

Ranking Pool Report

Ranking Pool FY 2026 ACEP WRE
MA

Program ACEP-WRE

Pool Status Draft

Tags

Template ACEP-WRE

**Template
Status** Active

**Existing Practice
Included** No

**Last Modified
By** Rita Thibodeau

Last Modified 01/21/2026

National Pool No

Include States MA (Admin)

Land Uses and Modifiers

Land Use	Grazed	Wildlife	Irrigated	Hayed	Drained	Organic	Water Feature	Protected	Urban	Aquaculture
Associated Ag Land	--	--	--	--	N/A	--	--	--	--	--
Crop	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Forest	--	--	--	N/A	N/A	--	--	--	--	--
Other Rural Land	--	--	--	N/A	N/A	--	--	--	--	--
Pasture	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Water	N/A	--	N/A	N/A	N/A	--	--	--	--	--

Resource Concern Categories

Categories			
Category	Min %	Default %	Max %
Animals (Aquatic habitat)	10	20	80
Animals (Terrestrial habitat)	10	20	80
Long term protection of land	10	10	80
Plants (Degraded plant condition)	0	5	70
Plants (Fire management)	0	2	5
Plants (Pest pressure)	0	5	70
Soil (Concentrated erosion)	0	5	70
Soil (Wind and water erosion)	0	5	15
Water (Field pesticide loss)	0	5	70
Water (Field sediment, nutrient and pathogen loss)	0	5	70
Water (Salt losses to water)	0	3	5
Water (Source water depletion)	0	5	70
Water (Storage and handling of pollutants)	0	5	70

Categories

Category	Min %	Default %	Max %
Water (Weather resilience)	0	5	20

Animals (Aquatic habitat)

Resource Concern	Min %	Default %	Max %
Aquatic Habitat (Aquatic habitat for fish and other organisms)	50	67	100
Aquatic Habitat (Elevated water temperature)	0	33	50

Animals (Terrestrial habitat)

Resource Concern	Min %	Default %	Max %
Terrestrial Habitat (Terrestrial habitat for wildlife and invertebrates)	100	100	100

Long term protection of land

Resource Concern	Min %	Default %	Max %
Loss of functions and values	85	95	100
Threat of conversion	0	5	15

Plants (Degraded plant condition)

Resource Concern	Min %	Default %	Max %
Plant Health (Plant productivity and health)	0	50	100
Plant Health (Plant structure and composition)	0	50	100

Plants (Fire management)

Resource Concern	Min %	Default %	Max %
Wildfire Hazard (Wildfire hazard from biomass accumulation)	100	100	100

Plants (Pest pressure)

Resource Concern	Min %	Default %	Max %
Plant Health (Plant pest pressure)	100	100	100

Soil (Concentrated erosion)

Resource Concern	Min %	Default %	Max %
Soil Erosion (Bank erosion from streams, shorelines or water conveyance channels)	0	70	100
Soil Erosion (Classic gully erosion)	0	15	50
Soil Erosion (Ephemeral gully erosion)	0	15	50

Soil (Wind and water erosion)

Resource Concern	Min %	Default %	Max %
Soil Erosion (Sheet and rill erosion)	0	85	100
Soil Erosion (Wind erosion)	0	15	100

Water (Field pesticide loss)

Resource Concern	Min %	Default %	Max %
Water Quality (Pesticides transported to groundwater)	0	50	75
Water Quality (Pesticides transported to surface water)	25	50	100

Water (Field sediment, nutrient and pathogen loss)

Resource Concern	Min %	Default %	Max %
Water Quality (Nutrients transported to groundwater)	0	35	100
Water Quality (Nutrients transported to surface water)	0	28	100
Water Quality (Pathogens and chemicals from manure, biosolids or compost applications transported to groundwater)	0	4	15
Water Quality (Pathogens and chemicals from manure, biosolids or compost applications transported to surface water)	0	4	15
Water Quality (Sediment transported to surface water)	0	29	100

Water (Salt losses to water)

