

Grassland Reserve Program Eligibility and Ranking Form
USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service
Nevada FY2012

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) are Located:

Nearest Town _____

Tract and Field number if available:

Is the Landowner AGI Eligible? Yes No

Is the Landowner HEL Eligible? Yes No

Is the Landowner WC Eligible? Yes No

Name of NRCS Employee Confirming Landowner Eligibility:

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

Name 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 1 -50 pts Maximum</i></p>									
2	Is the offered land for GRP adjacent to public grazing lands or other lands protected from conversion?	35								
3	Is the offered land for GRP between 0 – 3 miles away from the nearest industrial, subdivision, urban development, or a agricultural land parcel used for 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 (land must be offered for a 20-year rental contract to receive points)?	20								
5	Does the land contain any historical or archeological resources (must be listed in the NRHP, designated by SHPO or of Tribal significance)?	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 -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 -50 pts Maximum</i></p>									

Grazing Operation (135 possible points)		Points
1	For all grazing lands being offered in GRP, are grazing records available, and current (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)?	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 5 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 -30 pts Maximum</p>	
4	Does the land being offered for GRP show 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>	30

Restoration (100 possible points)		Points
1	Will funds from non-federal partners contribute up to 50% toward the actual restoration of the land being offered for GRP?	25
2	Will funds from non-federal partners contribute greater than 50% toward the actual restoration of the land being offered for GRP?	50
3	Does the land being offered for GRP require NO restoration costs?	100

Invasive Plants (-100 possible points max)		Points
1	<p>a. Does the land being offered for GRP have an invasive plant species, or noxious weeds on less than 15% of the land? - 0</p> <p>b. Does the land being offered for GRP have an invasive plant species, or noxious weeds on 15% or more on the offered land parcels? - 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. Subtract 25 points for an invasive plant species or a noxious weed on 30% of the land. If one invasive plant is covers at least 30% of the offered land- then subtract 5 points for each additional invasive plant or noxious weed species (up to 25 addition points may be subtracted). Note: Minus 50 points max.</p> <p>d. Has the plant community's composition on the offered land negatively departed from the Ecological Site Description's reference state for the site that would be rated as moderate to extreme due to invasive plants? Use the range similarity index to evaluate the departure from the reference state. - 100</p> <p>Choose 1 -100 Maximum</p>	

Total Possible Points: 600

Land Enrollment Points: _____

Grazing Operation Points: _____

Plant and Animal Biodiversity Points: _____

Restoration Points: _____

Invasive Plant Points (*subtract*): _____

Application Point Total: _____

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

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

Note: (*\$ per acre will be used as a tie breaker, if necessary*)

District Conservationist Signature

Instructions

1. Both rental contracts and easement offer applications will be ranked in 2012.
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.
Remember, GRP has annual payment limitations of (\$50,000) for rental agreements and (\$50,000) restoration agreements.
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 Resource Conservation Service
1365 Corporate Blvd
Reno, NV 89502-7102

Attention: Gary Roeder, Asst. State Conservationist – Programs

All FY 2012 applications must be received by COB on the batching period deadline to be considered for funds. The first batching period deadline for accepting FY 2012 GRP applications will be December 15, 2011. A second batching period deadline for FY 2012 easement program applications is scheduled for March 1, 2012.

Ranked applications should be forwarded to the State Office by **March 15, 2012.**

- *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*

Habitat Priority Instructions

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) 50pts
- High priority Sage-steppe, or Grassland/Meadow habitat, or both (R-1,2 Sage-grouse Habitat Condition) 30pts
- 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 is taken from the 1st Edition of the Greater Sage-grouse Conservation Plan for Nevada and Eastern California (2004)*

Noxious Weeds

Nevada Department of Agriculture Noxious Weed List

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

Non contiguous or block areas containing invasive plants and noxious weeds could be separated out, so that it can be ranked independently from the remaining acreage. 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.