

**2021 WETLAND RESERVE EASEMENT  
ENVIRONMENTAL SITE EVALUATION  
KENTUCKY**

NEST Number \_\_\_\_\_

Owner(s) (as listed on deed or POA) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ FSN \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_ Tract \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 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<sup>st</sup> 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 determined 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? \_\_\_\_\_ This question can be waived by the state conservationist if the land offered is considered a high priority.
- 4) Is the offer for a 30-year easement? \_\_\_\_\_

**Ranking Factors**

**Point Values**

I.	Local Significance	
	1) Special Interest Areas.....	= _____
	2) Proximity to Protected Areas.....	= _____
II.	Wildlife Habitat	
	1) Threatened & Endangered Species.....	= _____
	2) Wildlife Corridors.....	= _____
	3) Adjacent Forestland.....	= _____
	4) Easement Size.....	= _____
III.	Water Quality	
	1) Cropping History.....	= _____
	2) 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**

<b>Ranking Factor</b>	<b>Maximum Point Value</b>	<b>Approximate % of Total Score</b>
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
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>675</b>	<b>~100</b>

**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 forestland .....20  
 Adjacent to >300 acres of forestland or planned forestland .....15  
 Adjacent to >100 acres of forestland or planned forestland .....5

(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

[Empty box for 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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:					
<b>Total Cost</b>					

*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: \_\_\_\_\_

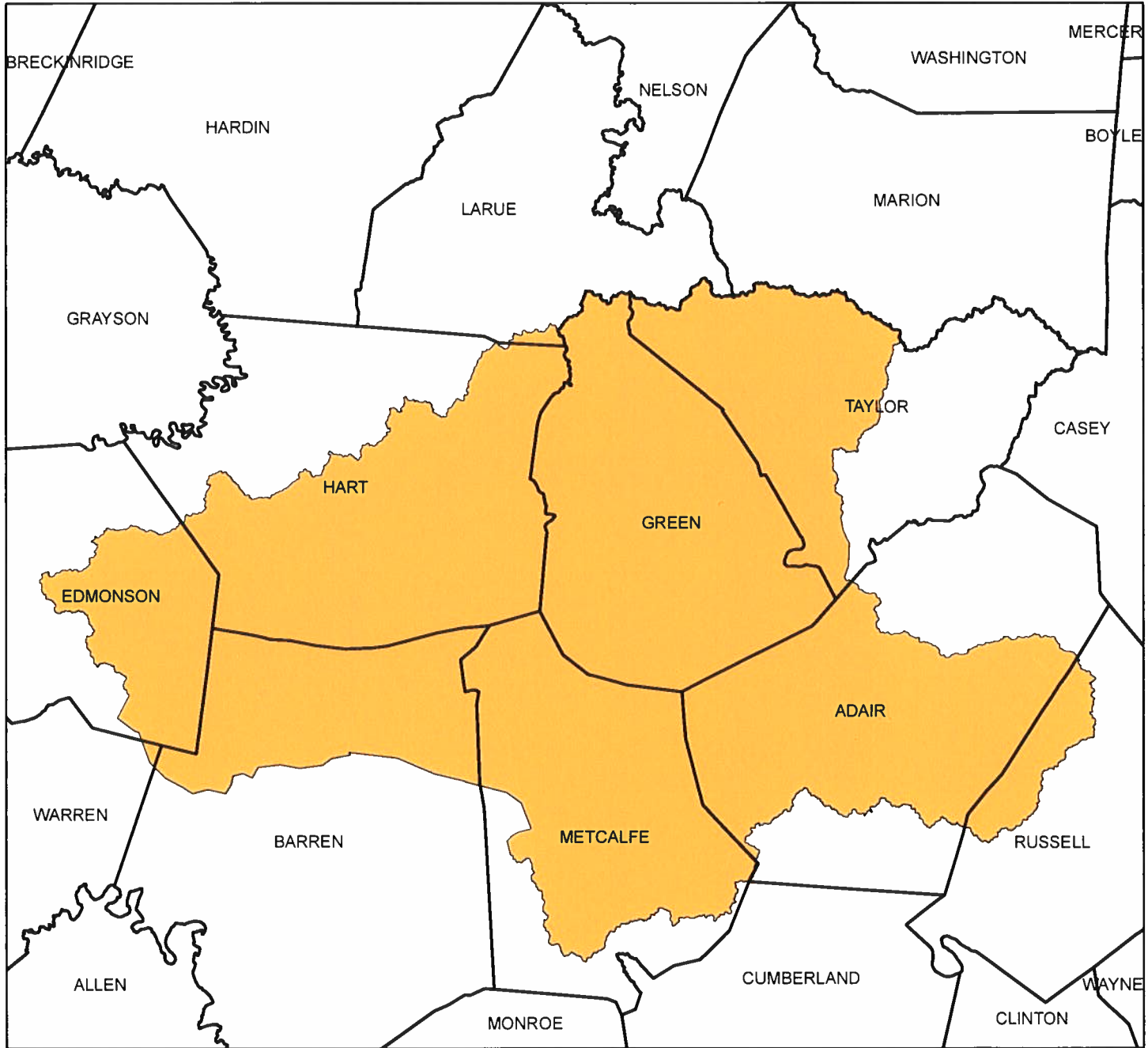
Sketch preliminary plan or attach map showing planned extent

