

Draft Individual Review Form

Proposal number: 2001-G204-3

Short Proposal Title: Conservation easements
for Ag land

1a) Are the objectives and hypotheses clearly stated?

Provide detailed comments in support of your conclusion [Note: in the electronic version, this will be an expandable field]

Yes-The hypothesis is clearly stated- that restriction of development through the use of an agriculture conservation easement will protect agriculture activity as well as the associated wildlife. The objectives are to protect the land primarily, as well as establish a permanent buffer zone, and increase the area of flooded crops to provide habitat for various wildlife. They are uncertain as to if this will provide the food web necessary to sustain the fish population.

1b1) Does the conceptual model clearly explain the underlying basis for the proposed work?

Provide detailed comments in support of your conclusion [Note: in the electronic version, this will be an expandable field]

Yes- A well written model- it describes a potential action, potential benefits, and includes adaptive management, however it does not go into any depth about how the adaptive management will be carried out (i.e.... what can be altered).

1b2) Is the approach well designed and appropriate for meeting the objectives of the project?

Provide detailed comments in support of your conclusion [Note: in the electronic version, this will be an expandable field]

No- At this point, there doesn't seem to be a "plan" as to how adaptive management will be carried out. There isn't really a biological assessment written into this proposal. The authors refer to the adaptive management several times but do not define what things (methods, data collection, etc...) will be done.

1c1) Has the applicant justified the selection of research, pilot or demonstration project, or a full-scale implementation project?

Provide detailed comments in support of your conclusion [Note: in the electronic version, this will be an expandable field]

No-This project is full scale in that they want to protect a large area but I don't see what sort of data will be collected with this proposed project or what has been done to base their hypotheses and project on. If this was truly a full-scale implementation, there should not be questions as to whether or not the food web would sustain the fish population.

1c2) Is the project likely to generate information that can be used to inform future decision making?

Provide detailed comments in support of your conclusion [Note: in the electronic version, this will be an expandable field]

Perhaps if they initiate some sort of data collection, otherwise they will only be able to relate their success or failure to that particular area.

2a) Are the monitoring and information assessment plans adequate to assess the outcome of the project?

Provide detailed comments in support of your conclusion [Note: in the electronic version, this will be an expandable field]

No, not that I could find. There is monitoring of a legal sort of sense rather than a biological. I would want to see counts of species to give some sort of assessment of if restricting development does indeed provide better habitat for wildlife, hence, increasing the numbers.

2b) Are data collection, data management, data analysis, and reporting plans well-described, scientifically sound and adequate to meet the proposed objectives?

Provide detailed comments in support of your conclusion [Note: in the electronic version, this will be an expandable field]

Data collection (attachment E) seems to be surface collection rather than generating usable data. Their management and reporting plans are standard. Analysis was not discussed, but there is nothing to analyze if data isn't collect to some extent.

3) Is the proposed work likely to be technically feasible?

Provide detailed comments in support of your conclusion [Note: in the electronic version, this will be an expandable field]

Yes-With funding, the easement should go as planned although it doesn't seem like there is much of a final goal other than to purchase and manage the land- which also has it's place, just not in the biological sense.

4) Is the proposed project team qualified to efficiently and effectively implement the proposed project?

Provide detailed comments in support of your conclusion [Note: in the electronic version, this will be an expandable field]

Yes- there is an Ag specialist, a biologist, and a land specialist. This should cover all of the needs.

Miscellaneous comments

[Note: in the electronic version, this will be an expandable field]

This proposal isn't scientifically based but acquiring land that won't be developed is always a positive.

<p>Overall Evaluation Summary Rating</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Excellent</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Very Good</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Good</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Fair</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Poor</p>	<p>Provide a brief explanation of your summary rating</p> <p>Rating- Fair Although a good cause, this proposal is missing any scientific backing (i.e....data collection, analysis, etc...)</p>
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