

Ranking Criteria for FY2024 RCPP 1847 Kittatinny Ridge Corridor Entity-Held-Easements

Section: Applicability Question		
Question	Answer Choices	Points
Is the proposed easement area located in Pennsylvania?	YES	--
	NO	--

Section: Category Question		
Question	Answer Choices	Points
Is the application for a forest or agricultural land easement located in the Kittatinny Ridge RCPP #1847 project area?	YES	--
	NO	--

Section: Program Questions		
Question	Answer Choices	Points
Application directly addresses one or more resource concern(s) for which outcome metrics have been included in which PPA Attachment includes outcome metrics?	YES	40
	NO	0
PPA exhibits identify direct relationship between proposed activities and partner contributions, and application leverages RCPP funding with partner contributions.	YES	40
	NO	0
PPA exhibits identify negotiated expectations for lead partner submission of bundled applications, and application has been identified by lead partner as part of an application bundle.	YES	50
	NO	0
Proximity of the parcel to the Kittatinny Ridge Conservation Landscape	Project Located entirely within the Kittatinny Ridge High Priority Core Area	30
	50-75% of the project is located within the Kittatinny Ridge High Priority Core Area	20
	Less than 50% of the project is the High Priority Kittatinny Ridge Core Area	10
	All of the project is located within the Medium Priority Kittatinny Ridge Core Area	5
Protecting the parcel provides multifunctional benefits of agricultural or forest land protection or improvement; the landowners a historically underserved group, small scale farmer, limited resource landowner, new or beginning farmer or rancher or veteran landowner.	YES	40
	NO	0

Section: Resource Questions for Forest Land OR Agricultural Land Easements		
Question	Answer Choices	Points
Is the application for a FOREST land easement or for an AGRICULTURAL land easement? (Select either forest or agricultural type)	Forestry Easement	0
	Agricultural Easement	0
Percent of the Fair Market Value (FMV) of the easement that is the eligible entity's own cash resources for payment of easement compensation to the landowner and comes from sources other than the landowner. (BOTH AGRICULTURE and FOREST)	Eligible Entity is providing 50% or more of the FMV	10
	Eligible Entity is providing at least 33% but less than 50% of the FMV	5
Proximity and connectivity to permanently protected areas (State or Federal forests/parks/easements, game lands, other conservation easements) (BOTH AGRICULTURE and FOREST)	Project is directly adjacent to an existing permanently protected area	20
	Project is within 1 mile of an existing permanently protected area	10
	Project is within 3 miles of an existing permanently protected area	5
	Project greater than 3 miles away from an existing permanently protected area	0

Section: Resource Questions for Forest Land OR Agricultural Land Easements		
Question	Answer Choices	Points
The Parcel contains an archaeological or historical resource (BOTH AGRICULTURE and FOREST)	YES	10
	NO	0
Threatened, Endangered, and Special Concern Species (maintain rare native species) (Attach PNDI print to ranking form) (BOTH AGRICULTURE and FOREST)	YES	10
	NO	0
Proximity to a PA Natural Heritage Core Area (NHA) (FOREST)*	Any part of the parcel is located within a PA NHA	30
	Any part of the Parcel is located within a PA NHA Supporting Area	15
	Parcel is not located within a PA NHA or a PA NHA Supporting Area	0
Proximity to Appalachian or Tuscarora Trails (FOREST)*	The parcel is directly adjacent to or contains the Appalachian or Tuscarora Trails	30
	The parcel is located within 1000 feet of the Appalachian or Tuscarora Trails	15
	The parcel is greater than 1000 feet from the Appalachian or Tuscarora Trails	0
Significance of Forest Ecosystem Functions and Values (FOREST) (select one)*	The majority of the parcel is located in a Forest High Priority Ecological Landscape area (CD/GIS Layer)	10
	The majority of the parcel is not located in a Forest High Priority Ecological Landscape area (CD/GIS Layer)	0
Estimated Improvement of Biodiversity (FOREST)*	Forest overstory, mid-story, and understory are all present	10
	Forest has a closed canopy in the overstory and is missing either the mid-story or understory layer.	5
	Forest has a closed canopy in the overstory and is missing both the mid-story and understory layers.	0
Forest Management Plan (FOREST)*	Landowner has a current Forest Management Plan (CAP 106 or CPA 106/DIA 165), Forest Stewardship Plan, Tree Farm Plan, or other plan meeting NRCS criteria that is no older than 10 years.	10
	Landowner does not have a current Forest Management Plan (CAP 106 or CPA106/DIA165), Forest Stewardship Plan, Tree Farm Plan, or other plan meeting NRCS criteria that is no older than 10 years.	0
Parcel Size (FOREST)*	Parcel is 100 acres or larger	20
	Parcel is greater than 50 acres but less than 100 acres	10
Forested Acreage (FOREST)*	Parcel is composed of greater than 80% contiguous forested acres	20
	Parcel is composed of greater than 80% non-contiguous forested acres	10
	Parcel is composed of less than 80% forested acres, but the acreage is contiguous	5
	Parcel is composed of less than 80% non-contiguous forested acres.	0

