

## Monongahela CD Area

### 2004 Environmental Ranking Criteria

#### Grasslands

Points can only be earned when there is an environmental concern to be addressed by the implementation of a Conservation Management System. If the applicant is already doing the conservation practice that eliminates an environmental concern, then points will not be assigned. Points will be awarded as written on the worksheet and not arbitrarily reduced.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

FSN \_\_\_\_\_ TRACT \_\_\_\_\_

Environmental ranking criteria points

1. \_\_\_\_ Reduce excessive erosion and improve Wildlife Habitat on class 7 grassland or critically eroding areas by a land use conversion to forestland.  
**10 points**
  
2. \_\_\_\_ Develop sources of drinking water for livestock in order to reduce excessive erosion or animal waste related problems to improve surface water quality or wildlife riparian habitat.  
**10 points**
  
3. \_\_\_\_ Improve surface water quality by implementing stream crossings for livestock or equipment.  
**10 points**
  
4. \_\_\_\_ Improve soil tilth and reduce excessive erosion by the conversion of cropland to pastureland or hayland. Class III land or higher.  
**5 points**
  
5. \_\_\_\_ Reduce compaction, improve regeneration, and develop proper stand population on the forest landscape by excluding livestock. (One point per 10% of forestland needing livestock exclusion).  
**10 points**
  
- \*6. \_\_\_\_ Improve water quality and provide proper utilization of animal waste nutrients by relocation concentrated winter feeding area (Standard Code 757 Animal Use Area Protection. Utilization plan required.)

In addition to the standard requirements, points will be awarded as follows:  
Distance from concentrated flow area or stream:

>200 feet	<b>20 points</b>
100 – 199	<b>15 points</b>
< 100	<b>5 points</b>

\*6A. \_\_\_\_ Implementation of a rotational winter grazing/feeding system.

**30 points**

**\*Consider both 6 and 6A if needed.**

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7. \_\_\_\_ Improve soil quality, reduce erosion, improve animal health, by developing and implementing a prescribed grazing plan. Farmer must be given management worksheet so they understand the requirements of this practice.

- Managed continuous grazing 9 or more days on field **10 points**
- Rotational grazing 5-8 days on field **20 points**
- Management intensive grazing 1-4 days on field **30 points**

7A. \_\_\_\_ Nutrient management, a soil test will be required and is to be presented to the NRCS office. Application of lime and fertilizer will be based on the WVU soil test recommendations, the forage species and the stocking rate of livestock. The maximum number of acres eligible for soil amendment cost share on any contract will be capped at 25% of the eligible grazing land or 40ac which ever is greater.

**10 points**

\*Cost sharing for Nutrient Management will be capped at the following amounts of soil amendments:

- Lime 3ton/ac
- P 80lbs/ac
- K 120lbs/ac

8. \_\_\_\_ Utilize **EXTENDED GRAZING** to reduce confinement periods, as part of a prescribed grazing plan. (Minimum height of grass to be maintained per 528A) 1 month extended grazing (1/2 Ac/animal unit and 50lbs of N/Ac.) **10 points**

9. \_\_\_\_ Stabilize-eroding **Stream banks** caused by livestock. Livestock must be excluded. **10 points**

10. \_\_\_\_ Improve surface water quality by establishing a **FILTER STRIP/BUFFER AREA**. (between water resource and cropland, pastureland, or feedlot.) Livestock must be excluded. **10 points**

A **bonus** of the percentage of 30 points equal to the percentage of total footage of the stream on the tract that is protected by the establishing of a filter strip or buffer area.

**30 points**

11. \_\_\_\_ **Divert overland flow** or overhead flow of clean water from existing permanent livestock feeding areas. (e.g. diversion, gutters, etc.)

**10 points**

12. \_\_\_\_ Reduce **sheet** and rill erosion. Use the predominate soil type for the field/farm.

- \_\_\_\_ Reduce average erosion > 5 tons/ac/yr. **15 points**
- \_\_\_\_ Reduce average erosion 3-5 tons/ac/yr. **10 points**
- \_\_\_\_ Reduce average erosion < 3 tons/ac/yr **5 points**

Reduce **Ephemeral/gully** erosion. Use the predominate soil type for the field/farm.

- \_\_\_\_ Reduce average erosion > 1000 cu/ft/yr. **20 points**
- \_\_\_\_ Reduce average erosion 1000-500 cu/ft/yr. **15 points**
- \_\_\_\_ Reduce average erosion 500-300 cu/ft/yr. **10 points**
- \_\_\_\_ Reduce average erosion < 300 cu/ft/yr. **5 points**

13. \_\_\_\_ Establishment of warm season grasses. For Livestock – 30-day carrying capacity. Wildlife – 2 Ac. Minimum.

**10 points**

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**TOTAL POINTS** \_\_\_\_\_