



Ranking Pool Report

Ranking Pool: CO ACEP-ALE FY2023 (GSS-GrSG)

Program: ACEP

Pool Status: Active

States: CO (Admin)

Template: ACEP-ALE GSS (Program Agreements)

Template Status: Active

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Land Uses and Modifiers

Land Use	Grazed	Wildlife	Irrigated	Hayed	Drained	Organic	Water Feature	Protected	Urban	Aquaculture
Crop	--	--	--	x	--	--	--	--	--	--
Forest	--	--	--	N/A	N/A	--	--	--	--	--
Range	--	--	N/A	--	N/A	--	--	--	--	--
Pasture	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Farmstead	--	--	--	N/A	N/A	--	--	--	--	--
Developed Land	N/A	--	--	N/A	N/A	--	--	--	--	--
Water	N/A	--	N/A	N/A	N/A	--	--	--	--	--
Other Rural Land	--	--	--	N/A	N/A	--	--	--	--	--
Associated Ag Land	--	--	--	--	N/A	--	--	--	--	--

Resource Concern Categories

Categories			
Category	Min %	Default %	Max %
Concentrated erosion	0	5	20
Degraded plant condition	5	5	50
Field pesticide loss	0	5	20
Field sediment, nutrient and pathogen loss	0	5	50
Livestock production limitation	5	5	50
Long term protection of land	35	40	75
Pest pressure	0	5	40
Salt losses to water	0	5	20
Soil quality limitations	0	5	45
Source water depletion	0	5	40
Storage and handling of pollutants	0	5	25

Categories

Category	Min %	Default %	Max %
Terrestrial habitat	0	5	40
Wind and water erosion	0	5	10

Concentrated erosion

Resource Concern	Min %	Default %	Max %
Bank erosion from streams, shorelines or water conveyance channels	0	20	100
Classic gully erosion	0	40	100
Ephemeral gully erosion	0	40	100

Degraded plant condition

Resource Concern	Min %	Default %	Max %
Plant productivity and health	0	50	100
Plant structure and composition	0	50	100

Field pesticide loss

Resource Concern	Min %	Default %	Max %
Pesticides transported to groundwater	0	50	100
Pesticides transported to surface water	0	50	100

Field sediment, nutrient and pathogen loss

Resource Concern	Min %	Default %	Max %
Nutrients transported to groundwater	0	20	100
Nutrients transported to surface water	0	20	100
Pathogens and chemicals from manure, biosolids or compost applications transported to groundwater	0	20	100
Pathogens and chemicals from manure, biosolids or compost applications transported to surface water	0	20	100
Sediment transported to surface water	0	20	100

Livestock production limitation

Resource Concern	Min %	Default %	Max %
Feed and forage balance	0	40	100
Inadequate livestock shelter	0	15	100
Inadequate livestock water quantity, quality and distribution	0	45	100

Long term protection of land

Resource Concern	Min %	Default %	Max %
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Long term protection of land

Resource Concern	Min %	Default %	Max %
Threat of conversion	100	100	100

Pest pressure

Resource Concern	Min %	Default %	Max %
Plant pest pressure	0	100	100

Salt losses to water

Resource Concern	Min %	Default %	Max %
Salts transported to groundwater	0	50	100
Salts transported to surface water	0	50	100

Soil quality limitations

Resource Concern	Min %	Default %	Max %
Aggregate instability	0	15	100
Compaction	0	15	100
Concentration of salts or other chemicals	0	15	100
Organic matter depletion	0	20	100
Soil organism habitat loss or degradation	0	20	100
Subsidence	0	15	100

Source water depletion

Resource Concern	Min %	Default %	Max %
Groundwater depletion	0	35	100
Inefficient irrigation water use	0	35	100
Surface water depletion	0	30	100

