

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) Wetlands Reserve Easement (WRE)

FY 20____ RANKING

APPLICANT NAME: _____ **County:** _____

APPLICATION NUMBER: 54-4310-_____ - _____

WRE Total ACREAGE: _____ **Wetlands:** _____ **Adjacent Lands:** _____

APPLICABILITY QUESTIONS: ELIGIBLE LAND (NO POINTS)

Does the WRE application meet land eligibility requirements? *Reference Policy for full Land Eligibility list.*

No Points	Eligible Land	Check for Yes
Eligibility	YES or NO. IF YOU SELECT THIS, STOP RANKING as this application is INELIGIBLE.	

CATEGORY RANKING QUESTION: WRE PURPOSES

Is application for a permanent or 30-year easement?

Available Points	Easement Term	Score
40	Permanent Easement	
0	30-year Easement	

PROGRAM RANKING QUESTION – COST-EFFECTIVENESS/LANDOWNER DONATION

Is the property owner(s) willing to accept a reduction of the Geographic Payment Rate Cap (GARC)? Must fill out the GARC Reduction Form

Available Points	GARC Reduction Waiver	Score
10	YES = 10, NO = 0	

PROGRAM RANKING QUESTION – OTHER – GEOSPATIALLY ANSWERED IN CART

Is the proposed acreage located within NRCS Georgia WRE High Priority Watersheds, as listed below?
*WRE High Priority Watersheds: Coosa, Ohoopie, Canoochee, Ogeechee, Ocmulgee, Altamaha, Upper Oconee, Ichaway-
Nochaway, Satilla, Flint, Alapaha Rivers or a Source Water Protection Area not listed.*

Available Points	Priority Area	Score
25	YES = 25, NO = 0	

PROGRAM RANKING QUESTION – OTHER

Did the applicant designate on the CPA-1200 that he/she is a Socially Disadvantaged or Limited Resources producer?

Available Points	Socially Disadvantaged or Limited Resources Producer	Score
10	YES = 10, NO = 0	

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RESOURCE RANKING QUESTIONS: HYDROLOGY RESTORATION POTENTIAL: 3 PART QUESTION

1. What is the wetland habitat type, as described below, of the MAJORITY of the offered WRE **wetland** acres? PC, FW, FWP are officially described in the Food Security Act. Other Wetland Types will be determined in the field.

Available Points	Original Hydrology that is Restorable	Score
40	Prior Converted (PC) Wetland	
30	Farmed Wetland (FW) or Farmed Wetland Pasture (FWP)	
15	Forested Wetland (W) or another wetland type	

2. Of the **wetland** acres identified for enrollment in WRE Easement in question 1, what percentage of the wetland acres have original hydrology that is altered? Examples of hydrology alteration include ditching, draining, and altering flow patterns with impediments to flow, such as forested roads, improperly sized culverts, earthen fill. You can use a combination of hydrology restoration and/or significant vegetative restoration in the wetland acres. Significant vegetative restoration is defined as greater than 50% of the native vegetative habitat of the wetland has been altered and needs restoration (i.e. hardwoods have been removed (storm damage, previous landowner clearcut) and need replanting) NOTE: *as determined on site by an engineer/biologist/forester.*

Available Points	Original Hydrology that is Restorable	Score
90	75% or greater of the hydrology on site is altered.	
45	50% to 74% of the hydrology on site is altered.	
25	30% to 49% of the hydrology on site is altered and/or a combination of some hydrology restoration and significant vegetative restoration to achieve 30% overall.	
0	Less than 30% of the hydrology on site is altered. IF YOU SELECT THIS, STOP RANKING as this application is INELIGIBLE.	

3. Of the acres identified in the question above, what percentage of those wetland acres can be successfully restored? NOTE: *as determined on site by an engineer.*

Available Points	Original Hydrology that is Restorable	Score
70	75% or greater of the altered hydrology is restorable.	
50	50% to 74% of the altered hydrology is restorable.	
25	30% to 49% of the altered hydrology is restorable or a combination of some hydrology restoration and significant vegetative restoration to achieve 30%	
0	Hydrology intact and no significant vegetative restoration. IF YOU SELECT THIS, STOP RANKING as this application is INELIGIBLE.	

