

Appendix D—Description of 15th CRP Signup Criteria

Appendix figure 2 illustrates the weighting of the EBI factors.

Wildlife (100 points maximum; formula = $(A/50)*(A+B+C+D+E+F)$)

- A. Cover Factor (0-50 points): Points are awarded depending on which of the 40 possible cover types are expected to become established.
- B. Endangered Species Area (0-15 points): If cover to be established is within the known present range of a listed, proposed, or candidate species and is expected to benefit that species then 15 points are awarded; otherwise 0 points are awarded.
- C. Wetland Proximity (0-10 points): If semi or permanently flooded wetlands are within 1 mile of the site, 5 points. If wetlands within or adjacent to the bid area equal to more than 5 percent of the contract area, 10 points.
- D. Adjacent to Protected Areas (0-10 points): If protected wildlife habitat within 1 mile of the site, 5 points. If protected wildlife habitat adjacent to the site, 10 points.
- E. Contract Size (0-5 points): If the site is equal to the State average, or up to twice the area of average, 2 points. If the site is more than twice the State average, 5 points.
- F. Upland/Wetland Ratio (0-10 points): This subfactor is based on the ratio of the acreage of uplands offered to the acreage of restored wetlands offered. If the ratio is less than 1:1 or greater than 10:1, 1 point. Ratios in the range of 1:1 to 3:1 or 6:1 to 10:1 get 5 points. Ratios between 3:1 and 6:1 receive 10 points.

Water Quality (100 points maximum; formula = $A+B+C+D$)

- A. Priority Area (0-30 points): 30 points are awarded to acreage located in areas identified by State and local water quality plans, State-identified wellhead recharge areas, areas with coastal nonpoint pollution control programs developed under the Coastal

Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments, or areas identified in plans developed in accordance with the Clean Water Act.

- B. Ground-Water Quality (0-20 points): Points are awarded based on the average leaching potential (rounded to the nearest whole number) and by county population. The actual number of points for a given score is taken from a State/county table.
- C. Surface-Water Quality (0-40 points): Points are awarded based on the average sheet and rill erosion index for all acres being offered, the distance to waterbodies of the nearest portion of the tract, and county population. The actual number of points for a given score is taken from a State/county table.
- D. Cropped Wetland (0-10 points): If least 10 percent of the land enrolled meets the cropped wetland eligibility criterion, 10 points are awarded.

Erosion (100 points maximum)

Erodibility Index (0-100 points): The higher of the weighted average erodibility index for sheet and rill erosion (using the USLE), or erodibility indicator for wind erosion rounded to the nearest whole number is used to determine the overall erodibility index.

Indices below 8 receive no points. Indices from 8 to 19 receive 25 to 80 points ($= 25 + 5*(\text{index}-8)$). A score of 20 (21) receives 90 (100) points.

Long-Term Retention of Trees, Shrubs, and Wetlands (50 points maximum)

Estimated Retention Period (0-50 points): Cover types such as trees and restored wetlands that are likely to remain after the contract has expired are awarded points. Partial tree plantings are prorated to the nearest whole point. Hardwood tree, long leaf pine, and white cedar plantings receive 50 points. Softwood trees receive 40 points. Restored wetlands with semi-permanent and permanently (temporarily and seasonally) flooded wetlands in the field receive 25 points.

Air Quality (25 points maximum)

Air-Quality Component (0-25 points): The ZIP Code and wind erodibility index (EI) of the tract (provided by NRCS) is used to determine a score based on num-

bers from an ERS county look-up table (weighted by population).

Conservation Priority Area (25 points maximum)

Conservation Priority Area Component (0-25 points): If the bid is located within an approved CRP State Conservation Priority Area, it receives 25 points (if the resource concern for which the CPA is selected would be addressed by enrolling the land).

Cost Component (200 points maximum; formula = A+B)

- A. Rental Factor (0-190 points): The following formula based on the per acre bid is used: rental factor = $190 - 190 * (\text{bid amount} / 165)$.
- B. Cost-Share Factor (0-10 points): If cost-share assistance is not provided, 10 points are awarded.

Appendix figure 2

Scoring criteria for CRP eligibility for enrollment (signup #15)

Wildlife	Cover factor 50		Proximity to wetlands 10	Proximity to protected areas 10	Upland/ wetland ratio 10	Endangered species area 15	Contract area 5
Water quality	Priority area 30	Ground-water quality 20	Surface-water quality 40				Cropped wetland 10
Erodibility index	100						
Long-term tree, shrub, and wet- land retention	50						
Air quality	25						
Conservation priority area	25						
Contract cost	Bid factor 190						Cost share factor 10

Note: The above is not to scale.
Source: USDA, ERS.