

FY 2016
New Mexico NRCS WRE Ranking Worksheet

Project Name: _____ Total Ranking Score: _____
 Owner: _____ County: _____
 Date of Field Evaluation: _____
 Ranking Team: NRCS: _____ NRCS: _____
 FWS: _____
 Other(s): _____

Summary of Ranking Score

Ranking Factor	Maximum Points	Points Received
I. Environmental Benefits	135	
II. Economic Considerations	40	
III. Special Considerations	30	
Total Points	205	

Easement Area

<u>Eligible Acres</u>	<u>Other Eligible Acres</u>	<u>Easement Acres</u>
PC: _____	Adjacent lands: _____	
FW/FWP: _____	Riparian: _____	
Degraded wetlands: _____	CRP: _____	
Substantially altered by flooding: _____	Restored or protected wetlands: _____	
	Hydric soil minor components: _____	
Subtotal: _____	Subtotal: _____	TOTAL: _____

Other Eligible Acres	
How will "Other Eligible Acres" contribute to the functions of the restored wetland? (Check all that apply)	
Provides species-specific upland habitat for targeted species	<input type="checkbox"/> Provides buffering and filtering from surrounding land uses
Increases habitat value by providing additional nesting habitat, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/> Reduces fragmentation of or increases the area of the wetland complex
Other	
Explain: _____	

I. Environmental Benefits	
A. Original Hydrology Restoration	
I.A1. Degree of Hydrologic Alteration (Present Condition) Use CWD or wetland inventory (with input from Resource Soil Scientist or Wetland Technical Team) to estimate the degree of departure from original hydrology. Choose the category representing the majority of the eligible acres that will have hydrology restored.	30 points max
Original wetland hydrology significantly degraded or modified. For example, functional ditches, dikes, diversions, and tiles that are affecting the historic hydrology regime over the majority of the eligible acres.	30 points
Original wetland hydrology moderately degraded or modified; or original wetland hydrology previously restored. For example, functional (or partially functional) ditches, dikes, diversions, and tiles affecting ≤ 50 % of the eligible acres.	15 points
Original wetland hydrology relatively unmodified or previous hydrologic modifications have largely deteriorated so historic hydrology is present over the majority of the eligible acres.	5 points
I.A2. Extent of Hydrology Restoration Relative to Historic Conditions (Expected Future Condition) Percent of the <u>Eligible Acres and hydric soils on Other Eligible Acres</u> on which the hydrology will be restored to historic conditions :	25 points max
90-100%	25 points
75-89%	10 points
50-74%	5 points
<49%	0 points
I.A3. Extent of Hydrology Restoration (Expected Future Condition) Percent of the <u>Eligible Acres and hydric soils on Other Eligible Acres</u> that will meet hydrologic wetland criterion after <u>restoration to the extent practicable</u>	25 points max
90-100%	25 points
75-89%	10 points
50-74%	5 points
<49%	Not eligible

B. Wetland Functions and Values	
I.B1. Habitat for At-Risk Species	15 points max
a) Will the project provide habitat and address limiting needs for State or Federally listed Threatened, Endangered, or candidate species? WRPO must incorporate the habitat needs of these species if credit claimed. <i>List species or attach documentation:</i>	15 points
b) Will the project provide habitat and address limiting needs for a State Sensitive Species. WRPO must incorporate the habitat needs of these species if credit claimed. <i>List species or attach documentation:</i>	5 points
I.B2. Floodwater Attenuation	10 points max
Is the project located within a 100-year floodplain that has hydrologic connectivity to a watercourse? For example, not separated by a levee or dike.	
Yes	10 points
No	0 points
I.B3. Vegetation	20 points max
Percent of the total easement area that will result in a predominance of historic native vegetation after restoration. Acreage includes existing vegetation in "Other Eligible Acres", as well as those areas planted, seeded or allowed to naturally re-vegetate.	
90% or more of the site will return to historic native vegetation	20 points
75-89% of the site will return to historic native vegetation	15 points
50% to 74% of the site will return to historic native vegetation	10 points
25% to 49% of the site will return to historic native vegetation	5 points
Less than 25% of the site will return to historic native vegetation	0 points
I.B.4 Permanence of Restored Habitat	10 points max
Permanent Easement	10 points
30-year Easement, 30-year Contract or Restoration Cost-Share Agreement with high likelihood the site will retain its habitat functions and values after the enrollment period ends. Provide justification:	5 points

Subtotal for Environmental Benefits: _____

II. Economic Considerations	
A. Easement Cost per Acre	
II.A1. Easement Cost per Acre	10 points max
Based on estimated current fiscal year GARC (may need to be updated based on final appraisal fair market value (FMV) and final GARC).	
Less than \$1000/acre	10 points
\$1000 - \$2000/acre	8 points
\$2000 - \$3000/acre	4 points
More than \$3000/acre	0 points

B. Estimated Restoration Cost	
Total Restoration Cost \$	
II.B1. NRCS Restoration Cost per Acre The total estimated restoration cost that will be borne by NRCS. The preliminary restoration plan is the supporting documentation.	10 points max
Less than \$500/acre	10 points
\$500-\$1200/acre	5 points
More than \$1200/acre	0 points

C. Restoration Cost-Benefit Comparison	
II.C1. Cost per Environmental Benefit Ratio NRCS Restoration Cost per Acre / Environmental Benefits Points = Cost-Benefit Ratio	10 points max
< 5 (with minimum EB points ≥ 60)	10 points
5-12 (with minimum EB points ≥ 60)	6 points
>12 or EB points <60	0 points

D. Operation and Maintenance	
II.D1. Operation & Maintenance Cost The cost of O&M and management needed to keep conservation practices (structural or vegetative) functioning for the intended purpose; prevent deterioration, repair damage, or replacement if the practice fails.	10 points max
Minimal. Restoration designed to minimize O&M and management costs; practices have low replacement cost, easy access, and/or have infrequent maintenance expected. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Examples: tile breaks, ditch plug or fill, low berm w/o structures, plantings, water control structures without seasonally required manipulation, and infrequent vegetation management (spraying, burning, disking, mowing, reseeding, etc.) every 5-10 years. 	10 points
Moderate. Anticipated O&M is in-line with NRCS practice standards and specifications; often having an increased requirement during the establishment period, then periodic O&M and management thereafter. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Examples: water control structures with two manipulations per year, structures needing minor repair or cleared of debris after flood events, annual spot treatment of invasive weeds, vegetation management (spraying, burning, disking, mowing, reseeding, etc.) every 3-5 years. 	5 points
High. On or off-site conditions warrant additional O&M (i.e. flood prone, erosion/siltation, continual noxious weed re-infestation). May include practices that are short-lived or that O&M and management is normal but difficult/costly to access. Frequent vegetation management (spraying, burning, disking, mowing, reseeding, etc.) on less than a 2 year cycle.	0 points

Subtotal for Economic Considerations: _____

III. Special Considerations	
III.A.1 Priority Geographic Regions	10 points max
Project within 10 miles of other protected wetland areas (e.g. state parks, wild life refuges, other WRP or protected riparian areas.)	10 points
III.A.2 Habitat Connectivity	15 points max
Proximity of offered acres to an existing protected area, such as, WRP/WRE or similar easement of similar duration. USFWS refuges, State, or locally managed wildlife areas with similar management goals would also be applicable. List the protected area(s):	
Adjacent	15 points
Within 1 mile	8 points
Between 1 to 5 miles	2 points
III.A.3 Project Size	5 points max
Greater than 160 acres	5 points
81-160 acres	3 points
30-80 acres	2 points
Less than 30 acres	1 point

Subtotal for Special Considerations: _____