

## PLANNING AND SUPPORT 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. Each project will be reviewed by outside reviewers and CPW Trails Program staff. 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.

### 1. COMMUNITY NEED & BENEFIT(15points)

Summarize the community need for the project. Letters of support [from diverse stakeholders](#) should clearly document this need. ([See Stakeholder Engagement document for list of potential stakeholders.](#)) How will this project specifically address the needs described? What are the benefits of this effort to trail users and groups in the communities, region, and/or state? Describe how the planning project will involve local community connectivity and how communities will benefit from the project. How will community health benefits and the equity of underserved communities be considered, evaluated, and prioritized in the plan? ~~Will~~ [Which](#) underserved communities [have been and will](#) be involved in decision making processes (i.e. where trails will be located, what they will look like, recreation prioritization, etc.) through citizen advisory boards or other means of public involvement?

### 2. URGENCY(5points)

Why is it important to undertake this planning effort now, instead of at a later time? Please describe any elements that make this project urgent or timely and any associated loss of match funding or opportunity. List and describe the match contributions to be provided to the project *in addition to those necessary to meet the minimum required 25% match*, and the importance of these contributions.

### 3. CUMULATIVE IMPACTS(15points)

Explain the extent to which this project focuses on regional trail and resource planning. How will the plan evaluate multiple trail systems' cumulative impacts together [across space and time](#) in a comprehensive plan? How will trail development be evaluated and balanced with existing trail system management, wildlife and natural resource conservation, and long term maintenance? Please include a map of the proposed area including any existing roads and trails

### 4. WILDLIFE & NATURAL RESOURCES(15points)

[Is this proposal part of a Regional Partnership or existing travel management plan?](#) How ~~did~~ [do you intend to engage CPW and federal agency staff with this proposal prior to submitting this application?](#) [Did you also include local government officials, sportsman's groups, or conservation organizations?](#) How were impacts to wildlife and habitat evaluated, ~~avoided, and/or minimized?~~ [and what are the outcomes of this evaluation?](#)

What design features and best management practices in the Guide for Planning Trails with Wildlife in Mind were considered to avoid, minimize, or mitigate impacts to habitat fragmentation, connectivity, and wildlife seasonal concentration areas, production areas, or other natural resource concerns? How do you intend to continue engaging CPW and federal agency staff, sportsman's groups and conservation organizations in the planning process moving forward? How will you incorporate that input into your planning process?

~~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. 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 and how will it be implemented to be effective (signage, gates, game cameras, etc.)?~~

#### **5. COLLABORATION(15points)**

In keeping with Chapter 1 of the Guide to Planning Trails with Wildlife in Mind, Explain the extent to which the project demonstrates unique, innovative, and/or important multi-agency, organization and/or private partnerships. Describe how these partnerships will be a benefit to the planning project, development, and long term management/maintenance of the trail systems. Partnerships may include public agencies, conservation groups, stewardship groups, recreational groups, environmental groups, non-profit organizations, schools, businesses, and/or individuals. *(See Stakeholder Engagement document for more extensive list, which could be included here or made available to applicants as a separate document.)* List partners engaged in drafting this application and those stakeholders the project anticipates engaging during the planning process.

#### **6. IMPLEMENTATION(15points)**

How does this project tie into existing trail management plans and demonstrate a significant improvement to community trail systems and larger connectivity throughout communities and existing trail systems? Describe how the planning project will lead to trail system improvements, the development of tangible trails, trailheads, amenities, or recreation projects in the area. What are potential sources of funding and resources for both trail construction and long term maintenance and how will these be considered and incorporated into the planning process? Is there committed funding and/or personnel and volunteer stewardship resources to support the long term maintenance of a potential trail?

#### **7. PUBLIC COMMENT(10points)**

**Public comment is mandatory for all projects.** Identify potential or real user conflict and wildlife impacts and ~~If user conflicts are identified,~~ how will they be addressed and managed? Name specific ~~What~~ stakeholders who will be consulted to help decide upon objectives, strategies, and criteria? How and when will you engage diverse stakeholders, land agency (municipalities, counties, federal) staff, and the community in the planning process? Do you anticipate public opposition to this plan or its implementation? *If this is a planning grant, this question connotes that a plan is already*

*envisioned. This question is misleading to applicant if CPW wants to encourage engagement of the public early.* If so, how will that be addressed? Will a professional consultant be hired to help facilitate this process?

#### **8. PLANNING PROCESS & OUTCOME(10points)**

Describe the strategy for monitoring and evaluating project planning, including how success of the planning effort will be defined and measured. What tangible or measureable products will result from this planning project? What is the anticipated timeline of the process and necessary reviews (such as NEPA if on federal land)? In analyzing options for the project, discuss how different alternatives for trail development will be evaluated in the planning process.

List (in bulleted form) and provide a brief, specific description for each: • Objectives

- Tasks

- End products and/or deliverables that will result from this planning effort

**Regarding revision to point redistribution: remove 5 points from Implementation and add those points to Wildlife & Natural Resources. Incorporate Urgency into Community Need, keeping Community Need at 15 points and giving the extra 5 points (from Urgency) to Wildlife and Natural Resources**