

ACEP - MISSISSIPPI WETLAND RESERVE EASEMENTS RANKING FACTORS

PERMANENT EASEMENT

2 0 1 7

Owner(s) Name(s) (as listed on deed):

Date: _____

FOR REPORTING PURPOSES ONLY

(Completed by NRCS)

Administrative County: _____

Physical Location:

County - _____ 0 _____ Section - _____

Township - _____ Range - _____

Mailing Address:

City: _____

State: MS Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Social Security No.

or Tax ID No.: _____

Farm Serial No.: _____

Tract No.: _____

Length of Ownership: _____

Total Acres Offered for WRE: _____

Acres of Aquaculture Offered: _____

Acres of Cropland Offered: _____

Acres of Forestland Offered: _____

Acres of Pastureland Offered: _____

Acres of CRP Offered: _____

Acres of Donated Land: _____

NOTE:

Tracking Number: _____

NEST Number: _____

STATE OFFICE USE ONLY	
Ownership Waiver Letter Received (Yes / No)	0
Ownership Waiver Approved (Yes / No)	0
Application for WRE is (Eligible / Not Eligible)	0

Eligibility Land Types (Acres)

1. _____ **Farmed or Converted Wetlands**
Based on NFSAM (WX, FW, PC, CC, FWP - CW & CW+year are ineligible)
2. _____ **Former or Degraded Wetlands**
Wetlands where hydrology has been degraded and can be restored.
3. _____ **Lands Substantially Altered by Flooding**
The alteration must be permanent and great enough to create hydrology, hydric soils, and hydrophitic vegetation over time.
4. _____ **Riparian Areas**
Areas that link wetlands less than one mile apart that are protected or will be protected with the same easement.
5. _____ **CRP Lands**
See MS Supplement for CRP Eligibility Guidance.
6. _____ **Restored Wetlands Not Yet Permanently Protected**
USFWS Partners program, 30 year WRP easements, etc.
7. _____ **Adjacent Lands**
A maximum of one to one eligible land to adjacent lands that will contribute to functions and values of the easement.

0.0	Total Acres -- sum 1-7	
0.00%	% Eligible to Adjacent (Must be > 50%)	Sum 1-6 / Total Acres

Required Signatures
(To Be Signed After Preliminary Ranking Is Completed)

WRE Ranking Team Leader**:		Date: _____
Other WRE Ranking Team Members:		Date: _____
		Date: _____
		Date: _____
USFWS Representative(s):		Date: _____
Other Representative(s):		Date: _____

**ACEP - Mississippi Wetland Reserve Easements Ranking Factors
Summary Sheet
Permanent Easement**

<u>Ranking Factors</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
<u>Environmental Factors (3600 Potential Points)</u>	
1. Location Significance (Maximum 350 points) » » »	= 0
2. Wildlife Habitat Threatened & Endangered Species or MS Species of Special Concern/ Forest Bird Reforestation Priority Area (Max 400 pts) »	= 0
3. Water Quality	
A. Surface Water Filtering Effect (Max 200 pts) » »	= 0
B. Site Location Related to Waterbodies (Max 50 pts) »	= 0
C. Site Location Related to Alluvial Aquifer Zone (Max 50 p	= 0
D. Cropping Cessation (Max 150 pts) » » » » »	= 0
4. Hydrology Restoration	
A. Percentage And Increment of Hydrology Restored (Max 1500 pts)	= 0
B. Diversity of Habitat Types (Max 300 pts) » » »	= 0
C. Percent of Cropland in PC, FW, or FWP with Hydrology Restoration Potential (Maximum - 600 points) » » »	= 0
<u>Non-Environmental Factors (800 Potential Points)</u>	
5. Cost/Benefit Comparison (Maximum - 150 points) » » »	= 0
6. Land Priority (Maximum - 350 points) » » » »	= 0
7. Partnership for Restoration Costs (Max 300 pts) » » »	= 0
8. Penalty - If L/O has withdrawn within 2 previous FY's from WRE option (Maximum - 500 pts) » » » » » » »	= 0
9. FINAL SCORE OF RANKING FACTORS » » » » »	= 0

ACEP - Mississippi Wetland Reserve Easements Ranking Factors

PERMANENT EASEMENT

Environmental Factors (3600 Potential Points)

1. Location Significance

Name of permanently protected area: _____

Check the highest appropriate category. (Max- 350 pts; Check ONLY ONE, pts are NOT additive.)

