

State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category

“Restoration” means a project that brings a site back to its historic function as part of a natural ecosystem or improving the ecological functionality of a site.⁹⁹

Enhancement improves the ecological function of a site.

State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category Evaluation Criteria		
Criteria	Evaluation Elements	Possible Points
Project Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project goals and objectives Location maps 	Not scored
Score by the Advisory Committee		
1. Ecological and Biological Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bigger picture Uniqueness or significance Target species and communities 	15 points
2. Need for Restoration or Enhancement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The problem to be addressed Threat 	15 points
3. Project Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Details of project design Best management practices 	15 points
4. Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistency with existing plans Puget Sound Partnership guidelines 	5 points
5. Public Benefit and Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public educational or scientific value 	5 points
Total Points Possible		55

⁹⁹Washington Administrative Code 286-0-010

Detailed Scoring Criteria for the State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category

Project Introduction

This is an opportunity to set the stage for the project. Provide maps showing the location of the project on the landscape and briefly provide a broad overview of the site and the project's goals and objectives.

Project Goals and Objectives

Briefly introduce the site and the project's goals and objectives. The following criteria will provide an opportunity to describe the project in more detail; however the intent here primarily is to help orient the evaluators to the project.

Statewide, Vicinity, and Site Maps

Locate the project on statewide, vicinity, and site maps to help orient the evaluators to the project site.

To demonstrate how the project supports connectivity to other important landscapes, please include on a map other sites in the area with similar habitat components.

▲ Project introduction is not scored.

1. Ecological and Biological Characteristics

Describe why the site is worthy of long-term conservation. "Paint a picture" of the project site for the evaluators—the what, where, and why.

The Bigger Picture

- Demonstrate what specific role this project plays in a broader watershed or landscape picture. Describe if the project has functional connectivity with existing habitats.
- State if the site is part of a larger ownership or a collaborative effort to support wildlife, plants, or communities. Describe the ecological and biological quality or potential quality of the habitat.

Uniqueness or Significance

- Explain how the site is unique or significant on a regional, ecosystem, watershed, or urban growth area level.

- State if the site is significant in terms of habitat quality, connectivity, diversity, rarity, etc.

Target Species and Communities

- List the target species and communities with special status that occur on the site. This is not intended to be a comprehensive list of all species in the area. Instead try to narrow the description to those species or communities that would be the primary focus of the restoration efforts.
- Demonstrate how the project benefits the species or communities that are being targeted. Include other relevant facts, such as statistics associated with a decline of the target species using the site due to degradation, or how the site supports a larger population than what typically occurs within the rest of the species range, etc.
- Describe the primary habitat functions. State if the habitat or characteristics of the site have been identified as limiting factors or critical pathways to the target species or communities.
- Complete and submit the Species and Communities with Special Status table in appendix A. This is a required part of the application. Staff may verify the information and evaluators will be given a copy of the table along with the other project materials. The table relates directly to the evaluation criteria section titled "Target Species and Communities," with emphasis on the significance of the species.

▲ Point Range: zero to fifteen points

Revised November 2011

2. Need for Restoration or Enhancement

Describe why this restoration or enhancement project needs to be completed.

The Problem to be Addressed

- Describe why this restoration or enhancement project is important. Explain what currently keeps the habitat from being fully functioning.
- Establish need by identifying similar habitats in the area and compare the project site to those in terms of quality and quantity.

Threat

- Describe the current condition of the site and why it is important to restore or enhance the site at this particular time. Discuss what will be lost if deterioration is allowed to continue.
- State if the site is in an ecologically critical area. Discuss if the habitat is recoverable and what factors have caused the site to need restoration or enhancement.

▲ Point Range: zero to fifteen points

Revised November 2011

3. Project Design

Describe how the proposed project will address the problems identified earlier.

Details of Project Design

- Describe the restoration or enhancement plans for the area. Specifically demonstrate how the project design addresses the need described in question 2 above.
- In the description include the work that has gone into the project to date, including any planning or permitting work that has been completed. Describe any public outreach that has gone into early design work.
- Describe how the project design will improve the ecological function of the site and result in a site that is self-sustaining and will not require continual intervention to function as a natural ecosystem.
- If applicable, describe how the project would help to better manage public use to reduce impacts to targeted species or habitats.

Best Management Practices

- State if the project design is consistent with the Washington State Aquatic Habitat Guidelines Program.
- If the project is using a new or innovative process, describe why the design will be successful. For example, state if the design is consistent with other project sites or if there is new research that supports the efforts.

