

EXHIBIT BI – To National Instruction 440-310

Water Bank Program Ranking Guidance

- 1) States must create ranking pools using the Water Bank Program National Ranking Template and guidance issued by national bulletin.
- 2) Points for ranking questions in the “Program Priority” and “Resource Priority” sections must not exceed 200 total points for each section.
- 3) The following ranking criteria must be addressed in the State-developed ranking questions included in the “Program Priority” section of the ranking pool display group:
 - Proximity to other protected lands
 - Acres offered
 - Reduced cost to government
 - The landowner/operator or others offering to contribute financially to the enrollment to leverage Federal funds
 - The extent to which the purpose of the program would be achieved on the land
 - Boundary – number of corners of offered land
- 4) The following ranking criteria must be addressed in the State-developed ranking questions included in the “Resource Priority” section of the ranking pool display group:
 - Presence of threatened and endangered species
 - Landowner willing to restore adjacent lands to an approved mix of grasses
 - State Geographic Area from USFWS Water Breeding Pairs Map
 - Restore hydrology of wetland basin – landowner willing to restore
 - The environmental benefits of enrolling the land
- 5) Tie Breaker—States must use the highest acreage between the tied assessments as the tie breaker in CART ranking scores. In the event the efficiency scores are tied, States must fund all tied assessments or none of the tied assessments.