

North Dakota ACEP- ALE Ranking Criteria

| Program Questions | Answer Choices | Points |
|---|---|--------|
| Proximity of the parcel to other protected land, including military installations? | Parcel greater than 3 miles from the protected land boundary | 0 |
| | Parcel is greater than 1 miles but less than 3 miles from protected land boundary | 4 |
| | Parcel is within 1 mile of protected land boundary | 7 |
| | Parcel boundary adjoins protected land boundary | 15 |
| Proximity of the parcel to other agricultural operations and agricultural infrastructure? | Parcel greater than 3 miles from other ag. operations and infrastructure | 0 |
| | Parcel is 1 mile or greater, but less than 3 miles from other ag. operations and infrastructure | 4 |
| | Parcel is within 1 mile from other ag. operations and infrastructure | 7 |
| | Parcel adjoins other ag. operations and infrastructure | 15 |
| Parcel ability to maximize the protection of contiguous acres devoted to agricultural use? | Parcel links two noncontinuous corridors of protected agricultural use | 15 |
| | Parcel expands agricultural use protected area | 6 |
| | Parcel does not increase a protected agricultural use area | 0 |
| Parcel contains historical or archaeological resources that will be protected by easement area? | YES | 15 |
| | NO | 0 |
| The grassland in the parcel will benefit from the protection under the long-term easement for example Grassland of special environmental significance? | YES | 15 |
| | NO | 0 |
| Will the eligible cooperating entity pay over 50% of the fair market value of the agricultural land easement with its own cash resources for payment of easement compensation to the landowner and comes from sources other than the landowner? | YES | 15 |
| | NO | 0 |
| Currently enrolled in a CRP contract set to expire within a year and is grassland that would benefit from protection? | YES | 15 |
| | NO | 0 |

| Resource Questions | Answer Choices | Points |
|--|---------------------------------------|--------|
| Proximity to protected habitats such as WRE, WRP, EWP, EWPR, GRP, state owned Game Productions Areas, USFWS Waterfowl Production Areas, Forest Service Grasslands, and military installations. | Adjacent to offered area | 35 |
| | Within 0.5 miles of offered area | 20 |
| | 0.6 -1.0 miles from offered area | 10 |
| | Greater than 1 mile from offered area | 5 |

| Resource Questions | Answer Choices | Points |
|---|---|--------|
| Habitat Biodiversity | Offered area is 1,000 acres or more | 35 |
| | Offered area is 999-500 acres | 20 |
| | Offered area is 499-250 acres | 10 |
| | Offered area is less than 250 acres | 5 |
| Species Composition | Offered area is primarily rangeland with 75% or more native species | 35 |
| | Offered area is primarily rangeland with 25-74% native species | 20 |
| | Offered area is comprised of 4 or more species on pasture/hayland or is rangeland with less than 24% native species | 10 |
| | None of the above | 5 |
| Percent of prime, unique, and important farmland in the parcel to be protected | 50% or less | 0 |
| | 51-60% | 4 |
| | 61-70% | 8 |
| | 71-80% | 12 |
| | Greater than 80% | 15 |
| Existence of a farm or ranch succession plan or similar plan established to address farm viability for future generations | No plan | 0 |
| | Existing plan | 7 |
| | Existing plan documented and performed by industry professional | 15 |
| Will the offered area contribute to geographic regions where the enrollment of particular land use may help achieve National, State, and regional agricultural or conservation goals and objectives, or enhance existing government or private conservation projects? | YES | 15 |
| | NO | 0 |
| Is the offered area located in an area zoned for agricultural use? | YES | 15 |
| | NO | 0 |
| Does the eligible entity have past experience managing, monitoring and enforcing easements annually? | YES | 15 |
| | NO | 0 |
| Land has a current Resource Management System (RMS) conservation plan that meets or exceeds all NRCS standards and specifications OR the applicant agrees to develop a RMS plan above the minimum ACEP-ALE requirements? | YES | 25 |
| | NO | 0 |