



**Please note that board members will all be online for this meeting. However, an in-person meeting space is still available to the public if you do not wish to join virtually.**

**Location In-person:** **Room 175**, First Floor, Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street, SE, Olympia, WA. This public meeting location will allow for the public to provide comment and listen to the meeting as required by the Open Public Meeting Act. This requirement can be waived via HB 1329 if there is a declaration of emergency or if an agency determines that a public meeting cannot safely be held. If an emergency occurs, remote technology will be the primary meeting source.

**Location Virtually:**

[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_dQpTf7ihSyS2ovB3zV6Zyw](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_dQpTf7ihSyS2ovB3zV6Zyw)

**Phone Option:** (669) 900-6833 - **Webinar ID:** 839 6309 7973

**Order of Presentation:** In general, each agenda item will include a short staff presentation, followed by board discussion. The board only makes decisions following the public comment portion of the agenda decision item.

**Public Comment:** General public comments are encouraged to be submitted in advance of the meeting in written form. Public comment on agenda items is also permitted. If you wish to comment, you may e-mail your request or written comments to [Julia.McNamara@rco.wa.gov](mailto:Julia.McNamara@rco.wa.gov), board liaison.

**COVID Precautions:** Masks and hand sanitizer will be made available. The meetings rooms will be set up to allow for as much social distancing as possible and air purifiers will be placed throughout.

**Special Accommodations:** People with disabilities needing an accommodation to participate in RCO public meetings are invited to contact Leslie Frank by phone (360) 789-7889 or e-mail [Leslie.Frank@rco.wa.gov](mailto:Leslie.Frank@rco.wa.gov).

## MONDAY DECEMBER 4, 2023

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### OPENING AND MANAGEMENT REPORTS

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9:00 a.m.

**Call to Order**

*Chair Willhite*

- Roll Call and Determination of Quorum
  - Approval of the December 4, 2023 Special Agenda
  - Chair Remarks
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### BOARD BUSINESS: DECISION

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9:15 a.m.

**1. Grant Criteria Changes**

*Chair Willhite*

Resolution 2023-27

Resolution 2023-28

**Public comment** will occur prior to adopting the resolutions.  
Please limit comments to three minutes

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11:00 a.m.

**ADJOURN**

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**Next Meeting:** Regular Meeting– January 30-31 2024 - Online and In-person at Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA 98501.



## Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Decision Memo

**Meeting Date:** December 4, 2023

**Title:** Grant Evaluation Criteria Changes

**Prepared By:** Ben Donatelle and Leah Dobey, RCO Policy Specialists

### Summary

This memo summarizes proposed changes to evaluation criteria in the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account, Land and Water Conservation Fund, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program's Local Parks, Trails, and Water Access categories, and the Youth Athletic Facilities programs. These changes are aligned with recommendations from the Recreation and Conservation Office's 2022 equity review and the 2023 Washington Recreation and Conservation Plan with a goal of reducing gaps in outdoor recreation access that support community needs.

### Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Request for Decision
<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Direction
<input type="checkbox"/>	Briefing

**Resolution:** 2023-27 and 2023-28

**Purpose of Resolution:** Adopt proposed changes to evaluation criteria.

## Introduction and Background

During the past year, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) policy staff have worked with the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board), external stakeholders, and RCO grants staff to revise four grant evaluation criteria used commonly in six recreation and conservation focused grant programs. The revisions address recommendations in several recently completed studies and reports including the [Physical Activity Task Force \(PATF\) Report](#); [Equitable Grantmaking: A Comprehensive Review of Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office Grant Programs \(equity review\)](#); and the [2023 Washington Recreation and Conservation Plan \(SCORP\)](#).

The criteria under review are Need, Need Satisfaction (including Scope and Design), Project Support, and Expansion/Renovation. These criteria are part of a broader scoring mechanism to evaluate projects in the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account, Land and Water Conservation Fund, Youth Athletic Facilities, and Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program's Local Parks, Trails, and Water Access categories.

Additional context and details on the background of the proposed changes described in this memo can be found in memos from previous board meetings, including:

- [April 2023, Item 3](#)
- [June 2023, Item 9](#)
- [October 2023, Item 3](#)

### **Pending Decision**

This memo summarizes proposed updates to these criteria and their relative value for the board to consider adopting in advance of the 2024 grant application cycle. RCO staff request the board make decisions on two specific points.

1. Adopt the proposed criteria language as described in Attachment A
2. Authorize the RCO director to adopt modifications to the relative value of the evaluation criteria, as demonstrated in Attachment B and in response to changes adopted in Resolution 2023-27.

### **Development Timeline**

In the winter of 2023, staff began comparing the PATF report, equity review, and SCORP to identify overlapping findings and recommendations related to grant evaluation criteria. Also considered in this review was input from staff at several levels, and general feedback from recent applicants and evaluation committee members. With this input, staff defined the role that evaluation criteria could play in addressing the reports' findings and identified potential changes to be considered in this project.

During the spring, staff reviewed relevant statutes and grant program requirements to inform the range of changes that could move forward without amending statutes. The project was scoped, and staff presented a briefing at the board's April meeting. At that time, staff described the need for changes and provided an overview of the criteria under consideration.

The history of each criterion was then reviewed, and staff performed several case studies to understand how different applicants approach each criterion. At the board's June meeting, staff presented one of these case studies, as well as details on the potential changes that could address opportunities identified in the equity review and SCORP.

After receiving direction from the board, staff prepared an initial draft of criteria changes and prepared to receive feedback.

In July, staff convened a technical work group of approximately thirty members to advise on the draft criteria changes. Public and Tribal comment was solicited in the late summer and fall. Comments received are summarized in a later section of this memo. Concurrently, staff met with board members in small groups to receive their feedback.

Through the fall, staff refined a proposed set of criteria changes, developed updated weighting proposals for each program and identified redundancies in the existing criteria that will require attention, depending on what changes are adopted by the board.

### **Goals of the proposed criteria**

A review of previous works resulted in four outcome-focused goals to be achieved by updating the evaluation criteria.

1. **Close gaps in access to greenspace.** The equity review noted that RCO funding skews markedly to places with pre-existing green space and recommends RCO use a data-driven approach to equitably distribute available funding. Similarly, the board's unified strategy directs RCO to, "Identify, incorporate, and weight measures to help address disparate outcomes in outdoor recreation and conservation funding." Finally, the 2023 SCORP Goal 1.2 sets a statewide priority to reduce the physical, social, and economic barriers to accessing outdoor recreation opportunities.
2. **Address disparities in access to grant funding.** The equity review discovered that despite similar proposal success rates in many grant programs, fewer proposals from low-income and racially diverse communities is a driving factor of funding disparities. The board's unified strategy directs RCO to reduce barriers to grant funding for under-resourced communities. Past applicants frequently comment that the time and resources required to develop a proposal and complete the application process is overly-burdensome, especially for small organizations with few or no staff dedicated to grant writing.
3. **Align criteria consistently across programs.** The equity review also notes that developing grant proposals is time-consuming and onerous for small organizations. It recommends standardizing the presentation format to reduce the time required for developing presentations and level the playing field between communities with

significantly varied staff capacity. To that end, using consistent evaluation criteria across programs that are commonly leveraged to support similar project types will also reduce the time needed to develop application materials for applicants that apply for funding from multiple funding sources. Similarly, grant evaluators, especially those who review grants in multiple programs, will benefit from consistently worded and applied evaluation criteria.

4. **Simplify and provide greater direction.** RCO routinely surveys evaluation committee members after each grant cycle to gather input on evaluation criteria and their perception of the evaluation process. Simplifying the criteria and providing clearer guidance in applying and scoring the many overlapping and complex details are frequently cited as areas for improvement. Inexperienced applicants will benefit from simplified questions and clearer guidance on addressing the criteria topics.

### **Stakeholder, staff, and public input**

RCO staff convened a technical work group to provide input on existing evaluation criteria and possible revisions. The workgroup consisted of evaluation committee members from each of the impacted grant programs and recent grant applicants who were both funded and unfunded.

The workgroup had multiple opportunities to review and provide input on the proposed criteria revisions. Prior to an orientation meeting, the workgroup reviewed an initial draft of conceptual changes. The group was then able to provide input through one-on-one conversation or in writing over the course of two weeks. Staff compiled the workgroup's feedback into a second draft which was redistributed to the workgroup, shared with board members, and posted as a public comment draft.

