

**Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities Program Evaluation Criteria Changes  
 Adopted by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board  
 February 9, 2016 (Item 6, Attachment H)  
 Resolution #2016-09**

The following evaluation questions were changed/added:

1. Revise the question on Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship, and Planning criteria (these are related) for a pilot period of one grant cycle and evaluate further needed changes.
2. Establish a transparent evaluation pathway for Combination Projects.
3. Add a Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) Priorities Question.

**New Evaluation Criteria (Areas of Change in RED)**

<b>NOVA Evaluation Questions Summary</b>				
<b>Scored By</b>	<b>Evaluation Question</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Category and Project Type Questions</b>	<b>Maximum Points</b>
Advisory Committee	1	Need	All	15
Advisory Committee	2	Need fulfillment	All	15
Advisory Committee	3	Site suitability	Acquisition	10
			<b>Combination Acquisition and Development</b>	<b>5</b>
Advisory Committee	4	Project design	Development	10
			<b>Combination Acquisition and Development</b>	<b>5</b>
Advisory Committee	5	Maintenance	Maintenance and Operation	10
Advisory Committee	6	<b>Planning</b>	Planning	<b>10</b>
Advisory Committee	7	<b>Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>5</b>
Advisory Committee	8	Readiness to proceed	All	5
Advisory Committee	9	Predominantly natural	Nonmotorized and Nonhighway Road category projects only.	5
Advisory Committee	10	Project support	All	10
Advisory Committee	11	Cost-benefit	All	5
<b>Advisory Committee</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>SCORP Priorities</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>5</b>

NOVA Evaluation Questions Summary				
Scored By	Evaluation Question	Title	Category and Project Type Questions	Maximum Points
RCO staff	13	Matching shares	All	5
RCO staff	14	Population proximity	All	2
RCO staff	15	Growth Management Act preference	All	0
<b>Nonhighway and Nonmotorized Total Points Possible</b>				<b>82</b>
<b>ORV Total Possible Points</b>				<b>77</b>

## New/Changed Detailed Scoring Criteria: NOVA (Non-motorized, Nonhighway Road, and Off-Road Vehicle categories)

### Advisory Committee Scored

- 6) Planning. To what extent will the proposed plan or study help provide opportunities and address sustainability of the natural environment? (Applicants respond only to bulleted items clearly relevant to your project.)

#### Recreation Benefit and Public Involvement Factors

- Will this project directly benefit the intended recreation? Explain. (For example, will it result in a development proposal, or will more planning be required?)
- What are the results of any public involvement in the planning proposal? Proposed Plan Scope and Outcomes Factors
- Are the project's planning goals and objectives appropriate? Explain.
- Is the proposed plan or study cost-effective?
- Does the plan or study reflect current planning or design standards or is the approach untested?
- Are there any conditions on site or in the study area that might require extraordinary or unique planning or design efforts?
- What is the complexity or feasibility of environmental mitigation that could be required?
- Does the plan or study address maintenance and stewardship of the planning area?
- What are the qualifications and experience of the personnel, including consultants?

▲ Point Range: 0-5 points, which staff later multiplies by 2.

0 points Evidence is vague or it appears that the project will not lead to new opportunities for the intended type of recreation.

1-2 points Fair to moderate evidence. Proposal likely will lead to weak or below average new

recreation opportunities.

- 3 points Good. Proposal likely will lead to an above average or several solid recreation opportunities.
- 4-5 points Very good to excellent. Proposal likely will lead to an outstanding opportunity in the intended recreation type.

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7. **Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship.** Will the project result in a project, plan, or program that protects the integrity of the environment?

Factors to consider for different project types are outlined in the tables below.

## Acquisition and Planning

How was your project site selected and how can impacts to ecosystem functions or habitat loss be minimized or avoided?

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How will the proposed uses avoid environmental impacts and support the ecosystem functions of the property to include any aquatic resources?

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Are there invasive species on site? If there are, what is your response plan to limit the presence and spread of invasive species in your project and future recreational uses?

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What is the strategy or plan for maintenance and stewardship of the site? How will your planned operation and maintenance preserve or protect natural resources?

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How do the natural characteristics of the site support future planned uses? What natural features do you plan to retain?

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For the planned use of the site, do you expect to go beyond the expected permitting and mitigation requirements?

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What natural elements of the site do you plan to retain/protect? Is there an opportunity for public environmental education?

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Will the planned project protect wetlands or wetland functions? Describe the size, quality, and classification.

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Compare your site and your expected development to other developed sites nearby. How is yours more sustainable and environmentally responsible than others?

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What other noteworthy characteristics of the planned project contribute to environmental protection, energy efficiency, less maintenance, fewer environmental impacts, or sustainability?

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## Development

Does the proposed development protect natural resources onsite and integrate sustainable elements such as low impact development techniques, green infrastructure, or environmentally preferred building products?

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Vegetation/Surfaces – Are you replacing invasive plant species with native vegetation? Are you using pervious surfaces for any of the proposed facilities?

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Education – Are you installing interpretive panels/signs that educate users about sustainability?

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Materials – What sustainable materials are included in the project? Will these material result in a long useful life of the project?

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Energy – What energy efficient features are you adding?

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What modes of transportation provide access to the site?

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Water – Is the on-site storm water managed by rain gardens, porous paving, or other sustainable features? Does the design exceed permit requirements for storm water management?

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If there are wetlands on site, describe the size, quality and classification and explain how the design considers the wetland functions.

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What is the strategy or plan for long-term maintenance and stewardship of the site?

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What other developed features will contribute to increasing energy efficiencies, reducing maintenance, minimizing environmental impacts, or being more sustainable?

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## Maintenance and Operation

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In evaluating alternative approaches to your maintenance and operations, did you consider and reject any to reduce impacts to natural resources and reduce pollution?

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Do you have a maintenance and operation plan that prioritizes environmental stewardship?

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Do you require staff and contractor training in tasks that reduce waste, lower emissions, and reduce impacts to natural resources?

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What other noteworthy characteristics of your project contribute to environmental protection, energy efficiency, less maintenance, fewer environmental impacts, or sustainability?

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In what ways will your maintenance and operations reduce impacts to ecosystem function and habitat that would otherwise occur?

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In what ways will your maintenance and operations extend the useful life of the facility or preserve public access?

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If replacing an existing structure or rerouting a trail, will this reduce existing negative impacts to ecosystem function or habitat? Will your invasive species response plan reduce the presence or spread of invasive species?

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Are the materials, equipment, and products you use environmentally responsible? Will they result in a long useful life?

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When upgrading facilities, to what extent can you leverage these upgrades to improve your stewardship of natural resources and reduce waste and pollution?

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Does your maintenance and operation program have a public education component? How do you communicate with your users about how they can reduce their environmental impacts?

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Compare your site and your expected development to other developed sites nearby. How is your planned development more sustainable and environmentally responsible than others?

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▲ Point Range: Evaluators award a maximum of 5 points.

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12. **SCORP Priorities.** How will this project address statewide or regional priorities as described in the Statewide Outdoor Comprehensive Recreation Plan?

▲ Evaluators score 0-5 points.

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