

**Agricultural Conservation Easement Program – Wetland Reserve Easements (ACEP-WRE)  
Nebraska Ranking Worksheet – FY 2017**

<b>Landowner/Applicant</b>			<b>Date</b>
<b>Field Office</b>		<b>County</b>	<b>Completed by</b>
<b>WRE Team #</b>	<b>Tract #</b>	<b>Legal Description(at least to ¼ Section)</b>	<b>8 Digit HUC</b>
<b>Application Type (circle one)</b>			
<b>Perpetual Easement</b>	<b>30-year Easement</b>	<b>30-year Tribal Contract</b>	
<b>Is this a Reservation of Grazing Rights Application? (Circle One)      Yes      or      No</b>			
<b>Team members present at site evaluation and providing ranking input</b>			
<b>Agency/Position</b>	<b>Name</b>		<b>Date</b>
NRCS Team Leader			
NRCS Engineer/CET			
USFWS Biologist			
NGPC Biologist			
<b>Wetland Complex Association (see Appendix A)</b>			
<b>Ranking Score Total (Points from total of at the bottom of page 4)</b>			
Space for additional comments about the site.			

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<b>RANKING FACTORS – Circle Appropriate Points</b>		<b>POINTS</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Existing Wetland Manipulations</b>	
	<b>Wetland Hydrology</b>	
	Wetland has hydrologic modification on-site (fill/sediment, ditches, pits, tile, pumping, etc.) and will have the hydrology restored to the extent determined technically feasible resulting in a <b>significant increase in the functions and values</b> of the wetland	75
	Wetland has hydrologic modification on-site (fill/sediment, ditches, pits, tile, pumping, etc.) and will have the hydrology restored to the extent determined technically feasible resulting in <b>some increase in the functions and values</b> of the wetland	45
	Wetland has hydrologic modification on-site (fill/sediment, ditches, pits, tile, pumping, etc.) plus artificial increases in hydrology (raised water table, surface water increases, etc.) and will have additional hydrology restored to the extent determined technically feasible resulting in <b>some increase in the functions and values</b> of the wetland	15
Wetland has <b>no</b> significant hydrologic modification (includes naturally wooded areas that had been cleared and cropped) or will not be restored to the extent technically feasible	5	
<b>2</b>	<b>Wetland Vegetation Composition</b>	
	Existing plant community is not suitable to wetland type (i.e. cropland) or is dominated by invasive species (i.e. RCG). Restoration/management will result in a <b>significant increase in functions and values</b> of the wetland.	10
	Existing plant community is not entirely suitable to wetland type and is not dominated by invasive species. Restoration/management will result in <b>some increase in functions and values</b> of the wetland.	5
	Existing plant community is appropriate for wetland type or invasive species will not be controlled to the extent determined technically feasible.	0
<b>3</b>	<b>Percent of Wetlands in Offer (includes PC's)</b>	
	Wetland area is between 50% and 75% of the offered area	10
	Wetland area is between 75% and 90% of the offered area	8
	Wetland area is between 90% and 100% of the offered area	6
	Wetland area is less than 50% of the offered area	0
<b>4</b>	<b>Size of Proposed Easement or Agreement Area</b>	
	Offer is 80.0 acres or more	10
	Offer is between 60.0 and 79.9 acres	8
	Offer is between 30.0 and 59.9 acres	6
	Offer is between 10.0 and 29.9 acres	4
	Offer is less than 10.0 acres <b>Note:</b> Applications that are less than 10 acres in size will only be considered for enrollment if the parcel is contiguous to an existing wetland easement, permanently protected wetland, or is part of a larger, multi-owner ACEP-WRE joint application	0
<b>Subtotal for Page 2</b>		

