



2019 ACEP WETLAND RESERVE EASEMENT VERMONT RANKING CRITERIA RIPARIAN CORRIDOR PROJECTS

TOTAL RANKING SCORE (from page 4) _____

Landowner Name: _____ Date: _____

Town: _____ County: _____

Reference Number: _____ Evaluators: _____

Total Acres: _____ Wetland Acres: _____ Upland Acres: _____

Cropland/Hayland Acres: _____ DCP Acres: _____

NOTE: If the area contains more than 50% hydric soils and some hydrologic restoration is possible then the project should be ranked using the Wetland Restoration Projects ranking form. Hydrologic restoration is not required for Riparian Corridor Projects.

I. ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

A. Soil Limitations:

- 1. More than 80% of soils in GARC category 3 30 points _____
- 2. More than 50% of soils in GARC category 3 20 points
- 3. More than 80% of soils in GARC categories 2 or 3 .10 points
- 4. More than 50% of soils in GARC categories 2 or 3 .. 5 points
- 5. Less than 51% of soils in GARC categories 2 or 3 ... 0 points

B. Amount of restoration to be completed: _____

- 1. Tree/shrub planting or natural regeneration over 50% or more of project area - 10 points
- 2. Tree/shrub planting or natural regeneration over less than 50% of project area - 5 points
- 3. No tree/shrub planting or natural regeneration needed - 0 points

C. Length of the Riparian Corridor (Measure length of protected streambank, both sides of rivers can be measured and then totaled if applicable):

- 1. 0.5 miles to 1.0 miles..... 25 points _____
- 3. 1,000 ft - 0.49 miles 10 points
- 4. 100 ft - 999 ft 5 points
- 5. Less than 100 ft 1 point



D. Width of Riparian Corridor _____

- 1. Greater than 200 ft, or 75% or more of valley floor .. 25 points
- 2. 100 ft - 199 ft, or 50% - 74% of valley floor10 points
- 3. 25 ft - 99 ft, or 10% - 24% of valley floor 5 point
- 4. Less than 25 ft, or less than 10% of valley floor1 point

Note: The percent of valley floor criteria is meant to be used in narrow valleys where it is not possible to protect wide riparian corridors.

E. 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

F. 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



- G. 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 Riparian Corridor: _____

- 1. Minimal or no management of the site. - assign 10 points
- 2. Infrequent maintenance required (such as Re-planting trees or brush control) - 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 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 \$1,500 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 = **180**, if a project scores **70 or lower 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 on Reverse Side

Notes and Comments: