

Prairie Pothole Specific Factors

FACTOR 1 **Estimate Surface Acres of Basins to be Restored (657) vegetatively**

This is the measured or estimated acres of wetland or former wetland acres which will be restored vegetatively. To be considered restored the acres MUST be seeded to wetland species. Tree removal from the wetland also qualifies for this factor. Reference the e-FOTG for 657 standard.

A point is awarded for each acre to a maximum of 30 points.

FACTOR 2 **Wetland Basins to be Hydrologically Restored**

This factor considers both the number of basins and acres restored to be hydrologically restored (e.g. ditch plug, broken tile, dike, diversion, sediment removal, etc.). Factor 2A is the number of wetland basins. Factor 2B is the wetland acres restored.

Factor 2A

Number of Basins

	Points per Basin
Ditch Plug / Water Retention AND Sed.Rem./Dugouts	15
Ditch Plug / Water Retention ONLY	13
Sediment Removal and/or Dugouts ONLY	3

Factor 2B

Acres of Restoration

	Points per Acre
Ditch Plug / Water Retention AND Sed.Rem./Dugouts	5
Ditch Plug / Water Retention ONLY	4
Sediment Removal and/or Dugouts ONLY	1

FACTOR 3 **Upland to Wetland Ratio**

For pothole wetland type areas, this score is the result of a ratio between upland (includes non-degraded wetlands) and wetland acres. A ratio greater than 6:1 scores makes the application ineligible.

Upland to Wetland Ratio	Points
>6	Ineligible
4 to <=6	15
2 to <4	10
1 to <2	5
0 to <1	0

FACTOR 4 **Wetland Types**

This score is the combination of the wetland type, variability of wetland types within the offer, and the ratio of upland acres to existing pemf acres NOT being hydrologically restored.

Maximum points for this factor is 75.

Wetland Type	Points per basin
pema	2.5
pemc	2
pem/abf or pemf	1
other	0.5

The above points are adjusted by a factor for the variability of the different wetland types in the offer.

Number of Different Wetland Types	Factor
1	0.2
2	0.4
3	0.9
>= 4	1.2

The above points are further adjusted (reduced) by a factor for the ratio of uplands acres to pem/abf or pemf acres which are not restored. (The larger the pemf acres not restored result in more points being subtracted).

Criteria	points
>=10	0
>=7 and <10	-10
>=4 and <7	-20
>0 and <4	-30
0	0

FACTOR 5 State Geographic Area From USFWS Water Breeding Pairs Map

Locate the offer on the statewide 2012 Waterfowl Breeding Pairs per square mile thunderstorm maps and choose the majority color for the WRE offer. See "Breeding_Pairs_Map" worksheet tab.

Thunderstorm Map Color	Points
Red	25
Yellow	25
Dark Green	20
Light Green	15
Beige	10
Dark Blue	5
Light Blue	5
South & West of Missouri River	10

FACTOR 6 Proximity to Other Protected Wetlands

Protected wetlands are wetlands in public ownership or protected by public easement. Examples of such programs are Waterfowl Production Areas, State Game Management Areas, Emergency Watershed Protection Easement areas, or lands with USFWS permanent wetland easements. Other WRE Easements do NOT qualify since they are not permanent.

Offer Proximity to Protected Wetlands	Points
Immediately adjacent to protected wetland easement	20
Not adjacent	0

FACTOR 7 Threatened and Endangered Species Occur in County

See the "County Occurrence of Endangered, Threatened and Candidate Species and Designated Critical Habitat in North Dakota" in Section I of the FOTG (is be updated for FY16). When the WRE offer is in a County recognized as having T & E species, the points are awarded. Points awarded based status of selected species. The two following tables identify the points assigned to the selected species and then the number of points for each county due to the presence of those selected species.

Status	Species	Points per Species
Endangered	Poweshiek Skipperling & Whooping Crane	4
Threatened	Dakota Skipper, Northern Long-Eared Bat, Piping Plover, Red Knot, & Western Prairie Fringed Orchid	3
Candidate	Sprague's Pipit	1
Designated Critical Habitat	Dakota Skipper, Piping Plover, & Poweshiek Skipperling	3

County	FIPS	Points	County	FIPS	Points	County	FIPS	Points
Adams	001	8	Grant	037	8	Ransom	073	17
Barnes	003	8	Griggs	039	8	Renville	075	16
Benson	005	17	Hettinger	041	7	Richland	077	24
Billings	007	7	Kidder	043	17	Rolette	079	13
Bottineau	009	10	LaMoure	045	8	Sargent	081	15
Bowman	011	8	Logan	047	14	Sheridan	083	16
Burke	013	19	McHenry	049	22	Sioux	085	17
Burleigh	015	16	McIntosh	051	17	Slope	087	7
Cass	017	8	McKenzie	053	22	Stark	089	7
Cavalier	019	8	McLean	055	19	Steele	091	8
Dickey	021	8	Mercer	057	16	Stutsman	093	20
Divide	023	16	Morton	059	16	Towner	095	8
Dunn	025	19	Mountrail	061	19	Traill	097	8
Eddy	027	20	Nelson	063	8	Walsh	099	8
Emmons	029	17	Oliver	065	19	Ward	101	19
Foster	031	14	Pembina	067	8	Wells	103	17

Golden Valley	033	7	Pierce	069	16	Williams	105	16
Grand Forks	035	8	Ramsey	071	8			

FACTOR 8 **Operation and Maintenance**

How much maintenance will be needed after restoration?

Note: Ditch plugs and filling dugouts are not considered structural for this factor

Estimated Level of Maintenance Required	Points
Vegetative O&M only	10
Structural and vegetative O&M	0

FACTOR 9 **Partners Release Form**

Partners include SCDs, Ducks Unlimited, FWS, local Water boards, Pheasants Forever, etc. The document allows NRCD to release client information to Conservation Partners, but does not constitute a financial commitment. The release form must be signed and attached to award points. This document is attached to the bulletin.

Choice	Points
Yes	5
No	0

FACTOR 10 **Water Quality Improvement**

The ND Health Dept. has identified priority watersheds by 8 digit HUCs. Those watersheds with impaired waters are granted 5 points. See "HUC_map" worksheet tab for watershed HUC.

Impaired Watershed	Points
Yes	5
No	0

Watershed HUC	Priority	Points	Watershed HUC	Priority	Points	Watershed HUC	Priority	Points
09010001	No	0	09020308	Yes	5	10130101	Yes	5
09010002	Yes	5	09020310	Yes	5	10130102	No	0
09010003	Yes	5	09020311	Yes	5	10130103	Yes	5
09010004	Yes	5	09020313	Yes	5	10130104	Yes	5
09010005	No	0	09020315	Yes	5	10130106	Yes	5
09020101	Yes	5	09020316	Yes	5	10130201	Yes	5
09020104	Yes	5	10060005	No	0	10130202	Yes	5
09020105	Yes	5	10060006	No	0	10130203	Yes	5

09020107	Yes	5	10060007	No	0	10130204	Yes	5
09020109	Yes	5	10100004	No	0	10130205	Yes	5
09020201	Yes	5	10110101	Yes	5	10130206	Yes	5
09020202	Yes	5	10110102	Yes	5	10130301	No	0
09020203	Yes	5	10110201	No	0	10130303	Yes	5
09020204	Yes	5	10110202	No	0	10160001	Yes	5
09020205	Yes	5	10110203	Yes	5	10160002	Yes	5
09020301	Yes	5	10110204	No	0	10160003	Yes	5
09020306	Yes	5	10110205	Yes	5	10160004	Yes	5
09020307	Yes	5						

FACTOR 11 Retention

Will the easement's vegetative and hydrologically restored areas remain protected after the WRE easement has expired or will it return to cropland? If a public entity i.e. Natural Resources Trust, NDGF, USFWS (purchase agreement or easement) has formally agreed to extend the life of the restoration, then answer yes.

Choice	Points
Yes	20
No	0

FACTOR 12 Producer will accept less than 75% of NRCS GARC for 30-Year Easement

Will landowner (in writing) accept less than 75% of NRCS established value? If YES, enter the percent of appraised value chosen by the applicant.

Percent of Established Value	Points
50%	25
55%	20
60%	15
65%	10
70%	5

FACTOR 13 USDA Restoration Costs

The intent of this factor is to rank the cost efficiency of restoration activities. Consideration should be given if a conservation partner will decrease USDA restoration cost by paying for part of the restoration. (If **COST REDUCED**, enter the NRCS percent in column E).

Restoration Cost	Points
Less than the per-unit cost on the WRE cost list	5
Equal to the per-unit cost on the WRE cost list	0
Greater than the per-unit cost on the WRE cost list	-5

FACTOR 14 Percentage of upland area planted to annual crops

Note: Existing hay land fields in rotation for more than 4 years are not considered as an annually planted cropland.

Percent of Offer	Points
75 or >	10
50 to 74	7
25 to 49	2
< 25	0

FACTOR 15 Survey Extent

This factor considers how many turns will be needed to conduct the survey.

Depending on the complexity of the survey, the following table shows the additional points to added to the ranking score.

Number of Corners (Survey Turns)	Additional Points
<=4	10
5	7
6	5
7	3
8	2
>=9	0

FACTOR 16 CRP set to expire within one year.

Is the offered land currently in a CRP contract set to expire within one year.

Choice	Points
Yes	5
No	0

FACTOR 17 Cost Effectiveness

This factor evaluates the cost of the easement against all other factors in order to try to maximize the environmental benefit per dollar expended.

To calculate the additional points the offer will receive for cost effectiveness, the estimated costs for purchasing the easement and restoration were divided by the offered acres and then the total points for factors 1 - 15.

Cost/Acre/Points	Additional Points
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<= 4.00	20
4.01 - 8.00	15
8.01 - 12.00	10
> 12.00	0