

NEVADA NRCS WETLAND RESERVE EASEMENT

FY 2017

Rating Score _____

WETLAND RESERVE EASEMENT
NEVADA RANKING CRITERIA WORKSHEET

(Revised 11/08/2016)

Client Name: _____ Date: _____
 Address: _____ Application No. _____
 Evaluators: _____

Check WRE Option: Perpetual Easement _____ 30 Year Easement _____ *30 Year Contract _____

Reservation of Grazing Rights Option: Y or N *(30 Year contract is only for tribal lands only)

Percentage of Offered Acres with Hydric Soils based on Soils Map (Estimated) _____ (attach map)

WRE FUNDING POOL

Regular WRE Application Yes _____ No _____ Sage-grouse Initiative WRE Application Yes _____ No _____

Acreage Proposed for Restoration _____ Total Acres Offered _____

	Present Land Use Type Acres	Proposed Land Use Types Acres
Ag Type	_____	_____
Wetlands	_____	_____
Woody Riparian	_____	_____
Upland	_____	_____

SUMMARY OF RATING FACTOR SCORES

		<u>Maximum</u>	<u>Points</u>
FACTOR 1	RESTORED HYDROLOGY (Present Condition)	25	_____
FACTOR 2	RESTORED HYDROLOGY (Future Condition)	25	_____
FACTOR 3	SENSITIVE SPECIES	30	_____
	SAGE-GROUSE (SGI Funded Applications Only)	15	_____
FACTOR 4	HABITAT DIVERSITY	20	_____
FACTOR 5	ADJACENT PROTECTED HABITAT	15	_____
FACTOR 6	SURROUNDING HABITAT	15	_____
FACTOR 7	RESTORED HYDROLOGY (Soil Factors)	40	_____
FACTOR 8	SIZE OF OFFERING	15	_____
FACTOR 9	COST RANKING SCORE	40	_____
FACTOR 10	PARTNERSHIP POINTS	<u>20</u>	_____
	Total	260	_____

_____ Signature - USFWS Representative	_____ Date
_____ Signature – State Biologist	_____ Date
_____ Signature – District Conservationist	_____ Date
_____ Signature – Landowner Review	_____ Date

1. RESTORED NATURAL HYDROLOGY (Present Condition)

*Hydrology Functions Absent (Example: Prior Converted Wetland does not Pond or Flood for 15 Consecutive Days) (25 Points)

*Hydrology Functions Degraded (Example: Farmed Wetlands or Wetlands Farmed Under Natural Conditions, still Ponds or Floods for 15 days or more) (20 Points)

Note: Cropland that has been restored to wetland voluntarily will be scored according to its prior condition.

*Restored Prior Converted Wetlands (25 Points)

*Formerly Farmed Wetland or Wetlands Farmed Under Natural Conditions (20 Points)

Note: If more than one situation, making up 25% or more of the offered acreage, calculate the weighted average.

Total _____
(Maximum - 25 points)

Field Notes: (describe the natural and supplemental hydrology, type and source of water, and dependability of supplemental sources). _____

2. HYDROLOGY RESTORATION/Expected Future Condition as Functioning Wetland

*High Probability of Restoration on at least 50% of the offered acres, or Supplemental Water readily available during the growing season with Vernal Pool Complex > 15% of the offered acres. (25 Points)

*High Probability of Restoration on 25-50% of the offered acres, or Supplemental Water available during growing season. (20 Points)

*Probability of Restoration on < 25% of the offered acres. (10 Points)

Note: If more than one situation, making up 25% or more of the offered acreage, calculate the weighted average.

Total _____
(Maximum - 25 points)

Field Notes: (describe restorable hydrology, ponding/flooding probability, source and reliability of supplemental water). _____

3. SENSITIVE SPECIES

-Listed Federal & State T&E Species 5 points each
-Species of Concern: Any Species listed in the State Wildlife Action Plan 3 points each
Species Total _____
(Maximum - 30 points)

Sage-grouse Habitat Points- Only SGI funded WRE's
Protect Core Habitat (15 Points)
Protect Priority Habitat (10 Points)
Protect General Habitat (5 Points) Total _____
(Maximum 15 Points)

SEASON	SPECIES	HABITAT	SEASON
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

4. HABITAT DIVERSITY

Number of Habitat Elements Anticipated Following Restoration for each selected Wetland Type

*Wetland Types

**Habitat Elements are components of each wetland type

___ *Forested/Scrub Shrub

___ *Open Water (>3 ft deep)*

___ *Submergents*

___ *Shrubs/Trees*

___ *Associated Uplands*

___ *Vernal Pools

___ *Mud Flat*

___ *Submergents*

___ *Emergents*

___ *Associated Uplands*

___ *Seasonal Herbaceous

___ *Mud Flat*

___ *Open Water*

___ *Emergents*

___ *Shrubs/Trees****

___ *Associated Uplands*

___ *Semi-permanent Herbaceous

___ *Mud Flat*

___ *Open Water*

___ *Submergents*

___ *Trees/Shrubs****

___ *Associated Uplands*

Points for Habitat Elements for each Wetland Type

All (15 points)

All but One (10 points)

All but Two (5 points)

Three or More Absent (1 point)

Total _____

(Maximum - 20 points)

FOOTNOTES:

* Check appropriate wetland type evaluated and the Habitat Elements present.

