



**PA NRCS Wetlands Reserve Easement Program (WRE)  
Regular WRE Ranking Form**

11/23/2016

Applicant \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_ Tract: \_\_\_\_\_

Application Type: Permanent Easement \_\_\_\_\_ 30-Year Easement \_\_\_\_\_

Eligible (Y/N): \_\_\_\_\_

Screening Pass/Fail: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Ranking Score: \_\_\_\_\_

NRCS Employee Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**RANKING SCREENING**

1. Does the applicant have and will have control over the land being offered for enrollment and restoration? (If No, not eligible, do not rank.)			Yes _____	No _____
2. Does the applicant have clear title to the land being offered for easement? (If No, do not rank. All judgments, mortgages, liens, etc. must be remedied prior to closing or landowner is ineligible)			Yes _____	No _____
<b>NOTE: landowner must provide a deed or proof of ownership prior to ranking</b>				
3. Is the acreage proposed for enrollment under an oil, gas, or other mineral lease that allows surface disturbance? *If Yes, do not rank. NRCS must review the lease prior to ranking and enrollment			Yes _____	No _____
4. Has the applicant owned the land for 24 months or more? (If No, not eligible, do not rank. A 24 Month waiver must be obtained prior to ranking.)			Yes _____	No _____
5. Are there any co-owners other than the spouse? (If Yes, list the names as they appear on the deed:)			Yes _____	No _____
6. Does the applicant and the co-owners (including spouse) meet payment eligibility criteria (AGI) and conservation provisions (HEL/WC)? (If No, not eligible, do not rank.) (If yes, attach <b>Subsidiary Printout</b> for each landowner.)			Yes _____	No _____
7. Does everyone on the deed (plus their spouses) agree to enroll the land in WRE? (If No, not eligible, do not rank.)			Yes _____	No _____
8. Is there a land lease or land rental contract? (if Yes, list names, purpose and term:)			Yes _____	No _____
9. Is the landowner willing to provide maintenance activities and participate in restoration for the easement? (examples: restoration contract, noxious weed control, fence repair, vegetative management if needed, non-encroachment enforcement, illegal trespass, etc.) (If No, do not rank.)			Yes _____	No _____
10. Is the landowner planning on selling the property in the next 2-5 years? (if Yes, do not rank. Further discussion is needed with the landowner before moving forward with application.)			Yes _____	No _____

**RANKING SCREENING, Con't**

11. If land is enrolled in CRP or CREP, has applicant accepted an incentive payment (SIP or PIP) through CRP or CREP? (NOTE: Note: If landowner HAS accepted a SIP or PIP to enroll in CRP or CREP, inform them now, "If this property does become an easement you may be liable to pay back any SIP or PIP that you accepted through CRP or CREP." Please have landowner check with the FSA office for the exact payback requirements.) Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_

12. Has the applicant received a WRE offer on this application in the last 3 years? (If Yes, do not rank.) Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_

13. Are other easements present on the land? (i.e. – agricultural preservation easement or other easement that protects the land in perpetuity?) (If Yes, do not rank at this time. Additional information is needed prior to ranking/enrollment.) Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_

14. Is the estimated WRE offer dollar amount (GARC rate) for the proposed enrollment acceptable to the landowner? (if No, do not rank) Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_

15. Will the proposed restoration cost exceed the easement cost? (If Yes, do not rank. Further evaluation is needed prior to ranking/enrollment.) Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_

16. Are all of the "Core Eligible" acres Hydric or Partially Hydric Soils (Minimum 33% Hydric)? (If No, do not rank. Further evaluation is needed prior to ranking/enrollment.) Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_

17. Have hydric soils, hydrology and slope been evaluated on-site for restoration potential? (If No, do not rank. Further evaluation is needed prior to ranking/enrollment.) Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_

18. Permitting  
 a. Does the proposed restoration involve earthmoving?\* Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_  
 b. Will existing wetlands on-site be disturbed by earthmoving activities?\* Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_  
 \* If Yes, do not rank. Consultation with US FWS or other partner is needed prior to ranking/enrollment.

19. If a previously restored project is offered, would WRE Land Eligibility have been met before restoration, and do all Practices meet current NRCS Standards & Specifications? (If No for either, not eligible, do not rank.) Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_

20. Is there a dam removal on-site that would require engineering oversight? (If Yes, do not rank. Obtain an I&E before continuing with ranking/enrollment.) Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_

21. Were past structures such as buildings ever in potential areas of wetland restoration? (Review Penn Pilot aerials and if Yes, do not rank. Further evaluation of subsurface debris is needed prior to ranking/enrollment.) Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_

**Is the land eligible for WRE? (if no, do not rank)** Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_

**Screening Pass/Fail:** \_\_\_\_\_

*IF fail, List items needed prior to ranking:*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Screened by:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Title:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**RANKING**