<u>Proximity to permanently protected area</u>	<u>Proximity to wooded wetland area/ Permanently protected areas less than 250</u>
_____ Properties adjoining on 3 or more sides (350 pts.)	_____ Properties adjoining (175 pts.)
_____ Properties adjoining on 2 or less sides (300 pts.)	_____ Properties less than 1/4 mile (125 pts.)
_____ Properties less than 1/4 mile (250 pts.)	_____ Properties 1/4 to 1/2 mile (100 pts.)
_____ Properties 1/4 to 1/2 mile (200 pts.)	_____ Properties more than 1/2 mile (0 pts.)
_____ Properties 1/2 to 1 mile (100 pts.)	
_____ Properties more than 1 mile (0 pts.)	

2. Wildlife Habitat

CHECK THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS WHICH APPLY! (Maximum - 400 points)

IDENTIFY SPECIES

- YES** _____ Tract **located within** T&E species area or Mississippi species of concern area marked on location maps. (400 pts. Max.) _____
- YES** _____ Tract **located within** FBBDSM marked on FBBDSM map. (400 pts. Max.)
- NO** _____ Tract **not located within** T&E species area or Mississippi species of concern area marked on location maps. (0 pts.)
- NO** _____ Tract **not located within** FBBDSM marked on FBBDSM map. (0 pts.)

3. Water Quality - (Non-WRE is runoff from adjoining lands)

A. Surface Water Filtering Effect from Non-WRE Farm Runoff (Maximum - 200 points)

<u>LAND USE</u>	<u>POINTS</u>
_____ Cropland	200
_____ Pastureland, Hay Land, and/or Aquaculture	100
_____ Forestland and/or Other Lands	0
_____ No Filtering	0

B. Site Location Related to State Designated Waterbody Uses (Maximum - 50 points)

<u>USES</u>	<u>POINTS</u>	<u>NAME OF WATER BODY</u>
_____ Public Water Supply (Surface)/ Well Head Protection Site	50	_____
_____ Recreational Lakes and Large Rivers	40	_____
_____ Fish & Wildlife Streams Solid Blue Line	30	_____
_____ Ephemeral Streams Dotted Blue Line	20	_____
_____ Other (no adjoining waterbodies)	0	

MS WRE Ranking Factors
Permanent Easement

C. Site Location Related to State Declining Alluvial Aquifer Zone (Maximum - 50 points)

<u>GIS Layer from YMD aquifer overdraft zones</u>	<u>POINTS</u>
0.876	50
0.625	40
0.375	30
0.125	20
Outside zone	0

D. Improvement from Crop Cessation (Maximum - 150 points)

<u>POINTS</u>	<u>CROP</u>	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>WEIGHTED AVERAGE POINTS</u>
150 x	Cotton	_____	= 0
120 x	Corn & Grain Sorghum	_____	= 0
90 x	Soybeans & Rice	_____	= 0
60 x	Small Grains (wheat, oats, etc) and/or Other Crops	_____	= 0
30 x	Pastureland and Hay Land	_____	= 0
10 x	Aquaculture	_____	= 0
0 x	Forestland and/or No Crop Produced in the Last 2 Years.	_____	= 0
TOTALS		0.0	0

