

State Ranking Pools

- California created state specific ranking pools for both General and Grazing Reserved Rights Wetland Easements from the parameters established in the National Ranking Templates.
- Ranking pool customization allows states to focus funding on priority resource concerns and initiatives identified by the State Technical Committee.
- The state ranking pools contain a set of questions that includes the following sections – applicability, category, program questions, and resource questions.
- Program participants will be considered for funding in all applicable ranking pools by program. This will allow more for participants to receive financial assistance.

CART Ranking Pools are customized to incorporate locally-led input and will evaluate the participant’s assessed practice schedule for five main areas:

ACEP-WRE Ranking Weights

Factors		Weight %
Vulnerability	Site vulnerability is determined by subtracting the existing condition and existing practice scores from the thresholds.	10
Planned Practice Effects	The planned practice score will be based on the sum of the planned practice on that land unit which address the resource concern. These two scores will be weighted by a ranking pool to address the resource concerns prioritized by that ranking pool.	10
Resource Priorities	National and State Program Priorities are set through the Farm Bill, Secretary and Chief Priorities and Locally Led Input from the State Technical Committee which address land and resource considerations.	60
Program Priorities	National and State Program Priorities are set through the Farm Bill, Secretary and Chief Priorities and Locally Led Input from Local Work Groups and State Technical Committee which address program purposes.	20

ACEP-WRE Resource Concern Categories

Category	Category Weight %	Resource Concern	Resource Concern Weight %
Aquatic habitat	10	Aquatic habitat for fish and other organisms	67
		Elevated water temperature	33
Concentrated erosion	2	Bank erosion from streams, shorelines or water conveyance channels	70
		Classic gully erosion	15
		Ephemeral gully erosion	15

Degraded plant condition	5	Plant productivity and health	50
		Plant structure and composition	50
Field sediment, nutrient, and pathogen loss	2	Nutrients transported to groundwater	35
		Nutrients transported to surface water	28
		Pathogens and chemicals from manure, biosolids or compost applications transported to groundwater	4
		Pathogens and chemicals from manure, biosolids or compost applications transported to surface water	4
		Sediment transported to surface water	29
Long term protection of land	35	Loss of functions and values	85
		Threat of conversion	15
Pest pressure	1	Plant pest pressure	100
Source water depletion	2	Groundwater depletion	40
		Surface water depletion	60
		Nutrients transported to groundwater	50
		Nutrients transported to surface water	50
Terrestrial habitat	25	Terrestrial habitat for wildlife and invertebrates	100
Weather resiliency	15	Ponding and flooding	45
		Seasonal high water table	45
		Seeps	10
Wind and water erosion	2	Sheet and rill erosion	85
		Wind erosion	15

Program Priorities

Restoration Cost Effectiveness
Average WRPO restoration cost is less than 2000 dollars/acre.
Average WRPO restoration cost is between 2000-4000 dollars/acre.
Average WRPO restoration cost is greater than 4000 dollars/acre.

Partnership Points for Restoration
Landowner or other conservation partner will contribute 75% or greater cost-share to the WRPO restoration.
Landowner or other conservation partner will contribute 50% cost-share to the WRPO restoration.
Landowner or other conservation partner will contribute 25% cost-share to the WRPO restoration.
Not Applicable

Partnership Points for Easement Acquisition
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Landowner is willing to contribute 50% of per-acre easement cost.
Landowner is willing to contribute 40% of per-acre easement cost.
Landowner is willing to contribute 30% of per-acre easement cost.
Landowner is willing to contribute 20% of per-acre easement cost.
Landowner is willing to contribute 10% of per-acre easement cost.
Not applicable

Extent to Which ACEP-WRE Purposes are Achieved
High probability of restoring wetland functions and values that benefits migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife on at least 50% of the offering.
High probability of restoring wetland functions and values that benefits migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife on 25-50% of the offering.
High probability of restoring wetland functions and values that benefits migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife on <25% of the offering.

Productivity of Offered Land: What amount of the land offering is classified as prime, unique, statewide or locally important farmland?
0-25%
26-50%
51-75%
76-100%

On-Farm or Off-Farm Environmental Threats: Are current production practices on the offered land creating on-site or off-site environmental impacts (e.g. sedimentation, pesticide drift, water quality impacts) that could be alleviated by easement acquisition and restoration?
Yes
No

Resource Priorities

Restoration Benefits to Migratory Birds and Wetland Dependent Wildlife: Will the restoration project restore a diversity of habitats that benefit the full life-cycle needs of migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife?
Project will restore wetlands, grasslands, AND riparian habitat and benefit the FULL life-cycle needs of migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including providing summer water.
Project will restore wetlands, grasslands, OR riparian habitat and meet MOST of the life-cycle needs of migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife.

Threatened & Endangered Species Use of Protected and Restored Habitats
Protection and restoration activities are specifically focused on the recovery of 5 or more listed State or Federal T and E species.
Protection and restoration activities are specifically focused on the recovery of 4 listed State or Federal T and E species.
Protection and restoration activities are specifically focused on the recovery of 3 listed State or Federal T and E species.
Protection and restoration activities are specifically focused on the recovery of 2 listed State or Federal T and E species.
Protection and restoration activities are specifically focused on the recovery of 1 listed State or Federal T and E species.
Protection and restoration activities are not specifically focused on the recovery of State or Federal T and E species.