Section: Resource Questions for Forest Land OR Agricultural Land Easements		
Question	Answer Choices	Points
Easement Offer Boundary (select one option that best fits the easement offer) (FOREST)*	Easement offer boundary is simple with few corners, angles and turns, creating an easily managed polygon	10
	Easement offer boundary is moderately simple with minimal corners, angles and turns, creating a moderate to manage polygon	5
	Easement offer boundary is complicated with multiple corners, angles and turns creating a difficult to manage polygon	0
Easement Offer Parcel (select one option that best fits the easement offer) (FOREST)*	Easement offer parcel is one contiguous block of land with no right-of-ways	10
	Easement offer parcel is one contiguous block of land with right-of-ways	5
	Easement offer parcel is divided by non-eligible acreage, right-of-ways, or other area not controlled by landowner	2
	Easement offer parcel is manipulated by landowner, is cut-up, divided among eligible acreage, or separated by cut-outs or in-holdings	0
Percent of prime, unique and important farmland in the parcel to be protected. (AGRICULTURE)*	Greater than 80% prime soils	17
	Greater than 70% and less than or equal to 80% prime soils	12
	Greater than 60% and less than or equal to 70% prime soils	8
	Greater than 50% and less than or equal to 60%	4
	Less than 50% prime soils	0
Percent of cropland, rangeland, grassland, historic grassland, pastureland, or nonindustrial private forest land in parcel to be protected. (select one) (AGRICULTURE)*	Greater than 50 percent	17
	Greater than 40 percent and less than or equal to 50 percent	8
	Greater than 33 percent and less than or equal to 40 percent	4
	33 percent or less	0
Ratio of the total acres of land in the parcel to be protected to the average farm size in the county according to the most recent USDA Census of Agriculture (www.agcensus.usda.gov). (AGRICULTURE)*	Ratio greater than 2.0	15
	Ratio greater than 1.0 and less than or equal to 2.0	7
	Ratio of 1.0 or less	0
Decrease in the percentage of acreage of farm and ranch land in the county in which the parcel is located between the last two USDA Censuses of Agriculture (www.agcensus.usda.gov). (AGRICULTURE)*	Decrease of more than 15 percent	16
	Decrease of greater than 10 and less than or equal to 15 percent	9
	Decrease of greater than 5 and less than or equal to 10 percent	5
	Decrease of greater than 0 and less than or equal to 5 percent	1
	Less than 0 percent	0

Section: Resource Questions for Forest Land OR Agricultural Land Easements

Question	Answer Choices	Points
Percent population growth in the county as documented by the United States Census (www.census.gov) (AGRICULTURE)*	Growth rate of more than 3.0 times the State growth rate	10
	Growth rate of 2.0 and less than 3.0 times the State growth rate	7
	Growth rate of greater than 1.0 and less than 2.0 times the State growth rate	4
	Growth rate of 1.0 or less	0
Population density (county population per square mile) as documented by the most recent United States Census.*	Population density of greater than three times the State population density	10
	Population density of greater than two and less than three times the State population density	7
	Population density of greater than one and less than two times the State population density	4
	Population density less than one times the state population density	0
Proximity of the parcel to other agricultural operations and agricultural infrastructure. (AGRICULTURE)*	Parcel boundary adjoins other agricultural operations and infrastructure	10
	Parcel boundary is within one mile of other agricultural operations and infrastructure	7
	Parcel boundary is greater than one mile but less than three miles of other agricultural operations and infrastructure	4
	Parcel boundary is greater than three miles from other ag operations and infrastructure	0
Parcel ability to maximize the protection of contiguous or proximal acres devoted to agricultural use (AGRICULTURE)*	Parcel links two non-continuous corridors of protected agricultural use	15
	Parcel is a contiguous or proximal expansion of agricultural use protected area	7
	Parcel does not increase a protected agricultural use area	0
Existence of a farm succession plan or similar plan established to address agricultural viability for future generations (AGRICULTURE)*	YES	5
	NO	0
The land is currently enrolled into CRP that will expire within 1 year AND is grassland that will benefit from the protection under the long-term easement (AGRICULTURE)*	YES	5
	NO	0
The parcel is a grassland of special environmental significance that will benefit from the protection under the long-term easement. (AGRICULTURE)*	YES	5
	NO	0
The parcel contains State-specific factors for grasslands of special environmental significance (AGRICULTURE)*	YES	5
	NO	0
The landowner has a current conservation plan addressing soil, water, plant, animal and other potential resource concerns. The conservation plan accurately reflects the current ag operation/management of the parcel (AGRICULTURE)*	YES	5
	NO	0