Ranking Point Value = Total Weighted Points / Total Acres Offered = _____ Points

4. Hydrology Restoration

A. Percentage And Increment of Hydrology Restored (Maximum - 1500 pts)

<u>Existing Condition</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Hydrology After Restoration 1/</u>	<u>Incre- ment Score</u>	<u>% of Easement Restored 1/ 2/</u>	<u>Factor</u>	<u>Points</u>
PC		Semi-permanently to permanently Flooded 3/*	37.5 x		x 100	
		Seasonally - Long Duration 4/*	31.25 x			
		No measures taken to improve hydrology	0 x			
NW		Semi-permanently to permanently Flooded 3/*	31.25 x		x 100	
		Seasonally - Long Duration 4/	25 x			
		No measures taken to improve hydrology	0 x			
FW		Semi-permanently to permanently Flooded 3/*	31.25 x		x 100	
		Seasonally - Long Duration 4/	25 x			
		No measures taken to improve hydrology	0 x			
FWP		Semi-permanently to permanently Flooded 3/	18.75 x		x 100	
		Seasonally - Long Duration 4/	12.5 x			
		No measures taken to improve hydrology	0 x			
Hydrologically Degraded Wetlands/ Substantially Altered Topography 5/		Semi-permanently to permanently Flooded 3/	18.75 x		x 100	
		Seasonally - Long Duration 4/	12.5 x			
		No measures taken to improve hydrology	0 x			
Existing Wetlands (I.e., adjoining wooded wetlands (W) or wetlands farmed under natural conditions (WX))		Seasonally - Long Duration 4/	12.5 x		x 100	
		No measures taken to improve hydrology	0 x			
TOTALS	0.0 6/	7 Needed 8		0.0% 7/	% PTS	0 8/

MS WRE Ranking Factors
Permanent Easement

B. Diversity of Habitat Types to be Restored (Potential for restoration due to existing topographic features)

<u>Ridge, Swale, Slough, or Lake</u> (Maximum - 300 points)	<u>POINTS</u>
_____ Restoration will create at least 3 of the 4 above habitat types	300
_____ Restoration will create at least 2 of the 4 habitat types	150
_____ Restoration will create at least 1 of the 4 habitat types (aquaculture)	0

C. Cropland Hydrology Restoration Potential (Maximum - 600 points)

-- PC, FW, or FWP comprises \geq 80% of easement area and W \leq 10% of easement area.	600
-- PC, FW, or FWP comprises \geq 70% of easement area and W \leq 20% of easement area.	400
-- PC, FW, or FWP comprises \geq 60% of easement area and W \leq 30% of easement area.	200
-- PC, FW, or FWP comprises <u>less than</u> 60% of easement area	0

PC ac. _____ + FW ac. _____ + FWP ac. _____ /Total Ac. In Easement Area
 W ac. _____ NW ac. _____ AW ac. _____ 0.0 = _____

Non-Environmental Factors (800 Potential Points)

5. Cost/Benefit Comparison (Maximum - 150 points)

_____ 0 Environmental Benefit Points / Cost per Acre X 100

6. Land Priority (based on majority of land use offered) (Maximum - 350 points)

_____ Crop	350
_____ Aquaculture	250
_____ Pasture	150
_____ CRP	50
_____ Woods	0

7. Partnership for Restoration Costs (Maximum - 300 points)

There is no partnership involvement currently in Mississippi

Conservation Partner/Landowner agrees to provide:

_____ % of total wetland restoration practice costs x 3 = _____ 0 _____ points.

8. Penalty

If a landowner has withdrawn from a WRE Option to Purchase or an Agreement for the Purchase within the previous two (2) Fiscal Years, there will be a 500 point subtracted from the sub-total point value score on page 2. _____ points. (0, 500 pts.)

