

Grassland Reserve Program Eligibility and Ranking Form
USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service
Nevada FY 2013

Landowner Name and Address:

Individual(s) with signature authority:

Cooperating Entity (If any) Name(s) and Address(s)

County in which Parcel is Located:

NRCS Field Office:

Locality (Township, Range, & Section) in which the Parcel(s) is Located:

Nearest Town _____

Farm Service Agency Tract and Field number if available:

Is the Landowner AGI Eligible? Yes No

If no is an AGI waiver in place? Yes No

Is the Landowner HEL Eligible? Yes No

Is the Landowner WC Eligible? Yes No

Name and Title of NRCS Employee Confirming Landowner Eligibility:

Does land meet eligibility criteria as defined in 7CFR Part 1415.5? Yes No

Name and Title of NRCS Employee Confirming Land Eligibility:

Does offered land have historic or archeological resources? Yes No



Ranking Factors

Land Enrollment (215 possible points)		Points								
1	Length of Contract (circle one) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. 10-year rental contract 5 pts b. 15-year rental contract 20 pts c. 20-year rental contract 35 pts d. GRP Conservation Easement 50 pts <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(Choose only 1) -50 pts Maximum</i></p>									
2	Is the offered land for GRP adjacent to public grazing land or other land protected from conversion?	35								
3	Is the offered land for GRP within 3 miles from the nearest industrial, subdivision, urban development, or an agricultural land parcel used for something other than grazing?	30								
4	For CRP lands that will expire within a year, does the land hold high ecological value and is the land under the threat of conversion to a use other than grazing? Note: land must be offered for a 20-year rental contract to receive points.	20								
5	Does the land contain any historical or archeological resources? Note: must be listed in the NRHP, designated by SHPO or of Tribal significance to receive points.	15								
6	Size of grazing unit offered for GRP: <table border="1" style="margin: 10px auto; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 5px;">Acres</td> <td style="padding: 2px 5px;"><100</td> <td style="padding: 2px 5px;">100-1000</td> <td style="padding: 2px 5px;">>1000</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 5px;"></td> <td style="padding: 2px 5px;">0 pts</td> <td style="padding: 2px 5px;">10 pts</td> <td style="padding: 2px 5px;">15 pts</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Choose 1 response -15 pts Maximum</i></p>	Acres	<100	100-1000	>1000		0 pts	10 pts	15 pts	_____
Acres	<100	100-1000	>1000							
	0 pts	10 pts	15 pts							
7	Priority Habitat Land <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Bi-state Sage-grouse core area Habitat 50 pts b. Bi-state Sage-grouse range 40 pts c. Nevada Core Sage-grouse habitat outside of the designated USFWS Bi-state Sage-grouse area 30 pts d. Habitat within the identified Nevada Sage-grouse range 10 pts e. Habitat outside of the Sage-grouse range 0 pts <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Choose 1 response -50 pts Maximum</i></p>	_____								

Grazing Operation (135 possible points)		Points
1	For all grazing lands offered in this GRP application, are grazing records available, and current? Note: Minimum of 3 years of records consisting of; grazing intensity, frequency, duration, forage yields, and livestock numbers, in addition to soil test and nutrient applied for pastures to receive points.	30
2	Is a current grazing plan developed and implemented for the land being offered in GRP?	40
3	Does the current management on the offered acres for GRP meet the prescribed grazing standard?	20
4	If the land being offered for GRP contains, streams, rivers, ponds, or lakes, are livestock managed to prevent degradation to water quality?	25
5	Does the grazing plan balance forage availability with livestock and wildlife demands?	20

