



**PA NRCS Wetlands Reserve Easement Program (WRE)  
Bog Turtle/Massasauga Ranking Form**

2/5/2015

Applicant \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_ Tract: \_\_\_\_\_

Application Type: Permanent Easement \_\_\_\_\_ 30-Year Easement \_\_\_\_\_

Eligible (Y/N): \_\_\_\_\_

Screening Pass/Fail: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Ranking Score: \_\_\_\_\_

NRCS Employee Name: \_\_\_\_\_

RANKING SCREENING		
1. Does the applicant have and will have control over the land being offered for enrollment and restoration? (If No, not eligible, do not rank)	Yes	No
2. Does the applicant have clear title to the land being offered for easement? (If No, do not rank - all oil/gas leases, judgments, liens, etc must be remedied or landowner is ineligible) <b>NOTE: landowner must provide a deed or proof of ownership prior to ranking</b>	Yes_____	No_____
3. Has the applicant owned the land for 24 months or more? (If No, not eligible do not rank- a 24 Month waiver must be obtained prior to ranking)	Yes_____	No_____
4. For easement, are there any co-owners other than the spouse? (If YES, list the names as they appear on the deed.)	Yes_____	No_____
5. Does the applicant and the co-owners (including spouse) meet payment eligibility criteria (AGI) and conservation provisions (HEL/WC)? (If No, not eligible, do not rank) (If yes, attach <b>Subsidiary Printout</b> for each landowner)	Yes_____	No_____
6. Does everyone on the deed (plus their spouses) agree to enroll the land in WRE? (If No, not eligible, do not rank)	Yes_____	No_____
7. Is there a land lease or land rental contract? (If YES, list names, purpose and term)	Yes_____	No_____
8. Is the acreage proposed for enrollment under an oil, gas, or other mineral lease that allows surface disturbance? *If Yes, do not rank - NRCS must review the lease prior to ranking and enrollment	Yes_____	No_____

**RANKING SCREENING, Con't**

9. Is the landowner willing to provide maintenance activities and participate in restoration contracting for the easement? (examples: restoration contract, noxious weed control, fence repair, vegetative management if needed, non-encroachment enforcement, illegal trespass, etc.) Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_  
 (If no, do not rank)

10. If land is enrolled in CRP or CREP, has applicant accepted an incentive payment (SIP or PIP) through CRP? (NOTE: Note: If landowner HAS accepted a SIP or PIP to enroll in CRP, inform them now, "If this property does become an easement you may be liable to pay back any SIP or PIP that you accepted through CRP." Please have landowner check with the FSA office for the exact payback requirements.) Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

11. Has the applicant received a WRP or WRE offer on this application in the last 3 years? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_  
 (If Yes, do not rank)

12. Are other easements present on the land? (ie – agricultural preservation easement or other easement that protects the land in perpetuity?) Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_  
 (If yes, do not rank at this time, further information is needed prior to ranking/enrollment)

13. Is the estimated WRE offer dollar amount (GARC rate) for the proposed enrollment acceptable to the landowner? (If no, do not rank) Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

14. Will the proposed restoration cost exceed the easement cost? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_  
 (If Yes, do not rank. Further evaluation is needed prior to ranking and enrollment)

15. Is there a dam removal on-site that would require engineering oversight? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_  
 (If Yes, do not rank. Obtain an I&E before continuing with ranking and application)

**Is the land eligible for WRP? (if no, do not rank)** Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

**Screening Pass/Fail:** \_\_\_\_\_

*IF fail, List items needed prior to ranking:*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Screened by:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Title:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

## RANKING

### 1. Type of Application (choose one)

- a. 30-Year Easement ..... 50 pts  
 b. Permanent Easement ..... 200 pts

Score

### 2. Location (choose one option)

- a. Project is directly adjacent to or within a designated local, state or federal wildlife or forest area of significance; **or**, project is directly adjacent to protected or proposed protected corridor, or existing or proposed WRE easement ..... 100 pts  
 b. Project is within 5 miles of a designated local, state or federal wildlife or forest area of significance ..... 75 pts  
 c. Project is within 5-10 miles of a designated local, state or federal wildlife or forest area of significance ..... 50 pts  
 d. Project is greater than 10 miles from a designated local, state or federal wildlife or forest area of significance ..... 0 pts

Score

### 3. Wildlife (choose one)

- Federal or state listed species ..... 100 pts

Score

### 4. Bog turtles or massasauga rattlesnakes known to use site (Score for either BT or MR)

- BT a. More than ten bog turtles are known to use site ..... 100 pts  
 b. From five to ten bog turtles are known to use site ..... 50 pts  
 c. Less than five bog turtles are known to use site ..... 0 pts

**OR**

- MR a. Massasauga rattlesnakes are known to still use site ..... 100 pts  
 b. It is not known if massasuga rattlesnakes still use site ..... 0 pts

Score

### 5. Restoration Potential

- a. Significant ..... 100 pts  
 b. Good ..... 50 pts  
 c. Minor ..... 0 pts

Score

### 6. Site Quality

- a. Excellent ..... 100 pts  
 b. Good ..... 50 pts  
 c. Marginal ..... 0 pts

Score

### 7. Ratio of Buffer to Core Eligible Acres Included in the Proposed Land (choose one)

- a. Ratio of Buffer to Core Eligible Acres is 4:1 to 5:1 ..... 30 pts  
 b. Ratio of Buffer to Core Eligible Acres is from 2.5:1 to 3.9:1 ..... 20 pts  
 c. Ratio of Buffer to Core Eligible Acres is less than <2.5:1 ..... 0 pts

Score

### 8. Within a Metapopulation Area (Score for either BT or MR)

- BT a. Large (>3) ..... 50 pts  
 b. Small (1-3) ..... 25 pts  
 c. No ..... 0 pts

**OR**

- MR a. Yes ..... 50 pts  
 b. No ..... 0 pts

Score

**RANKING, Con't**

**9. Restoration Cost (choose one)**

- a. Previously restored wetland (cost < \$2,000/ac, includes prior WRP/WRE restoration only)..... 10 pts
- b. Under \$2,000 per Acre .....5 pts
- c. \$2,000 or more per acre .....0 pts

**Score**

**10. Landowner or other non-Federal Contributors**

- a. USDA total cost reduction of at least 25% (includes easement & restoration combined).....10 pts

**Score**

**11. Size (choose one)**

- a. Proposed enrollment is 10 acres in size or larger.....200 pts
- b. Proposed enrollment is 5 - 9.9 acres in size..... 150 pts
- c. Proposed enrollment is less than 5 acres in size.....100 pts

**Score**

**Ranking Total**

**1000 Maximum Pts**

Ranked by: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_