

# Appendix F: 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 guidance for lead entities when evaluating projects in their local processes.

## Benefit Criteria

### Watershed Processes and Habitat Features Identified and Prioritized in the Strategy

- A **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, the project must be a combination that includes restoration.
  - Assessment: Crucial to understanding watershed processes, the assessment is directly relevant to project development or sequencing, and clearly will lead to new projects in high-priority areas.

- A **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 percent, the project must be a combination that includes restoration.
  - Assessment: Will lead to new projects in moderate priority areas and is independent of addressing other key conditions first.
- A **low-benefit** project does not address an important habitat condition in the area.

### Areas and Actions Identified and Prioritized in the Strategy

- A **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.
- A **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.
- A **low-benefit** project addresses a lower priority action or geographic area.

### Scientific Identified and Prioritized in the Strategy

- A **high-benefit** project is identified through a documented habitat assessment.
- A **medium-benefit** project is identified through a documented habitat assessment or scientific opinion.
- A **low-benefit** project is unclear or lacks scientific information about the problem being addressed.

## Species Identified and Prioritized in the Strategy

- A **high-benefit** project addresses multiple species or unique populations of salmonids essential for recovery, Endangered Species Act-listed fish species, or non-listed populations primarily supported by natural spawning. Documented fish use.
- A **medium-benefit** project addresses a moderate number of species or unique populations of salmonids essential for recovery, Endangered Species Act-listed fish species, or non-listed populations primarily supported by natural spawning. Documented fish use.
- A **low-benefit** project addresses a single species of low priority. Documented fish use.

## Life History Identified and Prioritized in the Strategy

- A **high-benefit** project addresses an important life history stage or habitat type that limits the productivity of the salmonid species in the area or addresses multiple life history requirements.
- A **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.
- A **low-benefit** project is unclear about the salmonid life history being addressed.

## Costs Identified and Prioritized in the Strategy

- A **high-benefit** project has a low cost relative to the predicted benefits for the project type in that location.
- A **medium-benefit** project has a reasonable cost relative to the predicted benefits for the project type in that location.
- A **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

- A **high-certainty** project scope is appropriate to meet its goals and objectives.
- A **medium-certainty** project is moderately appropriate to meet its goals and objectives.
- A **low-certainty** project has methods that do not appear to meet the goals and objectives of the project.

### Approach Identified and Prioritized in the Strategy

- A high-certainty project is consistent with proven scientific methods.
  - Assessment: Methods effectively will address an information or data gap or lead to effective implementation of prioritized projects within one to two years of completion.
- A **medium-certainty** project uses untested or incomplete scientific methods.
  - Assessment: Methods effectively will address a data gap or lead to effective project implementation of prioritized projects within three to five years of completion.
- A **low-certainty** project uses untested or ineffective methods.

### Sequence Identified and Prioritized in the Strategy

- A **high-certainty** project is in the correct sequence and is independent of other actions being taken first.
- A **medium-certainty** project is dependent on other actions being taken first that are outside the scope of this project.
- A **low-certainty** project may be in the wrong sequence with other protection and restoration actions.

## Threat Identified and Prioritized in the Strategy

- A **high-certainty** project addresses a high potential threat to salmonid habitat.
- A **medium-certainty** project addresses a moderate potential threat to salmonid habitat.
- A **low-certainty** project addresses a low potential threat to salmonid habitat.

## Stewardship Identified and Prioritized in the Strategy

- A **high-certainty** project clearly describes and funds stewardship of the area or facility for more than ten years.
- A **medium-certainty** project clearly describes but does not fund stewardship of the area or facility for more than ten years.
- A **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 potentially were 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.
- A **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.