

ACEP - Wetland Reserve Easements Criteria - FY 2022

North Dakota

	Maximum Points
Program Priority Questions	100
1. How cost effective is the application? Cost effectiveness evaluates the cost of the easement against all other factors in order to try to maximize the environmental benefit per dollar expended. In the screening tool cost effectiveness was calculated by dividing the estimated costs for easement purchase and restoration and then the total points for the other screening factors.	20
2. To what extent is this application leveraged? Are the applicant(s) willing to accept less than 75% of NRCS GARC Easement Value for a 30-Year Easement (must be in writing - signing the screening document suffices)	10
3. How many of the following items would be addressed by taking an easement on the offered land: migratory birds and other wetland dependent wildlife, water quality, floodwater attenuation, protection of open space, native flora and fauna, and education - Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife including endangered or threatened species and species of concern. - Protect and improvement of water quality - Attenuation of floodwater (requires ditch plug, water retention structure or sediment removal) - Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality - Protecting of Native Flora and Fauna (75% of stand after restoration is Native) - Contribution to education and scientific scholarship (Requires agreement or long term educational commitment with local stakeholders)	50
4. How much of the offered land is productivity for growing crops? How much of the offered land has regularly been planted to an annual crop. Existing hay land fields in rotation for more than 4 years are not considered as an annually planted cropland.	10
5. Are there any environment threats that will require restoration practices other than the normal conservation restoration practices such as grass seeding, ditch plugs, etc.? Examples of environmental threats may include the following items; large chemical or fuel/oil spills, removal of buildings used to store such items, area used as dump for chemical and other wastes.	10

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Resource Priority Questions	300
1. How many acres of wetlands will be restored vegetatively? This is the measured or estimated acres of wetland or former wetland acres which will be restored vegetatively. To be considered restored the acres MUST be seeded to wetland species. Tree removal from the wetland also qualifies for this factor. Reference the e-FOTG for 657 standard.	30
2. Wetland Basins and Acres to be Hydrologically Restored This factor considers both the number of basins and acres restored to be hydrologically restored (e.g. ditch plug, broken tile, dike, diversion, sediment removal, etc.).	60
3. Degree of variability of wetlands and wetland types? This score is the combination of the wetland type, variability of wetland types within the offer, and the ratio of upland acres to existing pemf acres NOT being hydrologically restored.	70
4. State Geographic Area From USFWS Water Breeding Pairs Map Locate the offer on the statewide 2012 Waterfowl Breeding Pairs per square mile thunderstorm maps and choose the majority color for the WRE offer.	30
5. Is offer adjacent to other protected wetlands Examples of such programs are Waterfowl Production Areas, State Game Management Areas, Emergency Watershed Protection Easement areas, or lands with USFWS permanent wetland easements. Other WRE Easements do NOT qualify since they are not permanent.	20
6. Threatened and Endangered Species Occur in County Points are awarded by occurrence and variability of selected T & E species and habitat located in a county.	25
7. Is the offered property located in an 8-digit HUC identified by the ND Health Department as an impaired watershed? The ND Health Dept. has identified priority watersheds by 8 digit HUCs. Those watersheds identified on the 303(d) report as impaired waters receive points	25
8. Will the easement's vegetative and hydrologically restored areas remain protected after the WRE easement has expired? If a public entity i.e. Natural Resources Trust, NDGF, USFWS (purchase agreement or easement) has formally agreed to extend the life of the restoration, then answer yes.	20
9. How many of the following items does the offered land currently meet: Landscape features which allow feasible hydrologic restoration; Water levels that have negatively impacted agricultural productivity most years; Include at least 80 acres of grass seeding; or Adjacent to other WRE/WRP/EWPP easements. - Do the landscape feature allow for feasible hydrologic restoration? - Have the water levels (including flooding) negatively impacted agricultural productivity for over 50% of the years - Does the offer include at least 80 acres of grass seeding. - Is the offer adjacent to other WRE/WRP/EWPP easements?	20