

WHIP RANKING CRITERIA

Factor # 1-Ecological Considerations:

- Site application contains a known state or federally listed threatened or endangered species that will benefit by project implementation. **30 points**

- Restoration of native grasslands of at least five acres in area of historical grassland, as documented in NY WHIP State Plan or other supporting documentation. **28 points**

- Establishment of at least 45 acres of **native** grasses or fencing a minimum average width of 35 feet and at least 5,000 feet in length along a stream or lakeshore area identified as having a resource problem and classified “C” or above. **24 points**

- Establishment of grasses in an area of at least 100 feet in width and 1,500 feet long as a wetland or riparian buffer or fencing a minimum average width of 35 feet and at least 2,500 feet in length along a stream or lakeshore area identified as having a resource problem and classified “C” or above. **22 points**

- Establishment of at least 45 acres of non-native grasses **20 points**

- Maintenance* of at least 45 acres of grassland. **18 points**

- Establishment of 10-44 acres of **native** grasses or fencing a minimum average width of 35 feet and at least 1,250 feet in length along a stream or lakeshore area identified as having a resource problem and classified “C” or above. **16 points**

- Establishment of 10-44 acres of non-native grasses to benefit wildlife or fencing 500 to 1,250 feet of riparian buffer with a minimum average width of 35 feet. **14 points**

- Maintenance* of 10-44 acres of grassland. **12 points**

- Project is within one mile of known state or federally listed threatened or endangered species that will benefit from project implementation. **8 points**

- Project area will have a direct benefit for reducing sediment in adjacent surface water body. **6 points**

- Project area will benefit grassland or riparian nesting species identified as being in decline, at risk or species of greatest conservation need. **3 points**

* Maintenance of grassland may include: mowing, lime, fertilizer, interseeding, herbicide use.

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Factor #2 - Location:

- Located within Core State Grassland or Grassland Related Biodiversity Areas. **25 points**
- Located within priority areas 1 or 2. **20 points**
- Located within priority areas 3 or 4. **15 points**
- Located within priority areas 5 or 6. **10 points**
- Located within priority area 7. **5 points**

Factor #3 - Existing Conditions:

- Native grasses present on more than 50% of site **or** established to native riparian vegetation. **10 points**
- Site has been in row crop production within the last two years or has favorable conditions for weed suppression. **8 points**
- Grasses or forbs present on more than 50% of the site. **6 points**
- Site composition is 50% or more grasses, forbs or brush (less than 2 inch basal diameter) with trees or saplings composition of less than 10% of the site. **4 points**
- Located within one mile of permanently protected grassland area managed for wildlife that may include: private, tribal, not for profit, federal, state or county lands. **2points**

Factor # 4 - Economic:

- Non federal entity reduces the federal portion of the project cost to less than or equal to 50%. **20 points**
- Non federal entity reduces the federal portion of the project cost to less than or equal to 60%. **15 points**
- Federal portion of planned total application cost is \$200 per acre or less. **10 points**
- Federal portion of planned total application cost is \$300 per acre or less. **5 points**

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Factor # 5 – Education Factor:

- Project lands are part of a recognized non-profit educational facility. **10 points**
- Private lands will be open to the public and used for environmental education purposes. (i.e., 4-H, Boy/Girl scouts, or informational trails) **8 points**
- Project lands owned or operated by any unit of government and operated as an educational facility. **6 points**
- Operation and maintenance will be overseen by public or private conservation group. **4 points**
- Operation and maintenance costs are part of a partnership with the landowner and a conservation or education organization. (Excluding NRCS & Fish and Game Clubs) **2 points**

Total Score: The ranking score will be determined by awarding one appropriate level of points in each of the five factors. This score will then be multiplied by the Weighted Factor to determine the Total Score. Weighted Factor is determined by the category the applicant qualifies for.

<i>Weighted Factor - ranking score times weighted factor</i>	
Private	1.25
Native American tribal lands	1.15
Non-governmental organization	1.10
Local government	1.05
State lands	1.00

OTHER COMMENTS ABOUT WHIP:

NEW RANKING SHOULD BE USED FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005 AND RECOMMENDATIONS MADE TO THE SUBCOMMITTEE IF CHANGES ARE NEEDED. ANY APPLICATIONS (BACKLOG) ALREADY IN THE STATE OFFICE WILL BE RE-RANKED BY AREA BIOLOGIST USING NEW CRITERIA AND SENT IN FOR FUNDING CONSIDERATION.