



PA NRCS RCPP #2035 Buffalo Creek Entity Held Easement Ranking

March 2022

Landowner Name: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_ Application Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Fiscal Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Screening Approval Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Farm/Tract: \_\_\_\_\_ FINAL RANKING SCORE: \_\_\_\_\_

NRCS State Office Review/Concurrence: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions: Complete Sections A and B for RCPP #2035 Entity Held Easement Agricultural Land Easement Parcel Applications.**

<i>SECTION A - PROGRAM RANKING QUESTIONS</i>	
<b>1. Application directly addresses the resource concern identified in PPA Attachment 4 - "Long term protection of the Land to protect soils and agricultural use"</b>	
a. Yes	50
b. No	0
	subtotal
<b>2. PPA exhibits identify direct relationship between proposed activities and partner contributions, and application leverages RCPP funding with partner contributions.</b>	
a. Yes	50
b. No	0
	subtotal
<b>3. Percent of prime, unique, and important farmland in the parcel to be protected.</b>	
a. Greater than 80% prime soils	50
b. Greater than 70% and less than or equal to 80% prime soils	40
c. Greater than 60% and less than or equal to 70% prime soils	25
d. Greater than 50% and less than or equal to 60%	10
	subtotal
<b>4. 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.</b>	
a. Yes	50
b. No	0
	subtotal
<b>SECTION A - Total Points</b>	



PA NRCS RCPP #2035 Buffalo Creek Entity Held Easement Ranking

March 2022

SECTION B - RESOURCE RANKING QUESTIONS AGRICULTURAL LAND PARCEL			
<b>1. Percent of project area located within Buffalo Creek Watershed</b>			
a. 100%			17
a. Greater than 75% but less than 100%			12
b. Greater than 50% but less than or equal to 75%			8
c. Greater than 25% but less than or equal to 50%			4
<i>(zero points for projects with less than 25% of project area in Buffalo Creek Watershed)</i>			subtotal
<b>2. Percent of cropland, rangeland, grassland, historic grassland, pastureland, or nonindustrial private forest land in parcel to be protected. <i>(select one)</i></b>			
a. Greater than 50 percent			17
b. Greater than 40 percent and less than or equal to 50 percent			8
c. Greater than 33 percent and less than or equal to 40 percent			4
<i>(zero points for 33 percent or less)</i>			subtotal
<b>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 (<a href="http://www.agcensus.usda.gov">www.agcensus.usda.gov</a>).</b>			
a. Ratio greater than 2.0	Avg. Farm Size: _____		15
b. Ratio greater than 1.0 and less than or equal to 2.0	Parcel Size: _____		7
<i>(zero points for projects with ratio of 1.0 or less)</i>			subtotal
<b>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 (<a href="http://www.agcensus.usda.gov">www.agcensus.usda.gov</a>).</b>			
a. Decrease of more than 15 percent			16
b. Decrease of greater than 10 and less than or equal to 15 percent			9
c. Decrease of greater than 5 and less than or equal to 10 percent			5
d. Decrease of greater than 0 and less than or equal to 5 percent			1
	PERCENTAGE DECREASE: _____		
<i>(zero points for less than 0 percent)</i>			subtotal
<b>6. Percent population growth in the county as documented by the United States Census (<a href="http://www.census.gov">www.census.gov</a>)</b>			
a. Growth rate of more than 3.0 times the State growth rate	State growth rate: _____		10
b. Growth rate of 2.0 and less than 3.0 times the State growth rate	County growth rate: _____		7
c. Growth rate of greater than 1.0 and less than 2.0 times the State growth rate	Ratio: _____		4
<i>(zero points for a growth rate of 1.0 or less)</i>			subtotal
<b>7. Population density (county population per square mile) as documented by the most recent United States Census (<a href="http://www.census.gov">www.census.gov</a>)</b>			
a. Population density of greater than three times the State population density	State Density: _____		10
b. Population density of greater than two and less than three times the State population density	County Density: _____		7
c. Population density of greater than one and less than two times the State population density			4
<i>(zero points for population density less than one times the state population density)</i>			subtotal
<b>8. Proximity of the parcel to other agricultural operations and agricultural infrastructure.</b>			
a. Parcel boundary adjoins other agricultural operations and infrastructure			10
b. Parcel boundary is within one mile of other agricultural operations and infrastructure			7
c. Parcel boundary is greater than one mile but less than three miles of other agricultural operations and infrastructure			4
<i>(zero points if greater than three miles from other ag operations and infrastructure)</i>			subtotal
<b>9. Parcel ability to maximize the protection of contiguous or proximal acres devoted to agricultural use.</b>			
a. Parcel links two non-continuous corridors of protected agricultural use			15
b. Parcel is a contiguous or proximal expansion of agricultural use protected area			7
<i>(zero points if parcel does not increase a protected agricultural use area)</i>			subtotal
<b>10. Existence of a farm succession plan or similar plan established to address agricultural viability for future generations.</b>			
a. Yes			5
b. No			0
			subtotal



PA NRCS RCPP #2035 Buffalo Creek Entity Held Easement Ranking

March 2022

SECTION B (Cont'd.) - RESOURCE RANKING QUESTIONS AGRICULTURAL LAND PARCEL

11. The land is currently enrolled into CRP that will expire within 1 year			
a. Yes		5	<input type="text"/>
b. No		0	<input type="text"/>
	subtotal		<input type="text"/>
12. Parcel is located adjacent to a waterway of special environmental significance that will benefit from a permanent agricultural easement			
a. Yes		15	<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		15	<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"/>
<i>List permanently protected area here:</i> _____			
	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"/>
<b>SECTION B - Total Points</b>			<input type="text"/>

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