



PA NRCS RCPP #1847 Kittatinny Ridge Conservation Landscape Easement Ranking

October 2021

Landowner Name: _____ County: _____ Application Date: _____ Fiscal Year: _____

Screening Approval Date: _____ Farm/Tract: _____ FINAL RANKING SCORE: _____

NRCS State Office Review/Concurrence: _____ Date: _____

Instructions: Complete Section B for Forest Easement Parcel Applications, OR complete Section C for Agricultural Land Easement Parcel Applications. Do not complete all questions. Ranking official must complete questions in either Section B or Section C based on parcel type. Section A, General Questions apply to both Agricultural Land Easements and Forest Easements and must be completed for every parcel.

SECTION A - PROGRAM RANKING QUESTIONS (apply to both ag and forest easement applications)	
1. Application directly addresses one or more resource concern(s) for which outcome metrics have been included in which PPA Attachment 4 includes outcome metrics?	
a. Yes	40 _____
b. No	0 _____
	subtotal _____
2. PPA exhibits identify direct relationship between proposed activities and partner contributions, and application leverages RCPP funding with partner contributions.	
a. Yes	40 _____
b. No	0 _____
	subtotal _____
3. PPA exhibits identify negotiated expectations for lead partner submission of bundled applications, and application has been identified by lead partner as part of an application bundle.	
a. Yes	50 _____
b. No	0 _____
	subtotal _____
4. Proximity of the parcel to the Kittatinny Ridge Conservation Landscape.	
a. Project Located entirely within the Kittatinny Ridge High Priority Core Area	30 _____
b. 50-75% of the project is located within the Kittatinny Ridge High Priority Core Area	20 _____
c. Less than 50% of the project is the High Priority Kittatinny Ridge Core Area	10 _____
d. All of the project is located within the Medium Priority Kittatinny Ridge Core Area	5 _____
(zero points parcel is located outside the Medium Priority Core Area)	subtotal _____
5. Protecting the parcel provides multifunctional benefits of agricultural or forest land protection or improvement; the landowners a historically underserved group, small scale farmer, limited resource landowner, new or beginning farmer or rancher or veteran landowner.	
a. Yes	40 _____
b. No	0 _____
	subtotal _____
SECTION A - Total Points _____	