** The Habitat Elements listed below each Wetland Type must occupy at least 10% of the specific associated Wetland Type to be considered present. (Best estimate)

*** Considered in this Wetland Type only if present historically and will occupy at least 5% of the restored wetland. (Best estimate)

Note: ADD 5 ADDITIONAL POINTS FOR MORE THAN 1 WETLAND TYPE

Field Notes: _____

5. ADJACENT TO PROTECTED AREAS OR WITHIN CRITICALLY LIMITED HABITAT.

*Adjacent to Existing Easement, Refuge or other Protected Area..... (15 points)

*Protected Habitat within 1 mile..... (10 points)

*Protected Habitat greater than 1 mile..... (5 points)

Total _____
(Maximum - 15 points)

Field Notes: Document type and size of protected area and distance from Proposed Easement.

<u>TYPE OF PROTECTED AREA</u>	<u>DISTANCE</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Additional Field Notes: _____

6. SURROUNDING HABITAT DIRECTLY ADJACENT TO THE PROPOSED EASEMENT

Adjacent Habitats

* 3 Habitat Types, or Wetlands, making up greater than 75% of the adjacent land use types. (15 points)

* 2 Habitat Types, or Wetlands making up greater than 50% of the adjacent land use types. (10 points)

* 1 Habitat Type, or Wetlands, making up greater than 25% of the adjacent land use types. (5 points)

* 1 Habitat Type, or Wetlands, making up less than 25% of the adjacent land use types. (1 point)

Check all Habitat Types that apply:

- | | | |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grassland | <input type="checkbox"/> Grain Crops | Total _____
(Maximum - 15 points) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Woodland | <input type="checkbox"/> Irrigated Pasture | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brush/Scrubland | <input type="checkbox"/> Woody Riparian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands | | |

Field Notes: _____

7. RESTORED NATURAL HYDROLOGY/SOIL CHARACTERISTICS

(Potential to restore water features based on soil characteristics)

***Flooding Potential: Temporary Inundation by Flowing Water**

Frequent (>50 events in 100 years)	(15 points)
Occasional (5-50 events in 100 years)	(5 points)
Rare (1-5 events in 100 years)	(1 point)

***Ponding: (Determined by Permeability, Soil Type, Physiographic Position)**

Very Slow	(15 points)
Slow	(10 points)
Moderate	(5 points)
Moderately Rapid	(3 points)
Excessive	(1 point)

***Saturation: (Depth to Water Table)**

0 to 1 foot	(10 points)
1 to 3 feet	(5 points)
Greater than 3 feet	(1 point)

Total _____
(Maximum- 40 points)

Note: Refer to local soil survey data for specific categories related to flooding, permeability and depth to water table. Points for a high water table may be considered even though the water table is seasonal.

Field Notes: _____

8. SIZE OF EASEMENT

100 acres or Greater	(15 points)
Less than 100 acres, but greater than 40 acres	(10 points)
20 to less than 40 acres	(7 points)
Less than 20 acres	(0 points)

Total _____
(Maximum - 15 points)

Note: Generally parcels smaller than 20 acres may not be eligible to enrolled in the program based on the Wetland Reserve Easement requirements. However, parcels smaller than 20 acres may receive special consideration if the land is providing critical remnant wetland habitat for a US Fish & Wildlife Service listed endangered species. Special consideration status will need to be closely evaluated by the Nevada NRCS State Biologist, the US Fish & Wildlife Service, and the NRCS easement program staff.

9. COST RANKING SCORE

Low: Average restoration cost is less than \$500/acre (40 points)

Moderate: Average Restoration cost is \$500-\$1500/acre (30 points)

High: Average Restoration cost is greater than \$1500/acre (20 points)

Total _____
(Maximum - 40 points)

10. PARTNERSHIP POINTS

Note: Partnership contributions include real dollar donations to a project that actually reduce NRCS' total costs for the easement. NRCS does not consider technical assistance for surveying, design and ~~planning to be a partnership contribution, since these services are not considered in the overall cost of the project.~~ Projects receive partnership points proportionately as the NRCS costs are reduced.

Estimated Cost of restoration for project based on Preliminary Restoration Plan \$ _____

Partnership Contribution (Entity- _____) \$ _____

Contribution's Percentage of restoration cost _____

Total _____
(Maximum - 20 points)

Note: One point can be given for every percentage that NRCS' estimated Restoration cost is reduced (Maximum 20% = 20 points)

OR

Nevada Geographic Area Rate Cap - (GARC) Value for offered land \$ _____

Landowner Offer - lower than the Nevada GARC \$ _____

Offer's Percentage below GARC _____

Total _____
(Maximum - 20 points)

Note: One point can be given for every percentage that NRCS' Easement Payment is reduced below the GARC (Maximum 20% = 20 points)

