



Wetland Reserve Enhancement Program (WREP) Proposal Evaluation Criteria - FY2012

The NRCS state conservationist will evaluate partner proposals using a competitive process. Priority will be given to proposals that:

- ✓ Have a high potential to achieve wetland restoration.
- ✓ Have a high potential to significantly improve wildlife habitat.
- ✓ Provide innovation in wetland protection, restoration, management, and enhancement methods and outcome-based performance measures and methods.
- ✓ Provide for outreach to, and participation of, Indian Tribes, beginning farmers or ranchers, socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers, and limited-resource farmers or ranchers within the area covered by the agreement.
- ✓ Facilitate the submission of landowner applications.
- ✓ Significantly leverage non-Federal financial and technical resources and coordinate with other local, State, tribal, or Federal efforts.
- ✓ Demonstrate the partner's history of working cooperatively with landowners on conservation easements.
- ✓ Demonstrate the partner's ability to have landowners sign up this fiscal year.
- ✓ Provide for monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of the restoration or management activities.
- ✓ Provide for matching financial or technical assistance funds to assist landowners with the implementation of the Wetlands Reserve Plan of Operations and associated contracts.
- ✓ If proposal is for FA funds for new enrollments, provide evidence that wetland restoration and enhancement activities will be completed within 2 years of easement closing.
- ✓ If proposal is for TA funds associated with expediting closing, restoration planning, or monitoring of existing easements, provide evidence of qualifications, experience, and readiness of staff to complete technical assistance activities.
- ✓ If the proposal is for the management of existing enrollments, provide an estimate of costs for the management activities and what the proposed activities will include, as well as which target habitat or species will benefit from the proposed activity.

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