Appendix G: Guide for Lead Entity Project Evaluation

Benefit and Certainty Criteria

The SRFB developed the following criteria several years ago for evaluating benefit to fish and certainty of project success. With the evolution of lead entity strategies and recovery plans, the SRFB shifted to a technical evaluation of site-specific projects using the "Project of Concern" criteria. Use the benefit and certainty criteria listed below only for lead entity guidance in their evaluation of projects through their local processes.

Benefit Criteria		
Watershed Processes and Habitat Features Identified and Prioritized in the Strategy		
HIGH BENEFIT project addresses high-priority habitat features and/or watershed process that significantly protect or limit the salmonid productivity in the area. **Acquisition:** More than 60 percent of the total project area is intact habitat, or if less than 60 percent, project must be a combination that includes restoration. **Assessment:** Crucial to understanding watershed processes, is directly relevant	MEDIUM BENEFIT project may not address the most important limiting factor but will improve habitat conditions. **Acquisition:** 40-60 percent of the total project area is intact habitat, or if less than 40-60 percent, project must be a combination that includes restoration. **Assessments:** Will lead to new projects in moderate priority areas and is	LOW BENEFIT project does not address an important habitat condition in the area.

Benefit Criteria		
to project development or sequencing, and clearly will lead to new projects in high-priority areas.	independent of addressing other key conditions first.	
Areas and Actions Identified and Prioritized in the Strategy		
HIGH BENEFIT project is a high-priority action in a high-priority geographic area. **Assessment:** Fills an important data gap in a high-priority area.	MEDIUM BENEFIT project may be an important action but in a moderate-priority geographic area. **Assessment:** Fills an important data gap but is in a moderate-priority area.	LOW BENEFIT project addresses a lower priority action or geographic area.
Scientific Identified and Prioritized in the Strategy		
HIGH BENEFIT project is identified through a documented habitat assessment.	MEDIUM BENEFIT project is identified through a documented habitat assessment or scientific opinion.	LOW BENEFIT project is unclear or lacks scientific information about the problem being addressed.
Species Identified and Prioritized in the Strategy		
HIGH BENEFIT project addresses multiple species or unique populations of salmonids essential for recovery or Endangered Species Act-listed fish species or non-listed populations primarily supported by natural spawning. Documented fish use.	MEDIUM BENEFIT project addresses a moderate number of species or unique populations of salmonids essential for recovery or Endangered Species Act-listed fish species or non-listed populations primarily supported by natural spawning. Documented fish use.	LOW BENEFIT project addresses a single species of a low priority. Documented fish use.
Life History Identified and Prioritized in the Strategy		
HIGH BENEFIT project addresses an important life history stage or habitat type that limits the productivity of the salmonid species in the area or project addresses multiple life history requirements.	MEDIUM BENEFIT project addresses fewer life history stages or habitat types that limit the productivity of the salmonid species in the area or partially addresses fewer life history requirements.	LOW BENEFIT project is unclear about the salmonid life history being addressed.

Benefit Criteria		
Costs Identified and Prioritized in the Strategy		
HIGH BENEFIT project has a low cost relative to the predicted benefits for the project type in that location.	MEDIUM BENEFIT project has a reasonable cost relative to the predicted benefits for the project type in that location.	LOW BENEFIT project has a high cost relative to the predicted benefits for that particular project type in that location.

Certainty Criteria		
Appropriate Identified and Prioritized in the Strategy		
HIGH CERTAINTY project scope is appropriate to meet its goals and objectives.	MEDIUM CERTAINTY project is moderately appropriate to meet its goals and objectives.	LOW CERTAINTY project has methods do not appear to meet the goals and objectives of the project.
Approach Identified and Prioritized in the Strategy		
HIGH CERTAINTY project is consistent with proven scientific methods. **Assessment:** Methods will effectively address an information or data gap or lead to effective implementation of prioritized projects within one to two years of completion.	MEDIUM CERTAINTY project uses untested or incomplete scientific methods. **Assessment:** Methods will effectively address a data gap or lead to effective project implementation of prioritized projects within three to five years of completion.	LOW CERTAINTY project uses untested or ineffective methods.
Sequence Identified and Prioritized in the Strategy		
HIGH CERTAINTY project is in the correct sequence and is independent of other actions being taken first.	MEDIUM CERTAINTY project is dependent on other actions being taken first that are outside the scope of this project.	LOW CERTAINTY project may be in the wrong sequence with other protection and restoration actions.
Threat Identified and Prioritized in the Strategy		
HIGH CERTAINTY project addresses a high potential threat to salmonid habitat.	MEDIUM CERTAINTY project addresses a moderate potential threat to salmonid habitat.	LOW CERTAINTY project addresses a low potential threat to salmonid habitat.

Certainty Criteria		
Stewardship Identified and Prioritized in the Strategy		
HIGH CERTAINTY project clearly describes and funds stewardship of the area or facility for more than ten years.	MEDIUM CERTAINTY project clearly describes but does not fund stewardship of the area or facility for more than ten years.	LOW CERTAINTY project does not describe or fund stewardship of the area or facility.
Landowner Identified and Prioritized in the Strategy		
HIGH CERTAINTY project landowners are willing to have work done.	MEDIUM CERTAINTY project landowners were potentially contacted and likely will allow work.	LOW CERTAINTY project landowner willingness is unknown.
Implementation Identified and Prioritized in the Strategy		
HIGH CERTAINTY project actions are scheduled, funded, and ready to take place and have few or no known constraints to successful implementation including projects that may result from this project.	MEDIUM CERTAINTY project has few or no known constraints to successful implementation as well as other projects that may result from this project.	LOW CERTAINTY project actions are unscheduled, unfunded, and not ready to take place, and have several constraints to successful implementation.