



# 2017 ACEP WETLAND RESERVE EASEMENT VERMONT RANKING CRITERIA

TOTAL RANKING SCORE (from page 4) \_\_\_\_\_

Landowner Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Town: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Reference Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Evaluators: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Acres: \_\_\_\_\_ Wetland Acres: \_\_\_\_\_ Upland Acres: \_\_\_\_\_

Cropland/Hay Acres: \_\_\_\_\_ DCP Acres: \_\_\_\_\_

## I. ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

**A. Percent of Wetland Hydrology Altered, Multiplied by the Percent of Altered Hydrology that can be Restored** (example: 50% of wetland hydrology has been removed from hydric soil area, 90% of it can be restored to pre-existing conditions, so:  $0.5 \times 0.9 = 0.45$ ):

- 1. 0.75 - 1.0 ..... 25 points \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. 0.5 - 0.74 ..... 15 points
- 3. 0.25 - 0.49 ..... 10 points
- 4. 0.1 - 0.24 ..... 5 points
- 5. 0.0 ..... 0 points

Note: The hydrologic effects due to restoration on adjacent sites, or the impact to planned restoration practices on adjacent sites, can be included in this analysis. Hydrologic restoration is required for a site to be eligible for WRP.

**B. Size of the Hydrologically Restored Wetland Area** (do not include non-wetland buffers or upland areas):

- 1. Greater than 50 acres ..... 25 points \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. 25 - 50 acres ..... 15 points
- 3. 10 - 25 acres ..... 10 points
- 4. 1 - 10 acres ..... 5 points
- 5. Less than 1 acre ..... 0 points

**C. Dominant Type of Land to be Restored:** \_\_\_\_\_

- 1. PC/FW (land in crop production) ..... 10 points
- 2. FWP (herbaceous wetland) ..... 8 points
- 3. Abandoned agricultural land ..... 6 points
- 4. Other, currently used lands with degraded wetlands ..... 3 points
- 5. Woodland (hydrology altered) ..... 0 points



**D. Proximity to Permanently Protected Land Resources** such as Federal or State Forest and Wildlife Lands or Permanently Protected Lands in Conservation Easements. Or, Located Within or Adjacent to an EPA Priority Wetland, Vermont Class I Wetland, or a Targeted Lake Champlain Basin Acquisition Wetland, Or, part of a Multi-landowner WRE project Or Targeted wetlands restoration project area.

- 1. Adjacent ..... 10 points
- 2. Within 1/2 mile ..... 7 points \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Within 1 mile ..... 3 points
- 4. Greater than 1 mile ..... 0 points

**E. Restored Wetland Buffer and Project Type**

**Easements:** Percent of Easement Area That Will Be Restored Wetland or Eligible Riparian Areas: \_\_\_\_\_

- 1. 91 to 100% ..... 3 points
- 2. 61 to 90% ..... 5 points
- 3. 50 to 60% ..... 1 point

Note: 50% of the easement area must be restored wetland, the other half can be upland buffer or natural wetland buffer.

**F. Species and Habitat Enhancement Criteria** (select the one item listed below that best describes the site): \_\_\_\_\_

1. Contributes to the protection or recovery of a federal or state listed threatened, endangered or rare species, including federal species proposed for listing.  
- assign 10 points

Species Names: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Provides high quality habitat for migratory birds, within identified high priority habitat areas for migratory birds.  
- assign 7 points

Note: High priority waterfowl habitat areas include the Champlain Lowlands, Orleans County, Essex County and the lowlands along the Connecticut River.

3. Contributes to local biodiversity by adding a new habitat type to the local area for wetland dependent resident or native species not included in #1 or #2 above. - assign 4 points

4. Provides additional similar habitat in the local area for wetland dependent resident or native species.  
- assign 1 point

**G. Project restores rare or unique wetlands habitat type.** (ex. bog, fen)

Yes 5 points

No 0 points \_\_\_\_\_

**H. Location in Relation to Surface Waters** including a River, Perennial Stream, or Lake/Pond Greater Than 10 Ac. in Size. \_\_\_\_\_



- Includes Contiguous Riparian Area - 10 points
- Within 300 ft. - 6 points
- Within active floodplain - 3 points
- Greater than 300 ft. - 0 points

**I. Sources of Sediment, Animal Wastes or other Contaminants to Surface or Ground Waters will be Eliminated.** \_\_\_\_\_

1. Significant sources of contaminants eliminated \_\_\_\_\_  
 - assign 10 points  
 (examples: excluding livestock from streams, permanent cover established on former cropland, eliminating stored animal wastes with direct hydrologic connection to surface waters)
2. Notable of sources of contaminants eliminated  
 - assign 5 points  
 (examples: eliminating manure stacks, permanent cover established on small eroding areas, manure applications to hayland eliminated)
3. No sources of contaminants eliminated  
 - assign 0 points

**ENVIRONMENTAL RANKING** \_\_\_\_\_

**II. PROJECT TYPE, MANAGEMENT AND ECONOMIC RANKING CRITERIA**

**A. Type of Project**

1. Permanent easement ..... 10 points \_\_\_\_\_
2. 30 year easement ..... 5 points

**B. Level of Maintenance and Operation Required for the Restored Wetland and Upland Buffer:** \_\_\_\_\_

1. Minimal or no management of the restored site and upland buffer. (such as a simple ditch plug or drain block) - assign 10 points
2. Infrequent maintenance required (such as infrequent repair or replacement of pipes or water control structures) - assign 5 points
3. Long-term Intensive O&M (such as seasonal manipulation of a water control structure or long-term vegetative management) - assign 0 points

**C. Landowner or Partner Contributions:**

- for easements, enter percent of easement value contributed
- for restoration, enter percent of restoration costs contributed
- combine both percentages if applicable
- 1 50% or greater..... 10 points
- 2. 25 to 49% ..... 7 points \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. 10 to 24% ..... 4 points
- 4. Less than 10% ..... 1 point
- 5. No contributions ..... 0 points

**D. Estimated Wetland Restoration Cost per Acre (USDA and partner share):**



- 1. Less than \$1000 ..... 5 points
- 2. \$1000 to \$2,000 ..... 3 points \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \$2,000 to \$3,000 ..... 1 points
- 5. Greater than \$3000 ..... 0 point

**E. Estimated Easement Cost per Acre (based on GARCs):**

- 1. Less than \$1000 ..... 5 points
- 2. \$1000 to \$1,500 .....3 points \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \$1,500 to \$2,000 ..... 1 points
- 5. Greater than \$2,000 ..... 0 points

**F. Cost-Benefit comparison. (Applications that have a lower cost per environmental benefit ratio will receive higher rankings). (Environmental Benefit Score/(Restoration Cost Per Acre + Easement Cost Per Acre)) x 100**

- 1. Greater than 3 ..... 5 points
- 2. 3 to 2 ..... 3 points \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. 2 to 1..... 1 points
- 5. Less than 1 ..... 0 points

**PROJECT TYPE AND COST RANKING \_\_\_\_\_**

**TOTAL RANKING SCORE \_\_\_\_\_**

Note: total possible points = **155**, if a project scores **below 75 it is ineligible for ACEP WRE** unless unusual circumstances dictate otherwise (requires State Conservationist approval). Projects may also have to be approved on a competitive basis if funds are limited.

**Notes and Comments:**