▲ Point Range: zero to fifteen points

Revised November 2011

4. Planning

Specifically describe how the project is consistent with planning efforts occurring in the area.

Consistency with Existing Plans

How does this project help meet the goals of existing planning efforts? Avoid simply listing other plans that the project may be consistent with. Instead, demonstrate how the project furthers specific elements within those planning efforts.

Puget Sound Partnership Guidelines

For Water Resource Inventory Areas 1-19, state how the project is referenced in the *Action Agenda* developed by the Puget Sound Partnership. The [Action Agenda](#) can be found on the Puget Sound Partnership's website. This question does not need to be answered for projects outside Water Resource Inventory Areas 1-19.

▲ Point Range: zero to five points

Revised November 2011

5. Public Benefit and Support

Describe the degree to which communities, governments, landowners, constituent groups, or academia benefit from, or support, the project.

Public Educational or Scientific Value

- Describe efforts that have been made to involve these groups in the project development.
- Explain any known opposition to the project.
- Describe the support or partnerships from the community, interest groups, volunteers, public agencies, etc.
- Discuss how the project enhances other opportunities available to the public. If public access is not allowed on the site, describe why not. Note: Not all sites need to be available for public access in order to be of public benefit.

▲ Point Range: zero to five points

Revised November 2011

Appendix A: Species and Communities with Special Status

Species, Community, or Habitat Type

List each species, community, or habitat type with special status that can be found **on the property or in the work site.**

Occurrence

For special status animal species, indicate whether the occurrence of the species on the property or in the work site is “breeding, feeding, migrating, resting, perching, roosting, wintering, rearing, spawning, year-round resident, individual occurrence, future recovery area, or unknown.”

For special status plant species, communities, or habitat types, indicate whether the species, communities, or habitat types are present, part of a future recovery area, or unknown in the occurrence column.

Status and Source

Indicate the status of the species and the source used for the information. A source must be included for each species listed. The following may provide federal and state status and source information:

Federally Listed Species

- [Resident fish and wildlife](#), Endangered Species Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Lacey, (360) 753-9440

- [Pacific salmon species](#), National Marine Fisheries Service West Coast Regional Office, (503) 230-5400

State Listed Species and Candidate Species

- [Species of Concern Section](#), Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, (360) 902-2515

Priority Habitats and Species

- [Priority Habitat and Species Program](#), Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, (360) 902-2543

State Listed Plant Species and Communities

- [Natural Heritage Program, Recommended Guidance for Providing Natural Heritage Data](#), Washington Department of Natural Resources, (360) 902-1667

Other Sources

If species information came from a source other than the sources above (such as a consultant or local biologist), please include reference information on the form.

Federal Status

FE	Endangered
FT	Threatened
FP	Proposed for threatened or endangered
FC	Candidate for listing status review
FSC	Species of concern

State Status

SE	State endangered
ST	State threatened
SS	State sensitive
SC	Candidate for listing status review
PS	Priority species, non-listed but vulnerable
PH	Priority habitat
P1, P2, P3	Priority 1, Priority 2, and Priority 3 (plants)

Property or Work Site

For each species listed, indicate the property or work sites where each species occurs. Work sites may be identified by either a geographic boundary or by an ecologic function, such as habitat type or topography (riparian area, hillside, etc.). For landscape level projects, indicate which species occur within each of the identified work sites.

Example Table-Species and Communities with Special Status

Species, Community or Habitat Type	Occurrence	Status	Source	Property or Work Site: Indicate All That Apply
Douglas Fir/Western Hemlock/Sword Fern Community	Present	P 2	Washington Natural Heritage Program	Property A and B, work site 1
Brown Pelican	Foraging, resting	FE, SE	Priority Habitat and Species Program	Property A and C, work site 1
Thompson's Clover	Unknown	P 2	Washington Natural Heritage Program	Property A, B, and C, work site 1
Chinook Salmon	Rearing	FE	National Marine Fisheries Service; SSHIAP*	Property A, C, and E, work site 1
Western Pond Turtle	Year-round resident	FSC, SE	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; John Smith field survey April 2010	Property D and E, work site 2
Riparian Area	Present	PH	Priority Habitat and Species Program	All properties, all work sites

*SSHIAP=Salmon and Steelhead Habitat Inventory and Assessment Program (Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife)

A downloadable [table](#) is available on the RCO website.