

**2013 WETLANDS RESERVE PROGRAM
ENVIRONMENTAL SITE EVALUATION
KENTUCKY**

Owner(s) (as listed on deed or POA) _____ Date _____ FSN _____
 _____ County _____ Tract _____
 _____ Mailing Address: _____
 _____ City: _____
 Total Acres in Application: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 *Total Eligible Acres in Application: _____ Phone: (Home) _____ (Work) _____

*Eligible areas can include a 300' riparian buffer on 1st order streams and larger when the buffer connects existing or restorable wetland areas that are protected with an easement or will be protected by the WRP easement.

Permanent Offer 30-year Offer Cost-Share Only

Latitude _____ Longitude _____ Topo Quad Name: _____

Screening Questions

A yes answer to question 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 below will result in the application being a low priority. Low priority applications will not be ranked unless funding is available after higher priority applications have been considered for funding.

- 1) Is the offer size less than 20 acres? _____ This question can be waived if the offer includes an outstanding wetland resource as recommended in writing by KDFWR, USFWS, TNC, and/or KSNPC.
- 2) Has the boundary been manipulated by the landowner so that the offer can not be efficiently managed or effectively restored as determine by NRCS? _____
- 3) Are there existing water control structures located on the easement (that cannot be removed by NRCS) that manage water off the easement (unless landowner agrees to convey a non-revocable flooding easement), or existing water control structures located off of the easement that manage water on the easement? _____
- 4) Has a previous offer made to the current landowner(s) been refused within the past 18 months? _____ This question can be waived by the state conservationist if the land offered is considered a high priority.
- 5) Is the offer for a 30-year easement or a cost share agreement? _____

Ranking Factors

Point Values

I.	Local Significance	
	1) Special Interest Areas.....	= _____
	2) Proximity to Protected Areas.....	= _____
II.	Wildlife Habitat	
	1) Threatened & Endangered Species.....	= _____
	2) Wildlife Corridors.....	= _____
	3) Adjacent Forestland.....	= _____
	4) Easement Size.....	= _____
III.	Water Quality	
	1) Cropping History.....	= _____

- 2) Proximity of Main Stem of River System.....= _____
- IV. Hydrology
- 1) Percentage of the Easement Composed Of PC Land= _____
- 2) Adequate Source of Hydrology.....= _____
- 3) Types of Hydrology Restoration Practices.....= _____
- V. Percent of Total Easement Area that meets identified categories
(440-V-CPM 514.14) of land eligible for WRP.....= _____
- VI. Riparian Area.....= _____
- VII. Operation, Maintenance and Management Factors
- 1) Existing Timber Quality.....= _____
- 2) Contiguous Easement= _____
- VIII. Cost Factor
- 1) Easement Cost Factor.....= _____
- 2) Restoration Cost Factor.....= _____
- TOTAL POINT VALUE OF RANKING FACTORS.....= _____**

Point Values of Ranking Factors for Kentucky WRP

Ranking Factor	Maximum Point Value	Approximate % of Total Score
Local Significance		
Special Interest Areas	15	2
Proximity to Protected Areas	30	5
Wildlife habitat		
T&E species and State Conservation Agreement Species	25	4
Wildlife Corridors	10	1
Adjacent Forestland	20	3
Size of Easement	60	9
Water Quality		
Cropping History	50	8
Proximity to main stem of river system	30	5
Hydrology		
Percentage of the Easement Composed Of PC Land	95	14
Adequate source of Hydrology	95	14
Types of Hydrology Restoration Practices	70	10
Percent of Total Easement Area that meets identified categories of land eligible for WRP	60	9
Riparian Area	10	1
Operation, Maintenance and Management Factors		
Existing Timber Quality	40	6
Contiguous Easement	25	4
Cost Factors		
Easement Cost Factor	20	3
Restoration Cost Factor	20	3
TOTALS	675	~100

I. LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE

1) Special Interest Areas

Restoration is in or near one of the special interest areas identified on the attached Special Interest Area map.

Site is in area.....	15
Site is within 2 miles of area.....	5
Site is not in or within 2 miles of area.....	0

15 Points Maximum _____

2) Proximity to Protected Areas

Proximity of easement area to permanently protected conservation area (federal/state wildlife refuges, nature conservancy lands, and other permanently protected areas (i.e., WRP) with management objectives similar to the easement area).

