

2017 ACEP-ALE Ranking Tool (At Risk Species) – Colorado

National Ranking Criteria (Must be 200 points Maximum)		
National Ranking Factors and Scaling	Maximum Points	Points
<p>Percent of prime, unique, and important soils in the parcel to be protected</p> <p>(0 points for 50 percent or less, 4 points for greater than 50 percent and less than or equal to 60 percent, 8 points for greater than 60 percent and less than or equal to 70 percent, 12 points for greater than 70 percent and less than or equal to 80 percent, 17 points for greater than 80 percent)</p>	17	
<p>Percent of cropland, pastureland, grassland, and rangeland in the parcel to be protected</p> <p>(0 points for 33 percent or less, 4 points for greater than 33 percent and less than or equal to 40 percent, 8 points for greater than 40 percent and less than or equal to 50 percent, 17 points for greater than 50 percent)</p>	17	
<p>Ratio of the total acres of land in the parcel to be protected to AVERAGE farm size in the county according to the most recent USDA Census of Agriculture (USDA - NASS - Census of Agriculture)</p> <p>(0 points for a ratio of 1 or less, 7 points for ratios of greater than 1.0 and less than or equal to 2.0, 15 points for ratios of greater than 2.0)</p>	15	
<p>Decrease in the percentage of acreage of farm and ranch land in the county in which the parcel is located between the last two USDA Censuses of Agriculture (USDA - NASS - Census of Agriculture)</p> <p>(0 points for decrease of 0 percent or less, 1 point for decreases of greater than 0 and less than or equal to 5 percent, 5 points for decrease of greater than 5 and less than or equal to 10 percent, 9 points for decreases of greater than 10 and less than or equal to 15 percent, 16 points for decreases of more than 15 percent)</p>	16	
<p>Decrease in the percentage of acreage of permanent grassland, pasture, and rangeland, other than cropland and woodland pasture, in the county in which the parcel is located between the last two USDA Censuses of Agriculture (USDA - NASS - Census of Agriculture)</p> <p>(0 points for decrease of 0 percent or less, 3 points for decreases of greater than 0 and less than or equal to 5 percent, 5 points for decrease of greater than 5 and less than or equal to 10 percent, 8 points for decreases of greater than 10 and less than or equal to 15 percent, 15 points for decreases of more than 15 percent)</p>	15	
<p>Percent population growth in the county as documented by the most recent United States Census (Census Bureau Home Page)</p> <p>(0 points for growth rate of less than 1 times the State growth rate, 4 points for growth rate of greater than 1 and less than or equal to 2 times the State growth rate, 7 points for growth rate of 2 and less than or equal to 3 times the State growth rate, 15 points for growth rate of more than 3 times the State growth rate)</p>	15	
<p>Population density (population per square mile) as documented by the most recent United States Census (Census Bureau Home Page)</p> <p>(0 points for population density less than 1 times the State population density, 4 points for population density of greater than 1 and less than or equal to 2 times the State population density, 7 points for population density of greater than 2 and less than or equal to 3 times the State population density, 15 points for population density of greater than 3 times the State population density)</p>	15	

<p>Existence of a farm or ranch succession plan or similar plan established to address farm viability for future generations</p> <p>(0 points for no plan, 7 points for a plan, 15 points for plan documented and performed by industry professional (A copy of the plan MUST be submitted with the application to receive any points))</p> <p><i>Farm or ranch succession plan – a general plan to address the continuation of some type of agricultural business on the enrolled land. The farm or ranch succession plan may include specific intrafamily succession agreements or business asset transfer strategies to create opportunities for veteran farmers or ranchers or other historically underserved landowners.</i></p>	15	
<p>Proximity of the parcel to other protected land, such as compatible military installations; land owned in fee title by the United States or an Indian Tribe, State or local government, or by a nongovernmental organization whose purpose is to protect agricultural use and related conservation values; or land that is subject to an easement or deed restriction that limits the conversation of the land to nonagricultural use or protects grazing uses and related conservation values.</p> <p>(0 points easement offer area (EOA) boundary greater than 3 miles from the protected land boundary, 4 points EOA is greater than 1 miles but less than 3 miles from protected land, 7 points EOA is within 1 mile of protected land boundary, 15 points EOA boundary adjoins protected land boundary)</p>	15	
<p>Proximity of the parcel to other agricultural operations and agricultural infrastructure</p> <p>(0 points if EOA boundary greater than 3 miles in proximity, 4 points if EOA is greater than or equal to 1 miles but less than 3 miles in proximity, 7 points EOA is within 1 mile in proximity, 15 points EOA boundary adjoins)</p>	15	
<p>Parcel ability to maximize the protection of contiguous or proximal acres devoted to agricultural use</p> <p>(15 points if the parcel links two noncontiguous corridors of protected agricultural use, 6 points if parcel is a contiguous or proximal expansion of agricultural use protected area, 0 points parcel does not increase a protected agricultural use area)</p>	15	
<p>The parcel is a grassland of special environmental significance that will benefit from the protection under the long-term easement</p> <p>(15 points if Yes, 0 points if No)</p>	15	
<p>Currently enrolled in CRP in a contract that is set to expire within a year.</p> <p>(15 points for Yes, 0 points for No)</p>	15	
<p>Total Points for National Ranking Factors</p>	200	

