

## Ranking Criteria – ACEP-WRE

Directions and Guidance to update local ranking criteria for the fund pool. The maximum ranking points is 400. These criteria will be used to create the Program Priorities in CART.

- Applicability determines if the ranking pool is applicable – it can only be one question, no points.
- Category further sorts applications – it can only be one question, no points.
- Program Questions are for program or policy priorities – positive and negative points allowed.
- Resource Questions are for resource priorities – positive and negative points allowed.

Note: Only one condition can be applied per questions or land use (AKA – you cannot have multiple answers as a condition).

All fields shown here are required in CART, minus the condition and hover text for answers.

### APPLICABILITY (one sorting question, no points)

APPLICABILITY	Question Text: Is this application to restore, protect and enhance wetlands?	
	CONDITION: (optional – can be on a question answer or a land use or modifier)	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text Question <input type="checkbox"/> Geospatial Question (If it is geospatial, do we have the data? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No)	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Require Answer <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple Answer	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Further limit based on a land use or modifier (if yes, please elaborate in CONDITION section)	
	HOVER TEXT: <i>The landowner submitted an application, NRCS-CPA 1200 by February 17, 2024 for the WRE program.</i>	
	Possible Answers:	
	a. Yes	[No Points for Applicability Questions]
b. No	[No Points for Applicability Questions]	

### CATEGORY (one sorting question, no points)

CATEGORY	Question Text: Is this application to restore, protect and enhance wetlands?	
	CONDITION: (optional – can be on a question answer or a land use or modifier)	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text Question <input type="checkbox"/> Geospatial Question (If it is geospatial, do we have the data? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No)	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Require Answer <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple Answer	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Further limit based on a land use or modifier (if yes, please elaborate in CONDITION section)	
	HOVER TEXT: <i>The landowner has provided a copy of the property deed, a completed 1199A Direct Deposit form and has indicated what portion of the property they want to enroll. All persons or entities listed on the proof of ownership need to submit the correct 902 and if need, 901.</i>	
	Possible Answers:	
	a. Yes	[No Points for Category Questions]
b. No	[No Points for Category Questions]	

### (National Questions) –PROGRAM QUESTIONS

1	<b>Question: What is the size of the offered area?</b>	
	CONDITION:	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text Question <input type="checkbox"/> Geospatial Question (If it is geospatial, do we have the data? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No)	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Require Answer <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple Answer	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Further limit based on a land use or modifier (if yes, please elaborate in CONDITION section)	
	HOVER TEXT: <i>Please round to the nearest whole number to determine the acres.</i>	
	Possible Answers:	
	a. Greater than 200 acres	40
b. 150 to 199	34	
c. 125 to 149	29	
d. 100 to 124	24	

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	e. 75 to 99	19
	f. 50 to 74	14
	g. 25 to 49	9
	h. 15 to 24	6
	i. Less than 15 acres	0
2	<b>Question: What is the Easement Configuration?</b>	
	CONDITION: None	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text Question <input type="checkbox"/> Geospatial Question (If it is geospatial, do we have the data? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Require Answer <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple Answer <input type="checkbox"/> Further limit based on a land use or modifier (if yes, please elaborate in CONDITION section)	
	HOVER TEXT: <i>Determine if the offered acres are contiguous, have been manipulated by the landowner to create non-offered in-holdings or an irregular boundary, are dissected by non-eligible areas, and if any water control structures or devices that impact the easement area are excluded.</i>	
	Possible Answers:	
	a. Easement is made up of contiguous, non-irregular block of land and if previously restored water control structures are located in the offered acres	15
	b. Easement offer is divided by non-eligible acres, a right of way, non-eligible CRP, or other non-easement area that is beyond control of landowner	5
c. The boundary is irregular, or had been manipulated by the landowner so that the offer is cut-up, divided among eligible acres, or separated by non-easement area (cutouts or in-holdings)	0	
3	<b>Question: Water Quality Benefits?</b>	
	CONDITION:	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text Question <input type="checkbox"/> Geospatial Question (If it is geospatial, do we have the data? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Require Answer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multiple Answer <input type="checkbox"/> Further limit based on a land use or modifier (if yes, please elaborate in CONDITION section)	
	HOVER TEXT: <i>Select all that apply</i>	
	Possible Answers:	
	a. > 50% of offered acres are in a 303d listed watershed	5
b. 51% or more of the offered acres are in a source water protection area	5	
c. > 50 acres of active cropland (outside project area) will drain directly into the restoration site OR offered acres contain less than 50 acres of active cropland.	5	
d. None apply	0	
4	<b>Question: Type of Application?</b>	
	CONDITION: None	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text Question <input type="checkbox"/> Geospatial Question (If it is geospatial, do we have the data? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Require Answer <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple Answer <input type="checkbox"/> Further limit based on a land use or modifier (if yes, please elaborate in CONDITION section)	
	HOVER TEXT: <i>None</i>	
	Possible Answers:	
	a. Permanent Easement	40
b. 30-year Easement	0	
5	<b>Question: Voluntary Easement Payment Reduction?</b>	
	CONDITION: None	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text Question <input type="checkbox"/> Geospatial Question (If it is geospatial, do we have the data? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Require Answer <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple Answer <input type="checkbox"/> Further limit based on a land use or modifier (if yes, please elaborate in CONDITION section)	
	HOVER TEXT: <i>The Landowner will accept a rate lower than the GARC or Appraised FMV</i>	
	Possible Answers:	
	a. 10% or greater reduction in GARC	10
b. >5 % < 10%	5	

