

2016 ACEP-ALE Ranking Tool – New Mexico

National Ranking Criteria (Must be 200 points Maximum)		
National Ranking Factors and Scaling	Maximum Points	Points
<p>Percent of prime, unique, and important farmland in the parcel to be protected</p> <p>(0 points for 50 percent or less, 4 points for every percent above 50 percent)</p>	16	
<p>Are landowners a historically underserved group, small scale farmer, limited resource landowner, new or beginning farmer or rancher or veteran landowner</p> <p>(3 points for Yes, 0 points for No)</p>	3	
<p>Percent of cropland, pastureland, grassland, and rangeland in the parcel to be protected</p> <p>(0 points for 33 percent or less, 4 points for 33 percent or less, 8 points for more than 33 percent and less than or equal to 50 percent, 16 points for greater than 50 percent)</p>	16	
<p>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)</p> <p>(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)</p>	15	
<p>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)</p> <p>(0 points for decrease of 0 percent or less, 1 points for decreases of 0 to 5 percent, 5 points for decrease of 5 to 10 percent, 9 points for decreases of 10 to 15 percent, 15 points for decreases of more than 15 percent) (National Mandate – 0 points for 0 percent or less)</p>	15	
<p>Percent population growth in the county as documented by the United most recent United States Census (Census Bureau Home Page)</p> <p>(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 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)</p>	15	
<p>Population density (population per square mile) as documented by the most recent United States Census (Census Bureau Home Page)</p> <p>(0 points for population density less than the State population density, 4 points for population density of 1 to 2 times the State population density, 7 points for population density of 2 to 3 times the State population density, 15 points for population density of greater than 3 times the State population density)</p>	15	

<p>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> <p><i>Farm or ranch succession plan – a general plan to address the continuation of some type of agricultural business on the enrolled land. The farm or ranch succession plan may include specific intrafamily succession agreements or business asset transfer strategies to create opportunities for veteran farmers or ranchers or other historically underserved landowners.</i></p>	15	
<p>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 of protected land boundary, 15 points EOA boundary adjoins protected land boundary)</p>	15	
<p>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 in proximity, 15 points EOA boundary adjoins)</p>	15	
<p>Parcel ability to maximize the protection of contiguous acres devoted to agricultural use</p> <p>(15 points if the parcel links two noncontinuous 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>Parcel contains historical or archaeological resources that will be protected by easement area</p> <p>(15 points if Yes, 0 points if No)</p>	15	
<p>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> <p><i>Benefit – the grassland could provide habitat for animal or plant populations of significance ecological value if the land is retained in grazing uses and related conservation values; would address State, regional, and national conservation priorities.</i></p>	15	
<p>Currently enrolled in CRP in a contract that is set to expire within a year and is grassland that would benefit from protection (<i>This is specific to the grasslands eligibility category for ACEP-ALE</i>).</p> <p>(15 points for Yes, 0 points for No)</p>	15	
Total Points for National Ranking Factors	200	

State Ranking Factors (Maximum of 200 Points)		
	Maximum Points	Points
Resource Concerns addressed		
The parcel is located in an area zoned for agricultural use (20 points for yes, 0 points for no)	20	
Eligible entity has demonstrated performance in managing and enforcing easements by monitoring 80 percent or more of its easements each year (30 points for Yes, 0 points for no or if there is no documentation to support a “Yes” determination)	30	
Contains State-specific factors for grasslands of special environmental significance (30 points for Yes, 0 points for No)	30	
Parcel contains habitat for species of interest (30 points for federally listed threatened and endangered species, 20 points for federally listed candidate species, 10 points for State species of concern, 5 points for species of interest (according to State criteria), 0 points for no species)	30	
Parcel is in a geographic region where enrollment achieves landscape, regional, or other conservation goals and objectives identified in State plans (30 points Yes, 0 points No)	30	
Enrollment of parcel will provide diversity of natural resource protections (30 points for 5 or more resource protections, 20 points for 3 to 4 resources, 10 points for 1 to 2 resources, 5 points for 1 resource, 0 points for no resources protected)	30	
Land evaluation and site assessment system or equivalent for grassland enrollments indicates a viable agricultural area for parcel (30 points for Yes, 0 points for No)	30	
Total Points for State Ranking Factors	200	