



# Ranking Pool Report

**Ranking Pool:** IRA-ACEP-ALE-National  
Sign-up-FY24

**Program:** ACEP

**Pool Status:** Active

**States:** AK, AL, AR, AS, AZ, CA, CO, CT, DC (Admin), DE, FL, FM, GA, GU, HI, IA, ID, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MA, MD, ME, MH, MI, MN, MO, MP, MS, MT, NC, ND, NE, NH, NJ, NM, NV, NY, OH, OK, OR, PA, PR, PW, RI, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VA, VI, VT, WA, WI, WV, WY

**Template:** ACEP-ALE General  
(Program Agreements)

**Template Status:** Active

**Last Modified By** Orië Winger

**Last Modified:** 11/21/2023

## Land Uses and Modifiers

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

## Resource Concern Categories

Categories			
Category	Min %	Default %	Max %
Degraded plant condition	0	20	50
Livestock production limitation	0	10	50
Long term protection of land	40	50	75
Pest pressure	0	10	20
Wind and water erosion	0	10	40

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

Livestock production limitation			
Resource Concern	Min %	Default %	Max %
Feed and forage balance	0	70	100
Inadequate livestock shelter	0	5	100
Inadequate livestock water quantity, quality and distribution	0	25	100

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

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 - 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 - Maximum Duration Allowed by State Law	LTPMAS	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: IRA-ACEP-ALE-National Sign-up-FY24 (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	
Did the applicant apply for IRA ACEP-ALE enrollment?	YES	--
	NO	--

### Survey: Category Questions

Section: Category		
Question	Answer Choices	
Which Target Area applies to the proposed easement area into IRA ACEP-ALE?	Grasslands under threat of conversion. Program-eligible agricultural lands currently classified as grassland or native vegetation (e.g., sagebrush, tall grass prairie) where NRCS has identified a high threat of conversion to a non-grassland use.	
	Agricultural lands under threat of conversion. Program-eligible cropland or grassland where NRCS has identified a high threat of conversion to a non-agricultural use. Open to all States.	
	Active agricultural rice cultivation on subsiding highly organic soils (Geographic Specific Priority). where the majority (greater than or equal to 50%) of the easement offered acres are located. Open to all States.	
	Null -This proposed easement area does not meet any IRA category	

### Survey: Program Questions

Section: Program		
Question	Answer Choices	
1. Percent of prime, unique, and important soils in the proposed easement area to be protected?	Proposed easement area has greater than 80%.	
	Proposed easement area has greater than 70% and less than or equal to 80%.	
	Proposed easement area has greater than 60% and less than or equal to 70%.	
	Proposed easement area has greater than 50% and less than or equal to 60%.	
	Proposed easement area has less than or equal to 50%.	

**Section: Program**

Question	Answer Choices	
1a. Does the landowner have water rights secured for lands that are prime if irrigated only?	Yes	
	No	
	Not applicable (no prime if irrigated soils)	
2. Percent of cropland, pastureland, grassland, and rangeland in the proposed easement area to be protected?	Proposed easement area has greater than 50%	
	Proposed easement area has greater than 40% and less than or equal to 50%	
	Proposed easement area has greater than 33% and less than or equal to 40%	
	Proposed easement area has less than or equal to 33%	
3. Ratio of the total acres of land in the proposed easement area to be protected to average farm size in the county according to the most recent USDA Census of Agriculture (USDA - NASS - Census of Agriculture)	Greater than 2.0	
	Greater than 1.0 and less than or equal to 2.0	
	Less than or equal to 1.0	
4. 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 (USDA - NASS - Census of Agriculture).Decrease in the percentage of acreage of farm and ranch land in the county in which the proposed easement area is located between the last two USDA Censuses of Agriculture (USDA - NASS - Census of Agriculture)	Decrease of greater than 10%	
	Decrease greater than 5% and less than or equal to 10%.	
	Decrease greater than 0% and less than or equal to 5%.	
5.Percent of population growth in the county as documented by the most recent United States Census.	Growth rate greater than or equal to 3 times the State growth rate.	
	Growth rate greater than or equal to 2 and less than 3 times the State growth rate.	
	Growth rate greater than or equal to 1 and less than 2 times the State growth rate.	
	Growth rate of less than 1 times the State growth rate.	
6. Population density (population per square mile) as documented by the most recent United States Census.	Population density greater than or equal to 3 times the State population density.	
	Population density greater than or equal to 2 and less than 3 times the State population density.	
	Population density of greater than or equal to 1 and less than 2 times the State population density.	
	Population density less than 1 times the State population density.	
7. Existence of a farm or ranch succession plan or similar plan established to address farm viability for future generations.	Plan documented and performed by industry professional	
	Plan	
	No Plan	