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SECTION B - RESOURCE RANKING QUESTIONS - FOREST EASEMENT PARCEL (apply to forest easement applications only)		
1. Proximity to a PA Natural Heritage Core Area (NHA) (select one)		
a. Any part of the parcel is located within a PA NHA	30	<input type="text"/>
b. Any part of the Parcel is located within a PA NHA Supporting Area	15	<input type="text"/>
c. Parcel is not located within a PA NHA or a PA NHA Supporting Area <i>(Attach map or other documentation)</i>	0	<input type="text"/>
	subtotal	<input type="text"/>
2. Proximity to Appalachian or Tuscarora Trails (select one)		
a. The parcel is directly adjacent to or contains the Appalachian or Tuscarora Trails	30	<input type="text"/>
b. The parcel is located within 1000 feet of the Appalachian or Tuscarora Trails	15	<input type="text"/>
c. The parcel is greater than 1000 feet from the Appalachian or Tuscarora Trails	0	<input type="text"/>
	subtotal	<input type="text"/>
3. Significance of Forest Ecosystem Functions and Values (select one)		
a. The majority of the parcel is located in a Forest High Priority Ecological Landscape area (CD/GIS Layer)	10	<input type="text"/>
b. The majority of the parcel is not located in a Forest High Priority Ecological Landscape area (CD/GIS Layer) <i>(Attach map or other documentation)</i>	0	<input type="text"/>
	subtotal	<input type="text"/>
4. Estimated Improvement of Biodiversity (select one)		
a. Forest overstory, mid-story, and understory are all present.	10	<input type="text"/>
c. Forest has a closed canopy in the overstory and is missing either the mid-story or understory layer.	5	<input type="text"/>
d. Forest has a closed canopy in the overstory and is missing both the mid-story and understory layers.	0	<input type="text"/>
	subtotal	<input type="text"/>
5. Forest Management Plan		
Landowner has a current Forest Management Plan (CAP 106 or CPA 106/DIA 165), Forest Stewardship Plan, Tree Farm Plan, or other plan		
a. meeting NRCS criteria that is no older than 10 years.	10	<input type="text"/>
Landowner does not have a current Forest Management Plan (CAP 106 or CPA106/DIA165), Forest Stewardship Plan, Tree Farm Plan, or other		
b. plan meeting NRCS criteria that is no older than 10 years.	0	<input type="text"/>
	subtotal	<input type="text"/>
6. Parcel size		
a. Parcel is 100 acres or larger	20	<input type="text"/>
b. Parcel is greater than 50 acres but less than 100 acres <i>(zero points if less than 50 acres)</i>	10	<input type="text"/>
	subtotal	<input type="text"/>
7. Forested Acreage		
a. Parcel is composed of greater than 80% contiguous forested acres	20	<input type="text"/>
b. Parcel is composed of greater than 80% non-contiguous forested acres	10	<input type="text"/>
c. Parcel is composed of less than 80% forested acres, but the acreage is contiguous	5	<input type="text"/>
d. Parcel is composed of less than 80% non-contiguous forested acres.	0	<input type="text"/>
	subtotal	<input type="text"/>
8. The Parcel contains an archaeological or historical resource.		
a. Yes	10	<input type="text"/>
b. No	0	<input type="text"/>
	subtotal	<input type="text"/>
9. Percent of the Fair Market Value (FMV) of the easement that is the eligible entity's own cash resources for payment of easement compensation to the landowner and comes from sources other than the landowner.		
a. Eligible Entity is providing 50% or more of the FMV	10	<input type="text"/>
b. Eligible Entity is providing at least 33% but less than 50% of the FMV <i>(zero points if Eligible Entity is providing less than 33% of the FMV)</i>	5	<input type="text"/>
	subtotal	<input type="text"/>
10 Proximity and connectivity to permanently protected areas (State or Federal forests/parks/easements, gamelands, other conservation easements)		
a. Project is directly adjacent to an existing permanently protected area	20	<input type="text"/>
b. Project is within 1 mile of an existing permanently protected area	10	<input type="text"/>
b. Project is within 3 miles of an existing permanently protected area	5	<input type="text"/>
c. Project greater than 3 miles away from an existing permanently protected area	0	<input type="text"/>
<i>List permanently protected area here:</i> _____	subtotal	<input type="text"/>

SECTION B (Con't.) - RESOURCE RANKING QUESTIONS - FOREST EASEMENT PARCEL (apply to forest easement applications only)

11. Easement Offer Boundary (select <u>one option</u> that best fits the easement offer)		
a. Easement offer boundary is simple with few corners, angles and turns, creating an easily managed polygon	10	<input type="text"/>
b. Easement offer boundary is moderately simple with minimal corners, angles and turns, creating a moderate to manage polygon	5	<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"/>
12. Easement Offer Parcel (select <u>one option</u> that best fits the easement offer)		
a. Easement offer parcel is one contiguous block of land with <u>no</u> right-of-ways	10	<input type="text"/>
b. Easement offer parcel is one contiguous block of land with right-of-ways	5	<input type="text"/>
c. Easement offer parcel is divided by non-eligible acreage, right-of-ways, or other area not controlled by landowner	2	<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-holdings	0	<input type="text"/>
subtotal		<input type="text"/>
13. Threatened, Endangered, and Special Concern Species (maintain rare native species) (Attach PNDI print to ranking form)		
a. PNDI search for the parcel shows Threatened, Endangered, or Special Concern Species	10	<input type="text"/>
b. PNDI search for the parcel shows no Threatened, Endangered, or Special Concern Species	0	<input type="text"/>
subtotal		<input type="text"/>
SECTION B - Total Points		<input type="text"/>

Forest Easement Ranking Score		SECTION A Ranking Points: <input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>		SECTION B Ranking Points: <input type="text"/>
Employee Signature	Title	TOTAL POINTS (Section A and B): <input type="text"/>
	Date	



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SECTION C - RESOURCE RANKING QUESTIONS AGRICULTURAL LAND PARCEL (apply to ag land easement applications only)

