

NEVADA NRCS-WETLAND RESERVE PROGRAM

FY 2012

Rating Score

**WETLAND RESERVE PROGRAM
NEVADA RANKING CRITERIA WORKSHEET**

(Revised 11/18/2011)

Client Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ Application No. _____

Evaluators: _____

Check WRP Option: Perpetual Easement _____ *30 -Year Contract _____ 30 Year Easement _____

10 Year Restoration Agreement _____ *(30 Year contract is only for tribal land)

Percentage of Offered Acres with Hydric Soils based on Soils Map (Estimated) _____

WRP FUNDING POOL

Regular WRP Application Yes ___ No ___ Sage-grouse Initiative WRP Application Yes ___ No ___

Acres Proposed for Restoration _____

Total Acres Offered _____

Present Land Use Type Acres

Proposed Land Use Types (ac)

Ag Type _____

Wetlands _____

Woody Riparian _____

Upland _____

SUMMARY OF RATING FACTORS SCORES

	<u>Maximum</u>	<u>Points</u>
FACTOR 1 RESTORED HYDROLOGY (Present Condition)	25	_____
FACTOR 2 RESTORED HYDROLOGY (Future Condition)	25	_____
FACTOR 3 SENSITIVE SPECIES	30	_____
SAGE-GROUSE (SGI Funded Applications Only)	15	_____
FACTOR 4 HABITAT DIVERSITY	20	_____
FACTOR 5 ADJACENT PROTECTED HABITAT	15	_____
FACTOR 6 SURROUNDING HABITAT	15	_____
FACTOR 7 RESTORED HYDROLOGY (Soil Factors)	40	_____
FACTOR 8 SIZE OF OFFERING	15	_____
FACTOR 9 COST RANKING SCORE	40	_____
FACTOR 10 PARTNERSHIP POINTS	<u>20</u>	_____
Total	260	_____

Signature - FWS Representative _____
Date

Signature - WRP Technical Team Leader _____
Date

Signature - District Conservationist _____
Date

Landowner Review _____
Date

1. RESTORED NATURAL HYDROLOGY (Present Condition)

*Hydrology Functions Absent (Example: Prior Converted Wetland does not Pond or Flood for 15 Consecutive Days) (25 Points)

*Hydrology Functions Degraded (Example: Farmed Wetlands or Wetlands Farmed Under Natural Conditions, still Ponds or Floods for 15 days or more) (20 Points)

Note: Cropland that has been restored to wetland voluntarily will be scored according to its prior condition.

*Restored Prior Converted Wetlands (25 Points)

*Formerly Farmed Wetland or Wetlands Farmed Under Natural Conditions (20 Points)

Note: If more than one situation, making up 25% or more of the offered acreage, calculate the weighted average.

Total _____
(Maximum - 25 points)

Field Notes: (describe the natural and supplemental hydrology, type and source of water, and dependability of supplemental sources). _____

2. HYDROLOGY RESTORATION/Expected Future Condition as Functioning Wetland

*High Probability of Restoration on at least 50% of the offered acres, or Supplemental Water readily available during the growing season with Vernal Pool Complex > 15% of the offered acres. (25 Points)

*High Probability of Restoration on 25-50% of the offered acres, or Supplemental Water available during growing season. (20 Points)

*Probability of Restoration on < 25% of the offered acres. (10 Points)

Note: If more than one situation, making up 25% or more of the offered acreage, calculate the weighted average.