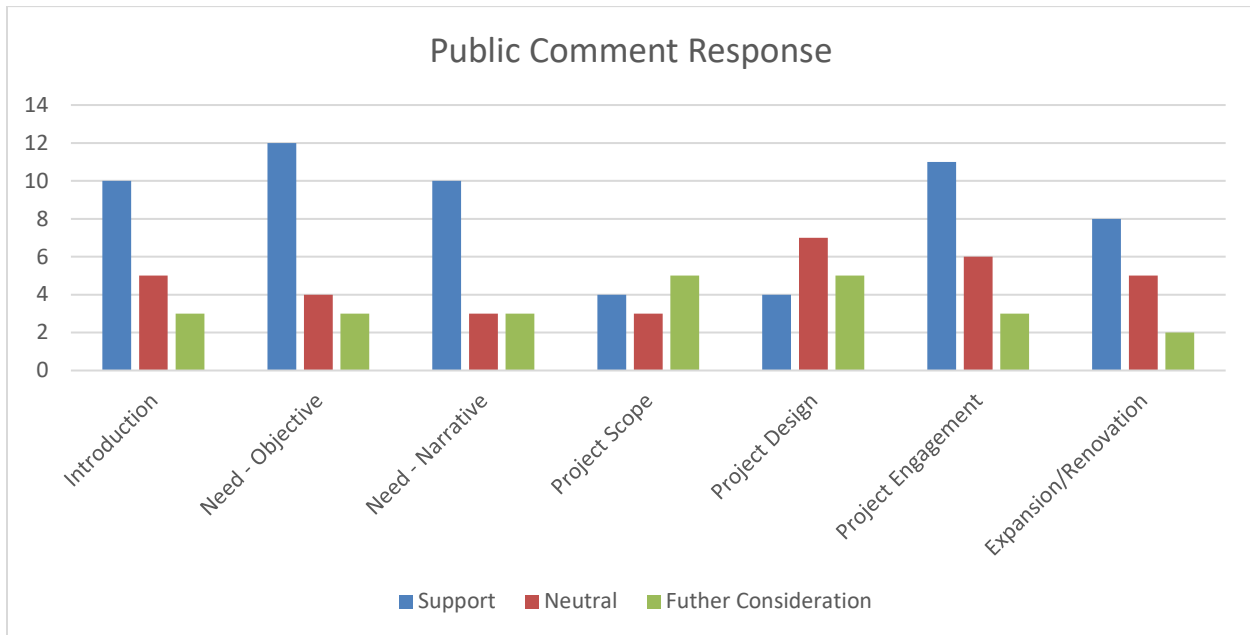
RCO grants staff were also consulted and had opportunities to provide feedback on the proposed changes throughout the development process.

### **Public and Tribal Comment Summary**

A memo with the draft criteria changes and supporting details was posted to RCO's website to solicit public comments. Notice of the comment period was distributed to over 4,500 email addresses and through a press release. Comments were accepted between August 18 and September 11. RCO also contacted Tribal governments directly, providing a comment period through November 17.

RCO received twenty-nine responses from a range of local governments, non-profit organizations, individuals and one Native American Tribe. Not all respondents

commented on all criteria. The following chart shows an overview of how many comments were supportive, neutral, or prompted further consideration.



**Introduction** – Comments were generally supportive or neutral regarding the addition of a project introduction, though several commenters asked whether applicants would be afforded additional presentation time and one requested additional guidance on how to define the service area. Another commenter suggested listing which tribes’ ancestral lands overlap with the project area and their positions on the proposed project.

**Need: Location Based** – Comments were generally supportive or neutral regarding the use of social vulnerabilities, health, and greenspace data, to partially determine project need. Respondents valued the inclusion of consistent statewide data to help identify underserved communities. However, some concern was noted regarding data sources for the objective metrics and whether they show a bias toward either urban or rural locations.

**Need: Narrative** – Comments were generally supportive or neutral regarding changes to the narrative need criterion. Several respondents noted the importance of this criterion, which allows applicants to describe details that may not have been captured in the location-based metrics. One commenter expressed concern regarding asking applicants to inventory nearby recreation opportunities.

**Project Scope** – Fewer comments were received regarding the scope criterion, with a similar number of favorable, neutral, and constructive comments. One respondent was

concerned about potential bias toward projects in urban areas, while another suggested strengthening the focus of the criterion to elicit clear responses. Another comment suggested requiring applicants to identify potential negative impacts of the projects and mitigation efforts to address them.

**Project Design** – Nearly half of the comments regarding design were neutral, while the remaining comments were split between favorable and constructive. Several respondents supported the change to a more simplified evaluation prompt and flexibility for projects at various stages of design. One respondent expressed concern about whether the drafted criteria would appropriately value acquisition projects. However, acquisition projects are also evaluated by additional criteria which are not within the scope of this project.

**Project Engagement** – Comments were generally supportive or neutral regarding changes to evaluating project engagement. Respondents noted support for emphasizing community input on a project and rewarding quality over quantity. Caution was noted regarding potential bias against smaller applicants and to clarify some of the prompt language. One respondent suggested language to highlight underserved communities' role in decision-making regarding the project. Another comment suggested that applicants be required to engage with tribes before projects receive funding.

**Expansion or Renovation** – Comments were generally supportive or neutral regarding eliminating this criterion. Supportive comments noted that this action removes complexity from the evaluation process and helps shift investment to underserved areas. One respondent was concerned that this change could lead to unmaintained facilities, or that it could disadvantage phased projects.

**Miscellaneous Comments** – Additional comments were received in general support for the proposed changes, noting that they provide clarification, advance the agency's equity goals, and remove redundancies. However, other comments expressed concern about increased complexity, potential bias toward projects in urban areas, and whether the proposed objective metrics are the right datapoints.

Several miscellaneous comments indicated challenges outside of the scope of this project. These included other evaluation criteria such as those regarding population density or scenic views. Regarding process, respondents requested more state funding for park, recreation, and open space planning, as well as technical assistance during the application phase. One comment noted difficulties with RCO's current reimbursement payment model.

## Discussion of Proposed Evaluation Criteria



**Project Introduction** explicitly prompts applicants to orient the evaluation committee to their project's location and overarching goals. This concept is used in the WWRP Habitat program and was specifically requested as an unscored criterion by the technical work group. Work group participants noted that during project presentations, inexperienced applicants often launch immediately into addressing the first evaluation criteria without setting the stage for the review team. In conversation, several work group members commented that sometimes they do not even know what the project is proposing to accomplish until halfway through the presentation.

Successful applicants often take a minute or two to orient the evaluation committee to the project's location within the state and provide a brief proposal overview . Adding an unscored project introduction both guides inexperienced applicants and suggests consistent approach for all applicants to orient the evaluation committee to their project.

**Project Need** is comprised of two parts; one scored by RCO staff, and a second scored by an advisory committee. The staff scored portion reflects statewide priorities in the 2023 Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan and recommendations from the 2022 equity review of grant programs. The advisory committee score is based on a narrative description of local priorities and provides an opportunity for applicants to discuss their project's need in the context of the local community's conditions.

The proposed staff scored assessment of need builds upon the data-driven approach used by RCO's Application Data Tool, which was implemented as a product of the 2018 SCORP. Here, however, RCO proposes to eliminate the data assessment from the project's evaluation presentation, freeing up time for applicants, and instead score projects using pre-determined rankings that reflect the 2023 SCORP's statewide priorities and recommendations in the equity review. By doing so, RCO can consistently and transparently apply scores from data-driven determinants of need.

Statewide data is valuable, but it cannot tell the full story of communities' needs for services. For example, census tracts do not line up with service areas and therefore may not fully characterize a projects' user base. As such, the Need criterion includes a revised narrative section, scored by the evaluation committee, that prompts applicants to provide specific information to describe the locally determined need for the project. The technical workgroup also insisted that the narrative portion of Need should carry more of the scoring weight than the data-driven assessment.

**Project Scope and Project Design** are two criteria proposed to replace the many variations of the Need Satisfaction criterion. Across the six grant programs under review, Need Satisfaction, Project Scope, and Project Design seek to gain an understanding of

the existing site conditions, the recreational opportunities the project will provide upon completion, and how the project's design elements and cost estimates were determined.

These updated scope and design criteria work together to capture the broadscale goals and intent of the overall project and then focus on the details of the specific design elements proposed for funding. Project Scope simplifies the number of elements the applicant is asked to address and guides them through a more standardized scope description. The Project Design criterion is also simplified to help the applicant describe how the design aligns with the described need and scope and how the project elements fit within the existing site conditions. Project Design also addresses how the applicant developed the project budget and, if not already there, how the applicant plans to become ready for construction.

The current criteria each ask an overarching question and then list a bulleted array of "suggestions," or sub-questions, for the applicant to consider in addressing the main question. Applicants and evaluators frequently comment that this approach provides little direction or guidance on how the various sub-questions should be considered or influence the overall score. This need for clarity often results in wide variability in answering the criteria and evaluator's scoring subjectivity – i.e., different evaluators look for applicants to emphasize different suggested considerations.

