

**Agricultural Conservation Easement Program - Agricultural Land Easement (ACEP-ALE)
 Parcel Eligibility and Ranking Worksheet**

Fiscal Year: 2019	
Landowner Name and Address	
Eligible entities names and addresses	
Parcel Location:	Locality (Town/Township):
County:	State:
Are all landowners of record AGI eligible? (Y/N)	
Are all landowners of record HEL eligible? (Y/N)	
Are all landowners of record WC eligible? (Y/N)	
NRCS employee confirming landowner eligibility:	
Name:	Signature:
Is the entity eligible? (Y/N)	
NRCS employee confirming entity eligibility:	
Name:	Signature:
Does the eligible entity have a written pending offer for the parcel? (Y/N)	
NRCS employee confirming written pending offer:	
Name:	Signature:
Does the land <i>(enter a response for each)</i> :	
_____ Have 50-percent prime, unique, and important farmland? (Y/N)	
_____ Have historical or archeological resources? (Y/N)	
_____ Protect grazing uses and related conservation values by restoring and conserving land? (Y/N)	
_____ Have land that supports the policy of a State or local farm and ranch land protection program? (Y/N)	
Is the land eligible? (Y/N)	
Which land eligibility criteria is the land being enrolled under? <i>(Identify only one eligibility category)</i>	

NRCS employee confirming land eligibility:	
Name:	Signature:

National Ranking Criteria (Must be 200 Points Maximum)		
National Ranking Factors and Scaling	Maximum Points	Points
<p>1. Percent of prime, unique, and important soils in the parcel to be protected</p> <p>(0 points for 50 percent or less, 4 points for every 10 percent above 50 percent, 25 pts for 100 percent)</p> <p>Note: Documentation must be provided to receive points under this category</p>	25	
<p>2. Percent of cropland, pastureland, grassland, and rangeland in the parcel to be protected.</p> <p>(0 points for 33 percent or less, 8 points for greater than 33 percent and less than or equal to 50 percent, 16 points for greater than 50 percent and less than or equal to 75 percent, 25 points for greater than 75 percent)</p> <p>Note: Documentation must be provided to receive points under this category</p>	25	
<p>3. Ratio of the total acres of land in the parcel to be protected to average farm size in the county according to the most recent USDA Census of Agriculture (USDA - NASS - Census of Agriculture)</p> <p>(0 points for a ratio of 1.0 or less, 7 points for ratios of greater than 1.0 and less than or equal to 2.0, 15 points for ratios of greater than 2.0)</p>	15	
<p>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)</p> <p>(0 points for decrease of 0 percent or less, 1 points for decreases of greater than 0 and less than or equal to 5 percent, 5 points for decrease of greater than 5 and less than or equal to 10 percent, 9 points for decreases of greater than 10 and less than or equal to 15 percent, 15 points for decreases of more than 15 percent) National mandate – 0 points for 0 percent or less</p>	15	
<p>5. Decrease in the percentage of acreage of permanent grassland, pasture, and rangeland, other than cropland and woodland pasture, in the county in which the parcel is located between the last two USDA Censuses of Agriculture (USDA - NASS - Census of Agriculture)</p> <p>(0 points for decrease of 0 percent or less, 3 points for decreases of greater than 0 and less than or equal to 5 percent, 5 points for decrease of greater than 5 and less than or equal to 10 percent, 8 points for decreases of greater than 10 and less than or equal to 15 percent, 15 points for decreases of more than 15 percent)</p>	15	
National Ranking Factors and Scaling	Maximum Points	Points