Total _____
(Maximum - 25 points)

Field Notes: (describe restorable hydrology, ponding/flooding probability, source and reliability of supplemental water). _____

3. SENSITIVE SPECIES

-Listed Federal & State T&E Species 5 points each
-Species of Concern: Any Species listed in the State Wildlife Action Plan 3 points each
Species Total _____
(Maximum - 30 points)

Sage-grouse Habitat Points- Only SGI funded WRP's
Protect Core Area Habitat (15 Points)
Sage-grouse Range (5 Points) Total _____
(Maximum 15 Points)

<u>SEASON</u>	<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>HABITAT</u>	<u>SEASON</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

4. HABITAT DIVERSITY

Number of Habitat Elements Anticipated Following Restoration for each selected Wetland Type

*Wetland Types

**Habitat Elements are components of each wetland type

___ *Forested/Scrub Shrub

___ *Open Water (>3 ft deep)*

___ *Submergents*

___ *Shrubs/Trees*

___ *Associated Uplands*

___ *Vernal Pools

___ *Mud Flat*

___ *Submergents*

___ *Emergents*

___ *Associated Uplands*

___ *Seasonal Herbaceous

___ *Mud Flat*

___ *Open Water*

___ *Emergents*

___ *Shrubs/Trees****

___ *Associated Uplands*

___ *Semi-permanent Herbaceous

___ *Mud Flat*

___ *Open Water*

___ *Submergents*

___ *Trees/Shrubs****

___ *Associated Uplands*

___ *Coastal/Tidal

___ *Mudflats*

___ *Open Water*

___ *Submergents****

___ *Emergents****

___ *Shrubs/Trees****

___ *Associated Uplands*

Points for Habitat Elements for each Wetland Type

All (15 points)

All but One (10 points)

All but Two (5 points)

Three or More Absent (1 point)

Total _____

(Maximum - 20 points)

FOOTNOTES:

* Check appropriate wetland type evaluated and the Habitat Elements present.

** The Habitat Elements listed below each Wetland Type must occupy at least 10% of the specific associated Wetland Type to be considered present. (Best estimate)

*** Considered in this Wetland Type only if present historically and will occupy at least 5% of the restored wetland. (Best estimate)

Note: ADD 5 ADDITIONAL POINTS FOR MORE THAN 1 WETLAND TYPE

Field Notes: _____

5. ADJACENT TO PROTECTED AREAS OR WITHIN CRITICALLY LIMITED HABITAT.

- *Adjacent to Existing Easement, Refuge or other Protected Area..... (15 points)
- *Protected Habitat within 1 mile..... (10 points)
- *Protected Habitat greater than 1 mile..... (5 points)

Total _____
(Maximum - 15 points)

Field Notes: Document type and size of protected area and distance from Proposed Easement.

<u>TYPE OF PROTECTED AREA</u>	<u>DISTANCE</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Additional Field Notes: _____

6. SURROUNDING HABITAT DIRECTLY ADJACENT TO THE PROPOSED EASEMENT

Adjacent Habitats

- * 3 Habitat Types, or Wetlands, making up greater than 75% of the adjacent land use types. (15 points)
- * 2 Habitat Types, or Wetlands making up greater than 50% of the adjacent land use types. (10 points)
- * 1 Habitat Type, or Wetlands, making up greater than 25% of the adjacent land use types. (5 points)
- * 1 Habitat Type, or Wetlands, making up less than 25% of the adjacent land use types. (1 point)

Check all Habitat Types that apply:

- | | | |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grassland | <input type="checkbox"/> Grain Crops | Total _____
(Maximum - 15 points) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Woodland | <input type="checkbox"/> Irrigated Pasture | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brush/Scrubland | <input type="checkbox"/> Woody Riparian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands | | |

Field Notes: _____

7. RESTORED NATURAL HYDROLOGY/SOIL CHARACTERISTICS

(Potential to restore water features based on soil characteristics)

***Flooding Potential: Temporary Inundation by Flowing Water**

Frequent (>50 events in 100 years)	(15 points)
Occasional (5-50 events in 100 years)	(5 points)
Rare (1-5 events in 100 years)	(1 point)

***Ponding: (Determined by Permeability, Soil Type, Physiographic Position)**

Very Slow	(15 points)
Slow	(10 points)
Moderate	(5 points)
Moderately Rapid	(3 points)
Excessive	(1 point)

***Saturation: (Depth to Water Table)**

0 to 1 foot	(10 points)
1 to 3 feet	(5 points)
Greater than 3 feet	(1 point)

Total _____
(Maximum- 40 points)

Note: Refer to local soil survey data for specific categories related to flooding, permeability and depth to water table. Points for a high water table may be considered even though the water table is seasonal.