Storage and handling of pollutants

Resource Concern	Min %	Default %	Max %
Nutrients transported to groundwater	0	25	100
Nutrients transported to surface water	0	25	100
Petroleum, heavy metals and other pollutants transported to groundwater	0	25	100
Petroleum, heavy metals and other pollutants transported to surface water	0	25	100

Terrestrial habitat

Resource Concern	Min %	Default %	Max %
Terrestrial habitat for wildlife and invertebrates	0	100	100

Wind and water erosion

Resource Concern	Min %	Default %	Max %
Sheet and rill erosion	0	50	100
Wind erosion	0	50	100

Practices

Practice Name	Practice Code	Practice Type
Acquisition Process - Buy-Protect-Sell Transfer	LTAPBPST	Easements
Acquisition Process - Environmental Database Records Search	LTAPERS	Easements
Acquisition Process - Environmental Database Records Search Update	LTAPERSU	Easements
Acquisition Process - Ingress Egress	LTAPIE	Easements
Acquisition Process - Appraisal Technical Review First Review	LTAPTR1	Easements
Acquisition Process - Appraisal Technical Review Second Review	LTAPTR2	Easements
Long-Term Protection of Land - Permanent Easement	LTPPE	Easements

Ranking Weights

Factors	Algorithm	Allowable Min	Default	Allowable Max
Vulnerabilities	Default	5	15	20
Planned Practice Effects	Default	5	5	10
Resource Priorities	Default	35	40	50
Program Priorities	Default	40	40	50
Efficiencies	Default	0	0	0

Display Group: CO FY 2023 ACEP-ALE GSS GrSG (PA) (Active)

 An asterisk will be displayed to show that it is a conditional section or conditional question.

Survey: Applicability Questions

Section: Applicability		
Question	Answer Choices	Points
Is the land offered for enrollment located within the State of Colorado?	Land offered for enrollment is located within the State of Colorado.	--
	Otherwise	--

Survey: Category Questions

Section: Category		
Question	Answer Choices	Points
Does the land offered for enrollment qualify for the "protects grazing uses" land eligibility category, enrollment under grasslands of special significance (GSS), enrollment under the Sage Grouse Initiative (SGI), and is it at least 50% within the Greater SGI focus area?	YES	--
	NO	--

Survey: Program Questions

Section: National Questions		
Question	Answer Choices	Points
National 1: What percent of the parcel to be protected is prime, unique, and other important farmland soils?	Greater than 80%	15
	Greater than 70% and less than or equal to 80%	11
	Greater than 60% and less than or equal to 70%	8
	Greater than 50% and less than or equal to 60%	3
	Less than or equal to 50%	0
National 2: What percent of the parcel to be protected is cropland, rangeland, grassland, historic grassland, pastureland, or nonindustrial private forest land?	Greater than 90%	14
	Greater than 75% and less than or equal to 90%	9
	Greater than 50% and less than or equal to 75%	4
	Less than or equal to 50%	0
National 3: What is the ratio of the total acres of the land in the parcel to be protected to average farm size in the county according to the most recent USDA Census of Agriculture?	Greater than 2:1	14
	Greater than 1:1 and less than or equal to 2:1	7
	Less than 1:1	0
National 4: How much has the percentage of acreage of farm and ranch land in the county in which the parcel is located decreased between the last two USDA Censuses of Agriculture?	More than 15%	14
	More than 10% and less than or equal to 15%	11
	More than 5% and less than or equal to 10%	8
	More than 0% and less than or equal to 5%	3
	0% or less	0
National 5: The percent population growth in the county is _____ the State growth rate as documented by the United States Census.	More than 3x	14
	More than 2x	7
	More than 1x	4
	1x or less	0
National 6: The population density (population per square mile) in the county is _____ the State population as documented by the most recent United States Census.	More than 3x	14
	More than 2x	7
	More than 1x	4
	1x or less	0

