

Montana Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program Ranking

Ranking Criteria		Possible Points	Applicant Points	Remarks
Percent of Prime, Unique, and Important Soils in the parcel to be protected	>50%	4 points for every percentage point above 50%		Documentation required through application form.
	<50%	0		
Offered acres is predominately cropland, pastureland, grassland, or rangeland	>33%	1 points for every percent over 33%		Documentation required through application form.
	<33%	0		
Ratio of the total acres in the parcel to average farm size in county by 2007 census				This will be determined by going to AGCENSUS
	>2	100		
	1-2	50		
	<1	0		
Decrease in the percentage of acres of farm and ranch lands in the county between the last two census	> 15%	0		This will be determined by going to AGCENSUS
	10.1% -15%	50		
	5.1%-10%	100		
	0%-5%	50		
	< 0%	0		
Percent population growth in the county compared to Montana's growth 2000 - 2009. Query ONLY to the county level. Montana's average is 6.2%	> 3x	0		This will determined by going to CENSUS
	2-3x	100		
	1-2x	50		
	<6.2%	0		

Population density for the county. (Pop/sq mi). Montana's average is 6.2.	>3x	0		This will determined by going to CENSUS
	2-3x	100		
	1-2x	50		
	< 6.2	0		
Proximity to other protected lands. Acres of land within a mile of a protected area	>500	100		Examples of protected areas include areas that are owned in fee title by federal, state or local government or by an entity whose purpose is to protect agricultural lands.
	250-500	50		
	<250	0		
Proximity to other agricultural operations and infrastructure. Acres of land within a mile of the boundary of the offered parcels	>500	100		Documentation required through application form.
	250-500	50		
	<250	0		
Entities with existing Montana FRPP projects with monitoring records not current.		Deduct 3 points for each project not current.		These points will be subtracted by NRCS State Conservationist
Parcels offered would conserve habitat for Species of Concern. Criteria evaluated to the Township level.		Add 3 points for any listed species.		Species can be found on the MONTANA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM. Documentation is required.
TOTAL POINTS				