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	c. < 4.99	0
6	<b>Question: Easement Value Per-Acre (Based on GARC)?</b>	
	CONDITION: None	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text Question <input type="checkbox"/> Geospatial Question (If it is geospatial, do we have the data? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Require Answer <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple Answer <input type="checkbox"/> Further limit based on a land use or modifier (if yes, please elaborate in CONDITION section)	
	HOVER TEXT: <i>None</i>	
	Possible Answers:	
	a. GARC value < \$2,875 per acre	10
	b. GARC value > \$ 2,875 but < \$ 5,750	5
c. GARC value >\$ 5,750 per acre	0	
7	<b>Question: Restoration Costs Per-Acre?</b>	
	CONDITION: None	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text Question <input type="checkbox"/> Geospatial Question (If it is geospatial, do we have the data? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Require Answer <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple Answer <input type="checkbox"/> Further limit based on a land use or modifier (if yes, please elaborate in CONDITION section)	
	HOVER TEXT: <i>Based on the cost list.</i>	
	Possible Answers:	
	a. Less than \$ 1,725 per acre	10
	b. \$1,725 – \$3,450	5
c. Greater than \$3,450 per acre	0	
8	<b>Question: Operation &amp; Maintenance Costs?</b>	
	CONDITION: None	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text Question <input type="checkbox"/> Geospatial Question (If it is geospatial, do we have the data? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Require Answer <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple Answer <input type="checkbox"/> Further limit based on a land use or modifier (if yes, please elaborate in CONDITION section)	
	HOVER TEXT: <i>Structures may include Water Control Structures, Dikes and Sheet Piling</i>	
	Possible Answers:	
	a. Offered acres/WRPO contains NO structures	5
	b. Offered acres/WRPO contain structures	0

**(National Questions) - RESOURCE QUESTIONS**

9	<b>Question: What is the easement area (in acres) that meet program Land Eligibility Criteria?</b>	
	CONDITION: None	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text Question <input type="checkbox"/> Geospatial Question (If it is geospatial, do we have the data? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Require Answer <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple Answer <input type="checkbox"/> Further limit based on a land use or modifier (if yes, please elaborate in CONDITION section)	
	HOVER TEXT: <i>Farmed or Converted Wetlands (90 points); Lands in the Conservation Reserve Program (90 points); Wetlands Restored Under State or Federal Programs (expired CRP) (60 points); Former OR Degraded Wetlands OR Wetlands previously restored (non-federal or state) (20 points); Riparian Areas (10 points) or Adjacent Lands (0 points) (Use spreadsheet attached to bulletin to calculate points)</i>	
	Possible Answers:	
	a. If points calculation is > or = to 70	100
	b. If points calculation is > 60 but less < 70	90
	c. If points calculation is > 50 but less < 60	80
	d. If points calculation is > 40 but less < 50	70
	e. If points calculation is > 30 but less < 40	60
f. If points calculation is > 20 but less < 30	50	
g. If points calculation is > 10 but less < 20	40	