**Section: Program**

Question	Answer Choices	
<p>8. Proximity of the proposed easement area to other protected land, such as 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 land that is already subject to an easement or deed restriction that limits the conversion of the land to nonagricultural use or protects grazing uses and related conservation values; or lands adjacent to easements held by United States</p>	Proposed easement area is directly adjacent (touching along a shared boundary) to a protected land boundary.	
	Proposed easement area is within a 1 mile radius of a protected land boundary	
	Proposed easement area is greater than a 1 mile radius and less than a 2 mile radius of a protected land boundary	
	Proposed easement area is greater than a 2 mile radius and less than a 5 mile radius of protected land boundary	
	Proposed easement area is greater than a 5 mile radius of a protected land boundary	
<p>9. Proximity of the proposed easement area to other agricultural operations and agricultural infrastructure</p>	Proposed easement area is directly adjacent (touching along a shared boundary)	
	Proposed easement area is within 1 mile of protected land boundary	
	Proposed easement area is greater than or equal to 1 mile but less than 3 miles in proximity	
	Proposed easement area boundary greater than 3 miles in proximity	
<p>10. Proposed easement area ability to maximize the protection of contiguous or proximal acres devoted to agricultural use.</p>	Proposed easement area links two non-continuous corridors of protected agricultural use	
	Proposed easement area is a contiguous or proximal expansion of agricultural use protected area	
	Proposed easement area increases a protected agricultural use area	
<p>11. Is the proposed easement area currently enrolled in CRP in a contract that is set to expire within a year, AND is the applicant a covered producer participating in the CRP Transition Incentives Program (CRP-TIP) and NRCS is evaluating the assessment during the two-year period covered by the CRP-1R?</p>	YES	
	NO	
<p>12. The proposed easement area is a grassland of special environmental significance that will benefit from the protection under the long-term easement</p>	YES	
	NO	
<p>13. Decrease in the percentage of acreage of permanent grassland, pasture, and rangeland, other than cropland and woodland pasture, in the county in which the proposed easement area is located between the last two USDA Censuses of Agriculture (USDA - NASS - Census of Agriculture)</p>	Decreases greater than 15%.	
	Decrease of greater than 10% and less than or equal to 15%.	
	Decrease of greater than 5% and less than or equal to 10%.	
	Decrease of greater than 0% and less than or equal to 5%.	
<p>14. Eligible entity contributes at least 10% percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land easement from its own cash resources for payment of easement compensation to the landowner and comes from sources other than the landowner.</p>	YES	
	NO	

**Survey: Resource Questions**

**Section: All Categories**

Question	Answer Choices	
1. Proposed easement area contains habitat for at-risk species, as shown by best available records or data search (select highest category):	Proposed easement area habitat is for federally listed threatened and endangered species	
	Proposed easement area habitat is for federally listed candidate species	
	Proposed easement area habitat is for State species of concern	
	Proposed easement area habitat is for State species of interest	
	No at-risk species habitat on proposed easement area	
2. Use the NRCS Land Evaluation and Site Assessment framework (LESA values for the soil types found on the proposed easement area to calculate the points for this section) to establish a farmland conversion impact rating score. Each county NRCS office has a chart indicating the agricultural group and relative value of each soil type found in the county. The best land (Group 1) is given a relative value of 100. Other groups are valued less than 100. NOTE: Total acres should equal total acres being offered for enrollment.	LESA SCORE 150-190	
	LESA SCORE 100-149	
	LESA Score 76-99	
	LESA Score less than or equal to 75	
3. Proposed easement area acres contain a site of cultural or historical significance that is currently listed or was formally determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.	YES	
	NO	
4. Lead Eligible Entity has demonstrated performance in managing and enforcing easements by monitoring 100 percent of its NRCS easements each year AND entity has provided information on any change in ownership to NRCS over the last five (5) fiscal years.	YES	
	NO	
5. In the previous five (5) fiscal years, the Lead Eligible Entity has demonstrated efficiency in completing NRCS easement transactions by closing enrollments within the initial term of the Parcel Contract or ALE-Agreement attachment.	YES	
	NO	
6. Landowner of proposed easement area is a historically underserved participant by NRCS defined criteria and self-certified on the NRCS-CPA-41A parcel application as a: limited resource farmer or rancher, socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher, or veteran farmer or rancher.	YES	
	NO	
7. The producer/landowner has executed and is currently implementing an NRCS contract that includes agricultural and forestry Climate Smart Practices?	YES	
	NO	
8. Proximity to designated local, state, or federal wildlife habitat/conservation area, or forest area of significance	Proposed easement area is directly adjacent (touching along a shared boundary) to a designated local, state, or federal wildlife habitat/conservation, or forest area of significance.	
	Proposed easement area is equal to or less than 5 miles away from a designated local, state, or federal wildlife habitat/conservation, or forest area of significance	
	Proposed easement area is > 5 miles from a designated local, state, or federal wildlife habitat/conservation, or forest area of significance	