Field Notes: _____

8. SIZE OF EASEMENT

100 acres or Greater	(15 points)
Less than 100 acres, but greater than 40 acres	(10 points)
20 to less than 40 acres	(7 points)
Less than 20 acres	(0 points)

Total _____
(Maximum - 15 points)

Note: Parcels smaller than 20 acres are not eligible to be enrolled based on the Wetland Reserve Program requirements. However, parcels smaller than 20 acres may receive special consideration if the land is providing critical remnant wetland habitat for a US Fish & Wildlife Service listed endangered species. Special consideration status will need to be closely evaluated by the Nevada NRCS State Biologist, the US Fish & Wildlife Service, and the NRCS easement program staff.

9. COST RANKING SCORE

Low: Average restoration cost is less than \$500/acre (40 points)

Moderate: Average Restoration cost is \$500-\$1500/acre (30 points)

High: Average Restoration cost is greater than \$1500/acre (20 points)

Total _____
(Maximum - 40 points)

10. PARTNERSHIP POINTS

Note: Partnership contributions include real dollar donations to a project that actually reduce NRCS' total costs for the easement. NRCS does not consider technical assistance for surveying, design and planning to be a partnership contribution, since these services are not considered in the overall cost of the project. Projects receive partnership points proportionately as the NRCS costs are reduced.

Estimated Cost of restoration for project based on Preliminary Restoration Plan \$ _____

Partnership Contribution (Entity- _____) \$ _____

Contribution's Percentage of restoration cost _____

Total _____
(Maximum - 20 points)

Note: One point can be given for every percentage that NRCS' estimated Restoration cost is reduced (Maximum 20% = 20 points)

OR

Nevada Geographic Area Rate Cap - (GARC) Value for offered land \$ _____

Landowner Offer - lower than the Nevada GARC \$ _____

Offer's Percentage below GARC _____

Total _____
(Maximum - 20 points)

Note: One point can be given for every percentage that NRCS' Easement Payment is reduced below the GARC (Maximum 20% = 20 points)

**NEVADA COST RANKING CRITERIA
WETLANDS RESERVE PROGRAM**

	A	B	C	D		
Easement Type	Multiplication N factor	Agricultural WRP Offer	Restoration Cost	Combined Costs: Column A + Column B	Multiply Combined Costs by N	Final Rating: 40 minus Column D
Rural	0.005	\$	\$	\$		
Urban	0.002	\$	\$	\$		
<p>Cost Ranking Factor: Relative costs associated with the purchase of the easement without regard to partnership contributions. Use realistic agricultural land values based on the Nevada NRCS GARC values and construction costs for the county in which the property is located. (40 pts.)</p>						
<p>TOTALS: \$* Projects are eligible for cost-ranking points when the combined costs for both easement acquisition and restoration are less than the easement cost, plus what would be considered on the high end of restoration costs.</p> <p>Examples: <u>Rural</u> - \$8,000.00 X .005 = 40; 40 - 40 = 0 points \$4,500.00 X .005 = 22.5; 40 - 22.5 = 17.5 points <u>Urban</u> - \$20,000 x .002 = 40; 40-40 = 0 pts \$11,000 x .002 = 22; 40-22 = 18 pt</p>						

<u>Preliminary Estimate of Restoration Practices Needed, Units and Costs</u>	
<u>Acres/Number/Feet</u>	<u>Cost</u>
De-Leveling _____	\$ _____
Flashboard Risers _____	\$ _____
Screw Gates _____	\$ _____
Tree/Shrub Plantings _____	\$ _____
Levees/Dikes _____	\$ _____
Grass Plantings _____	\$ _____
Tule Transplants _____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
Totals: _____	\$ _____

Add additional practices as needed for restoration.