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	h. If points calculation is < 10	30
10	<b>Question: What percentage of eligible hydric soils will have the hydrology restored by WRE restoration practices?</b>	
	CONDITION: None	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text Question <input type="checkbox"/> Geospatial Question (If it is geospatial, do we have the data? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Require Answer <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple Answer <input type="checkbox"/> Further limit based on a land use or modifier (if yes, please elaborate in CONDITION section)	
	HOVER TEXT: <i>None</i>	
	Possible Answers:	
	a. ALL eligible acres will be restored per the WRPO	75
	b. Site has previously restored wetland, BUT there are additional eligible acres that will be restored as part of the WRPO.	35
	c. ALL eligible hydric soils have been restored/enhanced OR are within an existing eligible riparian corridor	15
	d. GREATER THAN 20% of the eligible acres CANNOT be restored due to impacts from offsite drainage OR impacts from offsite land uses (Right Of Ways, Roadways, croplands, utilities, other land uses, etc.)	0
11	<b>Question: Proximity and connectivity to other protected habitats?</b>	
	CONDITION: None	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text Question <input type="checkbox"/> Geospatial Question (If it is geospatial, do we have the data? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Require Answer <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple Answer <input type="checkbox"/> Further limit based on a land use or modifier (if yes, please elaborate in CONDITION section)	
	HOVER TEXT: <i>Determine if the offered acreage connects (abuts or touches) two protected areas, is adjacent to (touches or abuts) at least one protected area or is within one mile of a protected area. A protected area would land such as a state wildlife area or other are with a similar conservation easement already in place. Please provide supporting documentation</i>	
	Possible Answers:	
	a. Offered acres connect two existing protected habitats	15
	b. Offered acres are adjacent to existing protected habitat	10
	c. Offered acres are within 1 mi of existing protected habitat	5
	d. None apply	0
12	<b>Question: Proximity to wetlands, streams or waterbody over 5 acres</b>	
	CONDITION: None	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text Question <input type="checkbox"/> Geospatial Question (If it is geospatial, do we have the data? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Require Answer <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple Answer <input type="checkbox"/> Further limit based on a land use or modifier (if yes, please elaborate in CONDITION section)	
	HOVER TEXT: <i>Determine if the offered acreage connects (abuts or touches) two wetlands or waterbodies, is adjacent to (touches or abuts) at least one existing wetland or waterbody or is within one mile of an existing wetland or waterbody.</i>	
	Possible Answers:	
	a. Offered acres connect two wetlands or waterbodies	15
	b. Offered acres are adjacent to existing wetland or waterbody	10
	c. Offered acres are within one mile of existing wetland or waterbody	5
	d. None apply	0
13	<b>Question: What percentage of the easement area will be restored to a native, permanent plant community?</b>	
	CONDITION: None	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text Question <input type="checkbox"/> Geospatial Question (If it is geospatial, do we have the data? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Require Answer <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple Answer <input type="checkbox"/> Further limit based on a land use or modifier (if yes, please elaborate in CONDITION section)	

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	HOVER TEXT: <i>Select the answer that best fits the applicant</i>	
	Possible Answers:	
	a. > Or = 50% cropland, pasture or grassland needing renovation	10
	b. < 50 % cropland, pasture or grassland needing renovation	4
14	<b>Question: Planned wetland community: Does the offered acres have one of the following?</b>	
	CONDITION: None	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text Question <input type="checkbox"/> Geospatial Question (If it is geospatial, do we have the data? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No)	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Require Answer <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple Answer	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Further limit based on a land use or modifier (if yes, please elaborate in CONDITION section)	
	HOVER TEXT: <i>Select the answer that best fits the applicant.</i>	
	Possible Answers:	
	a. Woodland WITH Vernal Pools in the restoration plan	25
	b. Woodland	20
	c. Shallow marsh/wet meadow	15
	d. Open water	5
	e. None apply	0
15	<b>Question: Endangered AND/OR Threatened species benefits?</b>	
	CONDITION: None	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text Question <input type="checkbox"/> Geospatial Question (If it is geospatial, do we have the data? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No)	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Require Answer <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple Answer	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Further limit based on a land use or modifier (if yes, please elaborate in CONDITION section)	
	HOVER TEXT: <i>For benefits to Copperbelly Water snake or Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake, the offered acres must be within the counties listed for the species and have a restoration plan that specifically addresses these targeted species. See ranking guidance to determine other species that are eligible and habitat requirements</i>	
	Possible Answers:	
	a. Direct habitat benefits to the Copperbelly water snake ( <i>Nerodia erythrogaster neglecta</i> ) AND/OR the Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake ( <i>Sistrurus catenatus</i> )	15
	b. NO Direct habitat benefits to the Copperbelly water snake ( <i>Nerodia erythrogaster neglecta</i> ) AND/OR the Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake ( <i>Sistrurus catenatus</i> )	0
	c. None apply	0
16	<b>Question: The offered acres have invasive species?</b>	
	CONDITION: None	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text Question <input type="checkbox"/> Geospatial Question (If it is geospatial, do we have the data? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No)	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Require Answer <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple Answer	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Further limit based on a land use or modifier (if yes, please elaborate in CONDITION section)	
	HOVER TEXT: <i>The overall score of the offered acres will be adjusted based on the current presence of invasive species on the offered acres. For purposes of this adjustment, only Reed Canary Grass (<i>Phalaris arundinaceae</i>) and Common Reed Grass (<i>Phragmites australis</i>) will be considered invasive species. Site photos should document the extent of invasive species present on the site. The question is asking if there is a concentrated block of invasive species not if there are scattered invasive species throughout the site</i>	
	Possible Answers:	
	a. > 50% of the offered acres have invasive species	-120
	b. < 50% but > 20% of the offered acres have invasive species	-60
	c. < 20% of the offered acres have invasive species	0