The score for the proposed project design criterion is split into two sub-sections – one focusing on the design elements and another focusing on the budget development. Splitting and setting a specific point range for each sub-section indicates to the evaluation committee and the applicants how much to consider each of the questions within the overall criterion. By splitting criterion scores into sub-parts, RCO can provide more consistent direction to applicants and evaluators on how much each "consideration" should influence the overall score.

**Project Engagement** renames and expands the range of factors considered by the current Public Support criterion. Currently, this question asks how the applicant has informed the community about the project, what their level of support has been, and the extent of public involvement in comprehensive planning that names the project. Applicants are asked to describe the methods used for community engagement and to determine support for the project primarily using quantifiable terms such as attendance at public meetings, voter-approved initiatives, resolution adoption, letters of support, or media coverage.

RCO proposes renaming Project Support to Project Engagement and broadening the scope of the criterion. This change prompts the applicant to describe their methods of engagement, the community response, and why that response is significant in the

context of applicant’s local community. The proposed criterion also specifically asks how the community engagement influenced the project’s design. Finally, the criterion asks whether partnerships are being leveraged or developed for the project. As proposed, these elements would be scored separately to consistently define the weight of each consideration within the overall project score.

The questions are also clear to point out that engagement can happen in a variety of ways and at various times leading up to the project – it could be during comprehensive planning, master park planning, or about this specific project. Partnerships, as described in the criteria, can be formal or informal, longstanding or just emerging, and may contribute to the project in a variety of creative ways by providing financial or in-kind support, knowledge sharing, participation in events, or however the community defines the partnership.

**Expansion or Renovation** is a criterion that is used exclusively in the WWRP Local Parks and Water Access categories. This criterion was developed to address a priority of the 2008 SCORP and gave a preferential score to projects that, “provide continued improvement of existing sites and facilities previously funded...”<sup>1</sup> At the time this criterion was developed, just after the 2008 housing crash and subsequent economic recession, incentivizing projects that leveraged existing sites and applicant resources made financial sense for the state. However, in the intervening years, this criterion has contributed to the skewed funding distribution identified in the equity review.

This proposal eliminates the Expansion or Renovation criterion to remove scoring preference for projects in locations with existing greenspace. Projects to renovate facilities or expand existing sites continue to have value for communities, but the need for such projects can be adequately captured in responses to the narrative portion of the Need criterion.

## Criteria Weight – Relative Value

During this project, staff reviewed and adjusted the relative value of each criterion in each of the six grant programs. Recommendations proposed in this memo include changes to criteria language, but also adding and eliminating certain criteria. For example, adding Project Scope to WWRP - Trails and eliminating Expansion or Renovation from WWRP - Water Access. These changes required staff to review and

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<sup>1</sup> *Defining and Measuring Success: The Role of State Government in Outdoor Recreation. A State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Planning Document.* Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office. Olympia, WA. June 2008.

adjust criteria weight. This work was also conducted in response to the equity review and SCORP recommendations that recognize the role that criteria weight can play in reducing disparate funding outcomes.

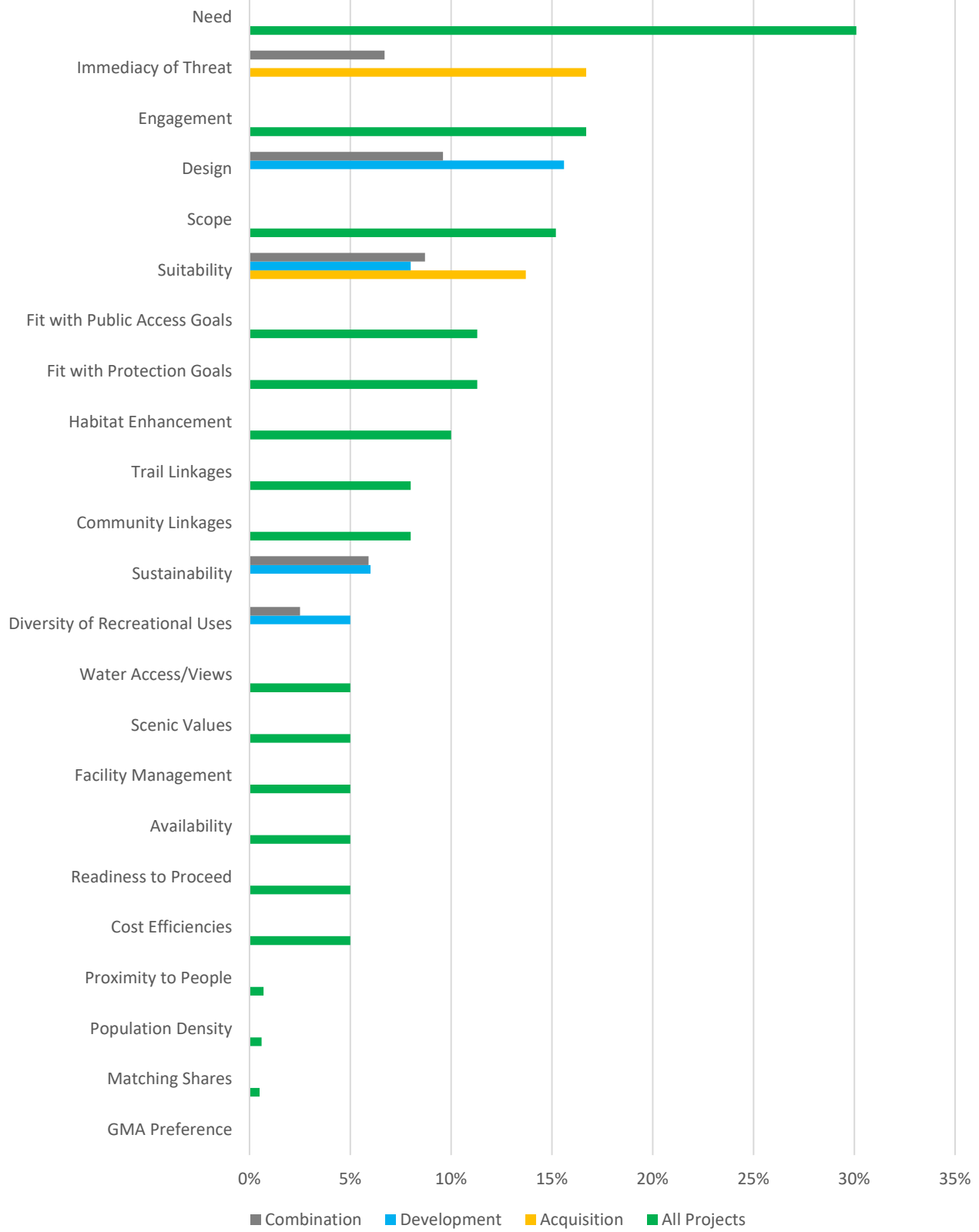
In adjusting, staff tried to maintain consistent value for the proposed (new) criteria across the programs. For example, the equity review recommends that project need account for approximately thirty percent of the overall points available. Additionally, both the equity review and SCORP recommend that criteria assessing applicants' engagement with their communities be assessed and elevated.

Staff also tried to maintain the relative value of the existing criteria within each program to the extent possible. However, each program has individual complexities that staff worked to address. For example, WWRP Local Parks has fewer statutory criteria than WWRP Trails, which resulted in variations in weight of both the Need and Project Engagement criteria.

Also considered during this process was how the overall point system is affected by differences in which criteria are or are not used across programs or for different project types (acquisition, development, or combination projects). Past board priorities were another important factor when reviewing criteria weight. For example, in 2020 the board adopted revisions to the Sustainability criterion with the desire for it to be weighted between five and ten percent. Staff also considered how to maintain a functional scoring rubric for evaluators.

The chart below shows the average proposed weight of all criteria across the programs within the scope of this project. The highest weighted criteria are Project Need at thirty percent, followed by Immediacy of Threat, Project Engagement, Project Design, Project Scope, and Site Suitability, which are each between fourteen to seventeen percent of the overall total. Note that not all criteria below are used in all programs and that individual criteria weight can vary depending on the project type.

### Average Proposed Weight of Criteria



In this depiction, the location-based and narrative portions of the proposed Project Need are combined. In staff's proposal, the location-based portion of need accounts for nine percent of the total score, while the narrative portion accounts for an average of twenty one percent.

Additional detail on how staff propose to update the weight of all criteria across the six programs is found in Attachment B. These relative weights may change if the board does not adopt staff's criteria recommendations as prepared.

### **Link to Strategic Plan**

The proposal outlined in this memo implements actions 1.2 and 1.3 of the board's Unified Strategy #1. It also addresses the following elements of board's strategic plan:

- Strategy 3.A.4. – Perform regular assessments to determine the public's priorities for outdoor recreation and conservation funding.
- Strategy 3.A.6. – Expand reach of grant programs by broadening applicant pool for grant programs

### **Staff Recommendations**

Staff recommend the board approve Resolution 2023-27 to adopt the proposed evaluation criteria as outlined in Attachment A.

