Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)

JULY 13, 2021
ACEP Component Programs

ACEP

Agricultural Land Easements (ALE)

Wetlands Reserve Easements (WRE)
STAC Role in ACEP

- ACEP regulation and policy requires or allows input from STAC on:
  - WRE valuation – “GARC”
  - Ranking criteria and prioritization
  - Wetland Restoration Criteria and Guidance (WRCG) technical document
  - Other technical issues as defined in regulation and policy

- Subcommittee provides tailored recommendations to the STAC and polls for acceptance for the final recommendation to the State Conservationist
  - Last meeting – June 29, 2021
FY 2022 ALE Recommendations – June 29, 2021

- Use State and National modeling and other data to enhance priority areas and ranking
- Better align ranking criteria with the type of ranking pool (General v. GSS, ag productivity v. wildlife focused)
- More effectively address General ALE agricultural viability through:
  - Water quantity and water rights
  - Prime soil with development pressure
  - Cropland production and agricultural economy
  - Less wildlife focus
FY 2022 ALE Recommendations – June 29, 2021 (continued)

- Address climate change and water resiliency:
  - Consider seniority of water rights, lower water usage
  - Use available mapping tools such as [http://maps.tnc.org/resilientland/](http://maps.tnc.org/resilientland/)
  - Consider climate change in succession planning
- Keep cash match question as-is with low point value
FY 2022 WRE Recommendations – June 29, 2021

- Consider offering Grazing Reserved Rights enrollment type to boost interest and participation.
  - Need more information on grazing wetlands and riparian areas in CO
  - Wetlands/riparian can be weedy and benefit from grazing
- Tie WRE into Statewide programs/initiatives (e.g., fluvial hazard zones)
Wetlands Restoration Criteria and Guidance (WRCG) - FINAL

January 2021

Photo Credits: Microsoft, CNHP, Heather Foley & Rachel Murph (NRCS)
WRCG Recommendations – June 29, 2021

- Provide for the Grazing Reserved Rights enrollment.
- No other changes recommended to the WRCG.
Motion to Accept ACEP Subcommittee Recommendations…

1. For ALE enrollments
2. For WRE enrollments
3. To offer Grazing Reserved Rights option
Solicitation for ACEP Subcommittee Members

- Any interested parties; focused recruitment of non-participants in ACEP
- Preferred knowledge of agriculture, grasslands, wildlife, wetlands, and/or conservation easements
- No more than two members per organization
- If interested, contact:
  
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