**Section: Grasslands under threat of Conversion\***

Question	Answer Choices	
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Section: Grasslands under threat of Conversion*		
Question	Answer Choices	
1. The proposed easement is in an area with a threat of conversion:	High	
	Moderately High	
	Moderately Low	
	Low	
	Otherwise/No Data	
1a. The proposed easement is in an area with a threat of conversion.*	Intersects a 1 mile buffer of Urban Area	
	Intersects a Metropolitan Statistical Area	
	Intersects a Micropolitan Statistical Area	
	Otherwise	
2. The majority of the proposed easement area (>50%) has:	Never been broken	
	Been broken and restored to native grasslands	
	Been broken and restored to non-native grasslands	
	Been broken and never restored	
3. What is the threat of grassland conversion to cropland?	Web soil survey indicates that 90% or more of the native grassland soils on the proposed easement acreage are class 1-4	
	Web soil survey indicates that 75-89% of the native grassland soils on the proposed easement acreage are class 1-4	
	Web soil survey indicates that 50-74% of the native grassland soils on the proposed easement acreage are class 1-4	
	Web soil survey indicates that 49% or less of the native grassland soils on the proposed easement acreage are class 1-4	
4. Select the percent of rangeland, pastureland, or land that contains forbs or shrublands to be protected on the proposed easement area that is currently devoted to grazing uses.	Proposed easement area has 75% or greater of rangeland, pastureland, or land that contains forbs or shrublands	
	Proposed easement area has 50-74% or greater of rangeland, pastureland, or land that contains forbs or shrublands	
	Proposed easement area has less than 50% of rangeland, pastureland, or land that contains forbs or shrublands	
5. Is the proposed easement area directly adjacent (touching along a shared boundary) to an existing protected grassland area?	YES	
	NO	

Section: Agricultural lands under threat of conversion*		
Question	Answer Choices	

**Section: Agricultural lands under threat of conversion\***

Question	Answer Choices	
1. The proposed easement is in an area with a threat of conversion:	High	
	Moderately High	
	Moderately Low	
	Low	
	Otherwise/No Data	
1a. The proposed easement is in an area with a threat of conversion:*	Intersects a 1 mile buffer of Urban Area	
	Intersects a Metropolitan Statistical Area	
	Intersects a Micropolitan Statistical Area	
	Otherwise	
2. Proposed easement boundary is located within:	Intersects a 1 mile buffer of Urban Area	
	Intersects a Metropolitan Statistical Area	
	Intersects a Micropolitan Statistical area	
	Otherwise	
3. Proposed easement area proximity to a major transportation corridor or warehousing complex	Proposed easement area is directly adjacent (touching along a shared boundary)	
	Proposed easement area is within a 1 mile radius	
	Proposed easement area greater than 1 mile radius and less than 2 mile radius	
	Proposed easement area is greater than 2 mile radius and less than 5 mile radius	
	Proposed easement area is greater than a 5 mile radius	

**Section: Active agricultural rice cultivation on subsiding highly organic soils\***

Question	Answer Choices	
1. Percentage of the proposed easement area having rice cultivation on subsiding highly organic soils. Use soil map of parcel to determine answer.	Proposed easement area contains 80-100% of subsiding highly organic soils	
	Proposed easement area contains 60-79% of subsiding highly organic soils	
	Proposed easement area contains 50-69% of subsiding highly organic soils	
	Proposed easement area contains less than 49% of subsiding highly organic soils	
2. Saturation during the non-growing season	Proposed easement area contains active rice cultivation on subsiding highly organic soils and rice stubble is being currently managed by flooding, where fields remain saturated during the non-growing season.	
	Proposed easement area contains active rice cultivation on subsiding highly organic soils and rice paddies are NOT currently being managed to remain saturated during the non-growing season. Landowner manages their rice stubble through chopping, disking, or burning.	



**Section: Active agricultural rice cultivation on subsiding highly organic soils\***

Question	Answer Choices	
<p>3. Select one of the following that reflects the current Management Plan for the proposed easement area:</p>	<p>Proposed easement area contains active rice cultivation on subsiding highly organic soils and a management plan is currently being implemented to ensure rice paddies remain saturated during the non-growing season.</p>	
	<p>Proposed easement area contains active rice cultivation on subsiding highly organic soils and the entity and landowner have agreed to implement a management plan to ensure rice paddies remain saturated during the non-growing season as a condition of enrollment.</p>	
	<p>Proposed easement area contains active rice cultivation on subsiding highly organic soils and the entity and landowner do NOT agree to develop or implement a management plan to ensure rice paddies remain saturated during the non-growing season.</p>	