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<b>5</b>	<b>T &amp; E Species- If taking credit for this item in the ranking form, the Preliminary and Final WRPO must specifically address resource concerns to improve habitat for the listed T&amp;E species, and must provide documentation that a known populations are within the offer area or the offer is within Federally designated Critical Habitat or the offer is (or will be when restored) suitable for Whooping Crane use and is within a Whooping Crane priority stopover landscape (See Appendix A)</b>		
	<b>Name of T&amp;E Species or Critical Habitat:</b>		
	Offer has a known population of State or Federal listed T&E species occupying the offer area, or is the offer area located within the boundaries of designated Critical Habitat for a Federally listed T&E Species or the offer area is (or will be when restored) suitable for Whooping Crane use and is within a Whooping Crane priority stopover landscape.		5
	No known populations of State or Federal listed T&E species occupy the proposed offer area, nor is the offer area located within the boundaries of designated Critical Habitat for a Federally listed T&E Species, nor is the offer area within the Whooping Crane priority stopover landscape.		0
<b>6</b>	<b>Proximity to Wetlands Under Long-Term Conservation Management (30 years or greater)</b>		
	<b>Name and location of the site:</b>		
	Offer is a “round out” to existing protected wetland.		10
	Offer is within the same wetland (water moves back and forth).		5
	Offer is within 1 mile but not within the same basin.		3
	Offer is between 1 and 5 miles.		1
	Offer is greater than 5 miles.		0
<b>7</b>	<b>Contribution to a Wetland Complex (NRCS wetland determination [excludes PC's] or FWS national wetland inventory)</b>		
	8 or more distinct wetlands are in the offer and/or within one mile of the offer.		5
	3 to 7 distinct wetlands are in the offer and/or within one mile of the offer.		3
	1 to 2 distinct wetlands are in the offer and no wetlands are within one mile of the offer.		1
<b>8</b>	<b>Wetland Complex Association – Extent of Wetland Losses within a Geographic Area (See Appendix B)</b>		
	Rainwater Basin		10
	Central Platte River – Big Bend Reach, Eastern Saline, Fens, Missouri River, Todd Valley		7
	Central Table Playas, Elkhorn River, Loup/Platte River Sandhills, Lower North Platte River, Lower Platte River, Niobrara River, Sandhills, Sandhills Borders, Southwest Playas, Western Alkaline		5
	All Other Land Areas		0
<b>9</b>	<b>Length of Protection</b>		
	Offer will be enrolled as a permanent easement.		5
	Offer will be enrolled as 30 year easement or 30 year contract.		0
<b>10</b>	<b>Easement Cost Per Acre – based on estimated current fiscal year GARC</b>		
	Less than \$2,000 per acre		5
	\$2,000 - \$3,000 per acre		4
	\$3,000 - \$4,000 per acre		3
	Greater than \$4,000 per acre		2
	<b>Subtotal for page 3</b>		

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<b>Easement/Restoration Cost Reduction to USDA</b>		
11	<b>Landowners and/or partners may contribute to a reduction in cost or value in questions 12 and 13. Landowners and/or partners must provide in writing the reduction in cost or value, with all landowners and/or partners signature.</b>	
	<b>A) Perpetual Easement</b>	
	Landowner will accept (in writing) 70% of determined offer value	15
	Landowner will accept (in writing) 75% of determined offer value	13
	Landowner will accept (in writing) 80% of determined offer value	11
	Landowner will accept (in writing) 85% of determined offer value	8
	Landowner will accept (in writing) 90% of determined offer value	5
	Landowner will accept only 100% of determined offer value	0
	<b>B) 30-Year Easement or 30-Year Tribal Contract</b>	
	Landowner will accept (in writing) 50% of determined offer value	13
	Landowner will accept (in writing) 55% of determined offer value	11
	Landowner will accept (in writing) 60% of determined offer value	8
	Landowner will accept (in writing) 65% of determined offer value	5
	Landowner will accept (in writing) 70% of determined offer value	2
	Landowner will accept only 75% of determined offer value	0
12	<b>Restoration Cost to USDA (If increases in preliminary restoration cost affect the score, the application must be re-ranked and re-considered for funding.)</b>	
	USDA restoration cost is between \$0.00 and \$200.00 per acre	10
	USDA restoration cost is between \$200.01 and \$400.00 per acre	8
	USDA restoration cost is between \$400.01 and \$600.00 per acre	6
	USDA restoration cost is between \$600.01 and \$800.00 per acre	4
	USDA restoration cost is greater than \$800.00 per acre	2
<b>Subtotal for page 4</b>		
<b>Total Points for Factors 1-12 (Possible 170 points)</b>		

