

3/01/2013

**Grassland Reserve Program Eligibility and Ranking Form**  
**USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service**  
**Nevada FY 2013**

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

<b>Land Enrollment (215 possible points)</b>		<b>Points</b>								
1	Length of Contract (circle one) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. 10-year rental contract      5 pts</li> <li>b. 15-year rental contract      20 pts</li> <li>c. 20-year rental contract      35 pts</li> <li>d. GRP Conservation Easement 50 pts</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Choose 1 -50 pts Maximum</b></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 an agricultural land parcel used for purposes 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;">&lt;100</td> <td style="padding: 2px 5px;">100-1000</td> <td style="padding: 2px 5px;">&gt;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;"><b>Choose 1 -15 pts Maximum</b></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"> <li>a. Bi-state Sage-grouse DPS(Distinct Population Segment) Essential/Irreplaceable, or Important Habitat      50 pts</li> <li>b. Nevada Greater Sage-grouse range Essential/Irreplaceable, Important Habitat Sage-grouse habitat outside of the designated USFWS Bi-state Sage-grouse area      40 pts</li> <li>c. Bi-state Sage-grouse DPS occupied or suitable habitat in Nevada Sage-grouse Population Management Unit      30 pts</li> <li>d. Habitat within or adjacent to the identified Nevada Greater or Bi-State Sage-grouse range      10 pts</li> <li>e. Habitat outside of the Sage-grouse range      0 pts</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Choose 1 -50 pts Maximum</b></p>	_____								

<b>Grazing Operation (135 possible points)</b>		<b>Points</b>
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 there 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, and are livestock managed to prevent degradation to water quality?	25
5	Does the grazing plan balance forage availability with livestock and wildlife demands?	20

<b>Plant and Animal Biodiversity (150 possible points)</b>		<b>Points</b>
1	<p>Does the land offered contain Sage-grouse habitat categorized as Essential/Irreplaceable, Important, or both habitat categories? 50 pts</p> <p>Does the land offered contain Sage-grouse habitat categorized as Habitat of Moderate Importance? - 30 pts</p> <p>Does the land offered contain critical sensitive habitat for T &amp; E species classified as Desert scrub, Aspen woodland, Mountain Chaparral, or riparian? 10 pts</p> <p><b>Note: See page 6 for Nevada Department of Wildlife Sage-grouse habitat categorization Map Choose 1 -50 pts Maximum</b></p>	_____
2	<p>Does the land offered for GRP support a known, documented population of T&amp;E or at-risk plant/animal species?</p> <p>a. 1 species - 15 pts</p> <p>b. Additional Species 5 pts each</p> <p><b>Note: Maximum total of 30 total points.</b></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 Pinion/Juniper 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 Pinion/Juniper canopy cover? 15 pts</p> <p><b>Choose 1 -30 pts Maximum</b></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
<b>Restoration (50 possible points)</b>		<b>Points</b>
1	Will funds from non-federal partners contribute up to 50% toward the actual restoration of the land being offered for GRP?	13
2	Will funds from non-federal partners contribute greater than 50% toward the actual restoration of the land being offered for GRP?	25
3	Does the land being offered for GRP require NO restoration costs?	50
<b>Invasive Plants (-50 possible points max)</b>		<b>Points</b>
1	<p>a. Does the land being offered for GRP have an invasive plant species, or noxious weeds on less than 7% of the land, with an implemented control plan? - 0</p> <p>b. Does the land being offered for GRP have one or more invasive plant species, or noxious weeds that occur on 7 – 25 % of the offered acreage? - 25</p> <p><b>Note: Noxious weeds listed on Nevada Department of Agriculture’s noxious weed abatement list. Invasive plants such as Cheatgrass, Medusahead, thistles, or Knapweeds.</b></p> <p>c. Does the land being offered for GRP have one or more invasive plant species, or noxious weeds that occur on greater than 25% of the offered acreage? <b>Note:</b> If one invasive plant is covers at least 15% of the offered land and another invasive covers an additional 10% or more, add the percentage of land affected by the infestations. <b>Minus 50 points max.</b> -50</p> <p>d. The invasive plants and noxious weeds have a serious negative impact on the native plant community composition on the offered land. 40% or greater of the offered acreage exhibits a moderate or extreme departure from the Ecological Site Description’s reference state for the site due to invasive plants? <i>Use the range similarity index to evaluate the departure from the reference state.</i> - 50</p> <p><b>Choose only 1 response in this Section</b></p>	