State Ranking Factors (Maximum of 200 Points)		
	Maximum Points	Points
Resource Concerns addressed The parcel is located in an area zoned for agricultural use (10 points for yes, 0 points for no)	10	
Eligible entity has demonstrated performance in managing and enforcing easements by monitoring 80 percent or more of its easements each year (10 points for Yes, 0 points for no or if there is no documentation to support a “Yes” determination)	10	
Protecting the parcel provides multifunctional benefits of farm or ranch land protection or improvement, such as: Parcel contains historical or archaeological resources that will be protected by easement area (10 points if Yes, 0 points if No)	10	
Protecting the parcel provides multifunctional benefits of farm or ranch land protection or improvement, such as: Are landowners a historically underserved group, small scale farmer, limited resource landowner, new or beginning farmer or rancher or veteran landowner (17 points for Yes, 0 points for No)	17	
The ALE plan recommendations provide multifunctional benefits of farm or ranch land protection or improvement, such as: • Social, economic, historical and archaeological, environmental benefits • Enhancing carbon sequestration • Improving climate change resiliency • Other related conservation benefits (19 points for implementation of ALE plan practices that address two or more multifunctional benefits, 8 for implementing one multifunctional benefit, 4 points for identifying two or more multifunctional benefits in ALE plan recommended practices, 2 points for identifying one multifunctional benefit in the ALE plan; 0 points for no multifunctional benefits derived from the ALE plan)	19	
Contains State-specific factors for grasslands of special environmental significance. (20 points for Yes, 0 points for No)	20	
Parcel contains habitat for at-risk species: (20 points for federally listed threatened and endangered species, 15 points for federally listed candidate species, 10 points for State species of concern, 5 points for species of interest (according to State Criteria), 0 points for no species)	20	
Parcel is in a geographic region where enrollment achieves landscape, regional, or other agricultural or conservation goals and objectives identified in State plans (30 points Yes, 0 points No)	30	
Enrollment of parcel will provide diversity of natural resource protections (28 points for 5 or more resource protections, 20 points for 3 to 4 resources, 10 points for 1 to 2 resources, 5 points for 1 resource, 0 points for no resources protected)	28	

<p>Land evaluation and site assessment system or equivalent for grassland enrollments indicates a viable agricultural area for parcel. <i>Measurement of agricultural viability (access to markets and infrastructure).</i></p> <p>(28 points for Yes, 0 points for No)</p>	28	
<p>The eligible entity is certified or for noncertified eligible entities, the entity will append or incorporate the NRCS minimum deed terms to or into their conservation easement deed or the entity has an already approved entity-specific deed template that they will use for the parcel.</p> <p>(8 points for Yes, 0 points for No)</p>	8	
<p>Entity is technically eligible but is deficient in meeting the requirements of an existing or previous cooperative agreement, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual monitoring reports are insufficient, late, or not provided to NRCS • No expenditures or actions toward closing on an existing FRPP or ACEP-ALE agreement by the third year • Documents not submitted in accordance ALE-agreement timeframes • Not abided by the terms of an existing or closed FPP, FRPP, or ACEP-ALE agreement • Failed to enforce an existing FPP, FRPP, or ACEP-ALE funded after notification of a violation <p>(Minus 25 points for five deficiencies, minus 20 points for four, minus 15 points for three, minus 10 points for two, minus 5 points for one, minus 0 points if no deficiencies)</p>	-25	
Total Points for State Ranking Factors	200	