

## MAINTENANCE GRANT SCORING CRITERIA

All applicants must respond to the following selection criteria questions in eight 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. Describe the proposed project including the length/width of trail maintenance, any major components necessary to complete the trail such as maintenance materials, under/overpasses, bridges, trail heads, trail sections that will be maintained, number of maintenance features, etc. – describe exactly what will be maintained and/or 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. Describe the state of the existing trail, why it is no longer acceptable, and how it has arrived at its current condition it is in. Have trail reroute options been considered for current on-the-ground unsustainable trails and trail sections in the project area? If so, describe the length and distance of the reroute and the relationship to the existing corridor. Are there plans to decommission and/or restore these unsustainable trail sections? Briefly discuss how this project maintains 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. Please include a few site photos and a map of the area.

### NEED (15 Points)

2. Describe why this maintenance project is important at this time (resource damage, [wildlife avoidance](#), user safety, increased trail usage, etc.) and how this project will meet those needs. What is the Operations and Maintenance plan for the project area? Describe how the project will be maintained and managed for long-term sustainability. Describe the community this project will serve and provide population and economic data. Discuss the significance of the trail segment to users. 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)

#### 3. Planning and Prioritization Process (15 points)

~~Discuss why this is being pursued at this time.~~

[How did you engage local CPW and federal agency staff in the planning process for this trail system and what was the outcome? Did you also engage local government](#)

officials, sportsman's groups or conservation organizations? How were impacts to wildlife and habitat evaluated, and what were the outcomes of the planning process. What specific design features and best management practices in the Guide for Planning Trails with Wildlife in Mind were utilized to avoid, minimize, or mitigate impacts to habitat fragmentation, connectivity, and wildlife seasonal concentration areas, production areas and migration routes?

What design features and best management practices were used during the planning and construction phases of this project ~~process~~ to ensure that the project will meet current and future use levels while sustaining wildlife habitat capability? Has your monitoring indicated that current use levels exceeded expectations and resulted in unacceptable impacts to the trail system or that additional rogue trails are developing within high priority wildlife habitats? How does this application address identified issues and impacts? ~~How were wildlife and natural resource impacts addressed in the planning process? Have CPW wildlife specialists provided input or consultation on this project?~~

#### 4. Financial Sustainability(15points)

Is this a multi-phased project, and if so, how many phases is it and how will future phases be funded? Has an Operations and Maintenance plan been developed for the project areas? If so, please explain the plan in detail. 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 be responsible for maintenance? Will funds from the State Trails grant program be requested for this trail project in the future?

#### 5. Wildlife and Natural Resources(15points)

~~How were~~ have you consulted with CPW and federal agency staff in the ~~planning process~~ on this project? Has monitoring indicated that additional measures are necessary to avoid or alleviate impacts to wildlife or natural resources? What methods were used to determine those impacts and actions necessary to avoid, minimize, or mitigate those impacts? Which best management practices in Appendix 1 of the Guide for Planning Trails with Wildlife in Mind are included in this application to address the impacts identified? Describe how the applicant will help support the land manager in implementation and compliance with any mitigation measures. For example, if a seasonal closure is recommended, what are the dates of the closure and how will it be implemented to be effective? ~~How were impacts to wildlife and habitat evaluated, avoided, and/or minimized?~~ 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?

#### PUBLIC COMMENT (10 points)

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

What community collaboration has taken place to determine maintenance priorities (regular meetings, public meetings, working groups, etc)? How was it determined that this maintenance project is a priority for the land management agency and trail users? Describe the public planning process and list the stakeholders/partners involved that identified the maintenance 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)**

### **7. 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.

### **8. 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 redistribution of points: Remove 5 points from Matching Funds (#7) and 5 points each from Scope(#1) and Need (#2) for a total of 15 points and redistribute those as follows: 10 points to Wildlife and Natural Resources (for total of 25 points) and 5 to Public Comment for total of 15 points (consistent with construction criteria.)**