Plant and Animal Biodiversity (150 possible points)		Points
1	<p>Does the land offered contain R-0 Sage-grouse of either Sage-steppe, or Grassland/Meadow habitat, or both habitat types? 50 pts</p> <p>Does the land offered contain R-1 Sage-grouse of either Sage-steppe, or Grassland/Meadow habitat, or both? - 30 pts</p> <p>Does the land offered contain critical sensitive habitat for T & E species classified as Desert scrub, Aspen woodland, Mountain Chaparral, or riparian? 10 pts</p> <p>Note: See page 6 for instruction on Sage-grouse R-value habitat Choose 1 -50 pts Maximum</p>	_____
2	<p>Does the land offered for GRP support a known, documented population of T&E or at-risk plant/animal species?</p> <p>a. 1 species - 15 pts</p> <p>b. Additional Species 5 pts each</p> <p>Note: Maximum total of 30 total points.</p>	_____
3	<p>Does the land offered for GRP contain a plant composition that is dominated (75% or greater) by native perennial plants with no more than 30 percent woody canopy cover? 30 pts</p> <p>or</p> <p>Does the land offered for GRP contain a plant composition that has a mix of native and introduced beneficial perennial plants with no more than 30 percent woody canopy cover? 15 pts</p> <p>Choose 1 response -30 pts Maximum</p>	_____
4	Does the land offered for GRP in this application exhibit little to no evidence of soil erosion concerns (active gullies, accelerated sheet and rill, wind or soil mass movement)?	10
5	<p><u>Priority Habitats</u>- Sage-steppe, Grassland/Meadow habitat, Desert scrub, Aspen woodland, Mountain Chaparral, or Riparian</p> <p>Does the land offered contain 1 priority habitat type? 10 pts</p> <p>Does the land offered contain 2 priority habitat types? 20 pts</p> <p>Does the land offered contain 3 priority habitat types? 30 pts</p> <p>Choose 1 response -30 pts Maximum</p>	_____
Restoration (50 possible points) Choose only 1 response this section		Points
1	Will funds from non-federal partners contribute up to 50% of the actual restoration costs of the land being offered for GRP?	13
2	Will funds from non-federal partners contribute greater than 50% of the actual restoration costs of the land being offered for GRP?	25
3	Does the land offered for GRP require NO USDA funding for restoration?	50
Invasive Plants (-50 possible points max)		Points
1	<p>a. Does the land offered for GRP have one or more invasive plant species or noxious weeds that occur on less than 10% of the land, with an implemented control plan? - 0</p> <p>b. Does the land offered for GRP have one or more invasive plant species or noxious weeds that occur on 10 – 25 % of the offered acreage? - 25</p> <p>Note: Noxious weeds listed on Nevada Department of Agriculture’s noxious weed abatement list. Invasive plants such as Cheatgrass, Medusahead, thistles, or Knapweeds.</p> <p>c. Does the land offered for GRP have one or more invasive plant species or noxious weeds that occur on greater than 25% of the offered acreage? Note: If one invasive plant covers at least 15% of the offered land and another invasive covers an additional 10% or more, add the percentage of land affected by the infestations. -50</p> <p>d. The invasive plants and noxious weeds have a serious negative impact on the native plant community composition on the offered land. 40% or greater of the offered acreage exhibits a moderate or extreme departure from the Ecological Site Description’s reference state for the site due to invasive plants. - 50</p> <p>Note: Use the range similarity index to evaluate the departure from the reference state.</p> <p>Choose only 1 response this Section</p>	

Leveraging (50 possible points max)		Points
1	<p>a. Permanent Easement held by NRCS at full GARC/appraisal rate or rental contract. (0 points)</p> <p>b. Permanent Easement with landowner offer between 95 – 99.9% of full GARC rate. (5 points)</p> <p>c. Permanent Easement with landowner offer between 90 - 94.9% of full GARC rate. (10 points)</p> <p>d. Permanent Easement with landowner offer between 85 – 89.9% of full GARC rate. (15 points)</p> <p>e. Permanent Easement with landowner offer between 80 - 84.9% of full GARC rate. (20 points)</p> <p>f. Permanent Easement with landowner offer between 75 – 79.9% of full GARC rate. (25 points)</p> <p>g. Permanent Easement held by a Third Party that provides at least 25% share of the cost of the easement purchase calculated at the full GARC rate. (25 points)</p> <p>h. Permanent Easement held by a Third Party that provides at least 50% share of the cost of the easement purchase calculated at the full GARC or appraisal rate. Landowner donation not to exceed 25% of the calculated easement value and at least 25% Third Party Matching funds being utilized in the easement purchase. (50 points)</p>	_____
<i>Choose only 1 response this Section</i>		

