

2011 Minnesota Wetland Restoration Evaluation Worksheet Instructions For WRP and RIM-WRP

General: Follow instructions for using checkboxes. Left click your mouse on a checkbox to activate it. The score sheet automatically calculates the score.

I. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS:

- A. Wildlife Benefits:** Using Appendix 1 and GIS data, identify the location of the application and determine its score and check the appropriate value. Priority areas reflect an analysis of critical habitat for migratory birds and wetland dependent wildlife.
- B. Landscape Significance:** Score this factor as the cumulative sum of the restored wetland portion of the offer. Mark the appropriate checkbox(s) by wetland class being restored (depressional, floodplain or non-depressional). Only one check is allowed per class of drained or altered wetland existing within the offer. Refer to the county hydric soils list for guidance on landscape position (depressional, floodplain, flats, swales etc.) by hydric soil map unit, and hydric criteria. General hydric criteria are as follows:

<u>SYMBOL</u>	<u>CRITERIA</u>	<u>TYPICAL LANDSCAPE LOCATION</u>
1	Organic soils	Sites may be depressional or non-depressional (county specific).
2B2, 2B3	Saturation	Sites typically non-depressional - flats, drainage ways, bogs.
3	Ponded	Sites are depressional.
4	Flooding	Sites frequently flooded for long -very long duration.

NOTE: For depressional wetlands, score the higher of: wetland complex (number of restorable basins) or size of largest restorable basin. If using the upper portion of the score sheet (number of restorable basins), the ratio of uplands to wetlands should be based on the upland areas offered for enrollment against the total of depressional wetland areas being restored.

C. Hydrology and Water Quality Benefits:

1. Proposed Hydrologic Restoration: Score this factor as the cumulative sum of the restored wetland portion of the offer. Only one checkbox may be marked for each wetland class being restored. **Example:**

<u>Wetland Class/Condition</u>	<u>Expected Extent of Hydrologic Restoration</u>	<u>Point Category</u>
Depressional – Partially Drained	Fully Restored	20
Floodplain – Not Drained-Cropped	Fully Restored	<u>3</u>
		23 points

When a combination of “Extent of Drainage or Alteration” conditions exist for any wetland class, the condition that includes the majority of wetland acres in that class shall be used. Example for an application containing five depressional wetland basins:

<u>Basin #</u>	<u>Current Condition</u>	<u>Acres</u>
1, 2, and 3	Effectively Drained	12.7
4	Partially Drained	20.1
5	Not Drained – Cropped	12.7

The majority of wetland acres (20.1) to be restored are partially drained. The “Extent of Drainage - Alteration” used for scoring the depressional wetlands in this example should be “Partially Drained”.

The extent of drainage/alteration can be determined as follows:

- Effectively Drained - Hydrology has been effectively removed from the wetland area allowing those acres to be planted. No primary indicators of hydrology (presence of hydrophytic vegetation, flooded or drown out crop, surface water, inclusion of non-cropped areas) are evident in years of normal precipitation.
- Partially Drained – Hydrology has been partially removed from a wetland that does not meet the definition of being “effectively drained”. Portions of the site exhibit one or more primary indicators of hydrology in years of normal precipitation.
- Not Drained-Cropped – There is no record or evidence of current hydrologic manipulation (drainage) of the wetland and it is typically cropped during years of normal precipitation.

When a combination of “**Expected Extent of Hydrologic Restoration**” will exist for any wetland class, the condition that includes the majority of wetland acres shall be used. For example, if the majority of depressional wetland acres planned for restoration are determined to be fully restorable, the “Full” column should be used. A “fully restorable” wetland occurs when its pre-drainage or alteration condition can be restored.

NOTES:

- Drained or altered wetlands that are currently enrolled in CRP shall be evaluated and scored based on their condition prior to CRP enrollment.
- Previously restored wetlands shall be evaluated and scored based on their condition prior to their restoration.

2. Water Quality Benefits of Easement: Utilizing GIS and local data, mark all applicable checkboxes.

II. COST CONSIDERATIONS:

A. Easement Value:

Determine the average per acre easement payment for the payable acres in the offer and mark the appropriate corresponding checkbox. If it is partnership easement payment, the total partnership payment should be used in determining the average payment.

B. Restoration Value:

Determine the average per acre cost to restore/establish vegetation on both upland and wetland areas within the offer and mark the appropriate, corresponding checkbox. All anticipated cost to prepare, seed, and perform short term maintenance (up to 3 years) should be considered. Only those acres within the offer having vegetation restored/established shall be used in determining the average per acre cost.

Determine the average per acre construction cost to restore/establish wetland hydrology in the offer and mark the appropriate, corresponding checkbox. All anticipated construction costs should be considered. Only those wetland acres within the offer having hydrology restored or created shall be used in determining the average per acre cost.

III. ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Mark all applicable checkboxes. **Documentation must be provided.** Documentation may include but is not limited to:

GIS Data:

- Natural Heritage data for Endangered and Threatened species.
- Habitat Conservation Partnership and Working Lands Initiative target areas.

Work plans, reports etc. indentifying site specific priority resource projects.

Maps/photos identifying existing CRP, limited duration easements and existing permanent conservation areas.

Appendix 1 - Wildlife Benefits

