



Ranking Pool Report

Ranking Pool: MT 2022 ACEP-ALE GSS Sage Grouse

Program: ACEP

Pool Status: Active

States: MT (Admin)

Template: ACEP-ALE GSS (Program Agreements)

Template Status: Active

Last Modified By: Matthew Whithed

Last Modified: 12-03-2021

Land Uses

Land Use	Modifier 1	Modifier 2	Modifier 3	Modifier 4	Modifier 5	Modifier 6
Forest	--	--	--	--	--	--
Range	--	--	--	--	--	--
Pasture	--	--	--	--	--	--
Farmstead	--	--	--	--	--	--
Developed Land	--	--	--	--	--	--
Water	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other Rural Land	--	--	--	--	--	--
Associated Ag Land	--	--	--	--	--	--

Resource Concern Categories

Categories			
Category	Min %	Default %	Max %
Concentrated erosion	0	--	20
Degraded plant condition	5	5	50
Field pesticide loss	0	--	20
Field sediment, nutrient and pathogen loss	0	--	50
Livestock production limitation	5	5	50
Long term protection of land	35	75	75
Pest pressure	0	--	40
Salt losses to water	0	--	20
Soil quality limitations	0	--	45
Source water depletion	0	--	40
Storage and handling of pollutants	0	--	25
Terrestrial habitat	0	15	40

Categories

Category	Min %	Default %	Max %
Wind and water erosion	0	--	10

Concentrated erosion

Resource Concern	Min %	Default %	Max %
Bank erosion from streams, shorelines or water conveyance channels	0	20	100
Classic gully erosion	0	40	100
Ephemeral gully erosion	0	40	100

Degraded plant condition

Resource Concern	Min %	Default %	Max %
Plant productivity and health	0	50	100
Plant structure and composition	0	50	100

Field pesticide loss

Resource Concern	Min %	Default %	Max %
Pesticides transported to groundwater	0	50	100
Pesticides transported to surface water	0	50	100

Field sediment, nutrient and pathogen loss

Resource Concern	Min %	Default %	Max %
Nutrients transported to groundwater	0	20	100
Nutrients transported to surface water	0	20	100
Pathogens and chemicals from manure, biosolids or compost applications transported to groundwater	0	20	100
Pathogens and chemicals from manure, biosolids or compost applications transported to surface water	0	20	100
Sediment transported to surface water	0	20	100

Livestock production limitation

Resource Concern	Min %	Default %	Max %
Feed and forage balance	0	40	100
Inadequate livestock shelter	0	15	100
Inadequate livestock water quantity, quality and distribution	0	45	100

Long term protection of land

Resource Concern	Min %	Default %	Max %
Threat of conversion	100	100	100

Pest pressure

Resource Concern	Min %	Default %	Max %
Plant pest pressure	0	100	100

Salt losses to water

Resource Concern	Min %	Default %	Max %
Salts transported to groundwater	0	50	100
Salts transported to surface water	0	50	100

Soil quality limitations

Resource Concern	Min %	Default %	Max %
Aggregate instability	0	15	100
Compaction	0	15	100
Concentration of salts or other chemicals	0	15	100
Organic matter depletion	0	20	100
Soil organism habitat loss or degradation	0	20	100
Subsidence	0	15	100

Source water depletion

Resource Concern	Min %	Default %	Max %
Groundwater depletion	0	35	100
Inefficient irrigation water use	0	35	100
Surface water depletion	0	30	100

Storage and handling of pollutants

Resource Concern	Min %	Default %	Max %
Nutrients transported to groundwater	0	20	100
Nutrients transported to surface water	0	20	100
Pesticides transported to surface water	0	20	100
Petroleum, heavy metals and other pollutants transported to groundwater	0	20	100
Petroleum, heavy metals and other pollutants transported to surface water	0	20	100

Terrestrial habitat

Resource Concern	Min %	Default %	Max %
Terrestrial habitat for wildlife and invertebrates	0	100	100

Wind and water erosion

Resource Concern	Min %	Default %	Max %
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Wind and water erosion

Resource Concern	Min %	Default %	Max %
Sheet and rill erosion	0	50	100
Wind erosion	0	50	100


Practices

Practice Name	Practice Code	Practice Type
Acquisition Process - Environmental Database Records Search	LTAPERS	Easements
Acquisition Process - Environmental Database Records Search Update	LTAPERSU	Easements
Acquisition Process - Appraisal Technical Review First Review	LTAPTR1	Easements
Acquisition Process - Appraisal Technical Review Second Review	LTAPTR2	Easements
Long-Term Protection of Land - Permanent Easement	LTPPE	Easements

Ranking Weights

Factors	Algorithm	Allowable Min	Default	Allowable Max
Vulnerabilities	Default	5	15	20
Planned Practice Effects	Default	5	5	10
Resource Priorities	Default	35	40	50
Program Priorities	Default	40	40	50
Efficiencies	Default	0	0	0

Display Group: MT 2022 ACEP ALE GSS SAGE GROUSE (Active)

 An asterisk will be displayed to show that it is a conditional section or conditional question.