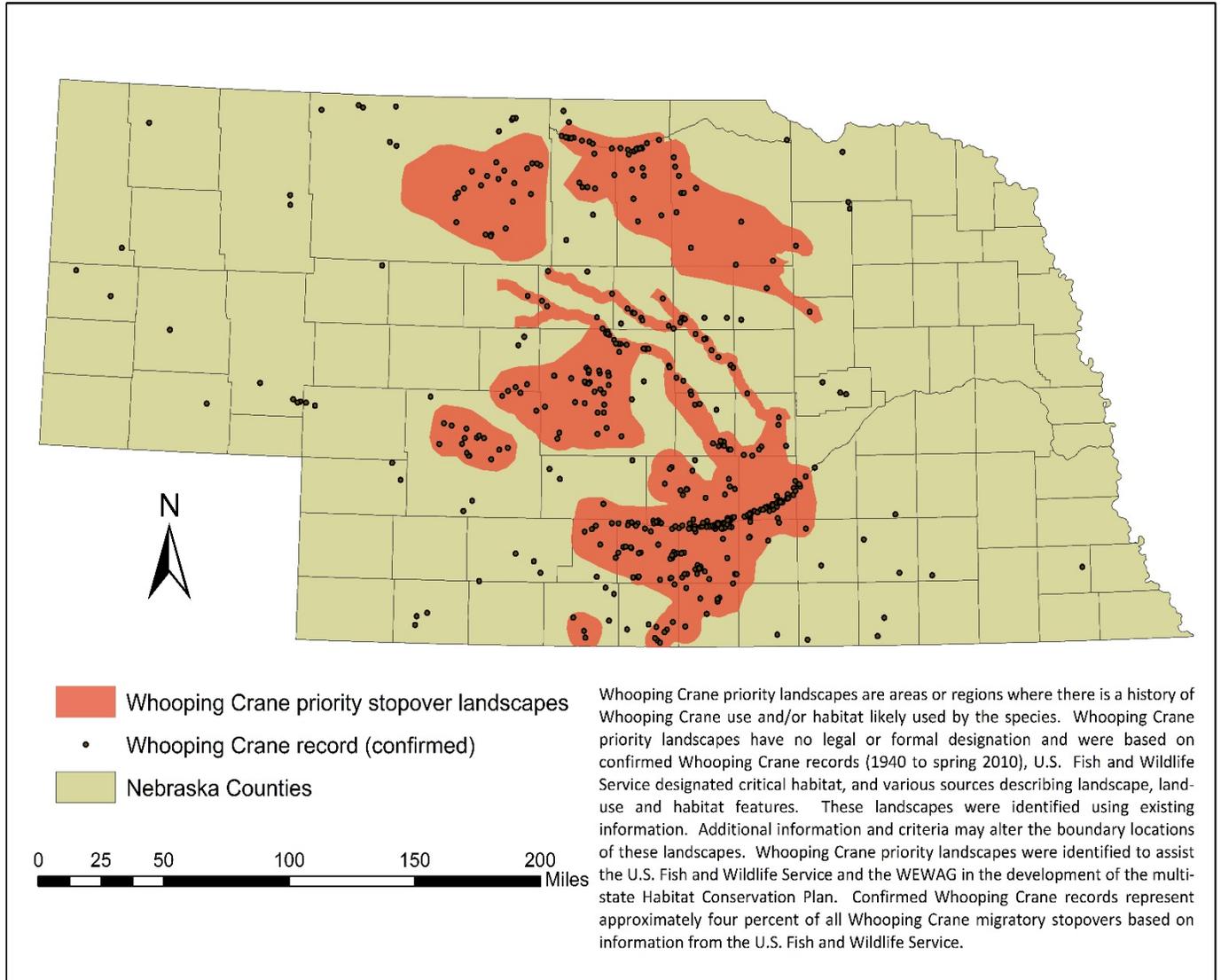
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APPENDIX A

Ranking Factor 5 – T & E Species

(Source – developed by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission with USFWS input)

Whooping Crane Priority Stopover Landscapes



**Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE)  
Nebraska Ranking Worksheet – FY 2017  
APPENDIX B  
Ranking Factor 8 –Wetland Complex Association  
(Source – Nebraska Game & Parks Commission)**