Resource Concern	Min %	Default %	Max %
Water Quality (Salts transported to groundwater)	0	50	100
Water Quality (Salts transported to surface water)	0	50	100

Water (Source water depletion)

Resource Concern	Min %	Default %	Max %
Water Quantity (Groundwater depletion)	25	40	60
Water Quantity (Surface water depletion)	40	60	75

Water (Storage and handling of pollutants)

Resource Concern	Min %	Default %	Max %
Water Quality (Nutrients transported to groundwater)	0	50	100
Water Quality (Nutrients transported to surface water)	0	50	100
Water Quality (Petroleum, heavy metals and other pollutants transported to groundwater)	0	--	100
Water Quality (Petroleum, heavy metals and other pollutants transported to surface water)	0	--	100

Water (Weather resilience)

Resource Concern	Min %	Default %	Max %
Water Quantity (Drifted snow)	0	--	25
Water Quantity (Naturally available moisture use)	0	10	25
Water Quantity (Ponding and flooding)	0	45	100
Water Quantity (Seasonal high water table)	0	35	100
Water Quantity (Seeps)	0	10	25

Practices

Practice Name	Practice Code	Practice Narratives	Practice Type
Brush Management	314	00N, 03N	Conservation Practices
Herbaceous Weed Treatment	315	00N, 01N	Conservation Practices
Clearing and Snagging	326	00N	Conservation Practices
Conservation Cover	327	00N, 01N	Conservation Practices
Critical Area Planting	342	00N	Conservation Practices
Woody Residue Treatment	384	00N, 01N, 02N	Conservation Practices
Riparian Herbaceous Cover	390	00N, 01N, 02N, 03N	Conservation Practices
Riparian Forest Buffer	391	00N, 03N	Conservation Practices
Stream Habitat Improvement and Management	395	00N, 01N	Conservation Practices
Aquatic Organism Passage	396	00N	Conservation Practices
Wildlife Habitat Planting	420	00N, 01N	Conservation Practices
Access Control	472	00N, 01N	Conservation Practices
Mulching	484	00N, 02N, 03N	Conservation Practices
Tree/Shrub Site Preparation	490	00N	Conservation Practices
Obstruction Removal	500	00N	Conservation Practices
Streambank and Shoreline Protection	580	00N, 02N	Conservation Practices
Tree/Shrub Establishment	612	00N, 01N	Conservation Practices
Restoration of Rare or Declining Natural Communities	643	00N, 01N, 02N	Conservation Practices
Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management	644	00N, 01N	Conservation Practices

Practice Name	Practice Code	Practice Narratives	Practice Type
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	645	00N, 01N	Conservation Practices
Seasonal Water Management for Wildlife	646	00N	Conservation Practices
Early Successional Habitat Development-Mgt	647	00N	Conservation Practices
Structures for Wildlife	649	00N	Conservation Practices
Wetland Restoration	657	00N, 01N	Conservation Practices
Wetland Enhancement	659	00N	Conservation Practices
Acquisition Process - Appraisal	LTAPA	00N	Easements
Acquisition Process - Appraisal Update	LTAPAU	00N	Easements
Acquisition Process - Boundary Survey	LTAPBS	00N	Easements
Acquisition Process - Closing Services	LTAPCS	00N	Easements
Acquisition Process - Environmental Database Records Search	LTAPERS	00N	Easements
Acquisition Process - Full Phase I	LTAPFP1	00N	Easements
Acquisition Process - Ingress Egress	LTAPIE	00N	Easements
Acquisition Process - Appraisal Technical Review First Review	LTAPTR1	00N	Easements
Acquisition Process - Appraisal Technical Review Second Review	LTAPTR2	00N	Easements
Acquisition Process - Title Search	LTAPTS	00N	Easements
Long-Term Protection of Land - 30-Year Contract	LTP30YC	00N	Easements
Long-Term Protection of Land - 30-Year Easement	LTP30YE	00N	Easements
Long-Term Protection of Land - Maximum Duration Allowed by State Law	LTPMAS	00N	Easements
Long-Term Protection of Land - Permanent Easement	LTPPE	00N	Easements

Ranking Weights

Factors	Algorithm	Allowable Min	Default	Allowable Max
Vulnerabilities	Default	10	20	30
Planned Practice Effects	Default	5	5	10
Resource Priorities	Default	20	50	70
Program Priorities	Default	15	25	50
Efficiencies	Default	0	0	0

Display Group: FY 2026 ACEP WRE MA (Draft)

 An asterisk will be displayed to show that it is a conditional section or conditional question.