<u>Distance</u>	<u>Points</u>
Adjacent.....	30
Within 1 mile	20
> 1 - 5 miles	10
>5 miles.....	0

30 Points Maximum _____

II. WILDLIFE HABITAT

1) Benefits To Threatened & Endangered Species

Contribution to protection/recovery of federally listed threatened, endangered or candidate species or the Copperbelly water snake. Benefits to species will be determined and documented by the USFWS upon receiving aerial photography with the tentative easement area highlighted from NRCS. Points shall be awarded for the highest category that applies. If points are awarded for a direct or indirect benefit, attach the supporting documentation from the USFWS and list the species benefited: Specie(s) benefited: _____

Direct Benefit.....	25
Indirect Benefit.....	10
No Direct or Indirect Benefit Determined.....	0

25 Points Maximum _____

2) Wildlife Corridors

Will the easement area provide a wooded corridor at least 100' wide that connects existing blocks of forested areas of at least 20 acres in size considered quality habitat? (To receive points the forested block must be at least 500' in width somewhere along its' length.)

Yes.....	10
No.....	0

10 Points Maximum _____

3) Proximity of Large Blocks of Forestland

Adjacent to >500 acres of forestland or planned forestland.....	20
Adjacent to >300 acres of forestland or planned forestland.....	15
Adjacent to >100 acres of forestland or planned forestland.....	5

(To receive points for planned forestland, the acreage must be covered by a CRP or WRP contract or a conservation easement.)

20 Points Maximum _____

4) Total easement acres offered.

<u>Acres</u>	<u>Points</u>
>300.....	60
150-300.....	40
80-149.....	20
20-79.....	0

60 Points Maximum _____

III. WATER QUALITY

1) Cropping History

Cropping history will be used to assign a point value for the amount of non-point source pollution reduced as a result of wetland restoration on the easement area. The existing crop or last crop grown will be used for this factor. Offering must have had a crop grown within the last 5 years to receive points. CRP Acreage will be consider as cropland for this question. Grassland must have been mowed or grazed in the last 5 years to receive points. Points will be assigned by a weighted average calculated as follows:

<u>CROP</u>	<u>POINTS</u>	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>WEIGHTED AVERAGE</u>
			<u>POINTS</u>
Row Crop	50 x	()	= _____
Grassland	25 x	()	= _____
Forestland, wetland and/or	0 x	()	= _____
No Crop or Hay Produced in the last 5 years			

Ranking Point Value = Sum of Weighted Average Points/Total Acres Offered

50 Points Maximum _____

2) Proximity to main stem of river system

Offered easement is part of a floodplain area adjacent to the main stem of a fifth order or larger stream. (National Hydrography Dataset shall be used for this determination)

30 Points Maximum _____

IV. HYDROLOGY RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT

1) Percentage of the Easement Composed Of Prior Converted Cropland (PC)

Percent of the easement area composed of PC land. Farmed Wetland will not receive points for this question. In the absence of a determination, hydric and somewhat poorly drained hydric inclusion soils that are cleared and drained and not FW may be used to estimate the amount of PC.

Acres Of PC _____ / Total Easement Acres _____ *100 = _____%

Between 76-100% of the easement acres composed of PC.....	95
Between 51-75% of the easement acres composed of PC.....	65
Between 26-50% of the easement acres composed of PC.....	35
Between 0-25% of the easement acres composed of PC.....	0

95 Points Maximum _____

2) Adequate Source of Hydrology

Location of easement area insures a source of hydrology adequate to maintain wetland functions and values.

a) Majority (>50%) of easement acreage will receive annual flooding from over bankflows.....	95
b) Majority (>50%) of easement acreage will receive frequent (at least 3 of 5 years) overbank flow	65
c) Majority (>50%) of easement acreage within a ponded, depressional area.....	35
d) Majority (>50%) of easement acreage historically contained saturated soils due to groundwater or water table conditions.....	15

95 Points Maximum _____

3) Award points for each of the following practices that will be completed as part of the hydrology restoration plan.

Tile Break (18 Points).....	_____
Ditch Plug (18 Points) <i>Points may be awarded for ditch plug if an embankment will be used to control flow in a ditch that leaves the easement.</i>	_____
Levee Break (17 Points).....	_____
Wetland Microtopography Restoration (17 Points).....	_____

70 Points Maximum _____

V. PERCENT OF TOTAL EASEMENT AREA THAT MEETS IDENTIFIED CATEGORIES (440-V-CPM 515.11) OF LAND ELIGIBLE FOR WRP

WRP provisions allow for the enrollment of “adjacent lands” that will contribute significantly to the functions and values of the restored wetland ecosystem as long as the “adjacent lands” do not exceed 50%* of the total easement area. However, the primary emphasis of WRP is on wetland restoration. Those intentions offering a lower percentage of “adjacent lands”. will receive the highest rating for this factor. Lands eligible for WRP and not considered adjacent lands are defined in the WRP Manual 444-V-CPM 515.11. .

