

2020 WETLAND RESERVE EASEMENT ENVIRONMENTAL SITE EVALUATION KENTUCKY

NEST Number _____

Owner(s) (as listed on deed or POA) _____ Date _____ FSN _____ Tract _____ County _____ Mailing Address: _____ City: _____

Total Acres in Application: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

*Total Eligible Acres in Application: _____ Phone: (Home) _____ (Work) _____

*Eligible areas can include a 300' riparian buffer on 1" order streams and larger when the buffer connects existing or restorable wetland areas that are protected with an easement or will be protected by the WRE easement.

Permanent Offer [] 30-year Offer []

Latitude _____ Longitude _____ Topo Quad Name: _____

Screening Questions

A yes answer to question 1, 2, 3, or 4 below will result in the application being a low priority. Low priority applications will not be ranked unless funding is available after higher priority applications have been considered for funding.

- 1) Has the boundary been manipulated by the landowner so that the offer cannot be efficiently managed or effectively restored as determine by NRCS?
2) Are there existing water control structures located on the easement (that cannot be removed by NRCS) that manage water off the easement (unless landowner agrees to convey a non- revocable flooding easement), or existing water control structures located off of the easement that manage water on the easement?
3) Has a previous offer made to the current landowner(s) been refused within the past 18 months?
4) Is the offer for a 30-year easement?

Ranking Factors

Point Values

Table with 2 columns: Ranking Factors and Point Values. Rows include Local Significance (Special Interest Areas, Proximity to Protected Areas), Wildlife Habitat (Threatened & Endangered Species, Wildlife Corridors, Adjacent Forestland, Easement Size), and Water Quality (Cropping History, Proximity of Main Stem of River System).

- IV. Hydrology
 - 1) Percentage of the Easement Composed Of PC Land.....= _____
 - 2) Adequate Source of Hydrology.....= _____
 - 3) Types of Hydrology Restoration Practices.....= _____
 - V. Percent of Total Easement Area that meets identified categories (ACEP Manual 440-528.105) of land eligible for WRE.....= _____
 - VI. Riparian Area.....= _____
 - VII. Operation, Maintenance and Management Factors
 - 1) Existing Timber Quality.....= _____
 - 2) Contiguous Easement.....= _____
 - VIII. Cost Factor
 - 1) Easement Cost Factor.....= _____
 - 2) Restoration Cost Factor.....= _____
- TOTAL POINT VALUE OF RANKING FACTORS.....= _____**

Point Values of Ranking Factors for Kentucky WRE

Ranking Factor	Maximum Point Value	Approximate % of Total Score
Local Significance		
Special Interest Areas	15	2
Proximity to Protected Areas	30	5
Wildlife habitat		
T&E species and State Conservation Agreement Species	25	4
Wildlife Corridors	10	1
Adjacent Forestland	20	3
Size of Easement	60	9
Water Quality		
Cropping History	50	8
Proximity to main stem of river system	30	5
Hydrology		
Percentage of the Easement Composed Of PC Land	95	14
Adequate source of Hydrology	95	14
Types of Hydrology Restoration Practices	70	10
Percent of Total Easement Area that meets identified categories of land eligible for WRE	60	9
Riparian Area	10	1
Operation, Maintenance and Management Factors		
Existing Timber Quality	40	6
Contiguous Easement	25	4
Cost Factors		
Easement Cost Factor	20	3
Restoration Cost Factor	20	3
TOTALS	675	~100

I. LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE

1) Special Interest Areas

Restoration is in or near one of the special interest areas identified on the attached Special Interest Area map. **Note: For the Jackson Purchase Area Only, offers inside identified WREP areas will receive 15 points and all other offers will receive 5 points.**

Site is in area.....	15
Site is within 2 miles of area	5
Site is not in or within 2 miles of area.....	0

15 Points Maximum _____

2) Proximity to Protected Areas

Proximity of easement area to permanently protected conservation area (federal/state wildlife refuges, nature conservancy lands, and other permanently protected areas (i.e., WRE) with management objectives similar to the easement area).

