

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program - Agricultural Land Easement (ACEP-ALE)

FY2016 WA Parcel Eligibility and Ranking Form – *DRAFT 11/24/2015 version*

Fiscal Year 2016	
Landowner(s) Name and Address (list all landowners of record)	
Eligible entities names and addresses	
Parcel Location (Sec/Twn/Rge):	Locality (nearest town/city):
County:	State:
Are all landowners of record AGI eligible? (Y/N)	
Are all landowners of record HEL eligible? (Y/N)	
Are all landowners of record WC eligible? (Y/N)	
Does the landowner(s) meet all landowner eligibility (see 528.35) (Y/N)	
NRCS employee confirming landowner eligibility:	
Name:	Signature:
Does the entity meet all entity eligibility requirements (see 528.31 and 528.32) (Y/N)	
NRCS employee confirming entity eligibility:	
Name:	Signature:
Does the eligible entity have a written pending offer for the parcel? (Y/N)	
NRCS employee confirming written pending offer (see 528.33 D(1):	
Name:	Signature:
Does the land (enter a response for each, see 528.33):	
_____ Have 50-percent prime, unique, and important farmland? (Y/N)	
_____ Have historical or archeological resources? (Y/N)	
_____ Protect grazing uses and related conservation values by restoring and conserving land? (Y/N)	
_____ Have land that supports the policy of a State or local farm and ranch land protection program? (Y/N)	
Is the land eligible? See 528.33 and 528.34)(Y/N)	
NRCS employee confirming land eligibility:	
Name:	Signature:

National Ranking Criteria (Must be 200 points Maximum) See Part 528 Subpart E.		
National Ranking Factors and Scaling	Maximum Points	Points
1. Percent of prime, unique, and important farmland in the parcel to be protected (0 points for 50 percent or less, 4 points for every 10 percent above 50 percent)	21	
2. Are landowners a historically underserved group (528.190.DDD, small scale farmer (USDA definition: <\$250,000 gross annual sales USDA Small Farm Definitions - eXtension), limited resource landowner (528.190.NNN), beginning farmer or rancher (528.190.M) or veteran landowner(528.190.PPPP) (3 points for Yes, 0 points for No)	3	
3. Percent of cropland, pastureland, grassland, and rangeland in the parcel to be protected (0 points for 33 percent or less, 8 points for more than >33 percent and < or equal to 50 percent, 16 points for greater than 50 percent)	21	
4. Ratio of the total acres of land in the parcel to be protected to average farm size in the county according to the most recent USDA Census of Agriculture (USDA - NASS - Census of Agriculture) (0 points for a ratio of 1 or less, 7 points for ratios of 1.0 to 2.0, 15 points for ratios of greater than 2.0)	15	
5. Decrease in the percentage of acreage of farm and ranch land in the county in which the parcel is located between the last two USDA Censuses of Agriculture (USDA - NASS - Census of Agriculture) (0 points for decrease of 0 percent or less, 1 point for decreases of more than 0 to 5 percent, 5 points for decrease of more than 5 to 10 percent, 9 points for decreases of more than 10 to 15 percent, 15 points for decreases of more than 15 percent) (National Mandate – 0 points for 0 percent or less)	15	
6. Percent population growth in the County as documented by the most recent United States Census (Census Bureau Home page) (0 points for growth rate of less than the State growth rate, 4 points for growth rate of one to two times the State growth rate, 7 points for growth rate of more than two to three times the State growth rate, 15 points for growth rate of more than three times the State growth rate) (National Mandate – 0 points growth rate less than the State growth rate)	15	

