

COLORADO ACEP-WRE RANKING CRITERIA (2018 FARM BILL)

Criteria #	Ranking Question	Response	Points Awarded	Maximum Point Totals	
1A	CRITERIA: The cost effectiveness of each easement.  QUESTION: What percentage of the total restoration cost will be borne by other factors, such as from partner contributions or landowner contributions?	Greater than 50%	20		
		50% or less but greater than 25%	10		
		25% or less but greater than 15%	8		
		15% or less but greater than 10%	6		
		10% or less but greater than 0%	4		
		0%	0		
1B	CRITERIA: The cost effectiveness of each easement.  QUESTION: What is the cost of restoration per acre that will be borne by NRCS? (Answer one)  <i>Note: \$/ac = Total NRCS Cost of Restoration / Total Acreage of Land Offered for Enrollment. The NRCS cost is 100% for permanent easements and 75% for 30-year enrollments.</i>	Less than \$75.	20		
		Equal to \$75 to less than \$100.	15		
		Equal to \$100 to less than \$125.	10		
		Equal to \$125 to less than \$150.	5		
		Greater than or equal to \$150.	0		
1C	CRITERIA: The cost effectiveness of each easement.  QUESTION: The risk or on-going expense associated with operation and maintenance of structures or other practices constructed to support restoration or enhancement is _____.	Little to none	20		
		Moderate	10		
		High	0		
2	CRITERIA: Whether the landowner or another person or entity is offering to contribute financially to the cost of the easement or other interest in the land to leverage Federal funds.  QUESTION: The landowner is contributing _____ to the cost of the easement or other interest (i.e., easement fair market value or equivalent) in the land offered for enrollment. Note: Includes any donated value.	Greater than 50%	15		
		50% or less but more than 25%	10		
		25% or less but more than 10%	5		
		10% or less	0		
			<b>Subtotal: Program - Cost (1A-2)</b>	<b>75</b>	

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3	CRITERIA: The extent to which the purposes of this part [ACEP-WRE] would be achieved on the land.	Yes	15	
	QUESTION: Is the land offered for enrollment directly associated with another ACEP-WRE enrollment or application or predecessor program closed easement, furthering the purposes of ACEP-WRE?	No	0	
4	CRITERIA: The productivity of the land.	Greater than or equal to 80%	25	
	QUESTION: What percentage of the land offered for enrollment was formerly cultivated cropland or productive pastureland or rangeland within the last five years as of the date of application?	50% to 80%	14	
		25% to 50%	7	
		Less than 25%	0	
5A	CRITERIA: The on-farm and off-farm environmental threats if the land is used for the production of agricultural commodities.	Five (5) or more	20	
	QUESTION: Based on the current use of the land, how many agriculturally-related environmental risks and/or resource concerns would be mitigated through protection and restoration of the land offered for enrollment?	Four (4)	15	
		Three (3)	10	
		Two (2)	5	
		One (1) or less	0	
		None of the land is currently in agricultural production.	0	

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5B	<p>CRITERIA: The on-farm and off-farm environmental threats if the land is used for the production of agricultural commodities.</p> <p>QUESTION: If left subject to agricultural production, are there isolated wetlands on the land offered for enrollment that would be lost? NOTE: Isolated wetlands are defined by landscape position as “wetlands with no apparent surface water connection to perennial rivers and streams, estuaries, or the ocean.” These geographically isolated wetlands were surrounded by dry land. (Reference: <a href="https://www.fws.gov/wetlands/Documents/Geographically-Isolated-Wetlands-A-Preliminary-Assessment-of-Their-Characteristics-and-Status-in-Selected-Areas-of-the-United-States-Fact-Sheet.pdf">https://www.fws.gov/wetlands/Documents/Geographically-Isolated-Wetlands-A-Preliminary-Assessment-of-Their-Characteristics-and-Status-in-Selected-Areas-of-the-United-States-Fact-Sheet.pdf</a>)</p>	Yes	10	<b>Subtotal: Program - Miscellaneous (3-6)</b>	<b>75</b>
		No	0		
6	<p>CRITERIA: Such other factors as NRCS determines are necessary to carry out the purposes of the program.</p> <p>QUESTION: Is the land offered for enrollment (1) currently enrolled in a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contract that is set to expire within one (1) year from the date of application AND (2) is a farmed wetland AND (3) is _____?</p>	likely to return to production once the land leaves CRP.	5		
		not likely to be return to production once the land leave CRP.	2		
		The application does not meet all parameters outlined in the question and/or one of the other answers above.	0		

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7A	<p>CRITERIA: The conservation benefits of obtaining an easement or other interest in the land: (i) Habitat that will be restored for the benefit of migratory birds and wetland-dependent wildlife, including diversity of wildlife that will be benefitted or lifecycle needs that will be addressed.</p> <p>QUESTION: Once restored or enhanced, the habitat present on the land offered for enrollment will provide _____.</p>	Two (2) or more lifecycle needs to specific migratory bird species or other wetland-dependent wildlife.	10	
		One (1) lifecycle need to specific migratory bird species or other wetland-dependent wildlife.	5	
		No lifecycle needs will be addressed for migratory bird species or other wetland-dependent wildlife.	0	
7B	<p>CRITERIA: The conservation benefits of obtaining an easement or other interest in the land: (i) Habitat that will be restored for the benefit of migratory birds and wetland-dependent wildlife, including diversity of wildlife that will be benefitted or lifecycle needs that will be addressed.</p> <p>QUESTION: Once restored or enhanced, the habitat present on the land offered for enrollment will provide for the needs of _____.</p>	More than ten (10) migratory bird or wetland-dependent wildlife species.	12	
		Between five (5) and ten (10) migratory bird or wetland-dependent wildlife species.	8	
		Between one (1) and five (5) migratory bird or wetland-dependent wildlife species.	4	
		Zero (0) migratory bird or wetland-dependent wildlife species.	0	
8	<p>CRITERIA: The conservation benefits of obtaining an easement or other interest in the land: (ii) Extent and use of habitat that will be restored for threatened, endangered, or other at-risk species or number of different at-risk species benefitted.</p> <p>QUESTION: Once restored or enhanced, the land offered for enrollment will provided habitat for the following species AND is within the range of each species: _____. (Answer all applicable; MAX Points = 26):</p>	A Federally threatened, endangered, or candidate species.	8	
		A State threatened, endangered, or species of concern.	6	
		A migratory bird.	8	
		Other wetland dependent wildlife not covered by another answer.	4	
		No species identified or within range and/or no habitat will be present.	0	

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9	<p>CRITERIA: The conservation benefits of obtaining an easement or other interest in the land: (iii) Protection or restoration of native vegetative communities.</p> <p>QUESTION: What percentage of the land offered for enrollment will be restored and/or maintained in native vegetative communities as identified in the Colorado Wetland Restoration Criteria and Guidance (WRCG)?</p>	80% or more	6		
		50% or more and less than 80%	4		
		25% or more and less than 50%	2		
		Less than 25%	0		
10	<p>CRITERIA: The conservation benefits of obtaining an easement or other interest in the land: (iv) Habitat diversity and complexity to be restored.</p> <p>QUESTION: How many native vegetative communities as identified in the Colorado Wetland Restoration Criteria and Guidance (WRCG) are present on the land offered for enrollment or will be present post-restoration on a permanent basis?</p>	Five (5) or more	6		
		Three (3) or more	4		
		One (1) or more	2		
		Zero (0)	0		
11	<p>CRITERIA: The conservation benefits of obtaining an easement or other interest in the land: (v) Proximity and connectivity to other protected habitats.</p> <p>QUESTION: The land offered for enrollment is _____ to other protected habitats on existing ACEP-WRE/WRP/EWPP-FPE easements; Federal, State, NGO, or local government-owned land with similar protections; or privately-owned conservation easements or other projects with similar protections (pending projects excluded).</p>	Adjacent	8		
		Within one-half (1/2) mile	6		
		Between one-half (1/2) mile and one (1) mile	4		
		Between one (1) mile and three (3) miles	2		
		Greater than three (3) miles	0		

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12	<p>CRITERIA: The conservation benefits of obtaining an easement or other interest in the land: (vi) Extent of beneficial adjacent land uses.</p> <p>QUESTION: Is the land offered for enrollment contiguous with other protected wetlands or upland habitats consistent with the management goals of ACEP-WRE?</p>	Yes	8	
		No	0	
13	<p>CRITERIA: The conservation benefits of obtaining an easement or other interest in the land: (vii) Proximity to impaired water bodies.</p> <p>QUESTION: The land offered for enrollment is _____ to an impaired water body (as listed per the Clean Water Act Section 303d) and they are hydrologically connected.</p>	Adjacent	8	
		Within one-quarter (1/4) mile	6	
		Between one-quarter (1/4) mile and one-half (1/2) mile	4	
		Between one-half (1/2) mile and one (1) mile	2	
		Greater than one (1) mile OR no impaired water bodies are hydrologically connected to the wetlands on the land offered for enrollment.	0	
14	<p>CRITERIA: The conservation benefits of obtaining an easement or other interest in the land: (viii) Extent of wetland losses within a geographic area, including wetlands generally or specific wetland types.</p> <p>QUESTION: Does the land offered for enrollment contain a prior-converted wetland (as determined by NRCS) and will it be restored to historic conditions or an acceptable alternative community as described in the Colorado Wetland Restoration Criteria and Guidance (WRCG)?</p>	Yes	8	
		No	0	

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15	<p>CRITERIA: The conservation benefits of obtaining an easement or other interest in the land: (ix) Capacity of the wetland to improve water quality.</p> <p>QUESTION: Are the wetlands on the land offered for enrollment hydrologically connected to and upstream from another waterbody?</p>	Yes	8	<b>Subtotal: Other Conservation Benefits (7A-15)</b>	<b>100</b>
		No	0		
16A	<p>CRITERIA: The conservation benefits of obtaining an easement or other interest in the land: (x) Hydrology restoration potential, which must comprise at least 50 percent of the points for conservation benefits.</p> <p>QUESTION: _____ of the land offered for enrollment has previously been restored or enhanced according to the Wetland Restoration Criteria and Guidance (WRCG) by another entity and the land is being managed to maintain the restored habitat and communities.</p>	Greater than 50%	20		
		50% or less but more than 35%	15		
		35% or less but more than 20%	10		
		20% or less but more than 10%	5		
		10% or less	0		
16B	<p>CRITERIA: The conservation benefits of obtaining an easement or other interest in the land: (x) Hydrology restoration potential, which must comprise at least 50 percent of the points for conservation benefits.</p> <p>QUESTION: To what degree has the land offered for enrollment been altered from its historic hydrology?</p>	More than 80% of the historic hydrology has been lost	30		
		Between 25% and 80% of the historic hydrology has been lost and/or the historic hydrology has only been partially altered	20		
		Between 10% and 25% of the historic hydrology has been lost and/or the historic hydrology has been minimally altered.	10		
		Less than 10% of the historic hydrology has been altered and/or the historic hydrology has not been altered.	0		

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16C	<p>CRITERIA: The conservation benefits of obtaining an easement or other interest in the land: (x) Hydrology restoration potential, which must comprise at least 50 percent of the points for conservation benefits.</p> <p>QUESTION: Of the land offered of enrollment that has been altered from its historic hydrology, what percentage of this land will be restored to its historic hydrology as identified in the Colorado Wetlands Criteria and Guidance (WRCG)?</p>	Greater than 50%	30		
		50% or less but more than 35%	20		
		35% or less but more than 20%	10		
		20% or less but more than 10%	5		
		10% or less	0		
16D	<p>CRITERIA: The conservation benefits of obtaining an easement or other interest in the land: (x) Hydrology restoration potential, which must comprise at least 50 percent of the points for conservation benefits.</p> <p>QUESTION: Of the land offered of enrollment that has been altered from its historic hydrology, what percentage of this land will be restored to an acceptable alternative vegetative community as identified in the Wetland Restoration Criteria and Guidance (WRCG)?</p>	0%; all land will be restored to historic hydrology.	20		
		25% or less but greater than 0%	15		
		50% or less but greater than 25%	10		
		75% or less but greater than 50%	5		
		Greater than 75%	0		



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16E	<p>CRITERIA: The conservation benefits of obtaining an easement or other interest in the land: (x) Hydrology restoration potential, which must comprise at least 50 percent of the points for conservation benefits.</p> <p>QUESTION: What is the primary water source for the land offered for enrollment?</p>	A surface water right	20	<b>Subtotal: Hydrology Restoration Potential Conservation Benefits (must be at least 50% of the points for "Other Conservation Benefits") (16A-16G)</b>	<b>150</b>		
		Surface or ground water existing on site	15				
		Free-flowing river	10				
		Shares in a ditch company	5				
		A well	0				
16F	<p>CRITERIA: The conservation benefits of obtaining an easement or other interest in the land: (x) Hydrology restoration potential, which must comprise at least 50 percent of the points for conservation benefits.</p> <p>QUESTION: Are the water supplies supporting the hydrologic and ecological function of the wetlands subject to administration of water rights by the state AND does the landowner hold a decreed surface or groundwater right that would support the planned hydrologic and ecological functionality of the wetlands in perpetuity?</p>	Yes	15				
		No	0				
16G	<p>CRITERIA: The conservation benefits of obtaining an easement or other interest in the land: (x) Hydrology restoration potential, which must comprise at least 50 percent of the points for conservation benefits.</p> <p>QUESTION: Are the wetlands existing or planned on the land offered for enrollment functional independent of water rights?</p>	Yes	15				
		No	0				
						<b>Grand Total =</b>	<b>400</b>