<u>Distance</u>	<u>Points</u>
Adjacent.....	30
Within 1 mile.....	20
> 1 - 5 miles.....	10
>5 miles.....	0

30 Points Maximum _____

II. WILDLIFE HABITAT

1) Benefits To Threatened & Endangered Species

This question applies to any contribution to protection/recovery of federally listed threatened, endangered or candidate species or the copperbelly water snake. Benefits to these species will be determined and documented by the KY Interagency Coordination Tool (KICT). Species benefited are identified in section I of the KICT report. Potential benefits are described in section IV of the report. (NOTE: Benefits are contingent upon application of any avoidance measures described within the report.) Points shall be awarded for the highest category that applies. If points are awarded for benefits, attach the supporting KICT report.

Practices planned benefit no species	0 pts
Practices planned benefit two species (i.e. NLEB and IBAT)	5 pts
Practices planned benefit species of concern (copperbelly watersnake)	10 pts
Practices planned benefit NLEB and IBAT and occur within 5 miles of hibernacula	15 pts
Practices planned benefit NLEB and IBAT and occur within 2.5 miles of maternity colony	20 pts
Practices planned benefit three or more species (excluding hibernacula and maternity colonies)	25 pts

25 Points Maximum _____

2) Wildlife Corridors

Will the easement area provide a wooded corridor at least 100' wide that connects existing blocks of forested areas of at least 20 acres in size considered quality habitat? (To receive points the forested block must be at least 500' in width somewhere along its length.)

Yes 10
 No 0

10 Points Maximum _____

3) Proximity of Large Blocks of Forestland

Adjacent to >500 acres of forestland or planned forestland20
 Adjacent to >300 acres of forestland or planned forestland15
 Adjacent to >100 acres of forestland or planned forestland5

(To receive points for planned forestland, the acreage must be covered by a CRP or WRE/WRP contract or conservation easement.)

20 Points Maximum _____

4) Total easement acres offered.

<u>Acres</u>	<u>Points</u>
>300.....	60
150-300.....	40
80-149.....	20
20-79.....	10
<20.....	0

60 Points Maximum

III. WATER QUALITY

1) Cropping History

Cropping history will be used to assign a point value for the amount of non-point source pollution reduced as a result of wetland restoration on the easement area. The existing crop or last crop grown will be used for this factor. Offering must have had a crop grown within the last 5 years to receive points. CRP Acreage will be considered as cropland for this question. Grassland must have been mowed or grazed in the last 5 years to receive points. Points will be assigned by a weighted average calculated as follows:

<u>CROP</u>	<u>POINTS</u>	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>WEIGHTED AVERAGE</u> <u>POINTS</u>
Row Crop	50 x	()	= _____
Grassland	25 x	()	= _____
Forestland, wetland and/or No Crop or Hay Produced in the last 5 years	0 x	()	= _____

Ranking Point Value = Sum of Weighted Average Points/Total Acres Offered

50 Points Maximum _____

2) Proximity to main stem of river system

Offered easement is part of a floodplain area adjacent to the main stem of a fifth order or larger stream. (National Hydrography Dataset shall be used for this determination)

30 Points Maximum _____

IV. HYDROLOGY RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT

1) Percentage of the Easement Composed Of Prior Converted Cropland (PC)

Percent of the easement area composed of PC land. Farmed Wetland will not receive points for this question. In the absence of a NRCS 026 wetland determination, hydric soils and soils with hydric inclusions that are cleared and drained and not FW may be used to estimate the amount of PC.

Acres Of PC _____ / Total Easement Acres _____ *100 = _____ %

- Between 76-100% of the easement acres composed of PC 95
- Between 51-75% of the easement acres composed of PC 65
- Between 26-50% of the easement acres composed of PC 35
- Between 0-25% of the easement acres composed of PC 0

95 Points Maximum _____

2) Adequate Source of Hydrology

Location of easement area ensures a source of hydrology adequate to maintain wetland functions and values.

