

RCPP Application Form

Property Information

Property Owner(s): _____

Application Date: _____

Owner(s) address: _____

Property address: _____

Applicant County:

Berkeley Grant Hampshire Hardy Jefferson Mineral Morgan Pendleton

Application Documents (no application will be considered complete without the entire set):

Deed Tax Map with property marked Soil map with farmland classification

Farm Data Report (NRCS)

Applicant has certified that their FSA records are up-to-date (SCIMS), and that the AGI data for all named property owners has been filed for the current fiscal year

Tax District _____

Map/Parcel _____

Deed Book/Page _____

USGS Quadrangle _____

Total Acres _____

Acres to be protected _____

Property Features (Documentation and/or references to the appropriate USGS topographic map, Google Earth placemark, or other supporting materials must be attached for any checked item below). References below to *USGS Map* mean the USGS topographic map for the subject property. See the accompanying Definitions and Methodology sheet for guidance.

Historic or archaeological features. The feature must be listed on the state register of historic places or for archaeological features a study from an accredited research institution must be attached.

Major stream (named on USGS topo map) on or bordering property. A major stream is named and is associated with a solid line on a USGS map.

Length of stream: _____ Name: _____

Headwater stream on property. A headwater stream *begins* on the subject property and must be illustrated as such on a USGS map.

Name: _____

Blue line stream in or bordering property. A blue line stream is unnamed but appears as a *solid line* on a USGS map. Dashed lines are not blue line streams.

Length of stream: _____

High quality forest present. Forest contains trees more than 50 years old. Canopy is fully closed.

Sinkhole(s) present. A sinkhole is a conical ground depression (min. 1 yard across) where surface water drains directly downward. A sinkhole may or may not display a prominent opening to an underlying cavern or solution channel.

Spring(s) present. A spring is a natural outflow of water from the ground, either perennially or semi-annually during wet weather.

Cave(s) present. A natural underground open space, generally with a connection to the surface and large enough for a person to enter.

Wetlands present. Areas that are permanently wet and/or intermittently water covered (ex: pond, swamp, bog, or marsh). Perennial plants typical of such environments must be present.

Limestone/Karst present.

Signature _____

Date _____

Offering price (\$/acre) _____

RCCP-Definitions and Methodology

Cave—A natural underground open space, generally with a connection to the surface and large enough for a person to enter. The most common type of cave is formed in limestone by dissolution (Neuendorf, et al., 2011). **Methodology.** A cave is documented either by location on the appropriate USGS topographic map, site visit/photographic documentation, or notation on a field guide to caves as published by a caving organization such as the National Speleological Society (www.caves.org) or a recognized local chapter of parent organization.

Headwater—The source (or sources) and upper part of a stream, esp. of a large stream or river, including the upper drainage basin; a stream from this source (Neuendorf, et al., 2011). A stream head must be denoted on the appropriate USGS Topographic map (1:24,000 scale). This designation is not to be confused with a **Stream head**—The source or beginning of a stream (Neuendorf, et al., 2011). For the purposes of this definition, the headwater stream is a *First Order Stream* as defined by the US Geologic Survey: **Stream order** - A ranking of the relative sizes of streams within a watershed based on the nature of their tributaries. The smallest unbranched tributary is called **first order**, the stream receiving the tributary is called **second order**, and so on.

Methodology. To qualify for this designation the property must show a blue-line stream (as indicated on the appropriate USGS topographic map) which is *first order* and originates on the property. Blue dashed lines are not acceptable unless they represent the *first order* stream.

Karst—A type of topography that is formed on limestone, by dissolution, and is characterized by sink holes, caves and underground drainage (Neuendorf, et al., 2011). **Methodology.** Karst is determined by noting the underlying geology. The underlying rock must be one of the named groups or formations as indicated in Table 1, below. There are four sources which may be used to determine the underlying geology: (1) Use the appropriate state geologic map for Google Earth (kmz file) as accessed at <http://mrddata.usgs.gov/geology/state/> ; (2) the on-line version of the national/state geologic map, accessed at <http://mrddata.usgs.gov/geology/state/map.html#> ; (3) of the State Geologic Map of West Virginia (WVGES, 1968A) available in printed and GIS (Shapefile) format, or (4) the karst GIS layer of West Virginia (WVGES, 1968B) available through the West Virginia GIS Technical Center (available at wvgis.wvu.edu).