Total Possible Points: 650

Land Enrollment Points: _____

Grazing Operation Points: _____

Plant and Animal Biodiversity Points: _____

Restoration Points: _____

Invasive Plants Points (*subtract*): _____

Leveraging: _____

Application Point Total: _____

Total Application Cost (NRCS funds only): \$_____ **Total acres:** _____

Total NRCS dollars per acre (including rental payments and restoration cost): _____

Tiebreaker: Application with the highest point value in order of the following categories:

1. Land Enrollment score.
2. Plant and Animal Biodiversity score.
3. Grazing Operation score.

District Conservationist Signature

Date

Instructions

1. Both rental contracts and easement offer applications will be ranked in 2013.
2. Confirm all eligibility factors for applicant and parcel. If applicant or land does not meet all eligibility requirements, do not rank.
3. Complete eligibility and ranking factor questions. Circle or enter appropriate points in the fields provided on the form. Enter point totals from each section on page 4.
4. Enter the total cost (NRCS funds only) and the total acres to be included in the rental agreement or easement offer.
5. Calculate the total application cost per acre (NRCS funds only) including rental payments, purchase price of the easement and restoration funds and enter on page 4.
Note: GRP has annual payment limitations of (\$50,000) for rental contracts and annual restoration cost share is limited to \$50,000 per year for 3 year maximum period.
6. Make copies of the application form (signed by District Conservationist), conservation plan map, conservation plan, restoration plan (if any), cost estimate and all ranking forms. Mail or deliver application package(s) to:

USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service
1365 Corporate Blvd
Reno, NV 89502-7102

Attention: Gary Roeder, Assistant State Conservationist – Programs

All FY 2013 applications must be received by COB on the batching period deadline to be considered for funds. The first batching period deadline for accepting FY 2013 GRP applications will be November 30, 2012. A second batching period deadline for FY 2013 easement program applications is scheduled for February 15, 2013 if funds remain available.

Ranked applications should be forwarded to the State Office by **January 4, 2013.**

- *GRP easement applications are accepted by NRCS and FSA, and are filed on an AD-1153.*
- *GRP rental applications are accepted by FSA and are filed on an AD-1153*
- **Ranking periods are subject to change due to statutory authority of GRP expiring on 9/30/2012.**

Habitat Priority Instructions (Question 1 guidance)

Is the offered GRP land in the following habitat types? (Select only one):

- High priority Sage-steppe, or Grassland/Meadow habitat, or both (R-0 Sage-grouse Habitat Condition)
50 pts
- High priority Sage-steppe, or Grassland/Meadow habitat, or both (R-1,2 Sage-grouse Habitat Condition)
30 pts
- Other grassland/shrub habitats (Desert scrub, Aspen woodland, Mountain Chaparral)
10 pts

R-0 Habitat Areas with desired species composition that has sufficient, but not excessive, sagebrush canopy and sufficient grasses and forbs in the understory to provide adequate cover and forage to meet the seasonal needs of sage-grouse. Grassland/meadow habitat is functioning properly.

R-1 Habitat areas that currently lack sufficient sagebrush and are currently dominated by perennial grasses and forbs, yet have the potential to produce sagebrush upland communities with good understory composition of desired grasses and forbs. Grassland/meadow complex degraded but capable of recovery.

R-2 The existing Sagebrush habitat areas contain insufficient desired grasses and forbs in the understory to meet seasonal needs of sage-grouse, but restoration is feasible. Grassland/meadow complex degraded but capable of recovery.

Note: *The above sage-grouse habitat categorizations/conditions are referenced from the 1st Edition of the Greater Sage-grouse Conservation Plan for Nevada and Eastern California (2004).*

Noxious Weeds

Nevada Department of Agriculture Noxious and Invasive Weed List

http://agri.nv.gov/nwac/PLANT_NoxWeedList.htm

Non-contiguous or block areas containing invasive plants and noxious weeds may be separated out from the offer/application, so that it can be ranked independently. The area not impacted by invasive plants and noxious weeds must be of functional parcel size and not be negatively impacted or fragmented by the excluded block.

Structural Exclusions

All buildings, corrals, and residences need to be excluded from the area being offered for easement enrollment. If there are any other areas where the landowner would like to build any future structures, or the of option building, then those areas should be excluded also if it won't impact the easement conservation values.

Note: Parcels that are non-contiguous or do not touch must be ranked separately.