ATTACHMENT D

Landowner/Partner Agreement to Provide Funding for Wetland Restoration Practices

I (We) _____ the undersigned agree to complete the following wetland restoration practice(s):

<u>Practice(s)</u>	<u>Amount/Unit</u>	<u>C/S %</u>	<u>Unit Cost</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
Water Control Structure	_____ / No.	100.0%	10,000	_____
Diked Impoundment	_____ / Ac.	100.0%	2,500	_____
Microtopography Excavation	_____ / Ac.	100.0%	7,500	_____
Forest Site Preparation - Mowing	_____ / Ac.	100.0%	40	_____
Forest Site Preparation - Ripping	_____ / Ac.	100.0%	40	_____
Tree/Shrub Establishment	_____ / Ac.	100.0%	150	_____
Direct Seeding	_____ / Ac.	N/A	N/A	_____ N/A
TOTAL				\$ -

The above practice(s) and amount(s) account for _____ of the total wetland restoration cost(s).
 (Total (from above) divided by Total Restoration Cost (Total Estimated Cost of WR-1 + WR-2))

I (We) understand and agree that the above practice(s) will be completed according to NRCS standards and specifications found in the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG), Wetlands Reserve Plan of Operation (WRPRO), and the Area Engineer Design Criteria.

Furthermore, I (We) understand that this cost, \$ _____ - (total from above), pledged by the partner/landowner will be withheld from the easement payment at closing. These escrowed funds will be paid only upon completion of above listed restoration practice(s). NRCS will use said funds to complete restoration work if not completed in a timely manner and according to standards and specifications.

Landowner

Date

Landowner(s)

Date

Partner Representative

Date

ATTACHMENT B

Estimated Easement Cost Ranking Worksheet

Easement cost values will be calculated for ranking purposes only by using the geographic area rate cap land values **OR** if an offer receives at least 60% of the total environmental ranking factors then, the landowner may choose to make a voluntary bid that will be used in place of the estimated value of the land. If the landowner(s) make(s) a voluntary bid, then the bid value will be used for ranking instead of the estimated easement value.

Enter the assigned estimated land value for each appropriate land use category in the easement area or the landowner's bid offer. (To be beneficial in the ranking process the landowner's voluntary bid must be less than the Estimated Easement Cost per acre from number 5.)

Estimated Easement Value	Offered Acres	Total \$	Landowner's Bid
Cropland: _____	0.0 ac. =	1. _____	
Pastureland: _____	0.0 ac. =	2. _____	
Forest Land: _____	0.0 ac. =	3. _____	
Aquaculture/Catfish: _____	0.0 ac. =	4. _____	
CRP: _____	0.0 ac. =	5. _____	
Donated Acres: _____	0.0 ac. =	6. _____	
TOTAL EASEMENT PAYMENT BASED ON ESTIMATED LAND VALUES (Add 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6)		7. \$ _____ -	TOTAL EASEMENT PAYMENT BASED ON LANDOWNER'S BID OFFER 7a \$ _____ -
ESTIMATED EASEMENT COST PER ACRE (Line 6 / Total Easement Acres Offered)		8. _____	ESTIMATED EASEMENT COST PER ACRE BASED ON LANDOWNER'S BID OFFER 8a _____
	0.0 ac.)		(Line 6 / Total Easement Acres Offered) 0.0 ac.

WRE LANDOWNER BID SHEET or DONATION OF ACRES

I understand that I may make a voluntary bid offer that will be used in the ranking process to determine which offered areas provide the most environmental benefits at the least cost to the U. S. Government. If accepted into the program, even though I made a voluntary bid offer, I will be paid the **lesser** of: (1) Mississippi Geographic Area Rate Cap (GARC), (2) the actual appraised agricultural land value, or (3) my voluntary bid offer.

I further understand that if I do not make a voluntary bid offer, the estimated county easement value will be used to ranking purposes only. If I am accepted into the program, I will be paid the **lesser** of: (1) Mississippi GARCs, or (2) the appraised agricultural land value.

Please check and complete one of the following choices and sign this form. All persons with a legal interest in the listed property below must sign this agreement.

I choose not to make a voluntary bid for land offered for the WRE located _____
(legal description of FSA's Farm Number(s) and Tract Number(s))

I bid _____ **dollar(s) per acre** for land offered for the WRE located _____
(legal description of FSA's Farm Number(s) and Tract Number(s))

Signature(s) _____

Date _____
 Date _____
 Date _____