At-risk Species Use of Protected and Restored Habitats: Only consider State Species of Special Concern and Proposed/Candidates for T & E listing
Protection and restoration activities are specifically focused on the recovery of more than 10 at-risk species.
Protection and restoration activities are specifically focused on the recovery of 6-10 at-risk species.
Protection and restoration activities are specifically focused on the recovery of 4-5 at-risk species.
Protection and restoration activities are specifically focused on the recovery of 2-3 at-risk species.
Protection and restoration activities are specifically focused on the recovery of 1 at-risk species.
Protection and restoration activities are not specifically focused on the recovery of at-risk species.

Protection and Restoration of Native Plant Communities: Will the project protect or restore rare or unique native plants that are considered at-risk or serve to meet the life-cycle needs of at-risk wildlife? Only consider special status plants, or plants that directly meet the life cycle needs of at-risk wildlife (e.g. native milkweeds/monarch butterfly, elderberry/VELB, etc.).
Restoration will specifically protect and restore rare or unique native plants that are at-risk or serve to meet the life-cycle needs of at-risk wildlife.
Restoration will include native plants, but won't specifically focus on at-risk plants or wildlife.
Not applicable.

Habitat Complexity to be Restored. Choose the predominant wetland habitat type to be restored. Only consider habitat elements that were historically present in the wetland type.

Forested Wetland: Number of habitat elements to be restored (choose from open water, submergents, trees/shrubs, associated uplands).

Seasonal Herbaceous Wetland: Number of habitat elements to be restored (choose from mud flat, open water, emergents, trees/shrubs, associated uplands).

Semi-Permanent Herbaceous Wetland: Number of habitat elements to be restored (choose from mud flat, open water, submergents, trees/shrubs, associated uplands).

Coastal/Tidal Wetland: Number of habitat elements to be restored (choose from mud flat, open water, submergents, emergents, trees/shrubs, associated uplands).

Vernal Pool Wetland: Number of habitat elements to be restored (choose from mud flat, submergents, associated uplands).

Proximity & Connectivity to Protected Areas

Land is adjacent to an existing conservation easement, refuge, or other protected area.

Land is within less than a 1/2 mile of an existing conservation easement, refuge, or other protected area.

Land is between a 1/2 mile to 1 mile of an existing conservation easement, refuge, or other protected area.

Land is further than 1 mile from an existing conservation easement, refuge, or other protected area.

Extent of Beneficial Adjacent Land Uses: Wildlife-friendly habitat types (beneficial land uses) are defined as grasslands, woodlands, brush scrublands, wetlands, rice, irrigated pasture, or riparian.

Land is adjacent to wildlife-friendly habitat of three or more types, or wetlands making up >75% of adjacent land use.

Land is adjacent to wildlife-friendly habitat of two types, or wetlands making up >50% of adjacent land use.

Land is adjacent to wildlife-friendly habitat of one type, or wetlands making up >25% of adjacent land use.

Land is adjacent to wildlife-friendly habitat of one type, or wetlands making up <25% of adjacent land use.

Land is not adjacent to wildlife-friendly habitat or wetlands.

Extent of Wetland Loss: Will the project protect and restore a wetland habitat type that has experienced a disproportionately higher rate of loss in California, such as a vernal pool, riparian habitat, or coastal wetland?

Yes

No

Water Quality: Will the restored wetland have the potential to filter pollutants or sediments from floodwaters or agricultural return flows?

Yes

No

Water Quantity: Will the restored wetland have the potential to increase water storage or contribute to groundwater recharge through attenuation of floodwaters?

Yes

No

Proximity to Impaired Water Bodies: Is the land offered for enrollment within or adjacent to an impaired water body identified on the Clean Water Act 303(d) list for California?

Yes

No

Carbon Sequestration: Will the restoration result in a significant land use change that restores carbon sequestering native plants such as trees, shrubs, sedges, and grasses?

Project restores cropland to wetland habitat.

Project restores pasture or rangeland to wetland habitat.

Project enhances existing, but degraded wetland habitat.

Climate Change Resiliency: Will the restoration provide benefits to urban or agricultural areas by reducing storm surge through floodwater attenuation or by creating space for wetland migration in coastal areas threatened by sea level rise?

Yes

No

Amount of Wetland Restoration

Restored wetland acres will be greater than or equal to 75% of offered acres.

Restored wetland acres will be less than 75% of offered acres.

Extent of Hydrology Restoration

Hydrology Functions Absent (high): Land has significant hydrologic modifications and the restoration of hydrology will result in a significant increase in wetland functions and values.

Hydrology Functions Degraded (moderate): Land has moderate hydrologic modifications and the restoration of hydrology will result in a moderate increase in wetland functions and values.

Hydrology Functions Degraded (minor): Land has minor hydrologic modifications and the restoration of hydrology will result in a minor increase in wetland functions and values.

Reliability of Hydrology Restoration

Natural hydrology can be passively restored and is not dependent managed water supplies.

Hydrology is partially dependent on existing managed water supplies and water rights.

Hydrology is entirely dependent on existing managed water supplies and water rights.

Flooding Potential: Temporary Inundation by Flowing Water

Frequent (>50 events in 100 years) or vernal pool with intact hardpan.

Occasional (5-50 events in 100 years).

Rare (1-5 events in 100 years).

None.

Drainage Class (Determined by Permeability)

Very Slow.

Slow.

Moderate.

Moderately Rapid.

Excessive.

Saturation (Depth to Water Table)

0 to 1 foot.

2 to 3 feet.

Greater than 3 feet.

Size of Easement Enrollment: What is the size of land offered for ACEP-WRE enrollment?

Greater than or equal to 100 acres.

Less than 100 acres.