

New Hampshire Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program - 2006 Ranking Criteria - 1-5-06

The primary emphasis of the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program is to create, restore and enhance wildlife habitat. Cooperative agreements provide financial assistance to enhance wildlife habitat for upland wildlife, wetland wildlife, threatened and endangered species, fish habitat and other types of wildlife. Ranking criteria has been established to prioritize WHIP offers based on ecological, economic and social factors {517.13(a)}.

		Point Value	Total Points
Program Emphasis {517.019 (c)} Select one. <u>Documentation required.</u>	Proposal will enhance, or restore wildlife or fisheries habitat of National or State Significance including nationally or state listed threatened and endangered species or rare plant communities identified by NHB.	75	
	Proposal will enhance, or restore wildlife or fisheries habitat of other species addressed in the NH Wildlife Action Plan and/or exemplary natural communities identified by NHB.	50	
	Other benefits to wildlife	0	
Acres Benefiting	Application land acres benefiting from WHIP. (May also include additional acres if this acreage connects to an existing WHIP contract, adjoins a recognized wildlife area or is part of a larger wildlife management effort such as acres under a management plan provided by NH Fish and Game. Document additional acres if included.)	> 50 ac = 10 pts. < 50 and > 20 ac = 5 pts < 20 ac = 2 pts.	
Partnerships and Landowner Contribution Select one.	Leveraged funds result in WHIP contributing 20% or less of the total project cost.	15	
	Leveraged funds result in WHIP contributing 20% to 50% of the total project cost.	10	
	Leveraged funds result in WHIP contributing 50% to 74% of the total project cost.	5	
	WHIP is providing 75% cost share	1	
Location Suitability. Select one.	Site and landscape are suitable for restoration. (e.g. pine barrens restoration in the Ossipee plains or 10-acre warm season grasslands surrounded by 50 acre of grasslands)	50	
	Moderate site and/or landscape limitations (e.g. pine barrens restoration on an isolated patch or excessively drained soils, on a 3-acre grassland surrounded by a forest).	10	
	Severe site and/or site limitations (e.g. wrong soils for proposed restoration)	Stop - do not proceed with ranking.	
Societal Benefits Select One	Proposal will contribute significantly to the recreation and education of the community and will contribute to the aesthetical values of the region, including ecosystem restoration.	10	
	Proposal will have some contribution to the recreation and education of the community and will contribute to the aesthetical values of the region.	5	
	Proposal will have minimal social benefits.	0	

Total points from page 1:

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		Point Value	Total Points
Annual operation and maintenance costs per acre over the life of the project. Select one.	≤\$250	10	
	>\$250 and ≤\$500	5	
	> \$500	1	

Estimated USDA cost per acre Select one.	≤\$1000	10	
	>\$1000 and ≤\$3000	5	
	> \$3000	1	

Likelihood of retaining habitat values and functions Select maximum of four.	Land protected by conservation easement	5	
	Land under previously developed management or stewardship plan.	5	
	Tree Farm Program or other credited program.	5	
	Monitoring	5	
	First time applicant or applicant who has successfully completed a WHIP project in the past.	5	

Total points from page 2:	
Total points from page 1:	
Total ranking points:	