Survey: Applicability Questions

Section: Applicability		
Question	Answer Choices	Points
Is this a WRE application in the state of Massachusetts?	Yes	--
	Otherwise	--

Survey: Category Questions

Section: Category		
Question	Answer Choices	Points
The assessment seeks to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands with an ACEP WRE easement or 30-year contract	WRE Application	--
	WRE Riparian Application	--
	Not applicable	--

Survey: Program Questions

Section: Program Priorities		
Question	Answer Choices	Points
1. Cost effectiveness to maximize environmental benefits - Restoration cost per acre = total restoration cost / total enrolled acres	Restoration Cost per acre < \$1,000	40
	Restoration Cost per acre > \$1,001 to \$2,000	30
	Restoration Cost per acre > \$2,001 to \$3,000	10
	Restoration cost per acre > \$3,000	1
2. Environmental Benefit analysis: Total cost per Restorable Wetland Acre = easement cost per acre + restoration cost per acre divided by eligible acres	Cost Benefit < 150	40
	Cost Benefit is between 151 and 300	20
	Cost Benefit is between 301 and 450	10
	Cost Benefit > 450	0
3. Landowner or Partner contribution	50% or greater	20
	25% to 49%	10
	less than 25%	5

Section: Program Priorities

Question	Answer Choices	Points
4. Operation and maintenance of restoration (Assign maximum points where original hydrology is already restored and only vegetative restoration is needed)	Minimal or no maintenance will be required to maintain the restored wetland (tile removal, fill removal, dike removal, macro and micro topography completed)	40
	Low maintenance or management will be required to maintain the restored wetland (rock weirs, ditch plugs, earthen dike construction or other earthen structures to maintain)	20
	Moderate maintenance or management will be required to maintain the restored wetland (locked flumes, culverts, etc)	10
	Long term management of intensive management is required to maintain the restored wetland (water level manipulation is required)	0
5. Farmland productivity - Proposed enrollment area does not include any cropland identified as prime or important soils	yes	20
	no	0
6. Will the acquisition and restoration of the easement reduce the threat of sediment, nutrients, pesticides and or other contaminants from entering surface and ground water from on and off farming operations?	yes	40
	no	0
7. Does the proposed easement contain one or more in-holdings / out parcels that could impact restoration and or easement boundary management. (an in-holding is any portion cut out of the easement area that increases the easement boundary edge ie a long cut out extending into the easement for an access road and area for building structures)	Yes	-20
	No	0

Survey: Resource Questions

Section: Resource Priorities

Question	Answer Choices	Points
1. Proposed enrollment area restores or protects waters in a Ma Wildlife Coldwater Fish Resource data layer?	DFW Coldwater Fisheries	10
	Otherwise	0
2. Proposed enrollment area is located within the NHESP Priority Habitat data layer?	NHESP Priority Habitat	--
	Otherwise	--
2a. Restoration will benefit identified species in the MA NHESP Priority Habitat area*	YES	5
	NO	--
3. Proposed enrollment area is located within a BioMap Core Habitat or Critical Natural Landscape data layer?	BioMap Core Habitat Components	--
	BioMap Critical Natural Landscape Components	--
	Otherwise	--
3a. Practices within this application support wetland restoration specific to aquatic, wetland species, or habitats for strategic biodiversity within the BioMap areas identified*	YES	25
	NO	0