<b>Leveraging (50 possible points max)</b>		<b>Points</b>
1	<p>a. Permanent Easement held by NRCS at full GARC/appraisal rate or rental contract. ( 0 points )</p> <p>b. Permanent Easement with landowner offer between 95 – 99.9% of full GARC rate. (5 points)</p> <p>c. Permanent Easement with landowner offer between 90 - 94.9% of full GARC rate. (10 points)</p> <p>d. Permanent Easement with landowner offer between 85 – 89.9% of full GARC rate. (15 points)</p> <p>e. Permanent Easement with landowner offer between 80 - 84.9% of full GARC rate. (20 points)</p> <p>f. Permanent Easement with landowner offer between 75 – 79.9% of full GARC rate. (25 points)</p> <p>g. Permanent Easement held by a Third Party that provides at least 25% share of the cost of the easement purchase calculated at the full GARC rate. (25 points)</p> <p>h. Permanent Easement held by a Third Party that provides a total of at least 50% share of the cost of the easement purchase calculated at the full GARC or appraisal rate. Landowner donation not to exceed 25% of the calculated easement value and at least 25% Third Party Matching funds being utilized in the easement purchase. (50 points)</p>	_____
<b>Choose only 1 response this Section</b>		

**Total Possible Points: 600**

Land Enrollment Points: \_\_\_\_\_

Grazing Operation Points: \_\_\_\_\_

Plant and Animal Biodiversity Points: \_\_\_\_\_

Restoration Points: \_\_\_\_\_

Invasive Plant Points (*subtract*): \_\_\_\_\_

Leveraging Points: \_\_\_\_\_

**Application Point Total:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Tiebreaker: Application with the highest point value in order of the following categories:

1. Land Enrollment score.
2. Plant and Animal Biodiversity score.
3. Grazing Operation score.

\_\_\_\_\_  
District Conservationist Signature                      Date

### Instructions

1. Both rental contracts and easement offer applications will be ranked in 2013.
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) for 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 2013 applications must be received by COB on the batching period deadline to be considered for funds. The first batching period deadline for accepting FY 2013 GRP applications will be November 30, 2012. A second batching period deadline for FY 2013 easement program applications is scheduled for February 15, 2013 if funds remain available.**

**Ranked applications should be forwarded to the State Office by **January 4, 2013.****

- *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 category types? (Select only one):

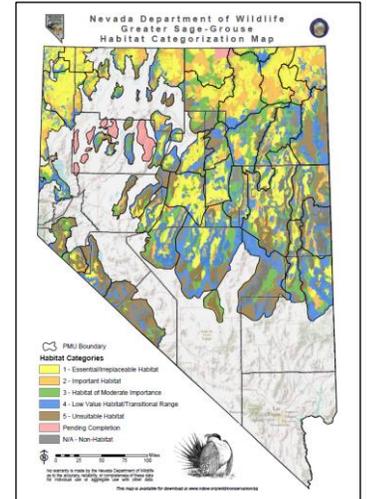
**Nevada Department of Wildlife Sage-grouse habitat categorization Map-on right**

<http://www.ndow.org/wild/conservation/sg/index.shtm>

**Nevada Department of Wildlife-Greater Sage-grouse Habitat Categorization White Paper**

<http://www.ndow.org/wild/conservation/sg/SageGrouseHabCat/Sage-Grouse%20Habitat%20Categorization%20White%20Paper.pdf>

- Sage-grouse Habitat Categories 1 **Essential/Irreplaceable Habitat** (shown in yellow) and 2 **Important Habitat** (shown in orange) High priority Sage-steppe, or Grassland /Meadow habitat, or both (R-0, 1, and 2 Sage-grouse Habitat Condition) 50pts
- Sage-grouse Habitat Category 3 **Habitat of Moderate Importance**(shown in green) 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) 10pts



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.

R-3 The existing Sage brush habitat is dominated by pinyon/juniper trees with the potential of being restored to a sagebrush plant community beneficial for Sage-grouse. These areas include sagebrush sites that have been encroached by pinyon/juniper woodlands, as well as other pinyon/juniper dominated sites that may provide potential value to sage-grouse.

**Note:** *The above R-0, 1, 2, and 3 sage-grouse habitat categorizations/conditions are taken from the 1<sup>st</sup> 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\\_No WeedList.htm](http://agri.nv.gov/nwac/PLANT_No WeedList.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.