- ≥ 90% of the easement area.....60
- 80% - 89% of the easement area.....40
- 70% - 79% of the easement area.....20
- 60% - 69% of the easement area.....10
- less than 60% of the easement area.....0

60 Points Maximum _____

VI. RIPARIAN AREA

Easement area includes riparian areas adjacent to a stream that will be restored or enhanced according to the NRCS riparian buffer standard.....10

10 Points Maximum _____

VII. EASEMENT, OPERATION, MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT FACTOR

1) Management of Timber Quality:

- a) **NO** timber harvested from the offered acres in the last 3 years.....40
- b) Timber **HAS** been harvested from the offered acres within the last 3 years.....0

40 Points Maximum _____

2) Easement Configuration - If more than one of the following applies, use the one that provides for the least points:

- a) The easement is made up of a contiguous block of land and existing water control structures that manage easement water are located on the easement.....25
- b) The easement offer is divided by non-eligible acres, a road right-of-way, non-eligible CRP, or other non-easement area that is beyond the control of the landowner..... 10
- c) The boundary has been manipulated by the landowner so that the offer is cut-up, divided by eligible acres, or separated by non-easement area (block of non-easement area has been cut out of the middle or a long strip extends into the easement)... 0
- d) Existing water control structures located on the easement (that cannot be removed by NRCS) manage water off the easement (unless landowner agrees to convey a non-revocable flooding easement), or existing water control structures located off of the easement manage water on the easement..... 0

25 Points Maximum _____

NOTE: The easement offer must be of sufficient size and properly configured boundaries that allow for the efficient management of the easement.

VIII. COST FACTORS

1) Easement Cost Factor

Landowner offer is $\leq 90\%$ of the easement compensation value..... 20

Landowner offer is $\leq 95\%$ of the easement compensation value 10

Landowner offer is $> 95\%$ of the easement compensation value 0

20 Points Maximum _____

2) Restoration Cost Factor

Total average restoration cost/Total RESTORED Acres $\leq \$500/\text{acre}$ 20

Total average restoration cost/Total RESTORED Acres $> \$500/\text{acre}$ 0

20 Points Maximum _____

TOTAL RANKING CRITERIA POINTS

WRP team leader (planning conservationist)

Date

District Conservationist

Date

Biologist

Date

Engineer

Date

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Date

Restoration Responsibility

Landowner intends to complete hydrology restoration YES NO

Landowner intends to complete reforestation YES NO

I (we) have reviewed this evaluation, preliminary plan worksheet, Hydrology Restoration Table, and the Vegetative Restoration Table. I (we) also understand that practice units and cost estimates are approximate on the preliminary plan worksheet and attached tables. (A detailed plan with estimated practice units and costs will be developed if your application is accepted into the Wetlands Reserve Program.)

Applicant

Date

Applicant

Date

Applicant

Date

Preliminary Plan Worksheet

Is the intention eligible? _____ Discuss issues of concern. _____

Eligible Acres

Total Eligible Acres that meet identified categories of land eligible for WRP (excluding adjacent land and problem soils) _____Acres

*Eligible areas can include a 300' riparian buffer on 1st order streams and larger when eligible soils are included in the offer.

Other Acres

Upland _____Acres Wetland Forestland _____Acres

Emergent Freshwater Wetlands _____Acres

Water supply adequate for restoration objectives? Yes _____ No _____

Water supply adequate for enhancement objectives? Yes _____ No _____

Estimated Hydrology Restoration

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Projected</u>
Flooding extent (ac)	_____	_____
Ponding extent (ac)	_____	_____
Water Table Extent (ac)	_____	_____
Flooding duration (wk+, mo+)	_____	_____
Season of flooding (W, S, SU, F)	_____	_____
Ponding duration (wk+, mo+)	_____	_____
Season of ponding (W, S, SU, F)	_____	_____

Table 1. WR-1, Hydrology Restoration.

Approximate location of all hydrologic practices should be documented on an attached aerial photograph.

Practice	Field Nos.	Estimated Amounts (units)	Cost Basis	Cost Share Rate	Total Cost
Water Control Structure					
Ditch Plug					
Dike					
Levee Break					
Tile Break					
List Others:					
Total Cost					

See attached map for approximate placement of hydrology restoration practices.

Table 2. WR-2, Vegetative Restoration

Practice	Field Nos.	Estimated Amounts (Units)	Cost Basis	Cost Share Rate	Total Cost
Tree Planting Seedlings					
Tree Planting Direct Seeded					
Potted Trees					
Natural Regeneration					
Native Grass Planting					
Levee Planting					
List Others:					

See attached map for placement of vegetative practices.

Riparian Areas (land within a 300 foot of a water body, stream, or river is considered to be riparian)

Existing Acres _____ Restorable Acres _____

Restoration Plan Comments: _____

Sketch preliminary plan or attach map showing planned extent