

# NRCS -- WETLANDS RESERVE PROGRAM (WRP) Ranking Criteria

WETLANDS RESERVE PROGRAM (WRP) RANKING CRITERIA										
Name		Address								
Length of easement offered										
Evaluators								Date:		
								County:		
Does the Landowner meet the Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) requirement for USDA program participation?								YES		
								NO		
Does applicant meet the definition of a historically underserved client? This includes; socially disadvantaged, limited resource, small scale and new/beginning farmers.								YES	20pt	
								NO	0 pt	
ECOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS										
SECTION A: WILDLIFE (Check all that apply)										
1. Habitat type:							Points	Selected points		
Entire Carolina Bays, Meadow Depressions, or Pond Cypress Savannas							80			
Existing Mature (> 50% of total easement) bottom land hardwood/cypress tupelo							20			
PC, FW, or FWP (> 50% of total easement)							100			
Prior Converted Cropland (PC)								acres		
Farmed Wetland (FW)								acres		
Farmed Wetland Pasture (FWP)								acres		
Degraded Wetlands								acres		
Riparian								acres		
Lands Altered by Flooding								acres		
Please estimate the number of offered acres that fit in any of the above categories										
2. Endangered or Threatened Species directly benefited. Verification of direct benefit										
from USFWS or NOAA Fisheries is needed before points can be added for this question.										
Verified by:										

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<b><u>CONTRIBUTIONS TO SENSITIVE SPECIES</u></b> – Maximum 150 Points.										
<b>NOTE:</b> When more than one species occurs in the project area a cumulative total of points for all species will be used. <b>The cumulative total for any site will not exceed 150 points.</b>										
<b>Federal Listed Threatened/Endangered (T/E) Species –</b>										
Site is known to be used by listed T/E Species and project will directly impact recovery and/or protection of species.										
									75	
<b>Federal Candidate species and state (T&amp;E) listed species –</b>										
Site is known to be used by candidate species and project will directly impact recovery and/or protection of the species.										
									50	
<b>State Species of Concern –</b>										
Site is known to be used by sensitive species and project will directly impact the recovery and/or protection of the species.										
									25	
<b>None</b>										
									0	
<b>****Please identify species in the space above.</b>										
<b>Total Points Section A</b>										0

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<b>SECTION B: Amount of Hydrologic Restoration and Diversity</b>										
<p>Diversity of Wetland Types (post project condition) within and immediately adjacent to the easement. Utilize the "Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States" referenced at the following site: <a href="http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/wetlands/classwet/classwet.htm">http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/wetlands/classwet/classwet.htm</a> (click red cell to right to hyperlink) Include restored wetlands and wetlands immediately adjacent to the easement site with the following classifications:</p> <p>Palustrine Emergent persistent (PEM)                      Palustrine Aquatic Bed (PAB)                      Palustrine Forest, Open (PFO)                      Palustrine Scrub-shrub (PSS)                      Riverine (R)</p>										
<b>CCofDWH</b>										
4 or more classification types							20			
3 classification types							15			
1 - 2 classification types							10			
<b>Increment of hydrology restoration</b> on <b>wetland portion</b> of easement to pre-agricultural conditions.										
Select the appropriate range.										
Please enter your estimated percent of hydrologic restoration increment (i.e. .50, .75) here:										
80 % or greater							50			
60% – 79%							40			
40% – 59%							30			
20% – 39%							20			
1% – 19%							5			
Formula: % hydrology post-project – % hydrology pre-project = increment										
Example: (85 % - 20% = 65%)										
<b>Total Points Section B (Diversity of Wetland types + Increment of Hydrology Restoration)</b>									0	

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<b>Total points for Sections A and B combined (For a site to be eligible for WRP, a minimum of 36 points is needed)</b>							<b>0</b>
<b>SECTION C: BUFFER AREAS, 100 foot minimum width</b> (either upland buffer or adjacent existing wetland, within easement or otherwise protected)							
Entire wetland portion is protected by buffer						30	
Less than entire wetland area is protected by buffer						10	
No buffer offered						-10	
<b>SECTION D: How does the site rate according to the Wetland Functional Assessment Planned index and the NRCS Biologist evaluation? (The Wetland Functional Assessment must be included with the Ranking sheet). Select one of the following values:</b>							
<b>Poor</b>		Planned Index Value	<b>.0 - 0.20</b>			1	
<b>Fair</b>		Planned Index Value	<b>0.21 - .40</b>			20	
<b>Good</b>		Planned Index Value	<b>.41 - .60</b>			40	
<b>Excellent</b>		Planned Index Value	<b>&gt; .60</b>			80	
<b>Total Points Section C</b>							<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL ECOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS points</b>							<b>0</b>
<b>Restoration Plan <u>MUST BE</u> attached, please confirm by writing <u>“Yes”</u> in the box</b>							
<b>COST FACTORS</b>							
<b>A. Restoration cost per acre</b>							
[Ave. Geographic Area Cap – (Restoration cost / #acres)]/30= Point Value							
Total Restoration Cost				Total Acres			
				1			
Restoration cost/acre						\$0.00	
Point Value						52.2	
<b>B. Operation and maintenance</b>							
Additional O & M that would be required beyond initial restoration activities:							

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Minimal or no management required: normal oversight and maintenance expected				20			
(practices with low replacement cost, earthen plugs, rock crossings)							
Operation and maintenance such as repair or replace water control structure							
(structures with high replacement cost, structures in floodplain)				10			

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C. Partnership Contribution (Conservation Partner) / Easement Option										
Share of Restoration Cost by Partner (i.e. DU, TNC, USFWS Partners, enter value in cell to right)								Points		
		<b>0 - 49 %</b>		<b>50%</b>		<b>75%</b>		<b>100%</b>		
Easement Option:										
Permanent		5		10		15		20		
Other (30 or 10 year)		0		5		7		12		
<b>TOTAL COST FACTORS POINTS</b>									52	
Additional Ranking Considerations										
<b>ADD 50 POINTS if adjacent to permanently protected area</b>										
<b>ADD 50 POINTS for a Black River system (special initiative area – see back)</b>										
<b>ADD 100 POINTS for a Red River system (special initiative area – see back) PROBLEM SOILS</b>										
									<b>Subtotal</b>	52.2
<b>Does the landowner wish to survey out an interior portion of the offered acres or significantly alter the boundary in such a way that would fragment the easement? Yes will result in a 50 % reduction of the total ranking points. Enter yes or no in the appropriate red cell.</b>									<b>YES</b>	
									<b>NO</b>	
<b>ADJUSTED SUBTOTAL</b>										
<b>Has the applicant ever declined an offer to enroll or withdrawn their application after selection to enroll in the WRP program? Yes will result in a 50 % reduction of the total ranking points. Enter yes or no in the appropriate red cell.</b>									<b>YES</b>	
									<b>NO</b>	
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>										
<b>Is the participant willing to accept less than the GAR Cap for the Conservation Easement acquisition? If yes, award the appropriate points for the percentage listed below:</b>										
									90 % of the offered price	10

