

**WETLAND RESERVE PROGRAM  
RANKING CRITERIA**

County \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Landowner Name \_\_\_\_\_ Farm No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Tract No \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Ranking Team Members: \_\_\_\_\_

USFWS Present: **Y** **N**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Other Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Length of Ownership: \_\_\_\_\_

Is this project a partnership with NGO's: **Y** **N**

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Financial Asst. \_\_\_\_\_

Technical Asst. \_\_\_\_\_



Wetlands  
Reserve  
Program

**Environmental Points** \_\_\_\_\_  
**94 points**

**Economic Points** \_\_\_\_\_  
**6 points**

**TOTAL POINTS  
FOR EASEMENT  
AREA**

**TOTAL MAXIMUM POINTS: 100**

## I. ENVIRONMENTAL CRITERIA

Any known threatened/endangered species habitat, refer directly to the State Conservationist for review.  
**Do not complete ranking process. Contact the Program Manager**

### A. GENERAL DESCRIPTION

What is the estimated area of hydric soil proposed for restoration?	Point Value
1 point per acre rounded to the nearest whole number with a max of 8 pts. (Example: 5.5 acres = 6 points)	
<b>SCORE</b>	

The proposed site is located within the: (Choose only one )	Point Value
<b>Meadow River Wetland Complex</b> (Pocahontas, Greenbrier, Monroe, Summers, Mercer, Fayette, Nicholas, Webster counties)	4
<b>High Elevation Wetland Complexes</b> (bogs) above 2,800 feet in elevation (any county)	4
<b>Chesapeake Bay Drainage</b> (Jefferson, Berkeley, Morgan, Hardy, Hampshire, Mineral, Grant and Pendleton Counties)	3
<b>Ohio River Wetland Complex</b> (Wayne, Cabell, Mason, Jackson, Wood and Pleasants counties)	2
All other counties	1
<b>SCORE</b>	

What is the enrollment type:	Point Value
Permanent Easement	2
Thirty year Easement	1
Restoration Cost Share Agreement	0
<b>SCORE</b>	

Will this site link or extend other existing conservation easements?	Point Value
Yes	1
No	0
<b>SCORE</b>	

What type of altered wetland is being enrolled?	Point Value
Areas of hydric soil containing installed drainage structures (tile, surface ditches, etc.)	2
Areas of hydric soils that are currently utilized for production but are not drained (grazed, hayed or cropped)	1
Other	0
<b>SCORE</b>	

What is the most <u>significant</u> manipulation to the wetland? (Choose only one)	Point Value
Subsurface or surface drainage	3
Bedding	3
Haying/Grazing	2
Clearing/Cropping	2
Impoundment/Embankment/other structures	1
Fill	1
Other	0
<b>SCORE</b>	

Is land within the easement actively being farmed?	Point Value
Yes	1
No	0
<b>SCORE</b>	

What type of restoration is this project?	Point Value
Hydrologic only.	1
Vegetative only.	1
Hydrologic and Vegetative.	2
<b>SCORE</b>	

## B. SOILS

Does the wetland being restored contain soils that are marl or histosols (organic soils)?	Point Value
Yes	1
No	0
<b>SCORE</b>	

### C. WATERSHED/BUFFER

What will be the ratio of restored wetland (hydric soils) to easement buffer (upland soils)? wetland: buffer	Point Value
1:1	4
2:1	3
3:1	2
4:1	1
>5:1	0
<b>SCORE</b>	

What is the most intensive land use of the majority (>50%) within the watershed of the wetland?	Point Value
Forested	4
Pasture/Hayland	3
Cropland.	2
Urban/Suburban	1
Active or reclaimed mined land (<70% cover)	0
<b>SCORE</b>	

Of the following land uses, how many will adjoin the proposed easement boundary: woodland, recreation, urban, cropland, hay/pasture and mine lands?	Point Value
Easement will adjoin to 3 land uses (except urban or mined land)	3
Easement will adjoin to 2 land uses (except urban or mined land)	2
Easement will adjoin to 1 land use (except urban or mined land)	1
Easement will adjoin to urban or mine land	0
<b>SCORE</b>	

Are oil or gas wells (active or abandoned), rights of way or other encumbrances present within the proposed easement boundary?	Point Value
Yes	0
No	2
<b>SCORE</b>	

### D. VEGETATIVE COMMUNITIES

What is the primary targeted vegetative community for the restored wetland?	Point Value
Forested Wetland	5
Scrub-Shrub Dominated	4
Emergent Marsh	3
Wet Meadow	2
Mud flat/mineral soils	1
Riparian complex (containing any of the above) located within immediate floodplain	3
<b>SCORE</b>	