Staff recommend the board approve Resolution 2023-28, to adopt the updated relative weight of evaluation criteria, as detailed in Attachment B. The board also authorizes the RCO director to make minor adjustments as necessary to implement this resolution.

### **Next Steps**

Pending the board's decision, RCO staff will prepare adopted criteria updates for publication in the 2024 grant program manuals and remove newly created redundancies. RCO policy staff will also work with communications and grants teams to develop outreach and promotional materials, training and technical assistance resources, and additional guidance for advisory committee members.

The effects of adopted changes will be presented to the board following the 2024 and 2026 granting cycles.

### **Attachments**

- A. Proposed Evaluation Criteria Language
- B. Proposed Evaluation Criteria Relative Values

- C. Resolution 2023-27
- D. Resolution 2023-28

## Attachment A – Proposed Evaluation Criteria Language

### Project Introduction – *Unscored*

*(1-2 minutes for presentations or 1 short paragraph for written applications)*

Introduce the project's location and goals to set the stage for the project.

- Locate the project on statewide, regional, and site maps to help orient the evaluators to the project area and its context in the service area.

*NOTE: The service area is the geographic area where most of the anticipated users live, as defined by the applicant.*

- Summarize the site's condition, the project's acquisition, development, or renovation goals, and the recreation opportunities the project will provide.

### Need

Project Need is comprised of two parts: one scored by RCO staff, and another scored by the program's advisory committee. The staff scored portion reflects statewide priorities as determined by the 2023 Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan and recommendations from the 2022 equity review of grant programs. The advisory committee scored portion is a narrative description of local priorities and an opportunity for applicants to discuss their project in context with local conditions.

#### Statewide Priorities – *Scored by RCO Staff -Applicants Do Not Answer*

Points will be awarded based on **social vulnerability**, **health outcomes**, and **greenspace availability**.

Social vulnerability and health scores are based on information from the [Washington Tracking Network's Information by Location](#) (IBL) mapping tool. Social vulnerability scores use a combination of 16 social and economic conditions such as limited English, crowded housing, or population living in poverty. Health scores are from the IBL's Poor Health Outcomes ranking. Greenspace availability scores are determined using spatial data analysis from RCO's equity review of grant programs. For that review, census tracts were classified as having High (more than 8 acres per 1,000 residents), Medium (3-8 acres per 1,000 residents), and Low (less than 3 acres per 1,000 residents) greenspace per capita.



- Social Vulnerability Index - *Maximum weight of 3% of total score.*
  - X points for vulnerability rating 8-10*
  - X points for vulnerability rating 6-7*
  - X points for vulnerability rating 3-5*
  - X points for vulnerability rating 1-2*
  
- Health Disparity Index - Poor Health Outcomes - *Maximum weight of 3% of total score.*
  - X points for health outcome rating 8-10*
  - X points for health outcome rating 6-7*
  - X points for health outcome rating 3-5*
  - X points for health outcome rating 1-2*
  
- Greenspace Availability - *Maximum weight of 3% of total score.*
  - X points for low greenspace*
  - X points for medium greenspace*
  - X points for high greenspace*

Local Priorities

Describe the need for new or improved recreation facilities, how the need is known, and why existing amenities in the service area do not satisfy the need. A complete response should include the following:

- A simple inventory and condition of relevant outdoor recreation opportunities in the service area.
- Description of gaps in access, opportunity, or service delivery.
- Description of the current and/or anticipated use of the project site and any factors that contribute to fluctuations in use or demand for service.
- Description of how the need for this project has been identified and prioritized, including whether it is linked to local recreation or open space plans.

*Point range: 0-X points*

### Project Scope

Describe the site's existing natural and built features. Describe what is being proposed in the project, including land acquisition and/or elements to be built or renovated, and for what purpose.

- What recreation opportunities will this project provide?

*Point range: 0-X points*

### Project Design

- Describe how the design aligns with the need, location, and project scope. Describe how the design addresses any constraints and whether the design provides access for users of all abilities. Applicants may choose to describe design elements such as parking and site access, accessibility features, environmental considerations, green infrastructure, cultural or historic interpretation, mitigation of public use impacts, etc. If available, include design visuals.

*Point range: 0-X points*

- Provide an overview of the project budget and how the cost estimate was determined. If the proposal includes additional site design and permitting, what is the process and anticipated schedule to be construction-ready?

*Point range: 0-X points*

### Project Engagement

RCO encourages applicants to use a variety of methods to gather input on the project. How were the people who will be most impacted by the project engaged?

- Describe what methods were used and the populations engaged, including underserved populations and/or Native American tribes. Describe the relevance of that participation for the population size, demographic or socioeconomic conditions of the community or service area.

*Point range: 0-X points*

- How has community input influenced the project design?

*Point range: 0-X points*

Project Engagement (continued)

- Describe any community partnerships that are providing support for the project whether through financial, in-kind, project delivery, or other means. Partnerships may be formal or informal. Describe the significance of the partnership(s) within the community or service area.

*Point range: 0-X points*

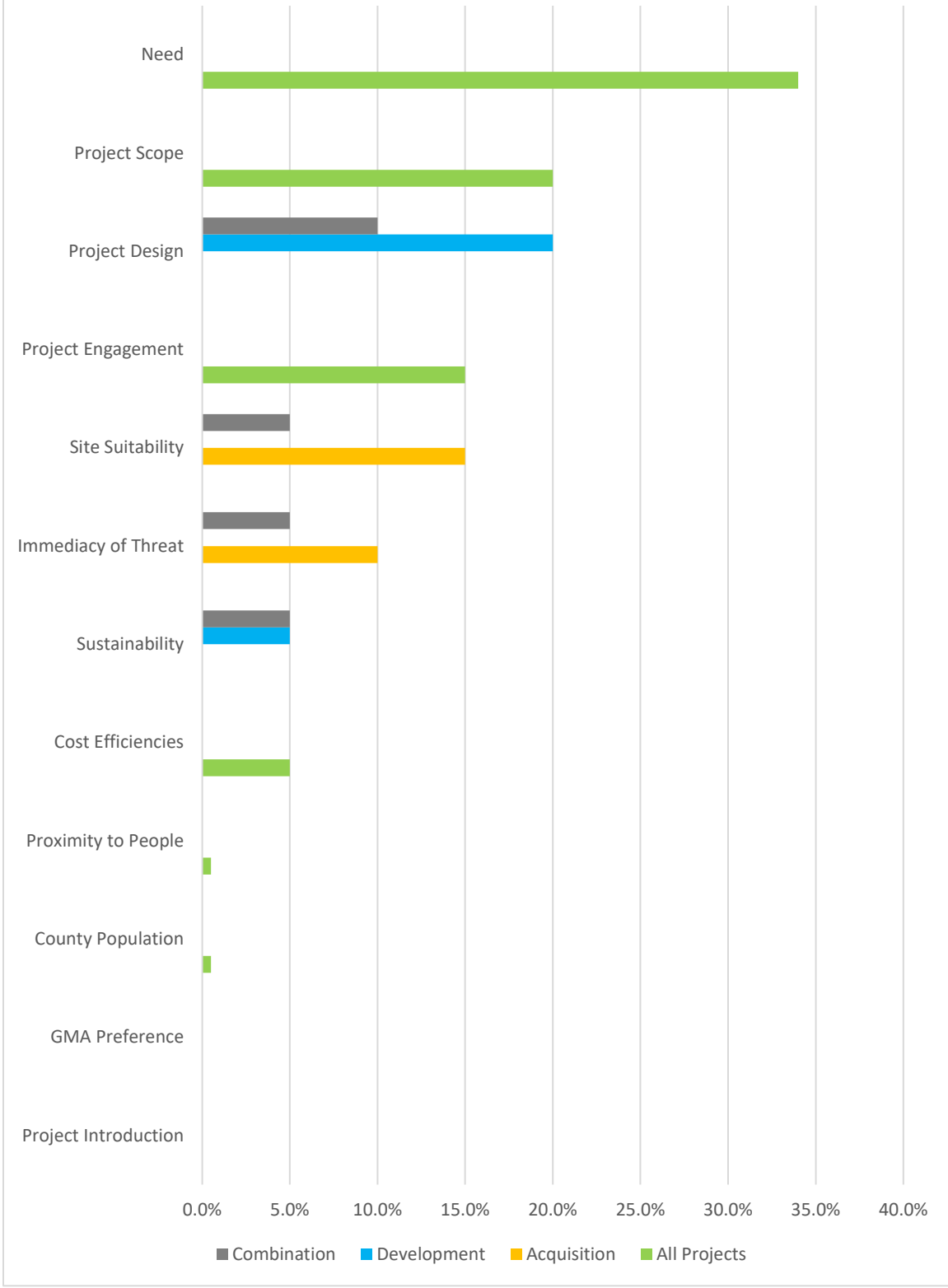
Expansion or Renovation

Eliminate the Expansion or Renovation (WWRP Local Parks) and Expansion (WWRP Water Access) criteria.

