

**FISCAL YEAR 2007
WETLANDS RESERVE PROGRAM
MICHIGAN RANKING SYSTEM
(Circle one) PERMANENT OR 30 - YEAR EASEMENTS**

NOTE: List specific detailed information. Show math work. Go to the 0.1 decimal place.

NAME: _____ **TOTAL POINTS:** _____
DATE: _____ APPROXIMATE TILLABLE ACRES IN
EASEMENT AREA: _____
TRACT NO: _____ APPROX. RESTORABLE HYDRIC SOIL
TOTAL EASEMENT SIZE: _____ AREA _____
COUNTY: _____ COMPLETED BY: _____

Does this perspective WRP easement require a flooding easement from an adjoining neighbor(s) OR a County Drain Agreement (Landowner-Drain Commissioner-NRCS) to restore wetland hydrology? NO _____ YES _____

If YES, a flooding easement from the adjoining neighbor to the WRP participant named above (NOT NRCS) or County Drain Agreement(landowner-Drain Commissioner-NRCS) will need to be drafted and approved, complete with signatures, before the WRP participant named above is accepted in to the program.

UNIQUE CONSIDERATION

Will the restoration result in a definite positive impact to a state or federally listed threatened or endangered species or be part of identified unique wetland habitat? (Examples: Converted Peat Bogs, Converted Muck Land, Fens, or other state, federal or locally important habitat areas.) Use CUPIS (Threatened & Endangers Species Data Base) to screen section and adjacent sections. If yes, document, continue ranking and refer to MTC Wetlands Reserve Program Subgroup.

UNIQUE CONSIDERATION NOTES:

DONATED LAND

Does this WRP offering include donated land? **YES** _____; **NO** _____
(NOTE: If land is donated the landowner must complete and sign the Landowner Contribution Form.)

DONATED LAND NOTES:

.....**SITE FACTORS**.....

1. SIZE OF EASEMENT AREA

Acres in Easement Area, Allocate 1 point per acre (**Maximum Points = 20**)

2. PRESENT LAND USE (as of date of site evaluation).....

At least 3% of the easement area **OR** 1 acre of less than 6 feet deep (average depth - no fish ponds) **RESTORED** “shallow water wildlife habitat”, restored by landowner; by any local, state, or federal agency; or by a private conservation group.....**20 points**

At least 50% of the converted hydric soil component area tilled with in last 2 years.....**15 points**

At least 50% of the converted hydric soil component area tilled within last 4 years..... **10 points**

At least 50% of the converted hydric soil component area pastured or hayed within last 2 years..... **10 points**

At least 50% of the converted hydric soil component area pastured or hayed within last 4 years..... **5 points**

SPECIFIC TILLAGE NOTES:

3. Percent (%) of Total Easement Area which is hydric soil

50-60%	15 points
61-75%	10 points
76-100%	5 points

4. TOTAL EASEMENT AREA TO BE COVERED WITH SEASONAL SURFACE WATER (Total of 4A +4B +4C) (SEE NOTES BELOW).....
(Total maximum points =40)

4A. Water Depth of 6 to 18 inches - Give one (1) point for each percent of the TOTAL easement area that will have 6 to 18 inches of seasonal surface water through restoration and enhancement activities **(Maximum of 15 Points).....**

4B. Water Depth of 19 to 35 inches - Give one (1) point for each percent of the TOTAL easement area that will have 19 to 35 inches of seasonal surface water through restoration and enhancement activities **(Maximum of 15 Points).....**

4C. Water Depth of 36 to 72 inches - Give one (1) point for each percent of the TOTAL easement area that will have 36 to 72 inches of seasonal surface water through restoration and enhancement activities **(Maximum of 10 Points).....**

(Add together factors 4A, 4B, and 4C and place total on line 4)

SEASONAL SURFACE WATER NOTES

- A minimum of Five Percent (5%) (combined total between factors 4A, 4B, and 4C) of the total easement area must be covered with seasonal surface water through restoration and enhancement activities.
- Please use design numbers for water depths and aerial extent of surface water.
- Seasonal = During the Active Growing Season.

5. For Lakeplain prairie* areas add 10 points to the score.....
Lakeplain prairie_____ : (Check here if applicable)

6. For unique saturated areas add 5 points to the score if at least 51% of the easement area is organic soils with observable hydrological alteration but area is NOT fully restorable due to on-site conditions (ex: a county ditch will prevent full hydrologic restoration).**
51% Organic Soils, NOT FULLY restorable_____ : (Check here if applicable)

7. For unique saturated areas add an ADDITIONAL 10 points to the score if at least 51% of the easement area is organic soils with observable hydrological alteration AND hydrology is fully restorable.....
51% Organic Soils, FULLY restorable_____ : (Check here if applicable)

***Lakeplain Prairie** is defined as a area of saturated soil conditions resulting in a wetland plant community dominated by wet prairie vegetation. Lakeplain prairies are located in old lake beds.

