

Cassia/Minidoka Team 12

2020 Ranking Questions

Irrigated Cropland

1. True or False: Is the enrolled land in a Nitrate Priority area or is it immediately adjacent to or has direct access to a water body that has a TMDL or is 303d listed? (25pts)
2. Irrigation Efficiency:
 - a. Is estimated reduction in gross water applied more than 21%? (25pts)
 - b. Is estimated reduction in gross water applied more than 12-21%? (20pts)
 - c. Is estimated reduction in gross water applied less than 12%? (15pts)
3. Does the project include 2 of the following for a minimum of 1 year and/or include Intermediate or higher IWM or Nutrient mgmt for a minimum of 1 year?: (20 pts)
 - a. Basic IWM
 - b. Basic Nutrient Mgt
 - c. Basic Pest Mgt
 - d. Filter strip or Field Border
 - e. Conservation Cover
4. True or False: Will the planned conservation practices improve the existing crop rotation by including a cover crop mix with at least 3 species (including 1 legume) on a field unit (must cover at least 25% of the planned land unit)? Minimum of 1 year. (20 points)
5. Answer one of the next two questions if contracted practices will result in planning criteria for 'Soil Erosion Sheet, rill and wind erosion' being met or exceeded. Use the appropriate NRCS tool for the erosion type being addressed. If multiple erosion types occur, use the most predominant.
 - a. Is average soil loss reduced by 5 or more tons/acre? (10 pts)
 - b. Is average soil loss reduced by less than 5 tons/acre? (5 pts)

Irrigated Pasture

1. True or False: Will the project convert cropland to Permanent Pasture? (40 pts)
2. True or False: Will the practices result in increasing the existing Pasture Condition Score to 35 or greater? (15 pts)
3. Irrigation Efficiency:
 - a. Is estimated reduction in gross water applied more than 21%? (15 pts)
 - b. Is estimated reduction in gross water applied more than 12-21%? (10 pts)
 - c. Is estimated reduction in gross water applied less than 12%? (5 pts)
4. Will the scheduled practices enhance riparian areas through:
 - a. Rock or in-stream structures (5 pts)
 - b. Installation of offsite water (10 pts)
 - c. Installation of Fencing for a riparian pasture (15 pts)
 - d. 2 of the above (20 pts)
 - e. 3 or more of the above (25 pts)
5. True or False: Will the planned conservation practices improve permanent wildlife habitat within the project area? Example: windbreak renovation, tree/shrub establishment, pollinator habitat (5 pts)

Range/Dry Pasture

1. True or False: Will the planned practices address the resource concern of Inadequate Livestock Water? (30 pts)
2. Will the scheduled practices enhance riparian areas through:
 - a. Rock or in-stream structures (5 pts)
 - b. Installation of offsite water (10 pts)
 - c. Installation of Fencing for a riparian pasture (15 pts)
 - d. 2 of the above (20 pts)
 - e. 3 or more of the above (25 pts)
3. True or False: (20 pts)
 - a. Will Herbaceous Weed Control or Integrated Pest Management be scheduled in the contract to meet planning criteria for 'Degraded Plant Condition - Excessive Plant Pest Pressure' where it was not met in benchmark conditions?
 - b. Will planned conservation practices address improving range/pasture through seedings, fencing, and include a prescribed grazing plan?
4. True or False: Will the planned conservation practices improve permanent wildlife habitat within the project area? Example: windbreak renovation, tree/shrub establishment, pollinator habitat (10 pts)
5. True or False: Will a Rotational or Deferred Grazing plan be implemented? (15 pts)

Dry Cropland

1. Answer one of the next two questions if contracted practices will result in planning criteria for 'Soil Erosion Sheet, rill and wind erosion' being met or exceeded. Use the appropriate NRCS tool for the erosion type being addressed. If multiple erosion types occur, use the most predominant.
 - a. Is average soil loss reduced by 5 or more tons/acre? (25 pts)
 - b. Is average soil loss reduced by less than 5 tons/acre? (15 pts)
2. Will the planned conservation practices include a conversion to no-till (329) or reduced till (345) For a minimum of:
 - a. (minimum of 1 year)? (10pts)
 - b. (minimum of 2 year)? (15 pts)
 - c. (minimum of 3 year)? (20 pts)
3. Will the contracted practice(s) result in planning criteria for 'Soil - Organic matter depletion', 'Soil Organism habitat loss or degradation', or 'Aggregate instability' being met OR exceeded? (15 pts)
4. Will the planned conservation practices improve the existing crop rotation by including a cover crop mix with at least 2 species (including 1 legume) on a field unit (must cover at least 25% of the planned land unit)? Minimum of 1 year. (20 pts)
5. Is the enrolled land immediately adjacent to or directly connected to a water body that has a TMDL or 303d listing? (20 pts)

Irrigated Cropland questions Justification based on Priority Resource Concerns

1. Water Quality – Q# 1,2,3,4,5
2. Insufficient Water – Q# 2,3
3. Soil Quality – Q# 4,5
4. Soil Erosion – Q# 2,4,5
5. Excess Water – Q# 2

Irrigated Pasture questions Justification based on Priority Resource Concerns

1. Water Quality – Q# 1,2,3,4
2. Insufficient Water – Q# 3
3. Soil Quality – Q# 1,2
4. Soil Erosion – Q# 1,2,3,4
5. Excess Water – Q# 3

Range/Dry Pasture questions Justification based on Priority Resource Concerns

1. Water Quality – Q# 2,3,5
2. Insufficient Water – Q# 1
3. Soil Quality – Q# 3,5
4. Soil Erosion – Q# 1,2,3,5
5. Excess Water – Q#

Dry Cropland questions Justification based on Priority Resource Concerns

1. Water Quality – Q# 1,2,3,4,5
2. Insufficient Water – Q# 2,3,4,5
3. Soil Quality – Q# 2,3,4
4. Soil Erosion – Q# 1,2,3,4
5. Excess Water – Q#