## Attachment B – Proposed Evaluation Criteria Relative Values

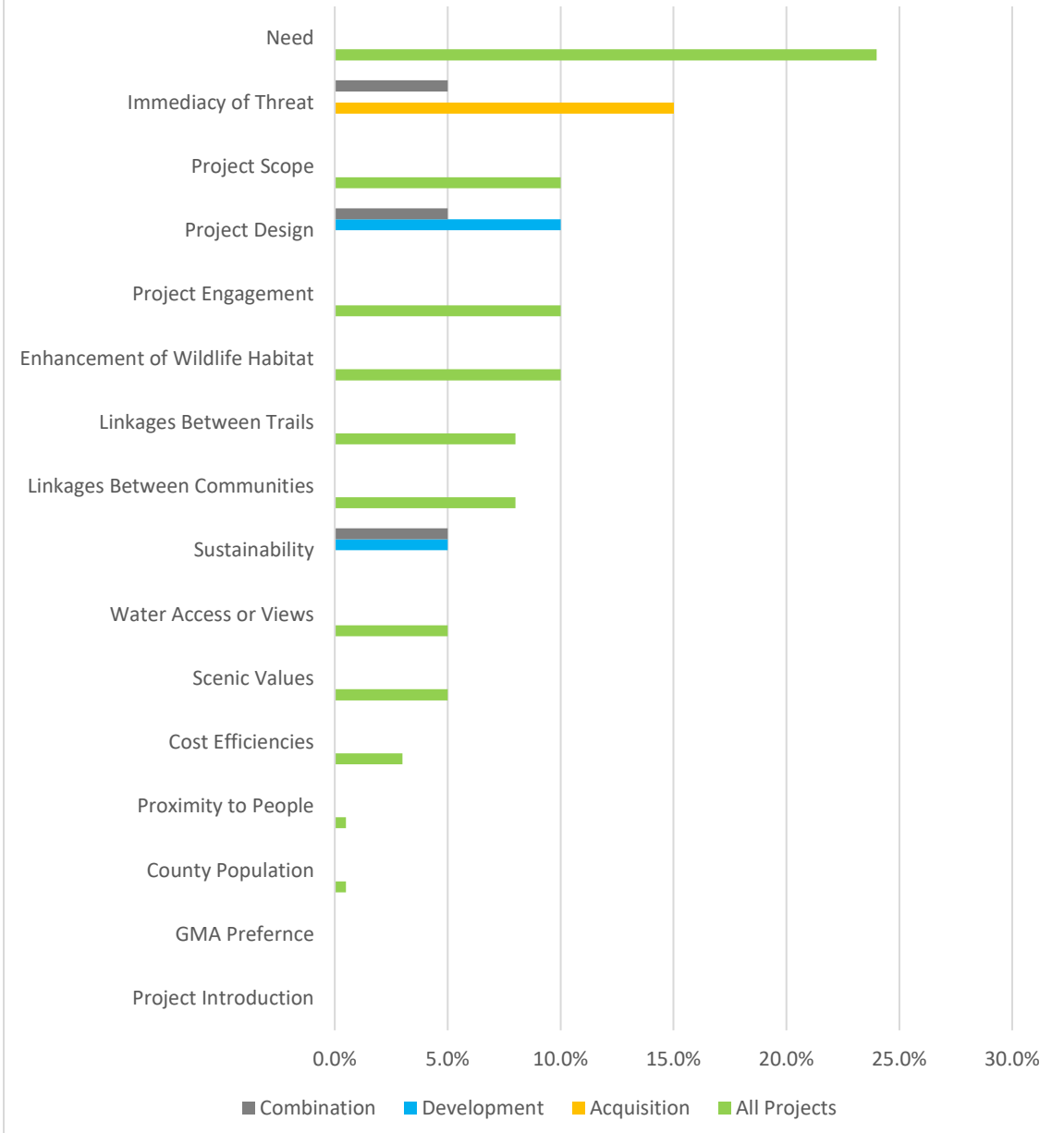
WWRP – Local Parks			
Title	Scored By	Project Type	Proposed Weight
Need	Narrative – Advisory Committee	All	34% (Narrative = 25% Data-based = 9%)
	Data-based – RCO Staff		
Project Scope	Advisory Committee	All	20%
Project Design	Advisory Committee	Development	20%
	Advisory Committee	Combination	10%
Project Engagement	Advisory Committee	All	15%
Site Suitability	Advisory Committee	Acquisition	15%
	Advisory Committee	Combination	5%
Immediacy of Threat	Advisory Committee	Acquisition	10%
	Advisory Committee	Combination	5%
Sustainability	Advisory Committee	Development	5%
	Advisory Committee	Combination	5%
Cost Efficiencies	Advisory Committee	All	5%
Proximity to People	RCO Staff	All	0.5%
County Population Density	RCO Staff	All	0.5%
Growth Management Act Preference	RCO Staff	All	0%
Project Introduction	Unscored	All	0%

## WWRP Local Parks



<b>WWRP - Trails</b>			
<b>Title</b>	<b>Scored By</b>	<b>Project Type</b>	<b>Proposed Weight</b>
Need	Narrative – Advisory Committee Data-based – RCO Staff	All	24% (Narrative = 15% Data-based = 9%)
Immediacy of Threat	Advisory Committee	Acquisition	15%
	Advisory Committee	Combination	5%
Project Scope	Advisory Committee	All	10%
Project Design	Advisory Committee	Development	10%
	Advisory Committee	Combination	5%
Project Engagement	Advisory Committee	All	10%
Enhancement of Wildlife Habitat	Advisory Committee	All	10%
Linkages Between Trails	Advisory Committee	All	8%
Linkages Between Communities	Advisory Committee	All	8%
Sustainability	Advisory Committee	Development	5%
	Advisory Committee	Combination	5%
Water Access or Views	Advisory Committee	All	5%
Scenic Values	Advisory Committee	All	5%
Cost Efficiencies	Advisory Committee	All	3%
Proximity to People	RCO Staff	All	0.5%
County Population Density	RCO Staff	All	0.5%
Growth Management Act Preference	RCO Staff	All	0%
Project Introduction	Unscored	All	0%