Survey: Applicability Questions

Section: Applicability		
Question	Answer Choices	Points
Is the application parcel PLU located in the State of Montana?	Is the application parcel PLU located in the State of Montana?	--
	Otherwise	--

Survey: Category Questions

Section: Category		
Question	Answer Choices	Points

Section: Category		
Question	Answer Choices	Points
Is the application parcel PLU located in the State of Montana?	Is the application parcel PLU located in the State of Montana?	--
	Otherwise	--

Survey: Program Questions

Section: Program ACEP-ALE-General		
Question	Answer Choices	Points
NHQ - Percent of prime, unique, and important soils in the parcel to be protected?	Property has 50% or less	0
	Property has >50 to 60%	20
	Property has >60 to 70%	25
	Property has >70 to 80%	30
	Property has >80%	35
NHQ - Percent of cropland, pastureland, grassland, and rangeland in the parcel to be protected?	Property has 33% or less	0
	Property has >33 to equal to or less than 40%	4
	Property has >40 to equal to or less than 50%	8
	Property has >50%	15
NHQ - 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).	Ratio of 1.0 % or less	0
	Ratio of greater than 1.0 % to less than 2.0 %	7
	Ratio of greater than 2.0 %	15
NHQ - 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).	Decrease of 0% or less.	0
	Decrease of greater than 0 % and less than or equal to 5%.	1
	Decrease of greater than 5% and less than or equal to 10%.	5
	Decrease of greater than 10% and less than or equal to 15% .	9
	Decreases greater than 15%	15
NHQ - Decrease in the percentage of acreage of permanent grassland, pasture, and rangeland, other than cropland and woodland pasture, in the county in which the parcel is located between the last two USDA Censuses of Agriculture (USDA - NASS - Census of Agriculture).	Decrease of 0% or less.	0
	Decrease greater than 0% and equal to or less than 5%.	3
	Decrease greater than 5% and equal to or less than 10% .	5
	Decrease of greater than 10% and equal to or less than 15% .	8
	Decreases of greater than 15%.	15

Section: Program ACEP-ALE-General

Question	Answer Choices	Points
<p>NHQ - Existence of a farm or ranch succession plan or similar plan established to address farm viability for future generations.</p>	<p>Landowner has no Plan. Beyond the act of pursuing an agricultural easement on the farm or ranch the landowner has not developed a farm or ranch successional plan.</p>	<p>0</p>
	<p>Landowner has a documented farm or ranch successional plan with identified successor(s) and goals. Beyond the act of pursuing an agricultural easement on the farm or ranch the landowner has a documented successional plan for the agricultural operations viability.</p>	<p>5</p>
	<p>Landowner has a documented farm or ranch successional plan that was documented and prepared by industry professionals. Beyond the act of pursuing an agricultural easement on the farm or ranch the landowner has had prepared by industry professionals a will or other legal documentation that specifically addresses a successional plan for the agricultural operations viability.</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>NHQ - Proximity of the parcel to other agricultural operations and agricultural infrastructure.</p>	<p>Easement Offer Area (EAO) boundary greater than 3 miles in proximity.</p>	<p>0</p>
	<p>Eaesment Offer Area is greater than or equal to 1 mile but less than 3 miles in proximity.</p>	<p>4</p>
	<p>Easement Offer Area is within 1 mile in proximity.</p>	<p>7</p>
	<p>Easement Offer Area boundary adjoins.</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>NHQ - Parcel ability to maximize the protection of contiguous or proximal acres devoted to agricultural use.</p>	<p>Parcel does not increase a protected agricultural use area. Parcel does not adjoin the boundary of or more than one parcel between it and an existing agricultural use protected area. Context considered existing, deed recorded, agricultural use protected areas only and not other current year ACEP-ALE applicants.</p>	<p>0</p>
	<p>Parcel is a contiguous or proximal expansion of agricultural use protected area. Parcel adjoins the boundary of or has 1 or less parcels between it and an existing agricultural use protected area. Context considered existing, deed recorded, agricultural use protected areas only and not other current year ACEP-ALE applicants.</p>	<p>6</p>
	<p>Parcel links two non-continuous corridors of protected agricultural use. Parcel adjoins the boundary of 2 or more parcels having existing agricultural use protected . Context considered existing, deed recorded, agricultural use protected areas only and not other current year ACEP-ALE applicants..</p>	<p>15</p>

