

Application Criteria and Scoring Table

Applicants should be sure their application contains enough information for reviewers to score and rank the application based on the criteria below.

Information may be provided on the Project Summary page of the application, or specifically requested on the Project Information page (for requests over \$25,000 only).

All criteria will be scored on a scale of 1-10, with 10 being the highest score. Reviewers will score only on the information provided within the application. All criteria carry equal weight.

All criteria below are required for requests over \$25,000 as required in [MN 2011, First Special Session, Chapter 6, Article 1, Section 2, Subd. 5\(g\)](#), and [State Grant Policy 08-02](#). Criteria for requests under \$25,000 have an asterisk below the number.

	Criteria	Definition
1. ★	Amount of habitat restored, enhanced and/ or protected	Number of acres, miles, etc.
2.	Encouragement of a local conservation culture	Does the applicant have a history of trying to promote conservation in their local area? How have they been visible in their area? What activities or outreach have they done?
3.	Degree of collaboration and local support	Besides the applicant, is any other group, government, private individual, etc., contributing funds to the project? Has the applicant coordinated with other groups or agencies to plan the project, or provide expertise? Is there local support for the project?
4.	Urgency	How important is it to fund this project now? If project is not funded, will listed or game species be lost? Are critical habitats likely to be lost? Is development encroaching on this site?
5. ★	Multiple benefits	Will multiple or diverse species benefit? Will habitat or water quality be improved? Specifically, what species will benefit?
6. ★	Habitat benefits	Will the proposed work benefit the intended habitats? What is the current quality of the habitat impacted? What will it be at the conclusion of the project? Is there native prairie, or a high biodiversity site present?
7. ★	Consistency with current conservation science	Is the project consistent with sound conservation science? Does it follow the appropriate public land management guidelines or private land easement requirements?
8. ★	Adjacent to protected lands	Will the work be done on land that is adjacent to other protected lands?

Application Criteria and Scoring Table

9.	Full funding of project and supplements existing funding	Are all costs of the project identified? Are there sufficient funds (grant, match, other) available to cover the entire cost? Are there letters of commitment? Does the project supplant or supplement existing funding?
10. ★	Public access for hunting and fishing	Is the land is open to the public for hunting and fishing during open seasons (unless otherwise provided by state law)? What seasons are open?
11.	Sustainability	What is the life expectancy of the work in this project? Is the project sustainable? Are there short- or long-term maintenance requirements? What are those requirements and how will they be fulfilled?
12.	Use of native plant materials	Is any vegetation or seed used only of ecotypes native to MN? Are they of local ecotype? What is the diversity of the seed mix? Is the source identified?
13. ★	Budget and cost effectiveness	Is the budget complete and appropriate for the location and activity? Is the cost per unit reasonable?
14. ★	Applicant's capacity to successfully complete work	Has the applicant successfully completed similar projects? Do they have the fiscal capability to manage the grant? Has the applicant managed grants in the past? For how much and for what work?