Section: National Questions

Question	Answer Choices	Points
National 7: Does the farm or ranch have a succession plan or similar plan established covering the parcel to be protected that addresses agricultural viability for future generations?	Parcel has a written plan completed by an industry professional that directly addresses agricultural viability for future generations.	14
	Parcel has a written plan that directly addresses agricultural viability for future generations not developed by an industry professional.	7
	Parcel has no written plan documented.	0
National 8: What is the proximity of the parcel to be protected to other protected land, such as (1) military installations; (2) land owned in fee title by the United States or an Indian Tribe, State or local government, or by a nongovernmental organization whose purpose is to protect agricultural use and related conservation values; or (3) land that is already subject to an easement or deed restriction that limits the conversion of the land to non-agricultural uses or protects grazing uses and related conservation values?	Parcel boundary adjoins a protected land boundary.	21
	Parcel is within one (1) mile of a protected land boundary.	14
	Parcel is within three (3) miles of a protected land boundary.	7
	Parcel is greater than three (3) miles from a protected land boundary.	0
National 9: What is the proximity of the parcel to be protected to other agricultural operations and agricultural infrastructure?	Parcel boundary adjoins the boundary of an agricultural operation or other agricultural infrastructure.	21
	Parcel is within one (1) mile of an agricultural operation or other agricultural infrastructure.	14
	Parcel is within three (3) miles of an agricultural operation or other agricultural infrastructure.	7
	Parcel is greater than three (3) miles from an agricultural operation or other agricultural infrastructure.	0
National 10: How does the parcel to be protected maximize the protection of contiguous or proximal acres devoted to agricultural use?	Parcel links two noncontiguous corridors of protected agricultural land.	15
	Parcel is contiguous to or within one (1) mile of a cluster of protected agricultural land.	6
	Parcel does not increase a protected agricultural area.	0
National 11: Is any part of the parcel to be protected currently enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in a contract that is set to expire within one (1) year AND is grassland that would benefit from protection under a long-term easement?	YES	10
	NO	0
National 12: Is the parcel to be protected grassland of special environmental significance (GSS) that would benefit from protection under a long-term easement?	YES	10
	NO	0
National 13: How much has the percentage of acreage of permanent grassland, pasture, and rangeland, other than cropland and woodland pasture, in the county in which the parcel to be protected is located decreased between the last two USDA Censuses of Agriculture?	More than 15%	15
	More than 10% and less than or equal to 15%	8
	More than 5% and less than or equal to 10%	5
	More than 0% and less than or equal to 5%	3
	0% or less	0

Section: National Questions

Question	Answer Choices	Points
National 14: What percent of the fair market value is the eligible entity's own cash resources for payment of easement compensation to the landowner AND comes from sources other than the landowner?	Entity is contributing greater than 25% of its own cash resources.	9
	Entity is contributing equal to or less than 25% but greater than 15% of its own cash resources.	6
	Entity is contributing equal to or less than 15% but greater than 10% of its own cash resources.	3
	Entity is contributing less than 10% of its own cash resources.	0

Survey: Resource Questions

Section: State Questions

Question	Answer Choices	Points
State 1: Is at least 50% of the parcel to be protected located in an area zoned for agricultural use, zoning consistent with agriculture, or similar classification in government units without zoning?	YES	10
	NO	0
State 2A: In the previous five (5) fiscal years, the eligible entity has demonstrated efficiency in completing NRCS easement transactions by expending all funds in an agreement within two (2) years of attachment or cost-share contract execution date OR has demonstrated expenditures/actions toward closings of easements in the third year OR has not had an active agreement with NRCS during this timeframe.	YES	5
	NO	0
State 2B: How will the eligible entity address the ALE minimum deed terms?	The entity applicant will append the ALE minimum deed terms to the easement deed.	5
	The entity applicant will use their own existing ALE deed template approved by NRCS.	5
	The entity applicant is a certified entity and does not require NRCS deed review.	5
	The entity applicant will incorporate the ALE minimum deed terms into the body of the easement deed.	0
	The entity applicant will use another eligible entity's NRCS-approved ALE deed template.	0
	The entity applicant has not decided how to address the minimum deed terms.	0
State 2C: In the previous three (3) years, the eligible entity has demonstrated the ability to monitor NRCS easements by conducting monitoring events annually, providing monitoring reports to NRCS annually and on time, and providing sufficient information for NRCS to document each monitoring event OR has not previously worked with NRCS.	YES	10
	NO	0
State 2D: In the previous three (3) years, the eligible entity has demonstrated the ability to meet the terms of the NRCS agreements on existing or closed Farmland Protection Program (FPP), Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP), or ACEP-ALE agreements and easement deeds, including enforcement OR has not previously worked with NRCS.	YES	10
	NO	0

