

NH NRCS 2012 WETLAND RESERVE PROGRAM EASEMENT & RESTORATION RANKING SHEET

The NRCS Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) was established to protect, restore and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems that have been degraded as a result of agricultural/silvicultural activities.

Landowner Name:		
Landowner Address:		
	<i>Street</i>	<i>City/Town State, Zip</i>
Landowner Number:		
	<i>Home</i>	<i>Cell</i>
Landowner Email:		
Parcel Town & County:		
Application ranked for (choose one):	Easement with restoration__	Restoration only__

Category	Environmental Benefit Considerations	Maximum Points	Parcel Points
Landscape Benefit Factors	1 Proposed easement has direct: -riparian connection to protected lands= 400 pts -riparian connection to lands under agreement= 300 pts* -upland connection to protected lands= 300 pts -upland connection to lands under agreement= 200 pts* <i>*Permanent land protection agreement must be in writing prior to receiving points.</i>	400	
	2 Proposed easement has probable occurrences of endangered, threatened, species of concern, or monitored species as determined by the NH Natural Heritage Bureau (NHB). <i>E=400 points, T=300 pts, SC=100 pts, M=50 pts</i>	400	
	3 Proposed easement area contains rare or exemplary natural communities that appear in NHB records or have been identified by a qualified professional (documentation required). <i>Yes=100 points No=0 Points</i>	150	
	4 WAP Tiers Highest Ranked Habitat in NH = 250 Pts or Highest Ranked Habitat in Biological Region = 150 Pts or Supporting Landscape = 75 Pts	250	
Hydrology Restoration Potential	5 Preliminary Restoration Plan (see attached Field Assessment Worksheet) <i>*Maximum capped at 1200 points</i>	1200	0
	6 Percent of the easement, after proposed restoration, that will provide: (1) hydrologic conditions suitable for the needs of the native wetland dependent wildlife species and (2) appropriate wetland functions and values that existed prior to degradation - 25 points for each 10%.	250	
	<i>* If parcel cannot demonstrate hydrology restoration potential (score of zero on Category 5 & 6), parcel is ineligible for WRP.</i>		
Maximum Points for Environmental Benefit Considerations		2650	0

Category	Economic Considerations		Maximum Points	Parcel Points							
Cost Effectiveness Factors	7	Applicant and/or partnership contributions exist that will reduce NRCS easement acquisition and/or restoration costs*. 5 points for every \$1,000 contribution with a maximum of 250 points. Contributions must be documented in writing prior to ranking. <i>*Restoration costs may include implementation expenses and/or in-kind final WRPO development by qualified professionals after APCE is signed.</i>	250								
	8	<table border="1"> <tr> <td rowspan="2">Cost Benefit Analysis</td> <td>Environmental Benefit Points</td> </tr> <tr> <td>----- x 100</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">GARC + Restoration (cost per acre)</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"><i>(Maximum capped at 50 points)</i></td> </tr> </table>	Cost Benefit Analysis	Environmental Benefit Points	----- x 100	GARC + Restoration (cost per acre)		<i>(Maximum capped at 50 points)</i>		50	
	Cost Benefit Analysis	Environmental Benefit Points									
----- x 100											
GARC + Restoration (cost per acre)											
<i>(Maximum capped at 50 points)</i>											
Maximum Points for Cost Effectiveness Factors			300	0							
Management Effectiveness Factors	9	Operation and maintenance of restoration practices, once installed, will be: <i>Required, but less often than every 5 years - 50 points</i> <i>Required more often than every 5 years - 0 points</i>	50								
	10	Ownership will be transferred to a qualified third party (such as a state wildlife agency, land trust, etc) after the easement has closed. Agreement must be documented in writing prior to ranking. <i>Yes = 250 Points No = 0 Points</i>	250								
	Maximum Points for Management Factors			300	0						
Maximum Points for Economic Considerations			600	0							

Category	Special Considerations		Maximum Points	Parcel Points
Conservation Priority Areas	11	NH Conservation Priority Areas as listed in a local, state, or regional plan including but not limited to: -NH Aquifer -Important Bird Area -NHDES Impaired Water Buffers -Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture -New England Cottontail Focus Area -Quabbin to Cardigan Initiative -NH Coastal & Estuarine Land Protection Plan -Upper Ammonoosuc and Israel River Watersheds -NRCS Rivers Initiative (Connecticut, Great Bay, Merrimack, Saco) <i>(50 points for each occurrence - maximum 250 points)</i>	250	
Farmland Productivity	12	Acres offered do not include prime or statewide important farmland. If so, points will be <i>deducted</i> as follows: <i><5 acres = 0 points 5-10 acres = 100 points</i> <i>11-20 acres = 150 points 20+ acres = 200 points</i>	200	
Total for Special Considerations			250	0

TOTAL RANKING SCORE	Maximum Points	Parcel Points
Total Score for Environmental Benefit Considerations:	2650	0
Total Score for Economic Considerations:	600	0
Total for Special Considerations:	250	0
FINAL RANKING SCORE:	3500	0

SIGNATURE BLOCK	
<p>Landowner Signature: _____ Date: _____</p> <p>PRINT NAME: _____</p>	
<p>NRCS Representative: _____ Date: _____</p> <p>PRINT NAME: _____</p>	
<p><i>**CHANGES TO PROPOSED EASEMENT BOUNDARY, SITE HYDROLOGY, VEGETATIVE COVER, OR RESTORATION PRACTICES AFTER RANKING MAY VOID THIS SCORE. LANDOWNERS WHO MAKE THESE CHANGES WILL BE DEFERRED.</i></p>	