

New Hampshire Wetland Reserve Program - FINAL 2004 Ranking Criteria - March 3, 2004

The primary emphasis of the Wetland Reserve Program is to protect, restore and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems that have been degraded as a result of agricultural activities. Ranking criteria has been established to prioritize WRP offers based on environmental factors, enrollment option, availability of matching funds, wetland function and values and the estimated success of restoration measures. (514.13)

		Point Value	Points
Eligibility Criteria Select one	Landowner has owned the property for at least 1 year	Land is eligible, no points assigned	
	Landowner has owned property for less than 1 year. (1)	Land is not eligible for WRP Program - STOP	
	Wetland areas to be protected or restored have an agricultural history and have been degraded as a result of agricultural activities. (514.11b)	10	
	Wetland areas to be protected or restored have an agricultural history and have been degraded partially due to agricultural activities and partially due to other factors. (514.11b)	5	
	Wetland areas to be protected or restored do not have an agricultural history or were degraded as a result of non-agricultural activities.	Land is not eligible for WRP Program - STOP	
Hydrologic Restoration (2) (514.14e) Select one.	90% or more of area with degraded hydrology will be restored	50	
	50% to 90% of area with degraded hydrology will be restored	25	
	Less than 50% of area with degraded hydrology will be restored	10	
Acres Benefiting Answer all that apply.	Total on-site contract acreage	≥ 50 Ac = 30pts <50 Ac and ≥20 Ac = 20 pts <20 Ac and ≥ 5 Ac = 10 pts <5 Ac = 5 pts	
	Adjacent land acreage benefiting from WRP. (514.11e) Documentation required. (3)	≥ 50 Ac = 15pts <50 Ac and ≥20 Ac = 10 pts <20 Ac and ≥ 5 Ac = 5 pts <5 Ac = 2 pts (Maximum acreage cannot exceed 50% of the on-site acreage. (514.11e) See exceptions (4))	
Partnerships and Landowner Contribution Select one.	Leveraged funds result in WRP contributing 20% or less of the total project cost.	15	
	Leveraged funds result in WRP contributing 21% to 50% of the total project cost.	10	
	Leveraged funds result in WRP contributing 51% to 74% of the total project cost.	5	
	WRP is providing 75% cost share	1	

Total points from page 1: 0

New Hampshire Wetland Reserve Program - FINAL 2004 Ranking Criteria - March 3, 2004

		Point Value	Points
Wildlife Habitat Select one.	Proposal will enhance, or restore wildlife or fisheries habitat of National or State Significance including nationally or state listed rare, threatened and endangered species or in areas identified by NHI as unique and rare plant communities .	30	
	Proposal will result in restoration or enhancement of habitats for fish and wildlife species experiencing declining or significantly reduced populations, including migratory species.	10	
	Other benefits to wildlife	1	

Estimated USDA cost per acre Select one.	≤\$2000	10	
	>\$2000 and ≤10,000	5	
	> \$10,000	1	

Wetland functions and water quality Select one.	Water quality improvements will restore high value wetlands and critical habitat areas. (5)	30	
	Restoration will significantly improve floodwater storage, water quality, vegetation diversity and subsurface water recharge.	15	
	Restoration will slightly improve floodwater storage, water quality, vegetation diversity and subsurface water recharge.	5	

Likelihood of retaining habitat values and functions Select one.	High (6)	20	
	Medium	15	
	Low	10	

Total points from page 2:

Total points for non Easement Projects

Continue to next page for Easement Projects

For Permanent Easements, complete the additional calculations below:

Project Type Select one or none.	Permanent easement protecting riparian wetlands along major stream corridor (4th order streams and higher). Double the total amounts. Enter "2" in the box to the right	<input type="text" value="0"/>
	Permanent easement protecting other wetlands. Enter "1.5" in the box to the right.	<input type="text" value="0"/>

New Hampshire Wetland Reserve Program - FINAL 2004 Ranking Criteria - March 3, 2004

- (1) The State Conservationist can waive this restriction if adequate assurance is provided that the land was not purchased for the purpose of placing it in the WRP Program.
- (2) This criteria applies only to sites where the natural hydrology has been altered. Otherwise, enter 0 for this criteria.
- (3) In order to receive ranking points for adjacent acreage, documentation is required to assure that this WRP proposal has high potential to improve habitat functions and values for this adjacent acreage.
- (4) The State Conservationist can waive the 50% rule for adjacent salt marsh areas along the seacoast where shell fish beds and other critical habitat will benefit.
- (5) Examples include: ground water recharge regions, vernal pools, salt marsh, riparian wetlands, wetlands with known and identified T&E species, etc.
- (6) Additional guidance to be developed.