Section: Resource Priorities

Question	Answer Choices	Points
4. Proposed enrollment area abuts permanently protected land such as land under a conservation easement, state wildlife management land, APR/FRPP/ ACEP land, DCR and Ma Wildlife lands. Does not include MA Chapter 61 designated lands	50% of perimeter abuts	15
	20% to 49% abuts	10
	<20% abuts	5
	parcel does not abut permanently protected land	0
5. Proposed preliminary restoration plan includes the following habitat features: vernal pools, shrub thickets, micro - topography, cavity trees, wildlife dens, open winter water, turtle nesting areas, fallen logs / large woody debris	6 to 8 wildlife habitat features	11
	3 to 5 wildlife habitat features	5
	1 to 2 wildlife habitat features	1
6. Enrollment area size (total acres offered) for wildlife habitat	> 150 acres	10
	75 to 149 acres	5
	< 75 acres	2
7. What is the wetland habitat diversity of the offered area?	3 or more wetland habitat types	11
	2 wetland habitat types	5
	1 wetland habitat type	1
8. Proposed enrollment area is in an Outstanding Resource Water polygon	Outstanding Water Resource layer	10
	Otherwise	0
9. Proposed enrollment area in within a MA Source Water Priority Area polygon	Yes	10
	Otherwise	0
10. Extent of original hydrology likely to be restored on the eligible acres based on manipulations that have occurred such as ditching, filling, berms, and the main hydrology source (stream, etc)	High - all hydrologic alteration will be removed, and original hydrology will be replicated	15
	Medium High- restoration of original hydrology is somewhat compromised so that all hydrologic manipulations can not be restored to original levels	10
	Low - Restoration of original hydrology is severely limited because dams, dikes, water control structures will not be removed.	5
11. Percent of eligible acres with restorable hydrology (on sites where original hydrology has already been restored and only vegetation restoration is required, assign the maximum points)	> 75% of eligible acres hydrology will be restored	15
	50% to 74% of eligible acres hydrology will be restored	10
	25% to 49% of eligible acres hydrology will be restored	5
	< 25% eligible acres hydrology will be restored	1
12. Extent of ecological integrity in the buffer area around proposed enrollment area- high integrity includes areas free from human stressors ie. heavily traveled roads, buildings, heavy invasion of invasive species, which would affect hydrologic restoration	High - buffer around proposed enrollment area has high ecological integrity	11
	Medium - buffer area has low impact roads, and a few invasives	5
	Low - buffer area has residential development, buildings, heavily traveled roads, heavy infestation of invasive plants	0

Section: Resource Priorities

Question	Answer Choices	Points
13. Restoration of hydrologic connectivity and severity of existing / historic hydrologic alterations (water diversions, impoundments, culverts, water control structures, ditching, and channeling upstream or downstream, limit the ability to restore natural flow regime)	Proposed enrollment restores hydrologic connectivity with removal of few hydrologic alterations.	11
	Proposed enrollment restores hydrologic connectivity with removal of moderate hydrologic alterations	7
	Proposed enrollment does not restore connectivity or hydrologic manipulations directly upstream or downstream of proposed enrollment area	0
14. Site Configuration - will there be a limited ability to restore hydrology to the site due to the potential to impact flooding adjacent infrastructure, roads, nearby residential housing, neighboring properties, or other buildings?	No	11
	Yes	0
15. Groundwater resources for wetland restoration are viable and competing groundwater demands are low. Site is not located within the groundwater data layer	Not with the resource data layer	10
	Otherwise	0
16. What is the extent of stream corridor hydrology to be protected? (Measure length of protected streambank, both sides of the river / stream can be measured if applicable to the application, then totaled)*	0.5 miles and above	10
	1,000 feet to 0.49 miles	7
	300 feet to 999 feet	5
	less than 300 feet	2
17.What percentage of the eligible acres contains hydric soil?	More than 75% hydric soils	10
	More than 50% hydric soils	7
	More than 25% hydric soils	5
	Less than 25% have hydric soils	1

Detailed Assessments

Name	Type	Jurisdiction	Status
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