Commented [KD-NSW1]: Increased by 5 pts

Commented [KD-NSW2]: Increased by 5 pts

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<p>7. County population density (population per square mile) as documented by the most recent United States Census (Census Bureau Home Page)</p> <p>(0 points for County population density less than the State population density, 4 points for County population density of 1 to 2 times the State population density, 7 points for County population density of 2 to 3 times the State population density, 15 points for County population density of greater than 3 times the State population density)</p>	15	
<p>8. Existence of a farm or ranch succession plan or similar plan established to address farm viability for future generations</p> <p>(0 points for no plan, 7 points for a plan, 15 points for plan documented and performed by industry professional)</p>	15	
<p>9. Proximity of the parcel to other protected land, including military installations</p> <p>(0 points easement offer area (EOA) boundary greater than 3 miles from the protected land boundary, 4 points EOA is greater than 1 miles but less than 3 miles from protected land, 7 points EOA is within 1 mile or less of protected land boundary, 15 points EOA boundary adjoins protected land boundary)</p>	15	
<p>10. Proximity of the parcel to other agricultural operations and agricultural infrastructure</p> <p>(0 points if EOA boundary greater than 3 miles in proximity, 4 points if EOA is greater than 1 miles but less than 3 miles in proximity, 7 points EOA is within 1 mile or less in proximity, 15 points EOA boundary adjoins)</p>	15	
<p>11. Parcel ability to maximize the protection of contiguous acres devoted to agricultural use</p> <p>(15 points if the parcel links two noncontiguous corridors of protected agricultural use, 6 points parcel expands agricultural use protected area, 0 points parcel does not increase a protected agricultural use area)</p>	15	
<p>12. Parcel contains historical or archaeological resources that will be protected by easement area as described in 528.33 B(2).</p> <p>(5 points if Yes, 0 points if No)</p>	5	
<p>13. The grassland in the parcel will benefit from the protection under the long-term easement</p> <p>(15 points if Yes, 0 points if No)</p>	15	
<p>14. Currently enrolled in CRP in a contract that is set to expire within a year and is grassland that would benefit from protection</p> <p>(15 points for Yes, 0 points for No)</p>	15	
Total Points for National Ranking Factors	200	

Commented [KD-NSW3]: Reduced by 10 pts

State Ranking Factors – WA State FY2015

State Ranking Factors (Maximum of 200 Points)		
1. Percent of Prime or Unique soils in the parcel to be protected is greater than 50% of the total parcel acreage (75% or greater = 35 points 51-74% = 15 points)	35	
2. Eligible entity has demonstrated performance in managing and enforcing easements by monitoring 80 percent or more of its easements annually. (35 points for Yes, 0 points for no or if there is no documentation to support a "Yes" determination)	35	
3. Project is wholly or partially within the boundaries of the Sentinel Lands Initiative or Sage Grouse Initiative areas as shown on map the NRCS Washington ACEP ALE web page: Washington NRCS ACEP ALE Web Page (20 points for Yes, 0 points for No)	20	
4. Federal or state listed or candidate Threatened or Endangered species located on, or within ¼ mile, of parcel to be protected. [This includes USFWS Designated Critical Habitat polygons for listed species.] (35 points) State species of concern located on, or within ¼ mile, of parcel to be protected (15 points)	35	
5. Protection of parcel will have long term social and economic benefits towards supporting access to local markets for small scale farms - Documentation of farm sales within the past 2 calendar years to local markets. - Sales within 10 miles or less of parcel = 30 points - Sales within 11-50 miles of parcel = 20 points - Sales within 50-150 miles of parcel = 10 points	30	
6. Will social and economic benefits be derived by enrolling lands from historically underserved groups (528.190.DDD, small scale farmers (USDA definition: <\$250,000 gross annual sales USDA Small Farm Definitions - eXtension), limited resource landowners (528.190.NNN), beginning farmer or ranchers (528.190.M) or veteran landowners (528.190.PPPP)? (15 points for Yes, 0 points for No)	15	
7. Is parcel to be protected in an area zoned as agricultural use or open space? (10 points for Yes, 0 points for No)	10	

Commented [KD-NSW4]: New question, pts adjusted

Commented [KD-NSW5]: Pts reduced

Commented [KD-NSW6]: Added DCH language suggested by NRCS and FWS biologists

Commented [KD-NSW7]: Question rephrased and points reduced

Commented [KD-NSW8]: New question and points

Commented [KD-NSW9]: New question and points

Commented [KD-NSW10]: New question and points

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Signature: _____ Date: _____

