

## NEVADA NRCS-WETLAND RESERVE PROGRAM

### RANKING CRITERIA GUIDELINES

#### Box 1

- Fill out appropriate applicant information
- List evaluators involved in ranking
- Mark Applicant's choice of enrollment

#### Box 2

- Breakdown acreage offered in the WRP application into the appropriate categories for present and proposed WRP land use types into acres.

#### Summary of Rating Factor Scores:

- Total points from each rating factor for ranking the application on the following sections of the ranking worksheet.
- The Cost Ranking score is required in the WRP Manual to differentiate proposed WRP properties based on the cost of the easement and the amount of restoration costs needed.
- The Partnership Points are required in the WRP Manual to promote cooperative partnerships with other agencies and non government agencies.

#### Signatures-Needed

- A US Fish & Wildlife Representative is required to be involved in the ranking process according to the WRP Manual.
- WRP coordinator or representative required to be involved in the ranking process.
- District Conservationist
- Landowner needs to review and can also be present during the ranking process for input

#### 1.) **Restored Natural Hydrology** (Present Condition)

- Evaluate the present condition of the land and award points accordingly
- Give a brief written description of how water is present available on the land

#### 2.) **Hydrology Restoration/** Expected Future Condition as Functioning Wetland

- Based on the best estimate-award points according to the percentage of land that can be restored to wet land in the proposed restoration plan
- Write a brief description of the likely hood for part of the ground to be flooded by the restoration and how that water is going to be provided water.

### **3.) Sensitive Species**

- Award 5 points for each Federal and State Threatened or endangered species
- Award 3 points for each species of concern listed in the State Wildlife Action Plan

### **4.) Habitat Diversity-Number of Habitat Elements Anticipated Following Restoration for each selected Wetland Type**

- Pick the appropriate Wet Land type(s) form the five different types
- Mark applicable Habitat Elements under Wet Land Type chosen
- Points for this rating factor are scored according to the chart in Habitat Diversity Section
- Add 5 additional points for greater more than wetland type present.

### **5.) Adjacent to Protected Areas or Within Critically Limited Habitat**

- This section awards point for the land proposed for enrollment being in the proximity of another parcel of land that is protected by a conservation easement, refuge designation, or other protected area designation.
- Document the appropriate information for this section

### **6.) Surrounding Habitat Directly Adjacent to the Proposed Easement**

- Mark the appropriate Habitat Types and score accordingly

### **7.) Restored Natural Hydrology/ Soil Characteristics (Potential to restore water features based on soil characteristics)**

- Soil maps need to be checked previous to ranking for the property
- Assistance may be required by a Soil Scientist to update the soil maps for the property being considered for enrollment

- Soil Scientist should assist in checking offered property for hazardous materials or substances

#### **8.) Size of Easement**

- Points scored according to the acreage of land offered for WRP enrollment

### **Nevada Cost-Ranking Criteria**

#### **Cost Ranking Factor**

- The Cost Ranking score is required in the WRP Manual to differentiate proposed WRP properties based on the cost of the easement and the amount of restoration costs needed.
- Provides a weighting factor to help break out the differences in cost of purchasing an easement and restoring the wet land.

#### **Partnership Contributions**

- The Partnership Points are required in the WRP Manual to promote cooperative partnerships with other agencies and non government agencies.
- These contributions can be towards purchase of the easement, restoration of the wetland, or design of the restoration

### **Preliminary Estimate of Restoration Practices Needed, Units and Costs**

- Cost estimates based on restoration needed
- Give your best estimates based on the type of restoration being preliminarily planned for the property being offered for enrollment