- a) Majority (>50%) of easement acreage will receive annual flooding from over bankflows 95
- b) Majority (>50%) of easement acreage will receive frequent (at least 3 of 5 years) overbank flow 65
- c) Majority (>50%) of easement acreage within a ponded, depressional area 35
- d) Majority (>50%) of easement acreage historically contained saturated soils due to groundwater or water table conditions..... 15

95 Points Maximum _____

3) Award points for each of the following practices that will be completed as part of the hydrology restoration plan.

- Tile Break(18 Points)..... _____
- Ditch Plug (18 Points) *Points may be awarded for ditch plug if an embankment will be used to control flow in a ditch that leaves the easement.*..... _____
- Levee Break (17 Points)..... _____
- Wetland Microtopography Restoration (17 Points)..... _____

70 Points Maximum _____

V. PERCENT OF TOTAL EASEMENT AREA THAT MEETS IDENTIFIED CATEGORIES (440-528.105) OF LAND ELIGIBLE FOR WRE

WRE provisions allow for the enrollment of “adjacent lands” that will contribute significantly to the functions and values of the restored wetland ecosystem as long as the “adjacent lands” do not exceed 50%* of the total easement area. However, the primary emphasis of WRE is on wetland restoration. Those intentions offering a lower percentage of “adjacent lands” will receive the highest rating for this factor. Lands eligible for WRE and not considered adjacent lands are defined in the ACEP Manual 440-528.105.

- >90% of the easement area..... 60
- 80% - 89% of the easement area 40
- 70% - 79% of the easement area 20
- 60% - 69% of the easement area 10
- less than 60% of the easement area 0

60 Points Maximum _____

VI. RIPARIAN AREA

Easement area includes riparian areas adjacent to a stream that will be restored or enhanced according to the NRCS riparian buffer standard 10

10 Points Maximum _____

VII. EASEMENT OPERATION, MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT FACTOR

1) Management of Timber Quality:

- a) **NO** timber harvested from the offered acres in the last 3 years..... 40
- b) Timber **HAS** been harvested from the offered acres within the last 3 years 0

40 Points Maximum _____

2) Easement Configuration - If more than one of the following applies, use the one that provides for the least points:

- a) The easement is made up of a contiguous block of land and existing water control structures that manage easement water are located on the easement..... 25
- b) The easement offer is divided by non-eligible acres, a road right-of-way, non-eligible CRP, or other non-easement area that is beyond the control of the landowner 10
- c) The boundary has been manipulated by the landowner so that the offer is cut-up, divided by eligible acres, or separated by non-easement area (block of non-easement area has been cut out of the middle or a long strip extends into the easement)... 0
- d) Existing water control structures located on the easement (that cannot be removed by NRCS) manage water off the easement (unless landowner agrees to convey a non-revocable flooding easement), or existing water control structures located off of the easement manage water on the easement..... 0

25 Points Maximum _____

NOTE: The easement offer must be of sufficient size and properly configured boundaries that allow for the efficient management of the easement.

VIII. COST FACTORS

1) Easement Cost Factor

- Landowner offer is $\leq 90\%$ of the easement compensation value 20
- Landowner offer is $\leq 95\%$ of the easement compensation value 10
- Landowner offer is $> 95\%$ of the easement compensation value 0

20 Points Maximum _____

2) Restoration Cost Factor

- Total average restoration cost/Total RESTORED Acres $\leq \$800/\text{acre}$ 20
- Total average restoration cost/Total RESTORED Acres $> \$800/\text{acre}$ 0

20 Points Maximum _____

Are there existing easements on the application property? (answer yes or no, there are no points assigned to this question) _____

TOTAL RANKING CRITERIA POINTS

WRE Team Leader (Planning Conservationist)

Date

Supervisory Natural Resources Manager

Date

Biologist

Date

Engineer

Date

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Date

Restoration Responsibility

Landowner intends to complete hydrology restoration	YES	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO	<input type="checkbox"/>
Landowner intends to complete reforestation	YES	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO	<input type="checkbox"/>

I (we) have reviewed this evaluation, preliminary plan worksheet, Hydrology Restoration Table, and the Vegetative Restoration Table. I (we) also understand that practice units and cost estimates are approximate on the preliminary plan worksheet and attached tables. (A detailed plan with estimated practice units and costs will be developed if your application is accepted into the Wetland Reserve Easement.)

Applicant

Date

Applicant

Date

Applicant

Date

Preliminary Plan Worksheet

Is the intention eligible? _____ Discuss issues of concern. _____

Eligible Acres

Total Eligible Acres that meet identified categories of land eligible for WRE (excluding adjacent land and problem soils) _____ Acres

*Eligible areas can include a 300' riparian buffer on 1st order streams and larger when eligible soils are included in the offer.

Other Acres

Upland _____ Acres Wetland Forestland _____ Acres

Emergent Freshwater Wetlands _____ Acres

Water supply adequate for restoration objectives? Yes _____ No _____

Water supply adequate for enhancement objectives? Yes _____ No _____

<u>Estimated Hydrology Restoration</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Projected</u>
Flooding extent (ac)	_____	_____
Ponding extent (ac)	_____	
Water Table Extent (ac)	_____	
Flooding duration (wk+, mo+)	_____	
Season of flooding (W, S, SU, F)	_____	
Ponding duration (wk+, mo+)	_____	
Season of ponding (W, S, SU, F)	_____	

Table 1. WR-1, Hydrology Restoration.

Approximate location of all hydrologic practices should be documented on an attached aerial photograph.

Practice	Field Nos.	Estimated Amounts (units)	Cost Basis	Cost Share Rate	Total Cost
Water Control Structure					
Ditch Plug					
Dike					
Levee Break					
Tile Break					
List Others:					
Total Cost					

See attached map for approximate placement of hydrology restoration practices.

Table 2. WR-2, Vegetative Restoration

Practice	Field Nos.	Estimated Amounts (Units)	Cost Basis	Cost Share Rate	Total Cost
Tree Planting Seedlings					
Tree Planting Direct Seeded					
Potted Trees					
Natural Regeneration					
Native Grass Planting					
Levee Planting					
List Others:					

See attached map for placement of vegetative practices.

Riparian Areas (land within 300 feet of a water body, stream, or river is considered to be riparian)

Existing Acres _____ Restorable Acres _____

Restoration Plan Comments: _____

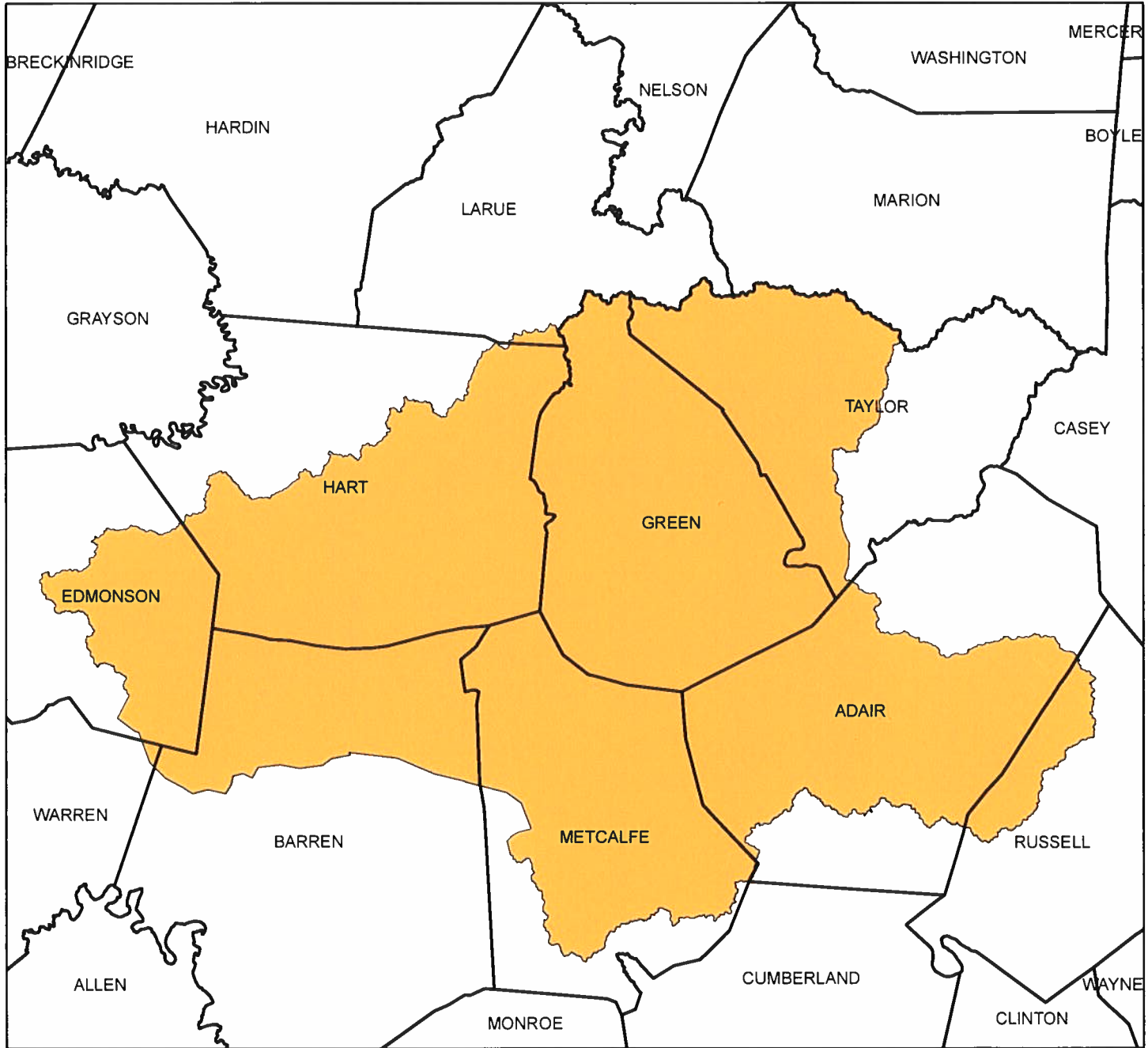
Sketch preliminary plan or attach map showing planned extent

ACEP-WRE CREP Waiver Boundary

Allen Arthur Handout


State Conservationist Waiver to extend the riparian link to include the 100 year floodplain for land eligibility (440-528.105, E. (5))

State Conservationist Waiver to extend eligible adjacent lands from 1:1 to 5:1 (440-528.105, I. (2))



Prepared with assistance from USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service

Legend

 cntys24k_a_KY

 ACEP-WRE CREP Waiver Boundary



Emergency Watershed Protection Program Floodplain Easements (EWPP-FPE)

2020 Ranking Sheet

Applicant	<input type="text"/>	County	<input type="text"/>	Application #	<input type="text"/>
Address	<input type="text"/>			Date	<input type="text"/>
City	<input type="text"/>			Farm#	<input type="text"/>
State, Zip	<input type="text"/>			Tract#	<input type="text"/>
Telephone	<input type="text"/>				
Email	<input type="text"/>				

Flood Damaged Acres	<input type="text"/>
Adjacent Acres	<input type="text"/>
Total Acres in Application	<input type="text"/>

Evaluation Criteria

Points Score

1) Frequency of damage from flooding (Damage to land)

- A. At least two years in the last 5 years 10
- B. At least once in the past 12 months 5

Question 1 Score

2) Proximity to other permanently protected lands (within the same watershed)

- A. Adjacent 10
- B. Within 1 mile 5
- C. > 1 mile 0

Question 2 Score

3) Proximity to Mississippi or Ohio River

- A. Adjacent 10
- B. Within 1 mile 5
- C. > 1 mile 0

Question 3 Score

4) Easement acres offered

- A. >300 acres 15
- B. 150 - 300 acres 10
- C. 80 - 149 acres 5
- D. 20 - 79 acres 3
- E. < 20 acres 0

Question 4 Score

5) Water Quality

Cropland must have had an annually-tilled crop grown within the last 5 years to receive points.

Grassland must have been mowed or grazed in the last 5 years to receive points.

Points will be assigned by a weighted average calculated as follows:

	Acres	Points	Weighted
Cropland	<input type="text"/>	X 50 =	<input type="text"/>
Grassland	<input type="text"/>	X 25 =	<input type="text"/>
Forest, wetland, or no crop/hay produced in last 5 years	<input type="text"/>	X 0 =	<input type="text"/>
Total Acres:	<input type="text"/>	0 Total =	<input type="text"/>

*Score = sum of weighted average points/Total acres

Question 5 Score #DIV/0!

6) Floodplain functionality

Enter % that applies (as decimal)

A. % of flood-damaged acreage in floodway or 100 year floodplain	<input type="text"/>	20	<input type="text" value="0"/>
B. % of flood-damaged acreage not in floodway/floodplain	<input type="text"/>	1	<input type="text" value="0"/>

TOTAL MUST EQUAL 1

Question 6 Score

7) Benefits to T/E Species

This question applies to any contribution to protection/recovery of federally-listed threatened, endangered, or candidate species or the copperbelly water snake. Benefits to these species will be determined and documented by the KY Interagency Coordination Tool (KICT). Species benefitted are identified in Section I of the KICT report. Potential benefits are described in Section IV of the report. (Note: Benefits are contingent upon application of any avoidance measures described within the report.) Points shall be awarded for the highest category that applies. If points are awarded for benefits, attach the supporting KICT report.

A. Practices planned benefit 3 or more species	25
B. Practices planned benefit NLEB and IBAT and occur within 2.5 miles of maternity colony	20
C. Practices planned benefit NLEB and IBAT and occur within 5 miles of hibernacula	15
D. Practices planned benefit species of concern (copperbelly water snake)	10
E. Practices planned benefit 2 species (NLEB and IBAT)	5
F. Practices planned benefit no species	0

Question 7 Score

8) Restoration Cost Factor (Total restoration cost / Total acres)

Cost is between \$400 - \$600/acre

A. Yes	Restoration \$	<input type="text"/>	10
B. No	Total Acres	0	0
	Cost/Acre	#DIV/0!	

Question 8 Score

9) Partner agrees to assume long-term maintenance/management

A. Yes	10
B. No	0

Question 9 Score

10) The landowner is willing to accept a reduction in easement compensation.

A. Landowner offer = 90% of the easement compensation value	10
B. Landowner offer = 95% of the easement compensation value	5
C. No reduction	0

Question 10 Score

11) Other non-federal, non-landowner easement compensation sources offered to reduce the cost to the government?

A. 50% or more of total cost provided	15
B. 25% or more of total cost provided	10
C. 10% or more of total cost provided	5
D. No other source	0

Question 11 Score

12) Are there excessive permitting requirements or high levels of complexity for engineering design, practice application, or operation/maintenance?