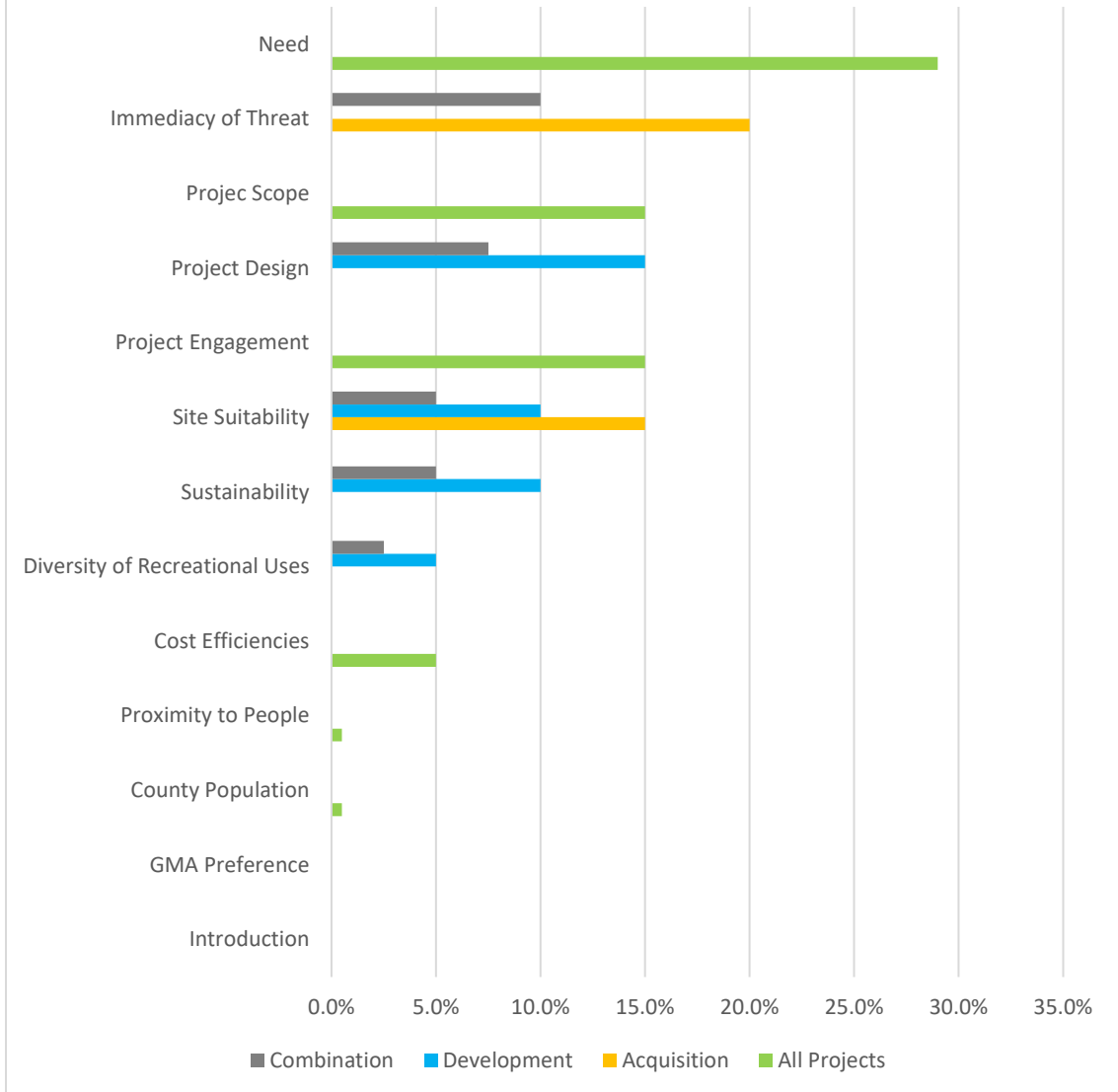
## WWRP Trails



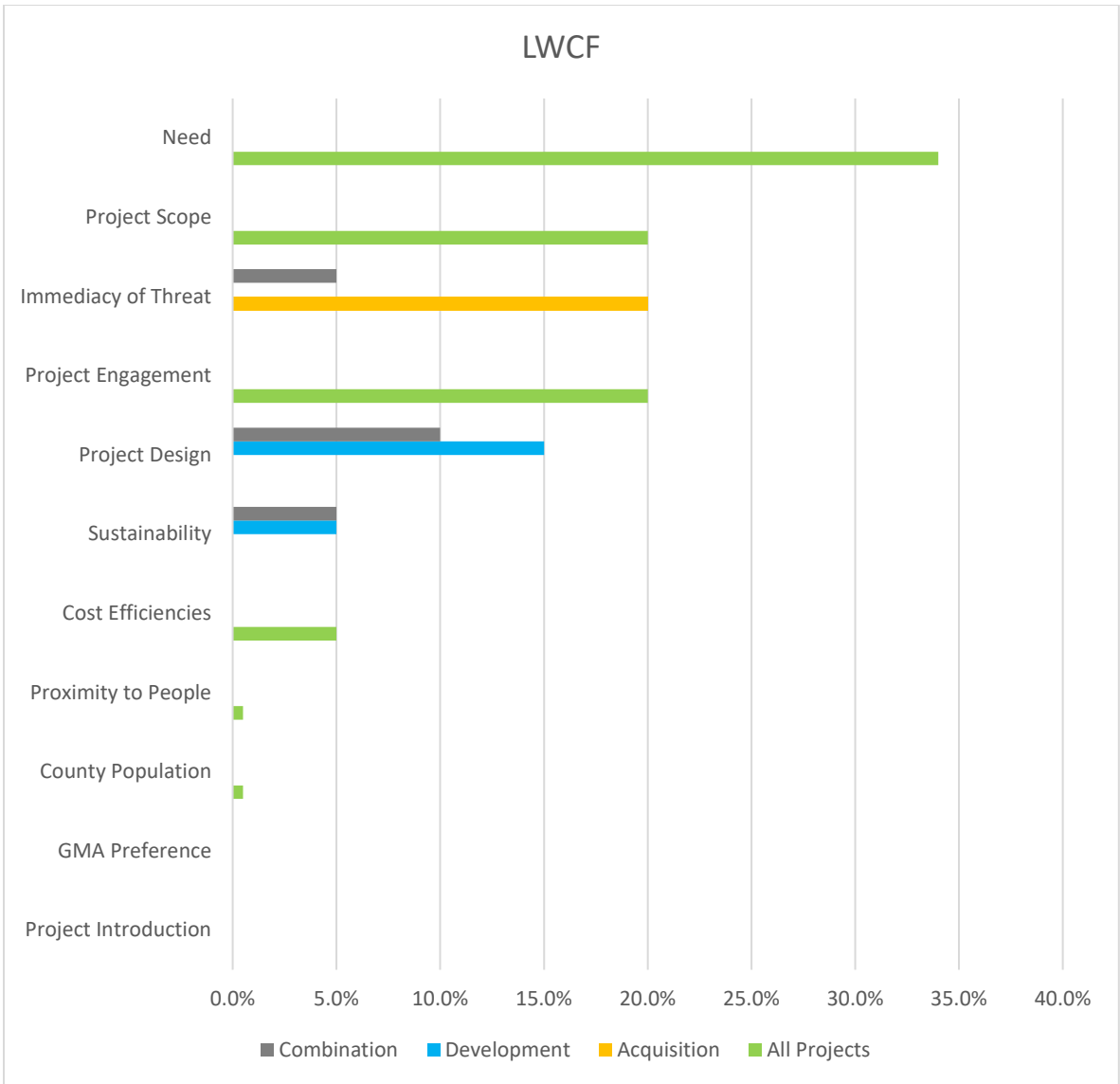
<b>WWRP – Water Access</b>			
<b>Title</b>	<b>Scored By</b>	<b>Project Type</b>	<b>Proposed Weight</b>
Need	Narrative – Advisory Committee	All	29% (Narrative = 20% Data-based = 9%)
	Data-based – RCO Staff		
Immediacy of Threat	Advisory Committee	Acquisition	20%
	Advisory Committee	Combination	10%
Project Scope	Advisory Committee	All	15%
Project Design	Advisory Committee	Development	15%
	Advisory Committee	Combination	7.5%
Project Engagement	Advisory Committee	All	15%
Site Suitability	Advisory Committee	Acquisition	15%
	Advisory Committee	Combination	10%
	Advisory Committee	Development	5%
Sustainability	Advisory Committee	Development	10%
	Advisory Committee	Combination	5%
Diversity of Recreational Uses	Advisory Committee	Development	5%
	Advisory Committee	Combination	2.5%
Cost Efficiencies	Advisory Committee	All	5%
Proximity to People	RCO Staff	All	0.5%
County Population Density	RCO Staff	All	0.5%
Growth Management Act Preference	RCO Staff	All	0%
Project Introduction	Unscored	All	0%