<p>6. Percent population growth in the county as documented by the most recent United States Census (US Census Bureau Home Page)</p> <p>(0 points for growth rate of less than one times the State growth rate, 4 points for growth rate of greater than one and less than or equal to two times the State growth rate, 7 points for growth rate of greater than two and less than or equal to three times the State growth rate, 15 points for growth rate of more than three times the State growth rate)</p>	<p>15</p>	
<p>7. Population density (population per square mile) as documented by the most recent United States Census (US Census Bureau Home Page)</p> <p>(0 points for population density less than one times the State population density, 4 points for population density of greater than one and less than or equal to two times the State population density, 7 points for population density of greater than two and less than or equal to three times the State population density, 15 points for population density of greater than three times the State population density)</p>	<p>15</p>	
<p>8. Existence of a farm or ranch succession plan or similar plan established to address farm viability for future generations</p> <p>(0 points for no plan, 7 points for a plan, 15 points for plan documented and performed by industry professional)</p> <p>Note: Documentation must be provided to receive points under this category</p>	<p>15</p>	
<p>9. Proximity of the parcel to other protected land, such as compatible military installations; 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.</p> <p>(0 points easement offer area (EOA) boundary equal or greater than 3 miles from the protected land boundary, 4 points EOA is greater than 1 miles but less than 3 miles from protected land, 7 points EOA is within 1 mile of protected land boundary, 15 points EOA boundary adjoins protected land boundary)</p> <p>Note: Documentation must be provided to receive points under this category</p>	<p>15</p>	
<p>10. Proximity of the parcel to other agricultural operations and agricultural infrastructure</p> <p>(0 points if EOA boundary equal or greater than 3 miles in proximity, 4 points if EOA is greater than or equal to 1 mile but less than 3 miles in proximity, 7 points EOA is within 1 mile in proximity, 15 points EOA boundary adjoins)</p> <p>Note: Documentation must be provided to receive points under this category</p>	<p>15</p>	
<p>11. Parcel ability to maximize the protection of contiguous or proximal acres devoted to agricultural use</p> <p>(15 points if the parcel links two non-continuous corridors of protected agricultural use, 8 points if parcel is a contiguous or proximal expansion of agricultural use protected area, 4 points if parcel is ¼ mile or less (proximal) to</p>	<p>15</p>	

acres devoted to agricultural use, 0 points if parcel does not increase a protected agricultural use area) Note: Documentation must be provided to receive points under this category		
12. Parcel currently enrolled in CRP in a contract that is set to expire within a year Note: Documentation must be provided to receive points under this category (10 points for Yes, 0 points for No)	10	
13. The parcel is a grassland of special environmental significance that will benefit from the protection under the long-term easement. Project is wholly or partially within the boundaries of the Western Washington or Eastern Washington Grasslands of Special Environmental Significance areas as shown on maps on the NRCS Washington ACEP ALE web page: Note: Documentation must be provided to receive points under this category (5 points if Yes, 0 points if No)	5	
Total Points for National Ranking Factors	200	

State Ranking Factors (Maximum of 200 Points)		
State Ranking Factors	Maximum Points	Points
1. Protecting the parcel provides multifunctional benefits of farm or ranch land protection or improvement, such as: Percent of Prime or unique soils in the parcel to be protected is greater than 50 percent of the total parcel acreage. (51-74% =15 pts, 75% or greater =40 pts) Note: Documentation must be provided to receive points under this category	40	
2. Eligible entity has demonstrated performance in managing and enforcing easements by monitoring 80 percent or more of its easements each year (25 points for Yes, 0 points for No or if there is no documentation to support a “Yes” determination)	25	
3. Protecting the parcel provides multifunctional benefits of farm or ranch land protection or improvement, such as: Parcel contains historical or archaeological resources that will be protected by easement area as described in 528.33.B (2) (5 points if Yes, 0 points if No) Note: Documentation must be provided to receive points under this category	5	