A. No	5
B. Yes	0

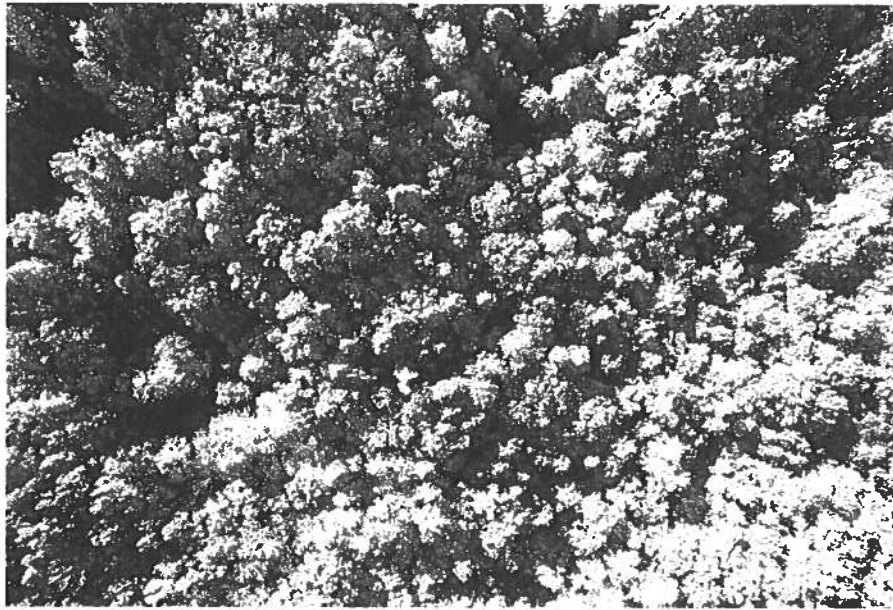
Question 12 Score

Total =

Comments

WORKING LANDS FOR WILDLIFE

HEALTHY FORESTS RESERVE PROGRAM



MIKE WILKINSON

OVERVIEW

The purpose of the Healthy Forests Reserve Program (HFRP) is to assist landowners, on a voluntary basis, in restoring, enhancing and protecting forestland resources on private lands.

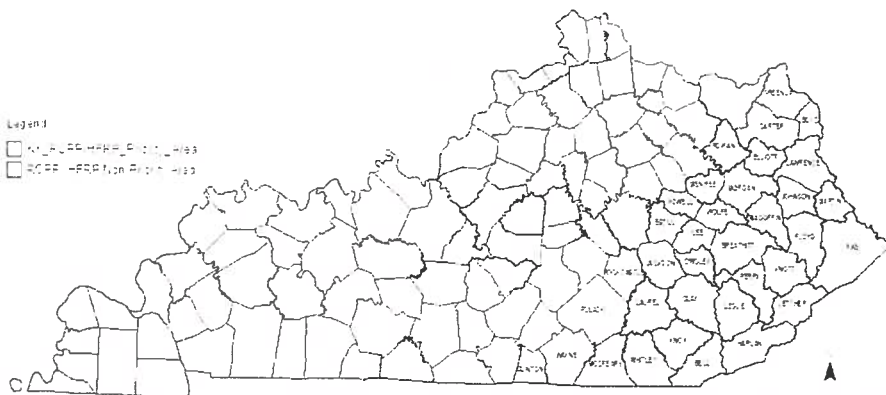
Kentucky's HFRP is a partnership between The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The objectives of the HFRP and this partnership are to:

- Protect working forest lands through conservation easements
- Improve forest management via certified management plan development and implementation
- Enhance carbon sequestration by enabling landowners to develop forest carbon credits and access forest carbon markets.
- Promote the recovery of endangered and threatened species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA)
- Improve plant and animal biodiversity

ELIGIBILITY

Landowners of private forestland and tribes are eligible to apply for HFRP. Socially disadvantaged, beginning and limited resource farmers, Indian tribes and veterans are encouraged to apply. HFRP applicants must provide proof of ownership, or an operator (tenant) must provide written concurrence from the landowner of tenancy.

Eligible counties for the HFRP Project Area are shown on the map below.



LANDOWNER BENEFITS

Restoring and protecting forests contributes to the economy, provides biodiversity of plants and animal populations, and improves environmental quality.

The HFRP provides financial assistance in the form of easement payments for specific conservation actions to be completed by the landowner.

In addition, eligible landowners will receive:

- Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) forest management plan for property
- Forest carbon inventory
- Carbon credit development
- Carbon credit marketing
- Potential for additional income from sale of carbon credits

RANKING PROCESS

Permanent HFRP Easement.

Applications from landowners offering to place permanent HFRP easements will be prioritized in the ranking process.

Carbon Sequestration.

Landowners must be willing to develop a forest carbon project with The Nature Conservancy. Eligible landowners with forested properties containing a minimum of 125,000 Tons CO₂ equivalent total and a minimum of 75 Tons CO₂ equivalent per acre will be prioritized in the ranking process. On average, an acre of eastern US hardwood forest sequesters 85 Tons of CO₂ equivalent.

HOW TO APPLY

For more information or to apply for HFRP, contact Will Bowling, Kentucky HFRP representative, at (606)599-6077



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