# 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
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<p><b>1) Frequency of damage from flooding (Damage to land)</b></p> <p>A. At least two years in the last 5 years <span style="float: right;">10</span></p> <p>B. At least once in the past 12 months <span style="float: right;">5</span></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Question 1 Score</b> <span style="background-color: yellow; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px 20px;"> </span></p>
<p><b>2) Proximity to other permanently protected lands (within the same watershed)</b></p> <p>A. Adjacent <span style="float: right;">10</span></p> <p>B. Within 1 mile <span style="float: right;">5</span></p> <p>C. &gt; 1 mile <span style="float: right;">0</span></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Question 2 Score</b> <span style="background-color: yellow; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px 20px;"> </span></p>
<p><b>3) Proximity to Mississippi or Ohio River</b></p> <p>A. Adjacent <span style="float: right;">10</span></p> <p>B. Within 1 mile <span style="float: right;">5</span></p> <p>C. &gt; 1 mile <span style="float: right;">0</span></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Question 3 Score</b> <span style="background-color: yellow; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px 20px;"> </span></p>
<p><b>4) Easement acres offered</b></p> <p>A. &gt;300 acres <span style="float: right;">15</span></p> <p>B. 150 - 300 acres <span style="float: right;">10</span></p> <p>C. 80 - 149 acres <span style="float: right;">5</span></p> <p>D. 20 - 79 acres <span style="float: right;">3</span></p> <p>E. &lt; 20 acres <span style="float: right;">0</span></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Question 4 Score</b> <span style="background-color: yellow; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px 20px;"> </span></p>

**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

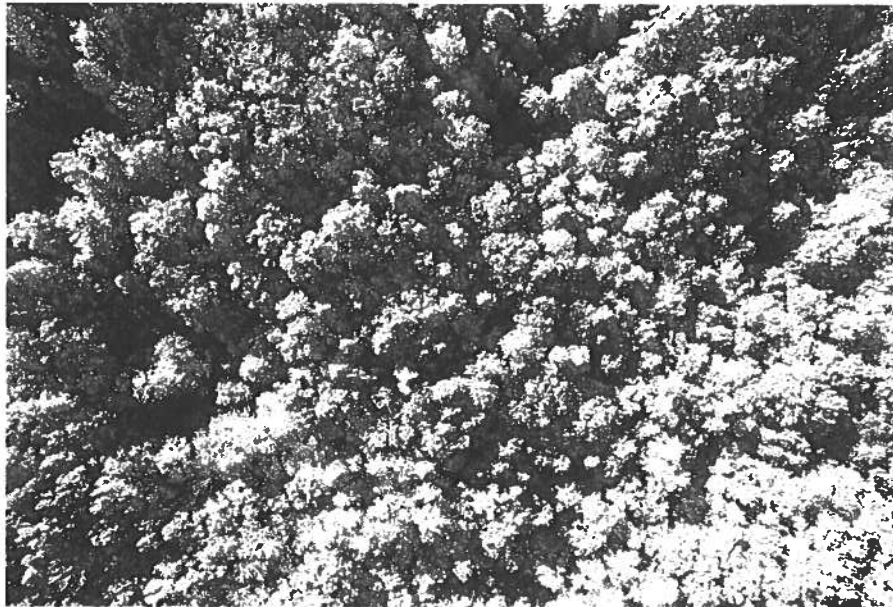
Question 12 Score

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.

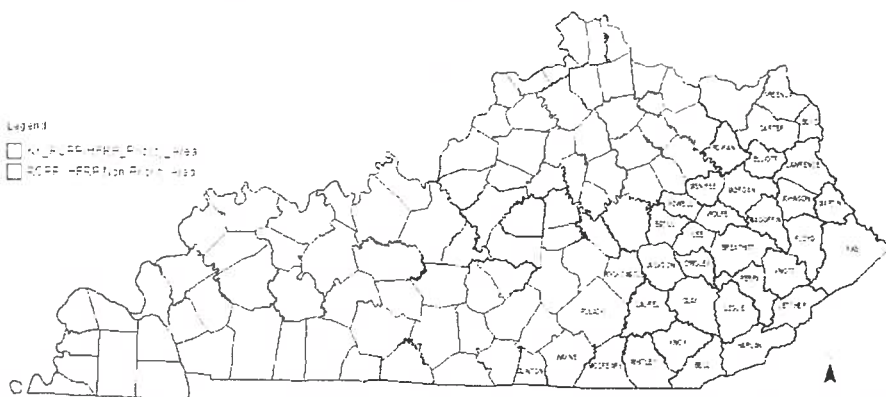
Kentucky's HFRP is a partnership between The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The objectives of the HFRP and this partnership are to:

- 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 CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent total and a minimum of 75 Tons CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent per acre will be prioritized in the ranking process. On average, an acre of eastern US hardwood forest sequesters 85 Tons of CO<sub>2</sub> 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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