Identify the primary wetland types planned within the easement boundary. (Choose only one)		Point Value
1	Majority of the wetland will be scrub shrub (i.e. alder/button bush communities) <b>OR</b> forested wetland	2
2	Majority of the wetland will be wet meadow with saturated soils and seasonal inundation	1
3	Majority of the wetland will be marsh with water <18" over 75% of the wetland	1
--	Wetland will consists of >30% deep water (>3ft) habitats	0
--	Wetland will consists of approximately equal combinations of 1, 2, and 3 above	3
--	Wetland will consists of approximately equal combinations of 2 and 3 above	2
<b>SCORE</b>		

### E. HYDROLOGIC INFORMATION

Can hydrology be restored to the entire original hydric soil area?	Point Value
100-75% of original hydric soil or vegetative restoration only	7
75-50% of original hydric soil	5
50-25% of original hydric soil	3
<25% of original hydric soil	1
<b>SCORE</b>	

Will additional water be required to sustain the natural hydrologic regime through diversions or other structures?	Point Value
Yes	0
No	5
<b>SCORE</b>	

What will be the principle source of hydrology after restoration?	Point Value
Subsurface	7
Overland flow and/or flooding	5
Precipitation	3
Artificial (pumping)	0
<b>SCORE</b>	

What is the goal for the ratio of restored saturated soils to surface water after restoration? (Exclude buffer area and only choose one of the following.)	Point Value
Saturated Soils > 90%	3
Surface Water > 90%.	1
<b>OR wetland surface water equals:</b>	
10% - 25%	5
26% - 49%	6
50% - 70%	7
<b>SCORE</b>	

Estimate what percent of the restored wetland surface water will be at a depth of 1/2" to 18" after restoration?	Point Value
0% - 10%.	0
11% - 20%	3
21% - 30%	4
31% - 50%	5
51% - 70%	6
71% - 80%	7
81% - 100%	6
<b>SCORE</b>	

After restoration, approximately how long will the wetland have surface water? (For the purposes of this document, growing season is defined as April 1 to Oct 15.)	Point Value
Wetland will be inundated > 30 days during the growing season	8
Wetland will be inundated < 30 days during the growing season	4
Wetland will be seasonally inundated or only during runoff events	1
<b>SCORE</b>	

Will surface water be available for spring and fall migrant waterfowl?	Point Value
Wetland will be inundated during the spring and fall migration periods	6
Wetland will be inundated during spring (4/15 - 6/1) migration only	3
Wetland will be inundated during fall (9/15 - 11/1) migration only	3
Wetland will not be inundated during migration periods	1
<b>SCORE</b>	

## F. WATER QUALITY

Will the restored wetland improve water quality by reduction or retention of any of the following?	Point Value
Nutrient runoff (i.e. runoff from feedlots, barnyards, etc.)	1
Sedimentation	1
Both	2
Wetland does not discharge into surface water	0
<b>SCORE</b>	

**TOTAL ENVIRONMENTAL POINTS (Max 94) \_\_\_\_\_**

## II. ECONOMIC CRITERIA

What will be the easement acquisition cost in the county where the easement is located?	Point Value
> \$3000 per acre	0
\$1500 - \$2999 per acre	1
< \$1500 per acre	2
<b>SCORE</b>	

Are any partners contributing to restoration through technical or financial assistance?	Point Value
Yes	1
No	0
<b>SCORE</b>	

What is the estimated average restoration cost per acre?	Point Value
< \$1500 per acre	1
> \$1500 per acre or greater	0
<b>SCORE</b>	

What will the maintenance requirements for the wetland be after restoration?	Point Value
Easement lands require minimal or no management or maintenance to meet restoration objectives ( i.e. livestock exclusion, tree establishment, etc.)	2
Easement lands will require long term, annual management or maintenance to meet restoration objectives, but land is owned or managed by a resource management entity (i.e. adjacent to Wildlife Management Area or other managed public lands)	1
Easement lands will require long term, annual management or maintenance to meet restoration objectives, and land is not owned or managed by a resource management entity (i.e. pumping stations, liners)	0
<b>SCORE</b>	

**TOTAL ECONOMIC POINTS (Max 6) \_\_\_\_\_**

**The ranking criteria are based upon the following:**

1. Hydrologic and environmental points comprise at least 75 % of the criteria and the restoration will emphasize environmental and hydrologic criteria.
2. Hydrology will make up at least 50% of environmental criteria.
3. Shallow water wetlands (1/2” - 18” depth) will be emphasized to maximize waterfowl benefits.

**NOTES:**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