1. Percent of prime, unique, and important farmland in the parcel to be protected.			
a. Greater than 80% prime soils		17	<input type="text"/>
a. Greater than 70% and less than or equal to 80% prime soils		12	<input type="text"/>
b. Greater than 60% and less than or equal to 70% prime soils		8	<input type="text"/>
c. Greater than 50% and less than or equal to 60%		4	<input type="text"/>
<i>(zero points for projects with less than 50% prime soils)</i>		subtotal	<input type="text"/>
2. Percent of cropland, rangeland, grassland, historic grassland, pastureland, or nonindustrial private forest land in parcel to be protected.			
			<i>(select one)</i>
a. Greater than 50 percent		17	<input type="text"/>
b. Greater than 40 percent and less than or equal to 50 percent		8	<input type="text"/>
c. Greater than 33 percent and less than or equal to 40 percent		4	<input type="text"/>
<i>(zero points for 33 percent or less)</i>		subtotal	<input type="text"/>
3. Ratio of the total acres of land in the parcel to be protected to the average farm size in the county according to the most recent USDA Census of Agriculture (www.agcensus.usda.gov).			
a. Ratio greater than 2.0	Avg. Farm Size: _____	15	<input type="text"/>
b. Ratio greater than 1.0 and less than or equal to 2.0	Parcel Size: _____	7	<input type="text"/>
<i>(zero points for projects with ratio of 1.0 or less)</i>		Ratio: _____	subtotal <input type="text"/>
4. Decrease in the percentage of acreage of farm and ranch land in the county in which the parcel is located between the last two USDA Censuses of Agriculture (www.agcensus.usda.gov).			
a. Decrease of more than 15 percent		16	<input type="text"/>
b. Decrease of greater than 10 and less than or equal to 15 percent		9	<input type="text"/>
c. Decrease of greater than 5 and less than or equal to 10 percent		5	<input type="text"/>
d. Decrease of greater than 0 and less than or equal to 5 percent		1	<input type="text"/>
		PERCENTAGE DECREASE: _____	
<i>(zero points for less than 0 percent)</i>		subtotal	<input type="text"/>
5. Decrease in the percentage of acreage of permanent grassland, pasture, and rangeland, other than cropland and woodland pasture, in the county in which the parcel is located between the last two USDA Censuses of Agriculture (www.agcensus.usda.gov).			
a. Decrease of more than 15 percent		10	<input type="text"/>
b. Decrease of of greater than 10 and less than or equal to 15 percent		8	<input type="text"/>
c. Decrease of greater than 5 and less than or equal to 10 percent		5	<input type="text"/>
c. Decrease of greater than 0 and less than or equal to 5 percent		3	<input type="text"/>
		PERCENTAGE DECREASE: _____	
<i>(zero points for a decrease of 0 percent or less)</i>		subtotal	<input type="text"/>
6. Percent population growth in the county as documented by the United States Census (www.census.gov)			
a. Growth rate of more than 3.0 times the State growth rate	State growth rate: _____	10	<input type="text"/>
b. Growth rate of 2.0 and less than 3.0 times the State growth rate	County growth rate: _____	7	<input type="text"/>
c. Growth rate of greater than 1.0 and less than 2.0 times the State growth rate	Ratio: _____	4	<input type="text"/>
<i>(zero points for a growth rate of 1.0 or less)</i>		subtotal	<input type="text"/>
7. Population density (county population per square mile) as documented by the most recent United States Census. (www.census.gov)			
a. Population density of greater than three times the State population density	State Density: _____	10	<input type="text"/>
b. Population density of greater than two and less than three times the State population density	County Density: _____	7	<input type="text"/>
c. Population density of greater than one and less than two times the State population density		4	<input type="text"/>
<i>(zero points for population density less than one times the state population density)</i>		subtotal	<input type="text"/>
8. Proximity of the parcel to other agricultural operations and agricultural infrastructure.			
a. Parcel boundary adjoins other agricultural operations and infrastructure		10	<input type="text"/>
b. Parcel boundary is within one mile of other agricultural operations and infrastructure		7	<input type="text"/>
c. Parcel boundary is greater than one mile but less than three miles of other agricultural operations and infrastructure		4	<input type="text"/>
<i>(zero points if greater than three miles from other ag operations and infrastructure)</i>		subtotal	<input type="text"/>
9. Parcel ability to maximize the protection of contiguous or proximal acres devoted to agricultural use.			
a. Parcel links two non-continuous corridors of protected agricultural use		15	<input type="text"/>
b. Parcel is a contiguous or proximal expansion of agricultural use protected area		7	<input type="text"/>
<i>(zero points if parcel does not increase a protected agricultural use area)</i>		subtotal	<input type="text"/>
10. Existence of a farm succession plan or similar plan established to address agricultural viability for future generations.			
a. Yes		5	<input type="text"/>
b. No		0	<input type="text"/>
		subtotal	<input type="text"/>



