

**2005 Grassland Reserve Program - New Hampshire Ranking Criteria Easements**

11/29/2005

|                          |
|--------------------------|
| Applicant's Name         |
| Acres to be enrolled:    |
| Estimated Easement Cost: |
| Acres of native cover:   |

|                     |
|---------------------|
| Date:               |
| Town & County:      |
| Length of Easement: |

Please refer to the Guidance Document for guidelines on the use of this rating sheet.

| Ranking Criteria   | Point Assignments  |  |   |  | Points       |
|--|--|--|---|--|--------------|
| Site adjacent to (frontage on) public road?  | Class 1 or 2 road = 60 points  | Class 3 or 4 road = 40 points  | Class 5 or 6 road = 20 points   | Other conditions = 0                                       | 0            |
| Distance (by roads) to urban area  | ≤1 mile = 60 pts   | > 1 and ≤5 miles = 30 pts  | > 5 miles and ≤10 miles = 10pts   | Other conditions = 0                                       | 0            |
| Threat of conversion to cropland: Grassland has prime farmland soils?  | ≥ 50% prime farmland soils = 60 pts  | < 50 & ≥ 25 % prime farmland soils = 40 pts  | contains prime farmland soils = 20 pts  | contains no prime farmland soils = 0 pts                   | 0            |
| Threat of conversion to cropland: Grassland has soils of statewide or local importance?  | ≥50% soils of statewide or local importance = 40 pts   | < 50 & ≥ 25 % soils of statewide or local importance = 20 pts  | contains soils of statewide or local importance = 5 pts   | contains no soils of statewide or local importance = 0 pts | 0            |
| Percent population change in town or city from 1990-1999 (see attached file from US Census Bureau)                             | locate % change and enter this value (positive or negative) in the points column (values range from 61.3 to -11.6) |  |   |  | 0            |
| Threat of conversion to forestland?  | significant, woody species are scattered over ≥10% of land area and/or site not mowed in last 5 years = 60 pts     | moderate, woody species scattered over ≥2% of land area and/or site not mowed in last 3 years = 25 pts       | slight, isolated scattering of woody species = 5 pts  | contains no woody vegetation = 0 pts                       | 0            |
| Threat to grassland from non-native invasive species?  | widespread problem ≥ 10% of land area = 60 pts   | moderate, invasive species identified on site = 25 pts   | slight, isolated scattering of invasive species = 5 pts   | contains no invasive species = 0 pts                       | 0            |
| Is the property adjacent to or near other protected lands** (see notes)?   | yes, adjacent to permanent conservation land = 30 pts  | yes, adjacent to other conservation land = 20 pts  | adjacent to any land under contract for management as grassland = 5 pts                                 | not adjacent to other protected or managed land = 0 pts    | 0            |
| Acreage to be enrolled   | ≥ 40 acres = 15 pts  | < 40 acres & ≥ 25 acres = 8 pts  | < 25 acres & ≥ 10 acres = 3 pts   | site < 10 acres = <b>STOP</b> site is not eligible for GRP | 0            |
| Percent of acreage offered in grassland  | ≥95 % currently is grassland = 40 pts  | ≥85 & <95% is currently grassland = 20 pts   | ≥75 & < 85 is currently grassland and/or >95% is planned to be grassland following restoration = 10 pts | Other conditions = 0                                       | 0            |
| Producer is utilizing a prescribed grazing management system with plan and practices that meet or will meet the FOTG standards | Plan meeting current FOTG standards has been applied yes = 40 pts  | Existing operation is expanding or improving toward meeting FOTG standards = 30 points                       | Existing operation with new plan meeting FOTG standards = 20 pts  | Other conditions = 0                                       | 0            |
| Grazing operation which does not meet FOTG standards   | Producer currently grazes but does not have a plan meeting FOTG standards = 15 pts                                 | New grazing operation - producer interested in prescribed grazing management plan = 10 pts                   | Other conditions = 0  |  | 0            |
| Is the land actively used for non-grazing hay production?  | yes = 10 pts   | no = 0 points  |   |  | 0            |
| Site is managed to benefit T&E species and use/occurrence of T&E has been documented   | endangered species = 20 pts  | threatened species = 10 pts  | at-risk species = 5 pts   | no endangered, threatened or at-risk species = 0 pts       | 0            |
| Site serves as habitat that promotes and enhances plant and animal biodiversity  | yes, following a conservation plan to manage site for wildlife benefit = 10 pts                                    | wildlife issues not addressed in conservation plan = 0 pts   |   |  | 0            |
| Site requires restoration?   | no restoration required = 30 pts   | restoration work in progress - funding from another conservation program or producer will pay costs = 15 pts | restoration required - producer has applied for funding from another program = 5 pts                    | Other conditions = 0                                       | 0            |
| Estimated operation and maintenance costs per acre ?   | pasture = 10 pts   | hayland = 2 points   | Other conditions = 0  |  | 0            |
| Partnership contributions that reduce USDA's cost or increase project benefits   | Significant partnership input in planning or financing (≥35%) = 10 pts   | Moderate partnership input in planning or financing (<35% and ≥10% = 5 pts)                                  | Limited partnership input in planning or financing (<10% and ≥ 1%) = 2 pts                              | Other conditions = 0                                       | 0            |
| Length of Easement   | Perpetual = 150 pts  | 30 year = 30 pts   |   |  | 0            |
| <b>Points</b>  |  |  |   |  | <b>0</b>     |
| <b>Cost Index (cost/acre)</b>  |  |  |   |  | <b>#####</b> |
| <b>SCORE *</b>   |  |  |   |  | <b>#####</b> |

**Notes**

\*\* Data available from GRANIT Conservation Lands Viewer found at <http://www.granit.sr.unh.edu/>  
 When creating map, for map display settings under conservation lands select "protection level"  
**Other documented conservation lands can also receive points.**

\* Final SCORE is calculated using the following formula:  
 SCORE = (2 \* Points) - (0.05 \* Cost Index)