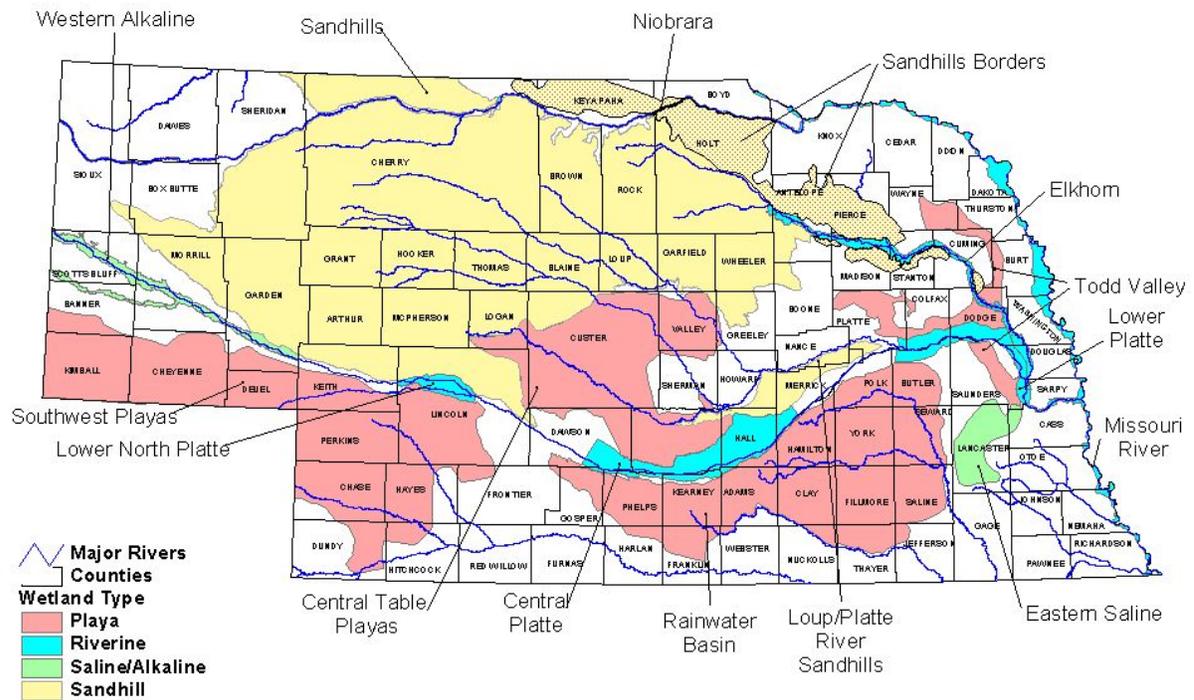
<b>WETLAND COMPLEXES</b>	<b>COUNTIES</b>	<b>HYDRIC SOILS (Component/Inclusion)</b>	<b>LOCAL LANDFORM</b>
Rainwater Basin	Adams, Butler, Clay, Fillmore, Franklin, Gosper, Hall, Hamilton, Harlan, Kearney, Nuckolls, Phelps, Polk, Saline, Seward, Thayer, York	Fillmore, Massie, Olbut, Perched Water Table, Poned Soils, Scott	Playa
Central Platte River – Big Bend Reach (Lexington To Chapman)	Buffalo, Dawson, Gosper, Hall, Hamilton, Kearney, Merrick, Phelps	Barney, Fluvaquents, Gothenburg, Lawet, Loup, Marsh, Obert, Perched Water Table, Platte, Poned Soils, Tryon, Water Table at 0-1 foot, Wet Alluvial	Flood Plain, Oxbow
Eastern Saline	Lancaster, Saunders	Salmo, Saltillo, Zoe	Flood Plain, Oxbow
Fens	Cherry	Cutcomb, Histosols	Fen
Missouri River	Boyd, Burt, Cass, Cedar, Dakota, Dixon, Douglas, Knox, Nemaha, Otoe, Richardson, Sarpy, Thurston, Washington,	Albaton, Baltic, Barney, Calco, Colo, Fluvaquents, Forney, Holly Springs, Kezan, Lamo, Luton, Obert, Orwet, Owego, Poned Soils, Poorly Drained, Rauville, Solomon, Wabash, Water Table at 0-1 foot, Woodbury, Zoe, Zook	Flood Plain, Oxbow
Todd Valley	Burt, Colfax, Cuming, Dodge, Platte, Saunders, Thurston, Wayne	Fillmore, Poned Soils, Scott	Playa
Central Table Playas	Buffalo, Custer, Dawson, Greeley, Hall, Lincoln, Logan, Sherman, Valley	Fillmore, Perched Water Table, Poned Soils, Scott	Playa
Elkhorn River	Antelope, Cuming, Dodge, Douglas, Holt, Madison, Rock, Stanton, Washington	Albaton, Almeria, Barney, Calco, Colo, Fluvaquents, Gannett, Gibbon, Kezan, Lamo, Lawet, Loup, Luton, Marsh, Obert, Orwet, Poned Soils, Rauville, Tryon, Water Table at 0-1 foot, Zook	Flood Plain, Oxbow
Loup/Platte River Sandhills	Hall, Howard, Merrick, Nance, Platte	Almeria, Barney, Fluvaquents, Gothenburg, Kezan, Lawet, Loup, Marlake, Obert, Perched Water Table, Platte, Poned Soils, Rusco, Water Table at 0-1 foot, Zook	Depression, Flood Plain, Oxbow, Swale
Lower North Platte River (Sutherland To North Platte)	Lincoln	Cutcomb, Fluvaquents, Gothenburg, Lawet, Loup, Water Table at 0-1 foot, Wet alluvial land	Flood Plain, Oxbow