**1. Type of Application (choose one)**

- a. 30-Year Easement ..... 50 pts
- b. Permanent Easement ..... 200 pts

**Score**

**2. Location (Part 1 - choose one option, Part 2 points are in addition to Part 1)**

- Part 1 -
- a. i. Project is directly adjacent to or within a designated local, state or federal wildlife or forest area of significance; **or**, project is directly adjacent to protected or proposed protected corridor, or existing or proposed WRE easement.....150 pts
  - a. ii. Previously restored project is directly adjacent to or within a designated local, state or federal wildlife or forest area of significance; **or**, project is directly adjacent to public land\* or existing permanent easement; otherwise, score = 0 points.....80 pts
  - b. Project is within 5 miles of a designated local, state or federal wildlife or forest area of significance.....100 pts
  - c. Project is within 5-10 miles of a designated local, state or federal wildlife or forest area of significance.....50 pts
  - d. Project is greater than 10 miles from a designated local, state or federal wildlife or forest area of significance.....0 pts
- Part 2 -
- a. Proposed land includes a riparian area (if yes, add 50 points to Part I score).....50 pts

\*Managed for wildlife or forest.

**Score**

**3. Percent of Hydric or Partially Hydric Soil (Minimum 33% Hydric) to be Restored (hydrology effected) in the Restoration Area (choose one). For previously restored projects score = 0**

- a. More than 75%..... 100 pts
- b. 50%-75%..... 75 pts
- c. 25-49%..... 50 pts
- d. Less than 25%..... 0 pts

**Score**

**4. For previously restored projects, acres of additional Hydric or Partially Hydric Soil (Minimum 33% Hydric) to be restored**

- a. More than 5 acres..... 80 pts
- b. 2 to 5 acres..... 50 pts
- c. Less than 2 acres..... 25 pts
- d. 0 acres..... 0 pts

**Score**

**5. Land Use of the proposed "Core Eligible" acreage (choose one - based on *dominant* land use in area.) For previously restored projects, Land Use of only any additional restoration area.**

- a. Row crops produced within the past 3 years..... 100 pts
- b. Hay produced within the past 3 years..... 60 pts
- c. Acres used as pasture within the past 3 years..... 40 pts
- d. No row crop, hay or pasture use within the past 3 years..... 0 pts

**Score**

**6. Ratio of Buffer to Core Eligible Acres Included in the Proposed Land (choose one)**

- a. Ratio of Buffer to Core Eligible Acres is 1 to 1..... 50 pts
- b. Ratio of Buffer to Core Eligible Acres is 0.5 to 1..... 30 pts
- c. Ratio of Buffer to Core Eligible Acres is less than 0.5 to 1..... 0 pts

**Score**

**RANKING, Con't**

**7. Wildlife, Table 4., Category 3, Maintain Rare Native Species (choose one)**

- a. FINAL SCORE (Table 4., Category 3) = 1, on site..... 150 pts
- b. FINAL SCORE (Table 4., Category 3) = 2, on site..... 100 pts
- c. FINAL SCORE (Table 4., Category 3) = 3 or 4, on site..... 50 pts
- d. FINAL SCORE (Table 4., Category 3) = 5 or 6, on site..... 25 pts

<http://www.pgc.pa.gov/Wildlife/WildlifeActionPlan/Documents/SWAP-CHAPTER-1-apx13.pdf>

Score

**8. Restoration Cost (choose one). For previously restored projects, if there is no additional restoration score = 0.**

- b. Under \$2,000 per Acre .....10 pts
- b. Under \$3,000 per Acre .....5 pts
- c. \$3,000 or more per acre ..... 0 pts

Score

**9. Landowner or other non-Federal Contributons**

- a. USDA total cost reduction of at least 25% (includes easement % restoration combined) ..... 10 pts

Score

**RANKING, Con't**

**10. Total Easement Enrollment Size (choose one)**

- a. Proposed enrollment is 50 acres in size or larger.....200 pts
- b. Proposed enrollment is 10-49 acres in size.....100 pts
- c. Proposed enrollment is less than 10 acres in size..... 0 pts

Score

**Ranking Total**

**1100 Maximum Pts**

Ranked by: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**SUPPLEMENTAL RIPARIAN RANKING**

**11. Pennsylvania Designated Aquatic Life Use (choose one - if applicable)**

- a. Riparian area offered Is a Wild and Scenic River, or Exceptional Value Stream.....100 pts
- b. Riparian area offered outlets directly into a Wild and Scenic River, or Exceptional Value Stream...75 pts
- c. Riparian area offered Is a High Quality Stream (HQ-CWF, TSF or WWF)..... 75 pts
- b. Riparian area offered outlets directly into a High Quality Stream (HQ-CWF, TSF or WWF).....50 pts

Score

<http://extension.psu.edu/natural-resources/water/news/2011/finding-your-pennsylvania-streams-designated-aquatic-life-use>

**12. Existing or Expiring CRP/CREP Contract (if more than one practice, choose the one with the largest acreage)**

- a. **Riparian area** offered includes CP23, Wetland Restoration.....100 pts
- b. Riparian area offered includes CP30, Wetland Buffer..... 100 pts
- c. Riparian area offered includes CP22, Riparian Buffer.....100 pts

Score

**Supplemental Total**

**200 Maximum Pts**

Ranked by: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_