**STEP 4: EVALUATE CONSERVATION**

**4-A.) Evaluating conservation practices**

Reminder: please use only HIGH and MEDIUM priority fields for the remainder of this application. If you would like to pursue conservation options for low priority fields that do not qualify for RCPP, please contact The Nature Conservancy at SaginawBayRCPP@tnc.org for PfP options.

To evaluate conservation on RCPP eligible fields using the practices selected in Step 3B (page 8), **start here.**

All HIGH and MEDIUM priority fields need to be scored in GLWMS by prescribing an eligible conservation practice (or suite of practices) in the GLWMS.

If interested in:

* Nutrient management plans (NMP) (104)
* Nutrient management (590)
* Drainage water management plans (DWMP) (130)
* Drainage water management (554) & support practices:
	+ Structure for water control (587)
	+ Underground outlet (620)
	+ Mulching (484)

If interested in:

* Conservation Cover (327)
* Residue and Tillage Management – No-Till (329)
* Residue and Tillage Management – Reduced Till (345)
* Cover Crops (340)
* Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
* Filter Strip (393)

Run GLWMS conservation scenarios. See the instructions on the page 10 for guidance on scoring and saving conservation scenarios.

**Running this tool on an individual field should take less than three minutes.** If there are many fields (more than 10) please contact Ben Wickerham with The Nature Conservancy (benjamin.wickerham@tnc.org). Ben will assist you in handling large number of fields.

These practices cannot be scored using the GLWMS. Instead, please use the manual scoring method, below, by completing boxes A, B & C.

1. For a plan, NMP or DWMP activities ONLY, please assign: **110 points.**
2. What is the current water quality within the area where the field(s) is located? (Use the “Fish Habitat” map layer in GLWMS to determine).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Circle a fish health category, below:** | **Points** |
|  | Not Impacted | **25** |
|  | Slightly Impacted | **45** |
|  | Moderately Impacted | **70** |
|  | Very Impacted | **100** |
|  | Severely Impacted | **140** |

When all fields have had conservation scenarios applied and have received scores, save the results into a detailed report (generated in GLWMS) and include it with this application.

*Note:* if cover crops are selected, please provide NRCS with three years of predicted cover crops species to be planted on each field.

**Enter project score from GLWMS HERE:**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Or**

Click here to enter text.

1. What is the total score of this project? *Please add scores from A & B to get total:*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **(A)**  **110** | **+** | **(B)**  | **=** | **(C)**  |

 Click here to enter text. Click here to enter text.