****Unique Saturated Area** include areas such as Calcareous Fens, Acidic Bogs, and Organic Soils. ***In order to award points for Unique Saturated Area Criteria - ORGANIC SOILS, at least 51% of the easement area must be restorable organic soils that have a documentable and observable hydrological alteration (example: functioning tiles, functioning pumps, functioning ditches)**

LAKEPLAIN PRAIRIE OR UNIQUE SATURATED AREA NOTES:

8. UPLAND (non-hydric soil) BUFFER VEGETATION ESTABLISHED OR ESTABLISHMENT * (10 year minimum as in WRPO, for establishment, priority given to forbs and grasses)

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| 1) Existing mixture of native forbs and grasses | 10 points |
| 2) Existing mixture of native woody vegetation | 8 points |
| 3) Existing native grasses | 7 points |
| 4) Existing non-native grass and forb mixture | 5 points |
| 5) Establishing native grasses | 4 points |
| 6) Establishing non-native grass and forb mixture | 3 points |
| 7) Establishing mixture of native woody vegetation | 2 points |
| 8) NO UPLAND Buffer | 0 points |

NOTE: 7 to 10 points given on this factor will result in 2 points or 0 points for factor 11

* Use a weighted average by acres. **Example:** 80 acre easement, **40 acres is upland**, 15 acres are Existing mixture of native forbs and grasses and 25 acres are existing mixture of native woody vegetation. **Calculate using UPLAND acres only as follows:** (15/40 x 10) + (25/40 x 8) = 3.75 + 5.0= 8.75

.....**LOCATION FACTORS**.....

9. LANDSCAPE SIGNIFICANCE.....

Project area will be part of a wetland complex as identified on National Wetland Inventory (NWI) maps, Soil Survey or Aerial Photography.

Note: Distances are measured from the easement/agreement boundary.

Check One

> 40 acres of emergent wetland types w/i 1/2 mile of easement boundary .. **10 points**

> 40 acres of emergent wetland types w/i 1 mile of easement boundary **6 points**

> 40 acres of any wetland types w/i 1/2 mile of easement boundary **4 points**

Note: Emergent wetlands imply open water along with vegetation. Excellent for waterfowl Habitat.

10. LOCATION SIGNIFICANCE **TOTAL POINTS**.....

❖ **Give 10 Points for each item!** Circle condition(s) in bold print if applicable!

If **51%** of the proposed easement is with in within:

(1) Critical Floodwater Storage Area (see maps):.....

(2) 2 miles of Great Lakes Shoreline:.....

(3) Provide significant risk reduction for aquatic resources, (i.e. w/i 3000 feet downslope from concentrated livestock facilities):.....

(4) Proposed easement area is with in the boundary of an APPROVED watershed management plan that provides flood protection or wetland restoration (Approved PL566 or 319 Project):.....

LIST the NAME of the APPROVED PL566 or 319 PROJECT AREA HERE : _____

LOCATION SIGNIFICANCE NOTES:

11. HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Area is located within a county which has lost significant wetlands according to attached map.

- >50% wetland loss **15 points**
- >25% to <50% wetland loss **10 points**
- < 25% wetland loss **5 points**

.....**COST FACTORS**.....

12. COST OF EASEMENT*

(\$3,000 – NASS Value of Land and Buildings (per acre**) / 300 = points.

(Maximum Points = 10)

EXAMPLE: Easement Cost = \$800 per acre; \$3,000 - 1500 / 300 = 5.0 points

*** DO NOT INCLUDE RESTORATION COSTS**

****See list of NASS: Value of Land & Buildings, and land Use: by County (2002)**

NOTE: Do not average easement cost per acre to include donated land value.

COST OF EASEMENT NOTES:

13. LANDOWNER DONATION OF ACRES (Maximum of 10 points)

FORMULA: (Value of Donated Acres / Total cost of Easement) x 100

LANDOWNER DONATION OF ACRES NOTES

- **IMPORTANT:** Landowner contributions must be ACRES Donated.
- Donated acres **MUST** be ELIGIBLE acres and must fall with in the easement boundary.
- If ACRES are donated the landowner must complete and sign the Landowner Contribution Form.
- Value of Donated Acres = Acres Donated x NASS County Land Value
- Total cost of Easement = (Total Acres in the easement X NASS County Land Value) -value of donated acres.
- The Value (\$) of the Acres Donated (shown above) will be deducted from the Yellow Book Appraised Value and from the Option Agreement to Purchase.

