



# Pennsylvania NRCS Wetland Reserve Easement Program (ACEP-WRE) Ranking Scoring Worksheet

## Bog turtle/Massasauga Ranking

October 18, 2021

Landowner Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Application Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Fiscal Year: \_\_\_\_\_  
County: \_\_\_\_\_ Interdisciplinary Team Approval Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Tract: \_\_\_\_\_

Application Type: ☐ Bog Turtle ☐ Massasauga

Final Ranking Score: \_\_\_\_\_ State Biologist Review/Concurrence: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

PART I - Environmental Benefit Considerations	
<b>LOCATION</b> <span style="float: right;">50 Max. Points</span>	
1. Proximity to existing permanently protected areas of conservation value for bog turtle or massasauga	
a. Project is directly adjacent to a permanently protected area of conservation value	10
b. Project is within 0.5 miles of a permanently protected area of conservation value	5
c. Project is greater than 0.5 miles from permanently protected area of conservation value	0
List permanently protected area here: _____	subtotal
2. Proximity to existing wetlands having shallow water (<6") and deep mucky soils (select one)	
a. Offered acres connect two wetlands having shallow water (<6") and deep mucky soils	10
b. Offered acres are adjacent to wetlands having shallow water (<6") and deep mucky soils	5
c. Offered acres are within 0.5 miles of wetlands having shallow water (<6") and deep mucky soils	2
	subtotal
3. Offered acres are located on a USFWS or PAFBC Bog Turtle or Massasauga site	
Parcel is a known or confirmed Bog Turtle or Massasauga Site	30
Parcel is not a known or confirmed Bog Turtle or Massasauga Site	0
	subtotal
<b>HABITAT</b> <span style="float: right;">50 Max. Points</span>	
4. Project is located within a Metapopulation Area for Bog Turtle or Massasauga (select one based on targeted site species)	
a. Yes	10
b. No	0
	subtotal
5. Known site use (select one)	
a. Site is a known bog turtle or massasuga site that is currently occupied	30
b. Site is a known bog turtle or massasuga site that has been occupied in the last 5 years	15
c. Site is a known bog turtle or massasuga site that has been occupied in the last 10 years	7
d. Site is a known bog turtle or massasuga site that was occupied more than 10 years ago	0
	subtotal
6. Current Habitat Condition (select one based on Interdisciplinary Team Evaluation)	
a. Excellent bog turtle or massasauga habitat	10
b. Good bog turtle or massasauga habitat	5
c. Marginal bog turtle or massasauga habitat	0
	subtotal
<b>RESTORATION OF HYDROLOGY</b> <span style="float: right;">100 Max. Points</span>	
7. Habitat Restoration Potential (Hydric Soils) (select one using biology report from Interdisciplinary Team)	
a. Restoration of hydrology will restore or maintain wetland habitat that is excellent	50
b. Restoration of hydrology will restore or maintain wetland habitat that is good	25
c. Restoration of hydrology will restore or maintain wetland habitat that is marginal	10
(zero points if none apply)	subtotal
8. Existing Hydric Soils (select one using soils report from Interdisciplinary Team)	
a. Habitat area contains contiguous block of hydric soils	50
b. Habitat area contains isolated areas of hydric soil habitat	25
c. Habiatarea contains no hydric soil	0
	subtotal
<b>PART I - Total Points</b>	



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<b>PART II - Economic Considerations</b>		
<b>9. Existing Vegetation Type in habitat area (select one)</b>		<b>100 Max. Points</b>
a. Open Meadow or pasture	15	<input type="text"/>
b. Brushy meadow or brushy pasture	7	<input type="text"/>
c. Forested	0	<input type="text"/>
subtotal		<input type="text"/>
<b>10. Estimated Easement Restoration Cost (select one)</b>		
a. Estimated restoration cost is < 50% of the total easement acquisition value	15	<input type="text"/>
b. Estimated restoration cost is between 50 - 80% of the total easement acquisition value	7	<input type="text"/>
c. Estimated restoration cost is > 80% of the total easement acquisition value	0	<input type="text"/>
subtotal		<input type="text"/>
<b>11. Noxious or Invasive Species (select one)</b>		
a. <20% of the vegetation in the total easement area is noxious and/or invasive	15	<input type="text"/>
b. 21-50% of the vegetation in the total easement area is noxious and/or invasive	7	<input type="text"/>
c. >50% of the vegetation in the total easement area is noxious and/or invasive	0	<input type="text"/>
subtotal		<input type="text"/>
<b>12. Type of proposed easement</b>		
a. Permanent Easement	35	<input type="text"/>
(zero points for 30-year easement)		
subtotal		<input type="text"/>
<b>13. Total easement enrollment size (select one)</b>		
a. Proposed enrollment is 10 acres or larger	15	<input type="text"/>
b. Proposed enrollment is less than 10 acres	7	<input type="text"/>
c. Proposed enrollment is less than 5 acres	2	<input type="text"/>
subtotal		<input type="text"/>
<b>14. Is the applicant a covered producer participating in the CRP Transition Incentives Program (CRP-TIP) and NRCS is evaluating the assessment during the two-year period covered by the CRP-1R? OR Land that is currently enrolled in CRP in a contract that is set to expire within 1 year from the application date OR land under a CRP contract that is in transition to a covered farmer or rancher pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 3835(f) and such land is farmed wetland and adjoining land that has highest wetland functions and values and is likely to return to production after the land leaves CRP.</b>		
a. Yes	5	<input type="text"/>
b. No	0	<input type="text"/>
subtotal		<input type="text"/>
<b>PART II - Total Points</b>		<input type="text"/>

<b>PART III - Easement Offer Configuration</b>		
<b>15. Benefit of Adjacent Acreage for Bog turtle/Massasauga Habitat (select all that apply)</b>		<b>100 Max. Points</b>
a. Adjacent acres will be utilized by bog turtle/massasauga and act as an extension of the habitat area	15	<input type="text"/>
b. Adjacent acres directly benefit the hydrology of the bog turtle/massasauga habitat	15	<input type="text"/>
c. Adjacent acres connect bog turtle/massasauga habitat to another permanently protected area	10	<input type="text"/>
d. Adjacent acres create a simpler, more manageable easement boundary	10	<input type="text"/>
(zero points if none apply)		
subtotal		<input type="text"/>
<b>16. Easement Offer Boundary (select one option that best fits the easement offer)</b>		
a. Easement offer boundary is simple with few corners, angles and turns, creating an easily managed polygon	25	<input type="text"/>
b. Easement offer boundary is moderately simple with minimal corners, angles and turns, creating a moderate to manage polygon	10	<input type="text"/>
c. Easement offer boundary is complicated with multiple corners, angles and turns creating a difficult to manage polygon	0	<input type="text"/>
subtotal		<input type="text"/>
<b>17. Easement Offer Parcel (select one option that best fits the easement offer)</b>		
a. Easement offer parcel is one contiguous block of land with <u>no</u> right-of-ways	25	<input type="text"/>
b. Easement offer parcel is one contiguous block of land with right-of-ways	15	<input type="text"/>
c. Easement offer parcel is divided by non-eligible acreage, a right-of-way, non-eligible CRP, or other area not controlled by landowner	5	<input type="text"/>
d. Easement offer parcel is manipulated by landowner, is cut-up, divided among eligible acreage, or separated by cut-outs or in-holding	0	<input type="text"/>
subtotal		<input type="text"/>
<b>PART III - Total Points</b>		<input type="text"/>

<input type="text"/>		<b>Total Ranking Score:</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Employee Signature</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>(Maximum Points = 400)</b>