<p>4. Protecting the parcel provides multifunctional benefits of farm or ranch land protection or improvement, such as:</p> <p>Will social and economic benefits be derived by enrolling lands from historically underserved groups (528.190.DDD, small scale farmers (USDA definition: <\$250,000 gross annual sales USDA Small Farm Definitions - eXtension), limited resource landowners (528.190.NNN), beginning farmer or ranchers (528.190.M) or veteran landowners (528.190.PPPP)?</p> <p>(15 points for Yes, 0 points for No) Note: Documentation must be provided to receive points under this category</p>	<p>15</p>	
<p>5. Enrollment of parcel will provide diversity of natural resource protections or improvements</p> <p>Project is wholly or partially within the boundaries of the Western Washington or Eastern Washington Grasslands of Special Environmental Significance areas as shown on maps on the NRCS Washington ACEP ALE web page:</p> <p>(20 points for Yes, 0 points for No)</p>	<p>20</p>	
<p>6. Parcel contains habitat for at-risk species:</p> <p>Federal or State listed or candidate Threatened or Endangered species located on, or within ¼ mile, of parcel to be protected. This includes USFWS & NMFS Designated Critical Habitat polygons for listed species. For ALE-GSS applications in the Sage Grouse Initiative funding pool the parcel to be protected is within the Targeted Conservation Actions Area. For all ACEP-ALE applications in the Sentinel Landscape area, the parcel to be protected is within one of the USFWS - Identified Reserve Priority Areas for three of the listed sub-species of Mazama pocket gopher: Olympia pocket gopher (Thomomys mazama pugetensis), Tenino pocket gopher (T. m.tumuli) and Yelm pocket gopher (T. m. yelmensis). (35 points)</p> <p>State species of concern located on, or within ¼ mile, of parcel to be protected. For ALE-GSS applications in the Sage Grouse Initiative funding pool the parcel to be protected is within the Flexible Dispersed Actions Area (15 points)</p>	<p>35</p>	

<p>7. Protecting the parcel provides multifunctional benefits of farm or ranch land protection or improvement, such as:</p> <p>Protection of parcel will have long term social and economic benefits towards supporting access to local markets for small scale farms - Documentation of farm sales within the past 2 calendar years to local markets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sales within 10 miles or less of parcel = 30 points - Sales within 11-50 miles of parcel = 20 points - Sales within 50-150 miles of parcel = 10 points <p>Note: Documentation must be provided to receive points under this category</p>	30	
<p>8. Protecting the parcel provides multifunctional benefits of farm or ranch land protection or improvement, such as:</p> <p>Is parcel to be protected in an area zoned as agricultural use or open space? (5 points for Yes, 0 points for No)</p> <p>(Note: Documentation must be provided to receive points under this category)</p>	5	
<p>9. Protecting the parcel provides multifunctional benefits of farm or ranch land protection or improvement, such as:</p> <p>Has there been recent significant capital investment(s) that enhance the long term agricultural viability of the parcel being offered for protection and the investment will be further protected by the conservation easement? (Documentation that investment has a 5 year or greater depreciation schedule).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, investment within past 2 calendar years = 15 points Yes, investment within past 3-5 calendar years = 8 points Yes, investment within past 6-10 calendar years = 4 points No, or greater than 10 years = 0 points <p>Note: Documentation must be provided to receive points under this category</p>	15	
<p>10. Will the conservation easement deed prohibit the legal or “de facto” subdivision of the property and contain language that requires all existing parcels encumbered by the easement to be conveyed together as a single parcel?</p> <p>10 points for Yes – 0 points for No. (To be awarded these points the cooperating entity must submit draft deed language they will be using that satisfies the intent of this ranking criteria question. Final acceptance of this language will be done during the NRCS deed review period prior to closing.)</p>	10	
<p>Total Points for State Ranking Factors</p>	<p>200</p>	

TOTAL PARCEL POINTS (National + State ranking Points)	POINTS	Maximum 400	Score
Cooperating Entity Name	Landowner Name		

Minimum Point Threshold Total Score is 150 points
 Threshold Met

<input type="checkbox"/>	YES
<input type="checkbox"/>	NO

If **all** Eligibilities are “Yes” **and** the Minimum Point Threshold is “Yes” the parcel can be considered for funding.

If **any** Eligibility is “No” **or** the Minimum Point Threshold is “No” the parcel cannot be considered for funding.

Parcel Can Be Considered for Funding:

<input type="checkbox"/>	YES
<input type="checkbox"/>	NO

Reason for Not Considered: _____

NRCS Employee Completing Ranking

Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

NRCS Employee Completing At Risk Species Evaluation and Identifying Required Conservation Practices for ALEP RMS Plan

Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____