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PROGRAM RANKING QUESTION – OTHER

What is the restoration cost per acre? This includes both structural and vegetative costs.

Available Points	Restoration Cost	Score
20	less than \$100 per acre	
10	\$100 to \$250 per acre	
5	\$250 to \$500 per acre	
0	Greater than \$500 per acre	

RESOURCE RANKING QUESTIONS: ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

Are there threatened and endangered species on the proposed acres? *NOTE: As determined by either 1) opinion of a qualified professional wildlife biologist or botanist or 2) verified through T&E GIS data layer.*

Available Points	Importance of Habitat to Threatened/Endangered Species	Score
45	Offered acres have known and verified use, with a viable population, by FEDERALLY listed Threatened (T) Endangered (E), AND/OR Candidate (C) Species.	
20	Potential to provide high quality habitat for T, E, or C species OR has state listed species on site or has an occurrence of a non-viable population of a species or foraging habitat for a species.	
0	Project is not likely to support T & E species.	

RESOURCE RANKING QUESTIONS: ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

What is the proximity to other protected lands? As a crow-flies is appropriate measurement. *Other protected areas is defined as an existing conservation easement, state-owned land (State Park, Wildlife Management Area, Natural Area, or federally owned land (Refuge, National Park, DOD Base.)*

Available Points	Location Priority	Score
25	Adjacent or adjoining protected property as described above	
20	Within 1 mile of protected property	
10	Within 1 - 5 miles of protected property	
0	Greater than 5 miles from protected property	

RESOURCE RANKING QUESTIONS: ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

Is the property owner(s) currently or willing to restore Native, Site-Appropriate Vegetation Community in both wetland or adjacent acres? Examples could include Pine Savanna and Wet Savanna restoration. No points will be awarded here if significant vegetative restoration was used for hydrology restoration potential questions.

Available Points	Restoration of native community	Score
5	YES=5, NO=0	

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RESOURCE RANKING QUESTIONS: ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS - GEOSPATIALLY DETERMINED IN CART

Is the proposed acreage located within a 303D impaired watershed?

Available Points	Impaired watershed	Score
5	YES = 5, NO = 0	

RESOURCE RANKING QUESTIONS: ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

What is the length of time since the last timber harvest (complete harvest or thinning not for wildlife habitat), particularly in Wetlands/Hydric Soils? PLEASE NOTE: If upland pine cutting has occurred for purposes of wildlife habitat improvement and following BMP's or they do not want NRCS to replant the trees, then you can give full points on this and time is irrelevant. This will be a field call by biologist/forester/easement specialist.

Available Points	Length of Time since last timber harvest	Score
15	>20 years and	
5	5-20 years	
0	<5 years	

DATE OF SITE VISIT: _____

NRCS Easement Specialist:	
NRCS Local DC:	
NRCS Engineer:	
Partner/NRCS Biologist:	
Other NRCS Staff:	

NI 440-310 was used to develop ranking pool questions and points splits

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FY 20____ RANKING - GEORGIA

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WRE Total ACREAGE: _____ **Wetlands:** _____ **Adjacent Lands:** _____

RANKING POINTS SUMMARY:

Question	SCORE	Ranking Points Available	CART Display Pool
Land Eligibility		0	Applicability
Duration of WRE Easement		40	Category/Program
GARC Payment Reduction		10	Program
WRE Priority Watershed		25	Program
HU Producer		10	Program
Hydrology Restoration need Offered Wetland Acreage		40	Resource
Hydrology Restoration Need: Original Hydrology Restorable		90	Resource
Hydrology Restoration Need Percent Altered Restorable		70	Resource
Restoration Cost Per Acre		20	Program
T&E species		45	Resource
Proximity to Protected Lands		25	Resource
Native Communities		5	Resource
Impaired Watershed		5	Resource
Length of Time Since Last Timber Harvest		15	Resource
TOTAL POINTS		400	