

Natural Resources Conservation Service

**Application Ranking Summary
Gallatin Valley RCPP**

Program: EQIP 2014 Ranking Date:	Application Number:
Ranking Tool: Gallatin Valley RCPP	Applicant:
Final Ranking Score:	Address:
Planner:	Telephone:
Farm Location:	

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering “Yes” to the following question. Answering “Yes” to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the national priority category.	
1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is “Yes”, do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is “No”, proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	
Clean and Abundant Water: Water Quality - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
2. a. Meet regulatory requirements relating to animal feeding operations, or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	
2. b. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a designated "impaired water body" (TMDL, 303d, etc.)?	
2. c. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a "non-impaired water body"?	
Clean and Abundant Water: Water Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer implement conservation practices which:	
3. a. Decrease aquifer overdraft?	
3. b. Conserve water from irrigation system improvements and saved water will be available for other beneficial uses?	
3. c. Conserve water in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	
Clean Air: Treatment of air quality from agricultural sources - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:	
4. a. Meet on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	
4. b. Reduce on-farm generated green house gases such as CO ₂ (Carbon Dioxide), CH ₄ (Methane), and N ₂ O (Nitrous Oxide)?	
4. c. Increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	
Soil Health: Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	
5. b. Improve soil tilth, organic matter, structure, health, etc.?	
Healthy Plant and Animal Communities Wildlife Habitat Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:	
6. a. Benefit on-farm habitat associated with threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern as identified in a State wildlife plan?	

6. b. Help retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)?	
High Quality, Productive Soils, Healthy Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project assist the producer implement practices which:	
7. a. Help manage or control noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	
7. b. Increase, or improve habitat to benefit pollinator or other targeted wildlife species?	
7. c. Properly dispose of livestock carcasses?	
7. d. Are identified in an Integrated Pest Management plan?	
7. e. Are identified in a Nutrient Management plan?	
7. f. Apply principles of adaptive nutrient management?	
Energy Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practices which:	
8. a. Reduce energy consumption on the agricultural operation?	
8. b. Increase on-farm energy efficiency with practices and improvements identified in an approved energy audit equivalent to criteria required in Ag EMP?	
8. c. Assist in implementing energy conservation measures that also reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants?	
Business Lines - Conservation Implementation Additional Ranking Considerations - Will the proposed project result in:	
9. a. Implementation of all conservation practices scheduled in the contract on the CPA-1155 within three years of date of obligation?	
9. b. Improvement of existing conservation practices or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is accepted?	
9. c. Implementation of practice(s) which will complete an existing conservation system or suite of practices?	

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Has this resource concerned been identified by the Local Working Group. (Gallatin RCPP Boundary)	
2. Does the proposed project lie in an 8-digit watershed listed on the 303(d)-list AND does the application propose to address a water quality criteria that is listed as an impairment for the stream reach? http://svc.mt.gov/deq/wmaDST/default.aspx?requestor=DST&type=CWAIC&CycleYear=2012	
Select the resource concerns identified during the inventory process that will be addressed through practices proposed in this application. The resource assessment must document how the resource was determined to be a concern (visual assessment, RUSLE2, WEQ, Volume Calculation, etc). Select all that apply	
3. Soil Erosion - Sheet, Rill, Wind, and/or Concentrated Flow Erosion	
4. Soil Quality Degradation - Organic Matter Depletion and/or Compaction	
5. Water Quality Degradation - Excessive Sediment in surface water, Excessive Nutrients in surface or ground water, and/or Pesticides transported to receiving waters	
The eFOTG lists essential practices for cropland include 328 Conservation Crop Rotation, 590 Nutrient Management, Residue Management (345 or 329), and/or Forage Harvest Management (511). Integrated Pest Management is an essential practice but not eligible for payment or ranking points on cropland. Select one of the following.	
6. All 3 essential practices will be contracted	
7. Two essential practices will be contracted	
8. One essential practice will be contracted	

Select all that apply	
9. Will the contract include the treatment of a saline recharge area?	
10. Does the application result in an improving soil health condition from the benchmark condition as determined from the Soil Condition Index (SCI) worksheet (System must result in an SCI of > 0.00 on the offered acres) OR will the proposed plan meet the threshold value for the Montana Crop Diversity Tool value of >3?	
11. Will the applicant be seeding HEL cropland to perennial cover?	
12. Does the application benefit pollinator species through the seeding of pollinator friendly seeding mixes? (Must be in accordance with Montana NRCS Biology Technical Note Number MT-20, March 2009.)	

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
Distance to impaired stream (only select one of the below)	
adjacent to within 0.5 miles	
0.5 to 2 miles	
>2 miles	
Is this application on land permanently conserved through a conservation easement	
Does this application include practices that enhance wildlife habitat and fisheries	
Does this application include practices that enhance water quality through reduction in sedimentation, nutrient load, or E. Coli	