Section: State Questions

Question	Answer Choices	Points
<p>State 3: How many of the following multifunctional benefits of farm and ranch land protection will be addressed on the parcel to be protected? (i) Social, economic, historic, and archaeological benefits; (ii) Enhancing carbon sequestration; (iii) Improving climate change resiliency; (iv) At-risk species protection; (v) Reducing nutrient runoff and improving water quality; (vi) Other related conservation benefits.</p>	The protection of the parcel addresses four (4) or more multifunctional benefits.	20
	The protection of the parcel addresses three (3) or more multifunctional benefits.	15
	The protection of the parcel addresses two (2) or more multifunctional benefits.	10
	The protection of the parcel addresses one (1) or more multifunctional benefits.	5
	The protection of the parcel addresses zero (0) multifunctional benefits.	0
<p>State 4A: Is the parcel to be protected is located in a geographic region where the enrollment may help achieve national, State, and regional agricultural or conservation goals and objectives, or enhance existing government or private conservation projects?</p>	The parcel is located in the Sage Grouse Initiative (SGI), Lesser Prairie Chicken Initiative (LPCI), or Southwest Willow Flycatcher Initiative (SWFLI) focus areas AND the conservation easement will explicitly facilitate or prohibit activities that directly address protection of the species.	12
	The parcel is located within the range of a Federally-listed threatened or endangered species AND the conservation easement will explicitly facilitate or prohibit activities that directly address protection of the species.	11
	The parcel is located within the range of a State-listed threatened or endangered species or species of concerns AND the conservation easement will explicitly facilitate or prohibit activities that directly address protection of the species.	9
	The parcel is located within one of the Natural Heritage Program's Potential Conservation Areas or Network of Conservation Areas.	9
	The parcel is furthering one or more landscape or regional agricultural or conservation goals and objectives, including existing government or private conservation project.	9
	The protection of the parcel is not achieving any additional agricultural or conservation goals.	0
<p>State 4B: Is the land offered for enrollment located within a Source Water Protection Area as designated by Colorado NRCS?</p>	Tier 1	10
	Tier 2	6
	Tier 3	2
	No, the application does not meet these parameters.	0

Section: State Questions

Question	Answer Choices	Points
State 5: Does the parcel to be protected directly protect or improve natural resources as determined by NRCS?	Protection will directly address five (5) or more NRCS resource concerns.	25
	Protection will directly address four (4) NRCS resource concerns.	20
	Protection will directly address three (3) NRCS resource concerns.	15
	Protection will directly address two (2) NRCS resource concerns.	10
	Protection will directly address one (1) NRCS resource concern.	5
	Protection will not directly address any NRCS resource concerns.	0
State 6: Does the parcel to be protected demonstrate agricultural viability with appropriate access to agricultural infrastructure, operations, markets, labor, and other support services?	YES	25
	NO	0
State 7: Will one or more of the following measures be used to maintain or increase agricultural viability on the parcel to be protected?	A basic ALE plan, grasslands management plan, and/or forest management plan will be completed before closing and included in the deed provisions.	10
	A formal succession plan completed by an industry professional will be completed before closing.	10
	Entity deed terms that specifically address long-term agricultural viability will be included in the recorded easement deed.	10
	None of these measures will be used to maintain or increase agricultural viability.	0