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Ranking Factor 8 –Wetland Complex Association  
(Source – Nebraska Game & Parks Commission)**

<b>WETLAND COMPLEXES</b>	<b>COUNTIES</b>	<b>HYDRIC SOILS (Component/Inclusion)</b>	<b>LOCAL LANDFORM</b>
Lower Platte River (Loup River Confluence To Missouri River	Butler, Cass, Colfax, Dodge, Douglas, Platte, Sarpy, Saunders	Albaton, Alda, Barney, Calco, Colo, Fluvaquents, Gibbon, Gothenburg, Kezan, Lawet, Loup, Luton, Muscotah, Napa, Nodaway, Obert, Platte, Poned Soils, Saltillo, Wabash, Water Table at 0- 1 foot, Zook	Flood Plain, Oxbow
Niobrara River	Box Butte, Boyd, Brown, Cherry, Dawes, Holt, Keya Paha, Knox, Rock, Sheridan, Sioux	Albaton, Almeria, Barney, Bigwinder, Crowther, Cullison, Cutcomb, Fluvaquents, Gannett, Gus, Histosols, Hoffland, Kezan, Lamo, Lisco, Loup, Marsh, Obert, Orwet, Perched Water Table, Poned Soils, Poorly Drained, Solomon, Tryon, Water Table at 0- 1 foot	Flood Plain, Oxbow
Sandhills	Antelope, Arthur, Blaine, Boone, Box Butte, Brown, Cherry, Custer, Garden, Garfield, Grant, Greeley, Holt, Hooker, Keith, Lincoln, Logan, Loup, McPherson, Morrill, Rock, Sheridan, Thomas, Valley, Wheeler	Almeria, Barney, Crowther, Cullison, Cutcomb, Fluvaquents, Gannett, Gothenburg, Gus, Hoffland, Lamo, Lawet, Lisco, Loup, Marlake, Marsh, McCuligan, Obert, Orwet, Perched Water Table, Poned Soils, Rusco, Tryon, Water Table at 0-1 foot, Wet Alluvial Land	Depression, Flood Plain, Oxbow, Swale
Sandhills Borders	Antelope, Boone, Cuming, Holt, Madison, Pierce, Stanton	Almeria, Barney, Calco, Fluvaquents, Gannett, Kezan, Lamo, Lawet, Loup, Marlake, Marsh, Obert, Orwet, Poned Soils, Tryon, Water Table at 0-1 foot, Zook	Depression, Flood Plain, Oxbow, Swale
Southwest Playas	Banner, Chase, Cheyenne, Deuel, Garden, Hayes, Keith, Kimball, Lincoln, Perkins	Fillmore, Lodgepole, Scott, Perched Water Table, Poned Soils	Playa
Western Alkaline	Banner, Garden, Morrill, Scotts Bluff	Gering, Hoffland, Janise, Lisco, Yockey	Flood Plain, Oxbow
All Other Land Areas			

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# Nebraska's Wetland Complexes



*Nebraska Game and Parks Commission  
2005*

### Local Landforms in Nebraska

- Depression** Any relatively sunken part of the earth's surface; especially a low-lying area surrounded by higher ground that has no natural outlet.
- Fen** Waterlogged, spongy ground containing alkaline decaying vegetation, characterized by reeds, that develops into peat.
- Floodplain** The nearly level plain that borders a stream and is subject to inundation under flood-stage conditions unless protected artificially.
- Oxbow** A closed stream meander created by artificial or natural means.
- Playa** The usually dry and nearly level lake plain that occupies the lowest parts of closed depressions. Temporary flooding occurs primarily in response to precipitation-runoff events.
- Swale** A slight, open depression which lacks a defined channel that can outlet overland or subsurface flow.