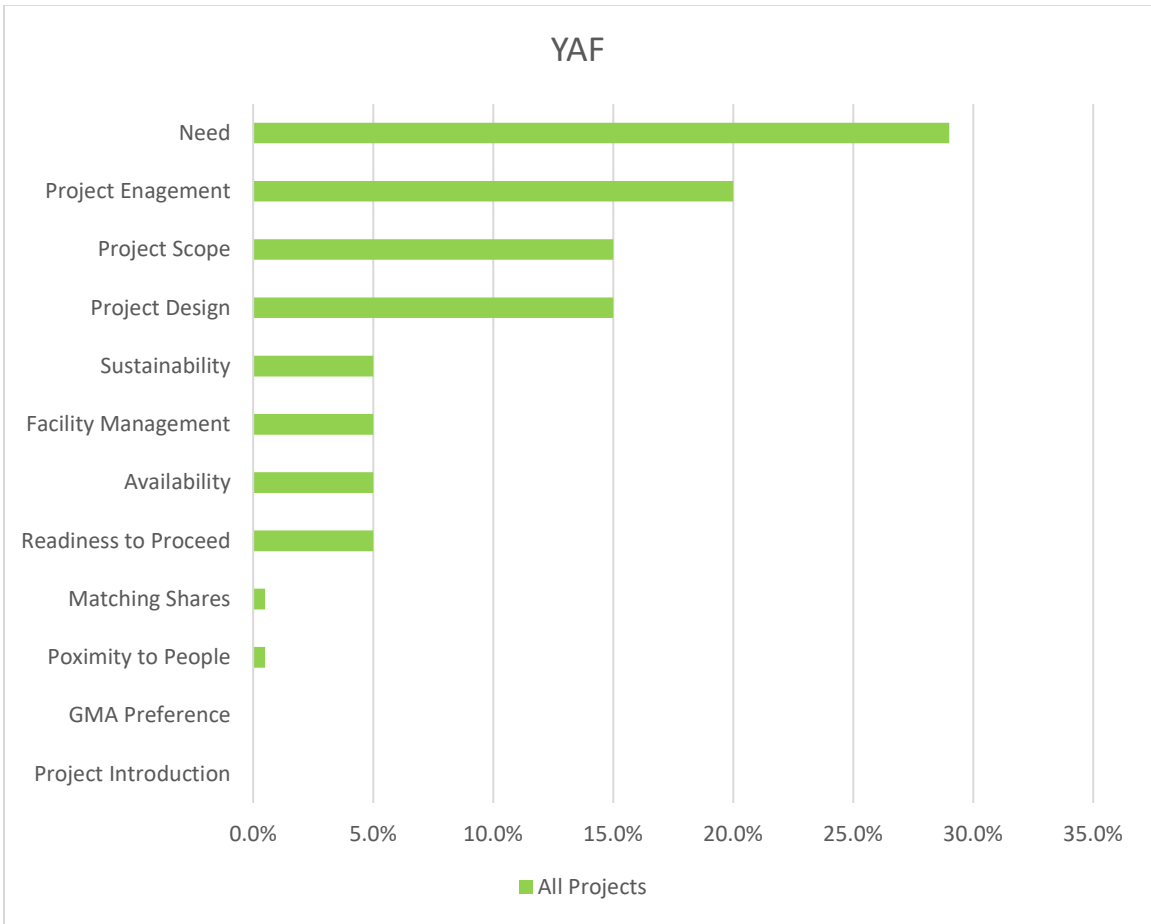
## WWRP Water Access



<b>LWCF</b>			
<b>Title</b>	<b>Scored By</b>	<b>Project Type</b>	<b>Proposed Weight</b>
Need	Narrative – Advisory Committee Data-based – RCO Staff	All	34% (Narrative = 25% Data-based = 9%)
Project Scope	Advisory Committee	All	20%
Immediacy of Threat	Advisory Committee	Acquisition	20%
	Advisory Committee	Combination	5%
Project Engagement	Advisory Committee	All	20%
Project Design	Advisory Committee	Development	15%
	Advisory Committee	Combination	10%
Sustainability	Advisory Committee	Development	5%
	Advisory Committee	Combination	5%
Cost Efficiencies	Advisory Committee	All	5%
Proximity to People	RCO Staff	All	0.5%
County Population Density	RCO Staff	All	0.5%
Growth Management Act Preference	RCO Staff	All	0%
Project Introduction	Unscored	All	0%

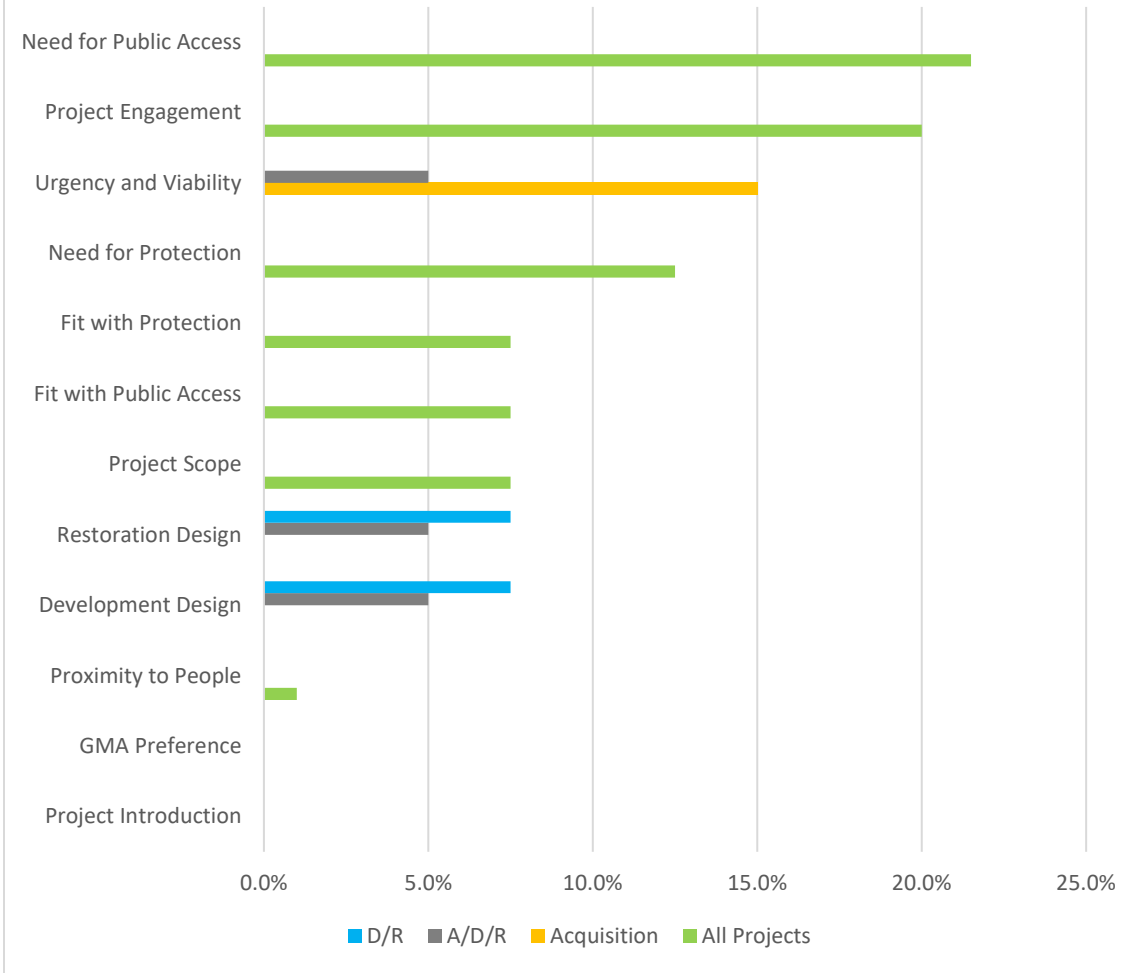


<b>YAF</b>			
<b>Title</b>	<b>Scored By</b>	<b>Project Type</b>	<b>Proposed Weight</b>
Need	Narrative – Advisory Committee Data-based – RCO Staff	All	29% (Narrative = 20% Data-based = 9%)
Project Engagement	Advisory Committee	All	20%
Project Scope	Advisory Committee	All	15%
Project Design	Advisory Committee	All	15%
Sustainability	Advisory Committee	All	5%
Facility Management	Advisory Committee	All	5%
Availability	Advisory Committee	All	5%
Readiness to Proceed	Advisory Committee	All	5%
Matching Shares	RCO Staff	All	0.5%
Proximity to People	RCO Staff	All	0.5%
Growth Management Act Preference	RCO Staff	All	0%
Project Introduction	Unscored	All	0%

