

GRP Ranking Criteria

For fiscal year 2003 priority is given to sites not requiring restoration. All applications will be screened with the following question prior to ranking.

Does this land have more than 50% native herbaceous species with no less than 30% mixed native grass. If no, the application will be held and ranked for possible funding in fiscal year 2004. If yes, continue with the ranking process. (See Exhibit A and criteria IIIB.) (Circle one) Yes No

I. Grazing Operation

Is this land currently part of an existing grazing operation (includes hay land to provide hay for the operation) and is this operation expected to continue for the foreseeable and indefinite future?

Yes	<u>25</u>
No	<u>0</u>

II. Conversion Risk

(Assigned points only in A or B not both)

A. Conversion to Non-Ag Use (MPZ is a 5 miles radius surrounding cities in Arkansas that meet a criteria of 10% growth over a 10-year period)

Within Metropolitan Planning Zone (MPZ)

Class I, IIe, IIIe	<u>550</u>
Class IIw, IIIw, IVe, IVs	<u>400</u>
Class VIe, VIs	<u>350</u>
Class IVw, Vw, VIIe, VIIs	
VIIw, VIIIe	<u>0</u>

Within 1 mile of MPZ

Class I, IIe, IIIe	<u>400</u>
Class IIw, IIIw, IVe, IVs	<u>350</u>
Class VIe, VIs	<u>250</u>
Class IVw, Vw, VIIe, VIIs	
VIIw, VIIIe	<u>0</u>

Greater than 1 mile from MPZ

Class I, IIe, IIIe	<u>250</u>
Class IIw, IIIw, IVe, IVs	<u>200</u>
Class VIe, VIs	<u>100</u>
Class IVw, Vw, VIIe, VIIs	
VIIw, VIIIe	<u>0</u>

B. Conversion to Cropland (Cropland other than hay, fruit trees, vineyards, or any other agricultural commodity)

Adjacent to Cropland

Class I, IIe, IIIe	<u>500</u> (add 50 points if in MLRA 131 or 134)
Class IIw, IIIw, IVe, IVs	<u>450</u> (add 50 points if in MLRA 131 or 134)
Class VIe, VIs	<u>400</u> (add 50 points if in MLRA 131 or 134)
Class IVw, Vw, VIIe, VIIs	
VIIw, VIIIe	<u>0</u>

Within 1 mile of Cropland

Class I, IIe, IIIe	<u>350</u> (add 50 points if in MLRA 131 or 134)
Class IIw, IIIw, IVe, IVs	<u>300</u> (add 50 points if in MLRA 131 or 134)
Class VIe, VIs	<u>250</u> (add 50 points if in MLRA 131 or 134)
Class IVw, Vw, VIIe, VIIs	
VIIw, VIIe	<u>0</u>

Greater than 1 mile from Cropland

Class I, IIe, IIIe	<u>200</u> (add 50 points if in MLRA 131 or 134)
Class IIw, IIIw, IVe, IVs	<u>150</u> (add 50 points if in MLRA 131 or 134)
Class VIe, VIs	<u>100</u> (add 50 points if in MLRA 131 or 134)
Class IVw, Vw, VIIe, VIIs	
VIIw, VIIe	<u>0</u>

III. Biodiversity**A. Suitability for Wildlife species - Contiguous Grassland**

The proposed easement area will become a part of an area that is native grassland or will be native grassland that may or may not be under any type of easement or government ownership.

Acres in contiguous native grassland

More than 500	<u>50</u>
301 - 500	<u>35</u>
100 - 300	<u>20</u>
40 - 100	<u>5</u>
Less than 40	<u>0</u>

B. Native Plant Diversity

(See Exhibit A)

At least 10 native species are dominant in 50% of the stand	<u>125</u>
6-9 native species are dominant in 50% of the stand	<u>75</u>
3-5 native species are dominant in 50% of the stand	<u>25</u>
<3 native species present or the species make up less than 50% of the stand	<u>0</u>

C. Retaining Habitat Function

Permanent Easements	<u>50</u>
30 Year Easement	<u>40</u>
30 Year LTA	<u>30</u>
20 Year LTA	<u>15</u>
15 Year LTA	<u>10</u>
10 Year LTA	<u>5</u>

IV. Protected Area (Location Significance)

Proximity of the area to one of the following permanently protected areas: National Wildlife Refuges, Wildlife Management Areas, National Forests, WRP easements, FSA easements, other areas owned by or under easement to federal agencies, state agencies, or conservation organizations.

Adjacent to the defined area	<u>50</u>
Within 1/4 mile of defined area	<u>40</u>
From 1/4 to 1/2 mile of defined area	<u>30</u>
From 1/2 to 1 mile of defined area	<u>20</u>
From 1 to 2 miles of defined area	<u>10</u>
>2 miles from the defined area	<u>0</u>

V. Operation and Maintenance & Maintaining Grazing Operations

Considering the sites location, accessibility, topography, legal constraints, and landowner willingness indicate the number of different operation and maintenance techniques or options that can be used in a management plan.

<u>Operation and Maintenance options</u>	Three options	<u>150</u>
Managed Rotational Grazing	Two options	<u>100</u>
Prescribed Burning	One option	<u>50</u>
Haying	None	<u>0</u>
Herbicide		
Prescribed Mowing		

Grassland Reserve Program Ranking Sheet

Indicate one category of participation (see criteria IIIc) Permanent Easement _____ 30-Year Easement _____ 20-Year LTA _____

30 Year LTA _____ 15 Year LTA _____ 10 Year LTA _____

Name: _____ Race/Gender: _____ County: _____ Application Date: _____

Acres: Total _____

Restoration Not Needed

Restoration Needed

Rangeland

Improved Pasture

Savanna & Shrub lands

Riparian Areas

Corrals, Barns, Pens

Incidentals Land

Total

*Map showing application area and incidental land must be provided to the State Conservationist with a justification for the incidental land. Inclusion of incidental land requires approval of the NRCS State Conservationist and the FSA State Executive Director.

Summary of Points

I. Grazing Operation

II. Conversion Risk

II. Biodiversity

III. Protected Area

IV. Operation & Maintenance Maintaining Grazing Operations _____

Total points _____
(1,000 Max)

Estimated annual rental rate for LTA \$ _____
(County rates x acres x years)

Estimated purchase cost for easement \$ _____
(Provide best estimate using local information or contacts).

This summary score sheet **MUST** be signed by a NRCS GRP Team Member, District Conservationist, and Landowner (or representative). Applications will not be accepted without all three signatures.

NRCS GRP Team Member _____ Date _____

NRCS District Conservationist _____ Date _____

Landowner _____ Date _____

EXHIBIT A

Native Grass

Big Bluestem
Little Bluestem
Indian Grass
Eastern Gama grass
Switch grass
Virginia Wild rye
Broomsedge
Sideoats Grama
Drop seed
Prairie Cordgrass
Velvet Grass
Purple Top
Tridens

Forbs

Compass Plant
Blazing Star
Pale Purple Coneflower
Butterfly and other milkweeds
Illinois Bundle flower
Partridge Pea
Native Clovers
Indian Paint brush
Black-eyed Susan
Mexican Hat
Woolly Croton
Native Sunflower
Golden Rod
Devil's Shoelace
Wild Indigo
Spiderwort
Rattlesnake Master
American Aloe
Plantain
Sensitive Brier
Lady Tresses Orchid
Goat's Rue
Larkspur
Tick Trefoil
Shrub Lespedeza
Slender Lespedeza
Split beard bluestem