High Quality Forest – A parcel of trees with a substantially complete canopy layer. **Methodology.** If a continuous forest canopy cannot be determined by recent satellite imagery a site visit may be required. Wooded areas without a solid, contiguous canopy are disqualified. During a site visit, photography of the forest should be directed upward to include good views of the canopy area. Additional photographs directed toward the horizon should also be included to document the understory and its relationship to the canopy.

Sinkhole—A circular depression in a karst area. Its drainage is subterranean, its size is measured in meters or tens of meters, and is funnel shaped (Neuendorf, et al., 2011). A sinkhole may contain an open drain to subterranean passages but this is not necessary for designation. **Methodology.** A sinkhole may be determined by notation on the appropriate USGS topographic map, a survey of the property (typically noted as a circular area with hatches drawn toward the sinkhole center), or by site visit/photography.

Spring—A place where ground water flows naturally from a rock or the soil onto the land surface or into a body of surface water. Its occurrence depends on the nature and the relationship of rocks, esp. permeable and impermeable strata, on the position of the water table, and on the topography (Neuendorf, et al., 2011). **Methodology.** A spring may be identified by notation on an appropriate USGS topographic map, or by a site visit with photography. To qualify as a spring water must flow for all or most of the year. Spring flow only after recent heavy rain is unacceptable. For site visits, you should use the presence of wetland plants (see below) as a rough gage as to the periodicity of the spring flow: wetland plants will not be present for springs with sparse or intermittent flow.

Wetlands—A general term for a group of wet habitats, in common use by specialists in wildlife management. It includes areas that are permanently wet and/or intermittently water covered. (Neuendorf, et al., 2011). As per 16 USC 3108(a)27 (USDA/NRCS *undated*), wetlands are defined as having: (1) A predominance of hydric soils, and/or (2) is inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support a prevalence of hydrophytic vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions.

Methodology. You should consider both definitions of a wetland when applying this category. To determine hydric soils use the following procedure:

1. Locate the target property using the Web Soil Survey (<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>) and create an area of interest (AOI).
2. Move to the Soil Data Explorer tab and under Land Classification, choose Hydric Rating by Map Unit and generate a report.
3. To qualify as hydric soil the rating category must be 66 or higher. Soils so rated on a property qualify as having wetland present.

To otherwise qualify as wetland the wetland may be documented by location on a current USGS topographic map (in which case any of the following symbols should be present: Perennial lake/pond, intermittent lake/pond, Marsh or swamp, submerged marsh or swamp, wooded marsh or swamp, submerged wooded marsh or swamp, or land subject to inundation [See USGS *undated* for details]), or by a site visit with photography. When conducting a site visit, and in order to qualify as a wetland, one or more members of the following commonly-named plant types must be present: Sedges, rushes, cattails, or plants identified via a taxonomic floral guide as occurring usually or exclusively in wet environments.

MAP UNIT	PERIOD	TYPE	GROUP	FORMATION	NOTES	KARST
Cc	Cambrian	limestone		Conococheague		K
Ce	Cambrian	limestone		Elbrook		K
Ct	Cambrian	dolostone		Tomstown		K
Dhl	Devonian	limestone	Helderberg			K
Mg	Mississippian	limestone	Greenbrier			K
Ob	Ordovician	limestone	Beekmantown		includes other Lower Ordovician rocks	K
Obps	Ordovician	dolostone	Beekmantown	Pinesburg Station		K
Obr	Ordovician	limestone	Black River			K
Obrr	Ordovician	limestone	Beekmantown	Rockdale Run		K
Obs	Ordovician	limestone	Beekmantown	Stonehenge Limestone		K
Omc	Ordovician	limestone	Trenton, Black River		undifferentiated	K
Osp	Ordovician	limestone	St. Paul			K
Ot	Ordovician	limestone	Trenton			K
Otbr	Ordovician	limestone	Trenton, Black River		undifferentiated	K
Stw	Silurian	limestone		Tonoloway, Wills Creek, Williamsport		K

Source: (WVGES, 1968B)

References

Neuendorf, Klaus, Mehl, James and Jackson, Julia. 2011. *Glossary of Geology, 5th Edition*. s.l. : American Geology Institute, 2011.

WVGES. 1968A. *Geologic Map of West Virginia*. s.l. : West Virginia Geologic and Economic Survey, 1968A.

—. 1968B. *Karst Formations of West Virginia*. s.l. : WVGES, 1968B.

USDA/NRCS Undated. *Wetlands*. Accessed on 25 July 2015 at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/water/wetlands/>

USGS (United States Geological Survey) Undated. *Topographic Map Symbols*. Accessed on 28 July 2015 at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/gip/TopographicMapSymbols/topomapsymbols.pdf>