14. EXTENT OF WETLAND OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE NEEDED
(Not including upland buffer)

infrequent: (Ex: tile break or pushout) **5 points**

regular > every 2-3 years: (Ex: embankment or maintain native grasses) ... **2 points**

regular: annual or more: (Ex: Water Control structure*) **0 points**

- The need for the installation of a water control structure must be agreed to, and document here, by **ALL** three (3) of the following:

Team Member	Initials Indicating Concurrence
District Conservationist	_____
NRCS Engineer	_____
Biologist	_____

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE NOTES:

.....**OTHER FACTORS**.....

15. PROFESSIONAL JUDGMENT .. (Maximum = 10 points).....

Does the proposed WRP easement/contract area have unique characteristics, features or traits which have not been captured or awarded points in the previous 14 ranking criteria? Please average the professional judgment score for the entire team.

PROFESSIONAL JUDGMENT NOTES:

TOTAL POINTS.....

LANDOWNER SIGNATURE DATE

WETLAND TEAM LEADER SIGNATURE DATE

DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST SIGNATURE DATE

Note: If more than one parcel or habitat type is involved in the purposed easement, use a Weighted average for the appropriate questions
Revised 11/15/05 (FY2006)

WETLANDS RESERVE PROGRAM

Pre-Application Screening Tool

(11/15/05)

DECISION MADE (Check One):	ELIGIBLE	NOT ELGIBLE
APPLICANT NAME:	APPLICANT PHONE NUMBER:	
COUNTY WHERE PROPERTY IS LOCATED:	TOWNSHIP:	RANGE:
	SECTION:	
WORKSHEET COMPLETED BY:	SCREENING DATE:	

Wetlands Reserve Program Eligibility Criteria –Please Circle ONE response for each Criterion

<p>1. Does the landowner understand, the PROHIBITIONS of the WRP Easement Deed? Activities which will be PROHIBITED on the easement area (unless a TEMPORARY & REVOCABLE Compatible Use Authorization in granted by NRSC) include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. haying, mowing or seed harvesting for any reason; 2. altering of grassland, woodland, wildlife habitat or other natural features by burning, digging, plowing, disking, cutting or otherwise destroying the vegetative cover; 3. dumping refuse, wastes, sewage or other debris; 4. harvesting wood products; 5. draining, dredging, channeling, filling, leveling, pumping, diking, impounding or related activities, as well as altering or tampering with water control structures or devices; 6. diverting or causing or permitting the diversion of surface or underground water into, within or out of the easement area by any means; 7. building or placing buildings or structures on the easement area; 8. planting or harvesting any crop; and 9. grazing or allowing livestock on the easement area. 	<p style="text-align: center;">If Yes, Continue and have landowner initial below.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>I understand the activities listed in item # 1 will be prohibited on the WRP easement area.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">If NO, = Not eligible</p>
<p>2. <u>WETLAND</u> HYDROLOGY REMOVED: Is there verifiable hydrological manipulation or artificial drainage such as, subsurface tiles, drainage ditches, diversions, pumps, etc, present on the proposed easement area that have removed wetland hydrology?</p> <p>Please list hydrological manipulation methods: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">If Yes = Continue with item # 4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No = Continue with item #3</p>

