



2019 ACEP WETLAND RESERVE EASEMENT VERMONT RANKING CRITERIA

TOTAL RANKING SCORE (from page 5) _____

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 35 points _____
- 2. 0.5 - 0.74 25 points _____
- 3. 0.25 - 0.49 15 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.

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

- 1. Greater than 50 acres 35 points _____
- 2. 25 - 50 acres 25 points _____
- 3. 10 - 25 acres 15 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. 75 to 100% 5 points
- 2. 61 to 74% 3 points
- 3. 50 to 60% 1 point

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. _____

1. Includes Contiguous Riparian Area - 10 points
2. Within 300 ft. - 6 points
3. Within active floodplain - 3 points
4. 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 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

J. Working Lands for Wildlife, Wood Turtle or Spotted Turtle Habitat improved:

1. Easement is planned within a Focal Core Area from Turtle Conservation Plans -- assign 25 points
2. Multiple Wood or Spotted turtles have been documented on planned easement. Evidence of sustaining population/monitoring for the site. – assign 20 points
3. Wood or spotted turtles documented on easement or nearby (within 1 mile). Note professional judgment should be used to assure single occurrences are in suitable habitat. – assign 15 points
4. Suitable wood or spotted turtle habitat on planned easement - assign 10 points
5. No suitable wood or spotted turtle habitat on planned easement - 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 \$1500 5 points _____
- 2. \$1,501 to \$2,0003 points _____
- 3. \$2,001 to \$2,500 1 points _____
- 5. Greater than \$2,500 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

G. Is there an existing easement of any type currently proposed on any of the land being proposed for enrollment?

1. Yes Subtract 25 points

2. No..... 0 points

PROJECT TYPE AND COST RANKING _____

TOTAL RANKING SCORE _____

Note: total possible points = **200**, if a project scores **below 90 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: