

## **CONSTRUCTION GRANT SCORING CRITERIA**

All applicants must respond to the following selection criteria questions in **ten pages or less**. Use the numbered blank pages at the end of this section. This application will be scored on a 100 point basis. The maximum number of points that can be awarded for each question is shown in parentheses. Outside reviewers and State Trails staff will review each project. Projects will be ranked according to reviewer and staff scores. Grant review subcommittee members review and score grant applications based on the totality of information available. This may include not only the answers provided to the application questions, but also additional information provided to the review subcommittee from agency staff and subcommittee member knowledge and information that is relevant to the proposed project.

Failure to provide a response to any question (unless otherwise noted) will reduce your project's score. Please read and understand all application questions prior to answering. Respond in **12-point font**. Reference all attachments.

### **SCOPE (15 Points Total)**

#### **1. Scope(10points)**

Describe the proposed project including the length/width of trail construction, any major components necessary to complete the trail such as materials, under/overpasses, bridges, trail heads, trail sections, etc. – describe exactly what will be built. Discuss the ownership status of the trail corridor and any easements or land acquisitions that have been acquired for the trail. Address each trail component separately, specifically mentioning its characteristics. Please include a few site photos and a map of the area.

#### **2. Access/Trail Connections(5points)**

Briefly discuss how this project expands trail loops, links, or improves and/or restores trail use and connectivity to other trails, park areas, outdoor recreation opportunities, and/or other public recreation, and community centers. If the project is connected to a larger trail system, describe the size, extent, and predominate uses of that system.

[Describe efforts to increase access for underserved users and list stakeholders engaged.](#)

### **NEED (10 Points)**

**3.** Clearly address unmet recreational trail needs and specifically explain how this project will meet those needs (i.e., trail demands, deteriorating conditions, etc.). Describe the community this project will serve and provide population and economic data. Discuss the ways in which the community currently is or is not compensating for the lack of the proposed project components. Briefly describe how the proposed trail currently and/or will accommodate multiple non- motorized uses within the region. Discuss the significance of the trail segment to users [and explain how it will improve access to traditionally underserved populations](#). List each user group and estimate their percentage of overall trail use, e.g., bicyclists – 40%, hikers – 50%, equestrian – 10%). How did you arrive at those estimates? Describe the project's urgency. Why are CPW State Trails funds necessary to complete this project? What opportunities are lost if the grant is not awarded?

### **PLANNING/SUSTAINABILITY (45 Points Total)**

#### **4. Planning and Prioritization Process(15points)**

Is this project part of an approved [travel management plan or community](#) master plan and if so, what priority is it given in that plan? Are there existing trails in the area? If so,

~~describe~~ ~~was there any~~ ~~considerations~~ to use those existing trail routes? Please explain the need for additional trail routes and why new trail construction is being pursued at this time. What best management practices were used during the planning process to ensure that the trail and its amenities will be sustainable? What ~~design features and~~ best management practices in ~~the Guide to Planning Trails with Wildlife in Mind~~ were used to ensure that the project will meet current and future use levels? How were wildlife and natural resource impacts addressed in the planning process? ~~Have~~ ~~What~~ ~~input from~~ CPW wildlife specialists ~~has been~~ provided ~~input or consultation~~ on this project ~~and how has that information been incorporated into this application?~~

#### **5. Maintenance and Sustainability(15points)**

Describe how the project will be maintained and managed for long-term sustainability. Has an Operations and Maintenance plan been developed for the project areas? If so, please explain the plan in detail. Have trail reroute options been considered for current on-the-ground unsustainable trails and trail sections in the project area? If so, are there plans to decommission and/or restore these unsustainable trail sections? Is this a multi-phase project, and if so, how many phases is it and how will future phases be funded? Estimate the annual costs to maintain the project. How did you derive at those numbers and how do you intend to fund long-term maintenance? Who will responsible for maintenance? Will funds from the State Trails Grant Program be requested for this trail project in the future?

#### **6. Wildlife and Natural Resources(15points)**

~~How were~~ ~~did you engage local~~ CPW and federal agency staff in the planning process prior to submitting this application? ~~Did you also engage local government officials, sportsman's organizations, or conservation groups in the planning process?~~ How were impacts to wildlife and habitat evaluated, ~~avoided, and/or minimized~~ ~~and what were the outcomes of that evaluation?~~ What ~~design features and best management practices in the Guide for Planning Trails with Wildlife in Mind~~ are included in the implementation of this project ~~What factors were considered to avoid, large blocks of less disturbed sensitive environmental resources such as wildlife habitat or wetlands in the planning process? What aspects were considered to evaluate wildlife connectivity across the landscape and to avoid and/or minimize the potential for fragmentation? If necessary, describe any plans for avoiding and/or minimizing wildlife and natural resource impacts.~~ ~~minimize, or mitigate impacts to habitat fragmentation, connectivity, and wildlife seasonal concentration areas, production areas, or other natural resource concerns?~~ How does this application address issues and impacts identified during the planning process? Describe how the applicant will help support the land manager in implementation and compliance with any mitigation measures. For example, if a season closure is recommended, what are the dates of the closure and how will it be ~~implemented to be effective (signage, gates, game cameras, etc.)?~~ If unanticipated and unwanted impacts are realized during trail design or construction, what plan is in place to modify this project?

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT (15 points)**

#### **7. Public notification is mandatory for all projects. Projects without public involvement are not eligible for rating.**

Describe the public planning process ~~and list the diverse stakeholders~~ that identified the construction of this trail(s) as a priority. Summarize the feedback received from the

public and how it was determined that your constituents want and will use the project? Has this project been deemed a priority by any other agencies or given any significant designations? Describe any received opposition to the project and how the concerns have been addressed.

## **ABILITY (15 Points Total)**

### **8. Matching Funds and Partnerships(10points)**

Discuss partnerships established for this project and their contributions. Discuss the sources of matching funds. How much match is secured beyond the required 25%? How much of it is yet to be raised and what are your plans for raising those additional funds? **Submit letters of commitment/support from landowners and/or funders as a separate attachment (resolution from the governing body should include support and resource commitment; a separate support letter is not required). Beyond these letters, you may submit up to 5 letters of non-funding support.**

### **9. Contingency/Ability(5points)**

What other funding sources have been dedicated or are anticipated to be dedicated to this project? Will applicant and/or partner funds be lost if State Trails funds are not awarded? If you are not awarded State Trails funding, what measures will be taken to complete the project? Describe your ability to complete the specific grant transaction(s) that will be necessary to accomplish this project. Please provide examples (if any) for grant projects of similar magnitude that demonstrate your ability to manage the requested level of grant funding; including the project title, grantor, award amount and year the project was funded. Were the necessary reporting and closeout requirements completed in a timely manner? How well was it managed from your perspective?

**Regarding point redistribution: Remove 5 points from Scope (#1) and 5 points from Matching Funds (#8) and add those 10 points to Wildlife and Natural Resources (#6) for a total of 25 points.**