

**2023 ACEP – Wetland Reserve Easement (WRE)
Site Evaluation Ranking Questions**

Is the land offered for enrollment located within the State of Texas?	Y or N
The land offered for enrollment contains land that meets at least one of the following land eligibility categories. Select all that apply.	
The land meets the criteria for "Farmed or Converted Wetlands."	Y or N
The land meets the criteria for "Croplands or Grasslands Flooded by Overflow of a Closed Basin Lake or Pothole."	Y or N
The land meets the criteria for "Riparian Area."	Y or N
The land meets the criteria for "Lands in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)."	Y or N
The land meets the criteria for "Wetlands Restored or Protected Under a Private, State, or Federal Program."	Y or N
The land meets the criteria for "Hydric Soil Minor Components (Inclusions) and Problematic Hydric Soils (Atypical Situations)."	Y or N
The land does not meet the criteria for any land eligibility category.	Y or N
The land offered is under an application that was tentatively selected for funding in FY2022 that has all due diligence items completed but did not get obligated in FY22?	Y or N

A. Does the landowner qualify as Historically Underserved as defined in the NRCS-CPA-1200 Application Instructions?

1. Yes
2. No

B. What is the environmental benefit per easement cost factor?

1. .12 and greater
2. .10 to .11
3. .06 to .09
4. Less than .06

C. The Extent to which the landowner or another entity is offering to contribute financially to the cost of the easement acquisition to leverage Federal Funds?

1. Greater than 50%
2. 49% or less but more than 25%
3. 24% or less but more than 10%
4. Less than 10%

D. What percent of offered acres is restorable wetland that will maximize wildlife habitat benefits and wetland functions?

1. 75 to 100%
2. 50 to 74%

3. 0 to 49%

E. What is the Historic Land Use?

1. Row Crop, Small Grain, and any other Annual Crops
2. Pasture, Range or Perennial Hayland
3. Forestland
4. Existing Wetland and/or no use within last 5 years

F. Based on the current use of land, how many resource concerns would be addressed through protection and restoration of the land offered for enrollment?

1. 11 or More
2. 5 to 10
3. 0 to 4

G. Will the restoration and protection of the offered acres provide water quality or water quantity benefits to an impaired watershed in perpetuity?

1. Yes
2. No

H. Is the land offered for enrollment directly associated with similarly protected lands that result in creating contiguous wetland areas and corridors that reduce habitat fragmentation?

1. Yes
2. No

I. What is the known or observed drilling or exploration in the vicinity in the past 12 months that could impact restoration? (Deduction)

1. On subject property
2. Adjacent to subject property
3. Within 1 mile of the subject property
4. Within 10 miles of subject property
5. Within the County
6. None within County

J. Are there existing easements or reserved rights on the property that directly conflict with the purpose of the WRE? If so, what percentage of the enrollment? (Deduction)

1. 0%
2. Greater than 0 to 3%
3. 4 to 7%
4. 8 to 10%
5. 11 to 15%
6. 16 to 20% If exceeds 20% contact state easement program manager

K. Habitat present currently provides: (Lifecycle Needs: Food source, Nesting/Roosting, cover, space, etc.)

1. No life cycle needs to waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds, or other wetland dependent wildlife.
2. One (1) lifecycle need to waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds, or other wetland dependent wildlife.
3. Two (2) or more lifecycle needs to waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds, or other wetland dependent wildlife.

L. Once restored or enhanced, habitat present will provide:

1. Habitat for (1) one or more wetland dependent state Texas Conservation Action Plan (TCAP) species of greatest conservation need, as well as one other migratory bird or wetland dependent wildlife species.
2. Habitat for (1) one or more migratory bird or wetland dependent wildlife species.
3. Habitat for (0) zero migratory bird or wetland dependent wildlife species.

M. How will the offered acres benefit Threatened and Endangered Species?

1. Directly Benefit
2. No Benefit

N. What percentage of the land offered for enrollment will be restored and /or maintained in native vegetative communities as identified in the Texas Wetland Restoration Criteria and Guidance (WRCG)?

1. 80% or more
2. 50% or more and less than 80%
3. 25% or more and less than 50%
4. Less than 25%

O. How many native vegetative communities as identified in the Texas Wetland Restoration Criteria and Guidance (WRCG) are present on the land offered for enrollment or will be present post-restoration on a permanent basis?

1. Five (5) or more
2. Three (3) or more
3. One (1) or more
4. No native vegetative communities will be restored or protected

P. What is the proximity of the offered acres to other beneficial protected areas?

1. Adjacent to protected area
2. Within 1 mile
3. Greater than 1 mile and less than 3 miles
4. Greater than 3 miles

Q. Are the wetlands on the land offered for enrollment hydrologically connected to another waterbody and restoration /protection will serve to improve water quality?

1. Yes
2. No

R. Does the land offered for enrollment offer ecosystem services that increase water storage in the soil or groundwater?

1. Yes
2. No

S. Will the restoration result in a significant land use change that restores carbon sequestering native plants such as trees, shrubs, sedges, and grasses?

1. Yes
2. No

- T. Will the restoration provide benefits to urban or agricultural areas by reducing storm surge through floodwater attenuation?**
1. Yes
 2. No
- U. What percentage of the land offered for enrollment will be restored to its historic hydrology?**
1. 71% to 100%
 2. 31% to 70%
 3. 30% or Less
- V. Will the land offered for enrollment be restored to an acceptable alternative vegetative community that will successfully provide conditions suitable for the needs of native wetland-dependent wildlife that historically occurred in the area and support wetland functions and values?**
1. Yes
 2. No
- W. Are the restorable area soil properties (such as soil texture, structure, and drainage classes) and landscape features (geomorphic position, slope, and water table depths) appropriate for the practices and practice locations identified in the preliminary Wetlands Restoration Plan of Operations (WRPO)?**
1. Yes
 2. No
- X. Are the restorable area flooding characteristics (such as frequency, timing, duration, depth, and sources) conducive to the practices and practice locations identified in the preliminary Wetlands Restoration Plan of Operations (WRPO)?**
1. Yes
 2. No
- Y. What is the primary source providing sufficient water adequately supporting the restoration on the land offered for enrollment?**
1. Majority (>50%) of the enrolled area very frequently to annually floods or ponds water
 2. Majority (>50%) of the enrolled area frequently floods or ponds water (3 out of 5 years)
 3. Majority (>50%) of the enrolled area occasionally floods or ponds water (1-2 years in a 5-year period)
 4. Majority (>50%) of the enrolled area rarely floods or ponds water, or historically contained saturated soils due to groundwater conditions
 5. Majority (>50%) of the enrolled area is not historically flooded and /or there is no primary water source available