defined SGI or SWFL priority areas. It is not dependent on a financial assistance contract and will be conveyed to the landowner via written letter immediately upon practice implementation. Additional information on this will be forthcoming. ESA predictability can be retroactively offered on previous SGI plans if all conservation measures are in the specifications and are being implemented and all practices are maintained to the conservation standards.

ESA predictability can be granted until March 12, 2040 for SGI and July 24, 2042 for SWFL, as long as the practice is maintained to NRCS standards and specifications and the conservation measures continue to be implemented. Practices not identified in the Conference Report/Biological Opinion are not covered for ESA predictability. Other landowner actions not associated with the NRCS conservation plan are not covered for ESA predictability.

Individuals that are planning and implementing conservation plans for both SG and SWFL will need to obtain WLFW Conservation Planning Certification in order to plan and convey ESA predictability to landowners. Training, tracking and monitoring programs are currently being developed and will be detailed in future guidance.

8. Casey Burns and Shane Green are the Utah technical contacts for Working Lands for Wildlife: casey.burns@ut.usda.gov / shane.green@ut.usda.gov. James Huggard is the Utah program contact for this initiative: james.huggard@ut.usda.gov.

**NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) &
Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)
Working Lands for Wildlife – Southwestern Willow Flycatcher
NATIONAL SCREENING CRITERIA WORKSHEET - Fiscal Year 2014**
***A Screening Worksheet must be completed for each eligible Southwestern Willow
Flycatcher application.***

Instructions:

This screening worksheet must be completed for each eligible producer applying for EQIP or WHIP Working Lands for Wildlife – Southwestern Willow Flycatcher assistance. Applications will be accepted on a continuous basis; however, application periods are established for purposes of evaluation, ranking, and funding decisions.

Completion of this worksheet and documentation does not constitute agreement to provide EQIP or WHIP program benefits nor approval of a program contract. The original screening worksheet should be filed with the applicant case file or EQIP or WHIP program file and unless the application is determined to be ineligible, the

screening priority (high, medium, and low) must be recorded in ProTracts. Upon request, a copy of any completed screening worksheet may be provided to the applicant.

Detailed Screening Criteria Worksheet – Complete for each eligible EQIP or WHIP Applicant

Applicant Name:		County:	
Application No: (OPTIONAL)		Field Office:	
Evaluator Name:		Date:	

Priority Determination for ProTracts – Select One:

<p>High Priority Category:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applications within the target species "Focal Area" where a Core practice will be applied on all treated acres OR in instances where a Supporting practice is necessary to implement the Core practice, where a Core or Supporting practice will be applied on all treated acres; <li style="text-align: center;">Or • The project size is > 10 acres and the landscape scale forest cover is >70%. 	<p>High Priority Status in ProTracts</p>
<p>Medium Priority Category:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applications outside the target species "Focal Area", where a Core practice will be applied AND in accordance with the state determined criteria that identifies which applications are likely to rank highly and benefit the species. This category also includes those applications within the "Focal Area" where a core practice will not be installed on the entire contract acres; <li style="text-align: center;">Or • The project size is <10 acres, the landscape scale forest cover is >70% and the elevation is >2000 ft. 	<p>Medium Priority Status in ProTracts</p>
<p>Low Priority Category:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applications where a Core practice will not be applied; <li style="text-align: center;">Or • The project size is <10 acres, the landscape scale forest cover is <70% and the elevation is <2000 ft; <li style="text-align: center;">Or • All other applications. 	<p>Low Priority Status in ProTracts</p>

The priority determination of high, medium, or low must be recorded in ProTracts for this applicant.

D.C. Approval:		Date Approved:	
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