Section: Program ACEP-ALE-General

Question	Answer Choices	Points
NHQ - Percent of population growth in the county as documented by the most recent United States Census (http://www.census.gov/).	Growth rate of less than one times the State growth rate.	0
	Growth rate of greater than one and less than or equal to two times the State growth rate.	4
	Growth rate of two and less than or equal to three times the State growth rate.	7
	Growth rate of more than three times the State growth rate.	15
Population density (population per square mile) as documented by the most recent United States Census (http://www.census.gov/).	Population density less than one times the State population density	0
	Population density of greater than one and less than or equal to two times the State population density	4
	Population density of greater than two and less than or equal to three times the State population density	7
	Population density of greater than three times the State population density	15
NHQ - Proximity of the parcel to other protected land, such as compatible military installations; land owned in fee title by the United States or an Indian Tribe, State or local government, or by a nongovernmental organization whose purpose is to protect agricultural use and related conservation values; or land that is already subject to an easement or deed restriction that limits the conversion of the land to nonagricultural use or protects grazing uses and related conservation values.	Easement Offer Area boundary greater than 3 miles from the protected land boundary.	0
	Easement Offer Area is greater than 1 mile but less than 3 miles from protected land.	4
	Easement Offer Area is within 1 mile of protected land boundary.	7
	Easement Offer Area boundary adjoins protected land boundary.	15
NHQ -Currently enrolled in CRP in a contract that is set to expire within a year and is grassland that would benefit from protection under a long-term easement or is land under a CRP contract that is in transition to a covered farmer or rancher.	No	0
	Yes	5
NHQ - The parcel is a grassland of special environmental significance that will benefit from the protection under the long-term easement.	No	0
	Yes	5
NHQ - Percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land easement that the eligible entity contributes from its own cash resources for payment of easement compensation to the landowner and comes from sources other than the landowner.	Less than 6.25%	0
	6.25% to less than 12.5% the eligible entity contributes from its own cash resources for payment of easement compensation to the landowner	10
	12.5% or greater the eligible entity contributes from its own cash resources for payment of easement compensation to the landowner	15

Survey: Resource Questions

Section: Resource ACEP-ALE-GSS Sage Grouse

Question	Answer Choices	Points
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Section: Resource ACEP-ALE-GSS Sage Grouse

Question	Answer Choices	Points
MT- Percent of easement offer area that is grassland, shrubland, or wet meadow dominated by native grasses, grass-like plants, shrubs, or forbs.	Less than 50%	0
	50 % to 74%	20
	75% or greater	35
MT- Percent of the easement offer area that is improved or naturalized pasture or rangeland.	75% and greater	0
	50 - 74%	5
	10 - 49%	10
	Less than 9%	20
MT - Threat of conversion from native sagebrush grazing lands to any other land use; including cropland: Percent of the easement offer area located in Sage Grouse Management Zones (MZ) I, II or IV General Habitat.	Less than 29% in MZ I, II or IV General Habitat	0
	Less than 30 to 49% in MZ I, II, or IV General Habitat	10
	Equal to or greater than 50% in MZ I, II, or IV General Habitat	15
MT - Threat of conversion from native sagebrush grazing lands to any other land use; including cropland: Percent of the easement offer area located within Sage Grouse Core Area.	Less than 0.9% in Core Area	0
	Less than 1 to 29% in Core Area	5
	Less than 30 to 49% in Core Area	25
	Equal to or greater than 50% in Core Area	35
Threat of grassland conversion to cropland: Land capability classification report from the Web Soil Survey indicates that 50% or more of the native grassland soils on the easement offer area's acreage are Class 1-4.	No	0
	Yes	25
MT- Has there been any residential, commercial, or industrial development near the easement offer area during the past 5 years.	Within one mile	0
	Within two miles	5
	Within three miles	10
	Greater than three miles	15
MT - Easement Offer Area contains habitat of Federal listed Threatened or Endangered Species or State listed Species of Concern. For State listed S1, S2, and S3 species of concern reference (https://mtnhp.org/default.asp) Montana Natural Heritage Program animal and plant species of concern report. For the Federal list of endangered and threatened wildlife and plants reference the most current U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service report of listed species by applicable county (https://www.fws.gov/montanafielddoffice/Endangered_Species/Listed_Species.html). 5 points per species of interest or concern, 10 points per federally listed Threatened or Endangered Species for a maximum of 20 possible points. Species identified in the supporting ranking documentation of the parcel application will need to be addressed in the baseline report if selected for funding.	Easement Offer Area does not include habitat of any state listed species of interest or concern nor does it include habitat of federally listed threatened or endangered species.	0
	Easement Offer Area contains habitat of 1 Species of Concern.	5
	Easement Offer Area contains habitat of two species of concern or interested or a single threatened or endanger species for a total of 10 points	10
	Easement Offer Area contains habitat of a combination of species of concern or interest or threatened or endangered species for a total of 15 points	15
	Easement Offer Area contains habitat of a combination of species of concern or interest or threatened or endangered species for a total of 20 points	20

Section: Resource ACEP-ALE-GSS Sage Grouse		
Question	Answer Choices	Points
MT -Easement offer area is in a geographic region with an adopted land use management plan that identifies conservation easements to achieve landscape goals and objectives.	No Plan.	0
	County land use plan that identifies and promotes the use of conservation easements to achieve the goals and objectives.	10
	Community land use plan that identifies and promotes the use of conservation easements to achieve the goals and objectives.	20
MT- Eligible entity has demonstrated performance in managing and enforcing easements by submitting to MT NRCS 100% of annual monitoring reports by the close of the fiscal year in 2021.	Less than 100% of annual monitoring reports were delivered to MT NRCS by the close of fiscal year 2021.	0
	100% of annual monitoring reports were delivered to MT NRCS by the close of 2021.	15