SECTION C (Con't.) - RESOURCE RANKING QUESTIONS AGRICULTURAL LAND PARCEL (apply to ag land easement applications only)

11. The land is currently enrolled into CRP that will expire within 1 year AND is grassland that will benefit from the protection under the long-term easement.		
a. Yes	5	<input type="text"/>
b. No	0	<input type="text"/>
	subtotal	<input type="text"/>
12. The parcel is a grassland of special environmental significance that will benefit from the protection under the long-term easement.		
a. Yes	5	<input type="text"/>
b. No	0	<input type="text"/>
	subtotal	<input type="text"/>
13. The parcel contains State-specific factors for grasslands of special environmental significance.		
a. Yes	5	<input type="text"/>
b. No	0	<input type="text"/>
	subtotal	<input type="text"/>
14. The landowner has a current conservation plan addressing soil, water, plant, animal and other potential resource concerns. The conservation plan accurately reflects the current ag operation/management of the parcel.		
a. Yes	5	<input type="text"/>
b. No	0	<input type="text"/>
	subtotal	<input type="text"/>
15. The Parcel is located within an area zoned for agricultural use, is located within an Agricultural Security Area or other locally identified unique agricultural area.		
a. Yes	10	<input type="text"/>
b. No	0	<input type="text"/>
	subtotal	<input type="text"/>
16. The Parcel contains an archaeological or historical resource.		
a. Yes	5	<input type="text"/>
b. No	0	<input type="text"/>
	subtotal	<input type="text"/>
17. Percent of the Fair Market Value (FMV) of the easement that is the eligible entity's own cash resources for payment of easement compensation to the landowner and comes from sources other than the landowner.		
a. Eligible Entity is providing 50% or more of the FMV	10	<input type="text"/>
b. Eligible Entity is providing at least 33% but less than 50% of the FMV	5	<input type="text"/>
<i>(zero points if Eligible Entity is providing less than 33% of the FMV)</i>		
	subtotal	<input type="text"/>
18. Proximity and connectivity to permanently protected areas (State or Federal forests/parks/easements, gamelands, other conservation easements)		
a. Project is directly adjacent to an existing permanently protected area	15	<input type="text"/>
b. Project is within 1 mile of an existing permanently protected area	10	<input type="text"/>
b. Project is within 3 miles of an existing permanently protected area	5	<input type="text"/>
c. Project greater than 3 miles away from an existing permanently protected area	0	<input type="text"/>
List permanently protected area here: _____		
	subtotal	<input type="text"/>
19. 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?		
a. Yes	5	<input type="text"/>
b. No	0	<input type="text"/>
	subtotal	<input type="text"/>
20. Threatened, Endangered, and Special Concern Species (maintain rare native species) (Attach PNDI print to ranking form)		
a. PNDI search for the parcel shows Threatened, Endangered, or Special Concern Species	10	<input type="text"/>
b. PNDI search for the parcel shows no Threatened, Endangered, or Special Concern Species	0	<input type="text"/>
	subtotal	<input type="text"/>
SECTION C - Total Points		<input type="text"/>

Agricultural Land Easement Ranking Score		SECTION A Ranking Points: <input type="text"/>
		SECTION C Ranking Points: <input type="text"/>
		TOTAL POINTS (Section A and C): <input style="background-color: yellow;" type="text"/>
Employee Signature	Title	Date