Evaluation Criteria

Grant Round Evaluation Criteria

Projects submitted in the 2025 grant round, to receive 2027-2027 biennial funding, will be scored and ranked using the criteria below.

Criteria	Points	Point Guidance
Restoration Benefit	**30 Points**	
Species	0-10	Higher score reflects multiple species, unique populations, and/or important species interactions are positively impacted by the project.
Physical Processes and Features	0-10	Higher score reflects projects that recover habitat through process-based solutions. Hardened infrastructure solutions are acceptable but may score lower. Temporary fixes will score low.
Quantity of Benefit	0-10	Higher score reflects a higher number of quantified benefits and measurable restoration benchmarks to be achieved.
Community Benefit	**30 Points**	
Jobs	0-10	Higher score reflects a higher number of full-time equivalent (FTE) employees created or maintained directly by the project, newly created and longer lasting FTEs will receive the highest scores.
Local Economic Impact	0-5	Higher score reflects projects with more locally based FTEs.
Direct Community Impacts and Improvements	0-10	Higher score reflects community benefits, such as improved access, recreation opportunities, public health, or economic resilience.
Threat Reduction	0-5	Higher score reflects risk reduction. Increases community resilience to flooding, erosion, fire, climate change effects, and other catastrophic events.

Criteria	Points	Point Guidance
Likelihood to Succeed	**20 Points**	
Logical Approach and Schedule	0-10	Higher score reflects an appropriate and achievable time frame and order of events to complete the project. Demonstrated readiness to proceed.
Appropriate Scope with Clear Goals and Objectives	0-5	Higher score reflects that goals and objectives of the project have been communicated clearly within a scope that is achievable and fitting for the project.
Sponsor and Participants Experience	0-5	Higher score reflects the project sponsor has a demonstrated ability to complete projects as proposed, on time, and according to budget. All relevant collaborators have been considered or included.
Best Use Public Funds	**20 Points**	
Budget	0-5	Higher score reflects a budget that is realistic and contains sufficient detail.
Match and Other Funds	0-5	Higher score reflects matching resources that may include cash, bonds, grants (unless prohibited by the funding authority), in-kind labor, equipment, and materials. Not required by WCRRI but demonstrates an ability to leverage project support. This may be demonstrated as PRISM match or Other Funds in the application or the cost estimate attachment.
Cost-Effectiveness	0-5	Higher score reflects a project that is highly effective or productive relative to cost. Continuing projects demonstrate cost effectiveness of past WCRRI grants.
Project Management	0-5	First-time projects will be awarded 5 points. Multi-phase projects will be evaluated on past project administration performance and overall project completion success (not influenced by powers outside of the sponsor's control).
Local Support	**5 Points**	
Letters of Support	0-5	Higher score reflects a letter of support signed and submitted. At least one document must be provided for a project to move forward regardless of rank. One point awarded per organization category (appendix E)