<p>3. WETLAND HYDROLOGY DEGRADED: Is there a verifiable history AND visible on-site evidence of hydrologic degradation that has taken place in the last 4 years. Pasturing and Haying of the “wetland areas” of the proposed easement are examples of recent hydrologic degradation.</p>	<p>If Yes = Continue</p> <p>No = Not eligible</p>
<p>4. To the best of your knowledge can a minimum of Five Percent (5%) of the total easement area be covered with seasonal surface water through restoration and enhancement activities. (Seasonal = During the Active Growing Season).</p>	<p>If Yes = Continue</p> <p>No = Not eligible</p>
<p>5. For 30-Year Easements and 10-Year Restoration–Only Agreements: Current state laws administered by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) consider most wetlands restored under WRP to be regulated wetlands. This prohibits conversion of the restored wetland after the term of the easement /agreement expires. <u>Does the landowner understand that after the 30 year easement or 10 year agreement expires, that state law prohibits the conversion/drainage of the restored wetland unless a DEQ permit is obtained?</u></p>	<p>If Yes, Continue and have landowner Initial below.</p> <p>_____</p> <p><i>I understand State Law will prohibit the conversion/ drainage of regulated wetlands restored under WRP after the easement/agreement expires unless a DEQ permit is obtained.</i></p> <p>No = Not eligible</p>
<p>6. CAP VALUES: <u>When</u> the easement offer is made to the landowner, will they be willing to accept the appraised per acre value of the property, county cap value OR \$3000.00 per acre, whichever is less, for the easement?</p>	<p>Yes = Continue</p> <p>No = Not eligible, except for a Restoration-Only Agreement</p>
<p>7. Does the proposed WRP easement area require a flooding easement from an adjoining or adjacent neighbor to fully restore wetland hydrology, as required by WRP program regulations?</p>	<p>If Yes, the site is Not eligible until the flooding easement is secured and recorded;</p> <p>If No = CONTINUE</p>
<p>8. Does the proposed easement require a written and recorded agreement from a County Drain Commissioner for the installation of a water control structure or other practice in a legally established drain to fully restore wetland hydrology, as required by WRP program regulations?</p>	<p>If Yes, the site is Not eligible until the written agreement with the Drain Commissioner is secured and recorded;</p> <p>If No = CONTINUE</p>
<p>9. Will maintenance of public or private drains prohibit full restoration of the proposed easement area OR adversely affect the long-term success of the restoration i.e., the restoration cost will be prohibitive and/or significant wetland restoration benefits would not be feasible.</p>	<p>Yes = Not eligible</p> <p>No = Continue</p>
<p>10. According to the County Soil Survey are there HYDRIC soils, drained or undrained, present on the proposed easement area? (Note: The hydric soils present must be Prior Converted or have degraded wetland hydrology (with in the last 4 years) to be eligible.)</p>	<p>Yes = Continue & ENTER Name & Acres of HYDRIC SOIL Present: _____</p> <p>No = Not eligible</p>

<p>11. The Landowner MUST be able to provide clear title to the land and be able to provide RECORDED consent or subordination agreements from each holder of a security interest (lease, mineral rights, easements, liens) in the land. Is there any of the following currently encumbering the title of the proposed easement area; 1)an existing conservation easement; 2) an easement that prohibits restoration of the site; 3) any type of easement that is greater than 30 years in length; 4) a deed restriction that prohibits the production of agricultural commodities; 5) outstanding (not owned or held by the present fee-title landowner) liens, mineral rights or mineral/oil/gas lease(s)? If Yes list Here _____</p>	<p>If Yes, the site is Not eligible until RECORDED consent or subordination agreements from each holder of a security interest (lease, mineral rights, easements, liens) in the land is obtained by the landowner and submitted with the application. <i>(next page please)</i></p> <p>No = Continue</p>
<p>12. To the best of your knowledge can a MDEQ permit be secured to complete the needed wetland restoration work? (For example, placing structures in an existing inland stream or placing spoils in a wetland are activities that are generally NOT going to receive a MEQ permit.)</p>	<p>Yes = Continue</p> <p>No = Not eligible</p>
<p>13. All restorable wetland acres to be included in the WRP Easement /Contract Area must have the hydrology fully restored. Will the presence of landowner requested exceptions from the easement area (Example: existing home sites OR future home/building sites) prohibit full restoration of the proposed easement area, fragment the easement area, OR adversely affect the long-term success of the restoration i.e., the restoration cost will be prohibitive and/or significant wetland restoration benefits would not be feasible. Please review the WRP Exclusions/Reserve Future Building Site Policy with the landowner.</p>	<p>Yes = Not eligible</p> <p>No = Continue</p>
<p>14. Are there known Cultural Resources and/or Threatened or Endangered (T&E) species present on the proposed easement area? YES NO Cultural Resources and /or T & E Species Present: _____ _____</p>	<p>If YES, please specify the Cultural Resource and/or T & E species present.</p>

15. Is there an existing dam, dike, or water control structure on the perspective WRP easement/ contract area? The presence of an existing dam, dike, or water control structure on the perspective WRP easement/ contract area will be clearly noted in bold print on the WRP application (AD-1153).

If Yes, a detailed I & E report on the existing dam, dike, or water control structure must be submitted with the WRP application. The I & E report will be evaluated by Program and Engineering staff to determine if the dam, dike, or water control structure poses an unacceptable risk of liability or financial burden to NRCS. If it is determined that an unacceptable liability or financial burden exists with the dam, dike, or water control structure it will be excluded from the WRP easement/contract area.

No = Continue

LANDOWNER SIGNATURE: _____ Date _____

Comments:

If eligible include this completed WRP Pre-application Screening Tool with the complete WRP Application Package. Forward the complete WRP application packet to the Area Office.

If any of the above were “Not Eligible” DO NOT continue. The site is Not Eligible for WRP.