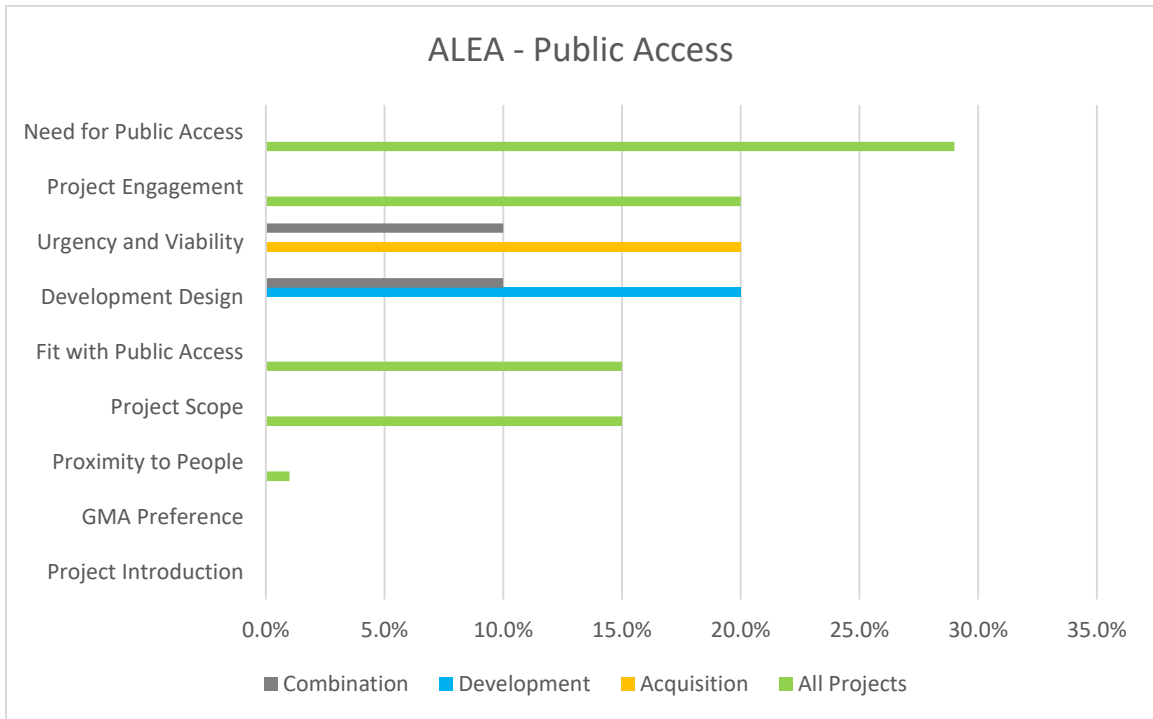


<b>ALEA – Protection and Enhancement AND Public Access</b>			
<b>Title</b>	<b>Scored By</b>	<b>Project Type</b>	<b>Proposed Weight</b>
Need for Public Access	Narrative – Advisory Committee Data-based – RCO Staff	All	21.5% (Narrative = 12.5% Data-based = 9%)
Project Engagement	Advisory Committee	All	20%
Urgency and Viability	Advisory Committee	Acquisition	15%
		Acquisition, Development, and Restoration	5%
Need for Protection	Advisory Committee	All	12.5%
Fit with Protection Goals	Advisory Committee	All	7.5%
Fit with Public Access Goals	Advisory Committee	All	7.5%
Suitability for Protection	Advisory Committee	All	7.5%
Project Scope	Advisory Committee	All	7.5%
Restoration Design and Viability	Advisory Committee	Development and Restoration	7.5%
		Acquisition, Development, and Restoration	5%
Development Design (Public Access)	Advisory Committee	Development and Restoration	7.5%
		Acquisition, Development and Restoration	5%
Proximity to People	RCO Staff	All	1%
Growth Management Act Preference	RCO Staff	All	0%
Project Introduction	Unscored	All	0%

### ALEA - Protection and Public Access

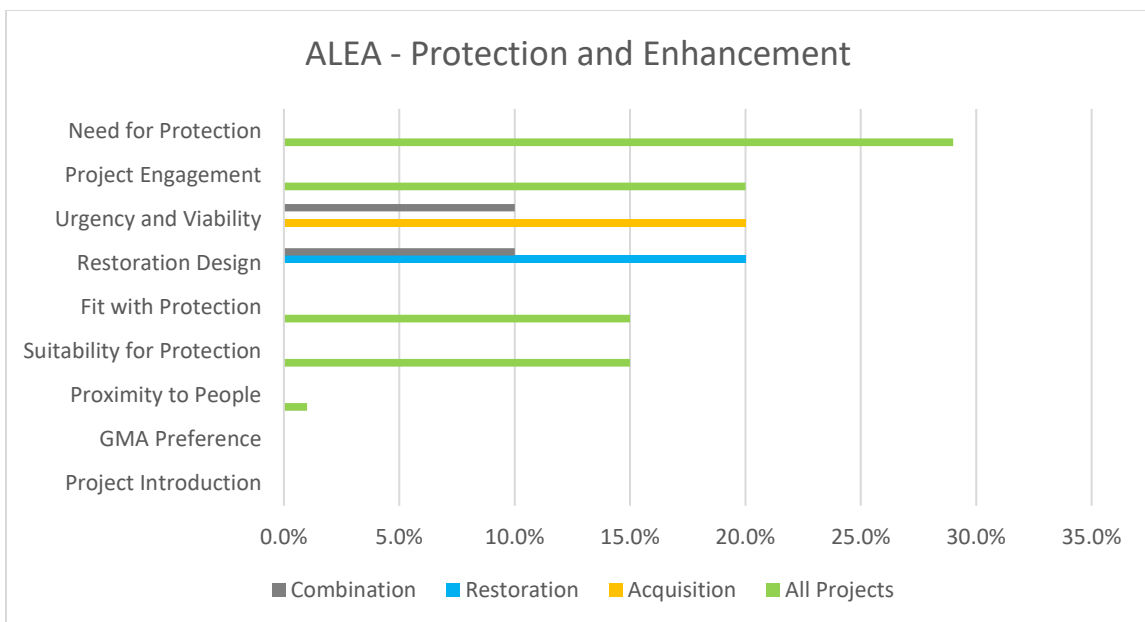


ALEA – Public Access			
Title	Scored By	Project Type	Proposed Weight
Need for Public Access	Narrative – Advisory Committee	All	29%
	Data-based – RCO Staff		(Narrative = 20% Data-based = 9%)
Project Engagement	Advisory Committee	All	20%
Urgency and Viability	Advisory Committee	Acquisition	20%
		Acquisition and Development	10%
Development Design and Viability	Advisory Committee	Development	20%
		Acquisition and Development	10%
Fit with Public Access Goals	Advisory Committee	All	15%
Project Scope	Advisory Committee	All	15%
Proximity to People	RCO Staff	All	1%
Growth Management Act Preference	RCO Staff	All	0%
Project Introduction	Unscored	All	0%





ALEA – Protection and Enhancement			
Title	Scored By	Project Type	Proposed Weight
Need for Protection	Narrative – Advisory Committee	All	29% (Narrative = 20% Data-based = 9%)
	Data-based – RCO Staff		
Project Engagement	Advisory Committee	All	20%
Urgency and Viability	Advisory Committee	Acquisition	20%
		Acquisition and Restoration	10%
Restoration Design and Viability	Advisory Committee	Restoration	20%
		Acquisition and Renovation	10%
Fit with Protection Goals	Advisory Committee	All	15%
Suitability for Protection	Advisory Committee	All	15%
Proximity to People	RCO Staff	All	1%
Growth Management Act Preference	RCO Staff	All	0%
Project Introduction	Unscored	All	0%



**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board  
Resolution 2023-27: Grant Criteria Changes**

**WHEREAS**, the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 79A.15 authorizes the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board to adopt evaluation criteria for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Local Parks, Trails, and Water Access categories; and

**WHEREAS**, Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 79A.25 authorizes the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board to administer other state and federal grant-in-aid programs; and

**WHEREAS** the National Park Service requires the Recreation and Conservation Office update the grant selection criteria for the Land and Water Conservation Fund to align with the priorities of the 2023 Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan (SCORP); and

**WHEREAS**, the 2023 SCORP, 2022 equity review, and other recent reports recommend updating the grant selection criteria in advance of the 2024 grant round; and

**WHEREAS**, Recreation and Conservation Office staff worked with program stakeholders, evaluation committee members, the board and others to revise Project Need, Need Satisfaction, Project Support, and Expansion or Renovation evaluation criteria in the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account, Land and Water Conservation Fund, Youth Athletic Facilities programs and the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program’s Local Parks, Trails, and Water Access categories; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed criteria changes were posted for public review and Recreation and Conservation Office staff considered the public’s comments in the final criteria change proposals and recommendations; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed changes align with recommendations and implementation actions in the 2022 Equity Review of grant programs and the 2023 Washington State Recreation and Conservation plan;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board has reviewed the proposed revisions to evaluation criteria and adopts the changes as described in Item 1, Attachment A.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the board directs Recreation and Conservation Office staff to incorporate these changes into the appropriate grant program manuals, and that the changes shall be effective beginning with the 2024 grant cycle.

*Resolution moved by:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Resolution seconded by:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)*

*Date:*

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**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board  
Resolution 2023-28  
Grant Criteria Relative Weight Changes**

**WHEREAS**, the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 79A.15 authorizes the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board to adopt evaluation criteria for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Local Parks, Trails, and Water Access categories; and

**WHEREAS**, Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 79A.25 authorizes the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board to administer other state and federal grant-in-aid programs; and

**WHEREAS** the National Park Service requires the Recreation and Conservation Office update the grant selection criteria for the Land and Water Conservation Fund to align with the priorities of the 2023 Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan (SCORP); and

**WHEREAS**, the 2023 SCORP, 2022 equity review, and other recent reports recommend updating the grant selection criteria in advance of the 2024 grant round; and

**WHEREAS**, Recreation and Conservation Funding Board previously adopted proposed evaluation criteria changes detailed in Item 1 Attachment A; and

**WHEREAS**, the changes align with recommendations and implementation actions in the 2022 Equity Review of grant programs and the 2023 Washington State Recreation and Conservation plan;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board has reviewed the proposed relative scoring value of the proposed changes to evaluation criteria for the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account, Land and Water Conservation Fund, Youth Athletic Facilities, and Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program’s Local Parks, Trails, and Water Access categories, approves values as incorporated in Item 1, Attachment B and extends authority to the RCO Director to make minor amendments to those scoring values if necessary in the course of implementing this resolution; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the board directs Recreation and Conservation Office staff to incorporate these changes into the appropriate grant program manuals, and that the changes shall be effective beginning with the 2024 grant cycle.

*Resolution moved by:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Resolution seconded by:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)*

*Date:*

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