

## Section G

### Application Criteria and Scoring Table

**Applicants should be sure that their application contains enough information for reviewers to score and rank the application based on the criteria below. All criteria will be scored on a scale of 0-9, with 9 being the highest possible. Reviewers will score only on the information provided within the application.**

Criteria 1 – 14, 18, and 19 are required under [2010 MN Law Chapter 361 Article 1, Section 2, Subd 5\(i\)](#).

	Criteria	Definition
1.	Amount of habitat restored, enhanced and/ or protected	Number of acres, miles, etc.
2.	Local support	Is the project supported by adjacent landowners, local governments, local organizations, etc.? Is there any opposition? Why?
3.	Degree of collaboration	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?
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 sound 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?
9.	Full funding of project	Are all costs of the project identified? Are there sufficient funds (grant, match, other) available to cover the entire cost? Do match contributions follow guidelines? Are there letters of commitment?

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10.	Supplants existing funding	Does the project supplant traditional funding?
11.	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?
12.	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 completed?
13.	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?
14.	Budget and cost effectiveness	Is the budget complete and appropriate for the location and activity? Is the cost per unit reasonable?
15.	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? What partners has the applicant worked with in the past?
16.	Supports existing landscape level plans	Does the project implement priorities within existing landscape level plans (i.e., focus areas; watersheds plans, regional or landscape level priorities, etc.)? Are the links to the plans clear? <a href="#">Click here for DNR's existing landscape level plans.</a> <a href="#">Click here to see Province and Subsection Profile sheets.</a> Use plans not listed here as well.
17.	Supports species plans	Does the project support species plans for game or endangered species? Are the links to the plans clear? <a href="#">Click here for some species plans available online.</a> Use plans not listed here as well.
18.	Conforms to the <a href="#">Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan</a>	Is there a clear link from the project to recommendations in the plan? Which recommendations does this project support? <a href="#">Click here for instructions on how to address this criterion.</a>
19.	Conforms to the <a href="#">State Wildlife Action Plan</a> (wildlife projects)	Which key habitats will benefit from this project? How many Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) will benefit from this project? How many of these species are also State Listed? <a href="#">Click here for instructions on how to address this criterion.</a>