

**Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grant ranking criteria  
for  
Nonprofit Conservation Organization (NCO) grants**

State of Wisconsin  
Department of Natural Resources  
PO Box 7921, Madison WI 53707-7921  
[dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov)

Applications for Stewardship grants to NCOs are evaluated against scoring criteria and ranked in priority order for funding each fiscal year.

**Self-scoring instructions**

**Applicants must submit a completed copy of these criteria with each application.** Applicants are asked to score each application themselves, filling in the point total for each question in the “self score” column. **Please explain the score you feel your project deserves; include relevant supporting information where appropriate.** DNR staff will consider your explanations and base the score on the information you provide.

**Applicants should complete the self-scoring process for the subprogram that best fits the management and long-term goals of each project.** NCO grant subprograms include: Habitat Areas, Natural Areas, Stream Bank Protection or State Trails. Subprogram descriptions are found on the “Stewardship subprograms” tab: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Stewardship/ApplyNCO> When a project suits more than one subprogram, DNR will fund the project from the subprogram in which the project scores the best.

Please note that for some of the Natural Area criteria, sponsors may not have access to the data required to answer each question. We ask sponsors to complete as much as they are able. Applications will not be penalized for questions unanswered.

All projects earn a combined score derived from 1) the criteria for *All projects*, and 2) criteria for the most apt subprogram. Please make sure to fill out both sections.

Please contact regional grant staff with any questions. Contact information for Regional Grant Project Managers is available on <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Stewardship/GrantContacts>

Thank you!

## NCO Stewardship grants scoring and ranking CRITERIA FOR APPLICATIONS TO ALL SUBPROGRAMS

Complete the score and fill in the total points for this section in the “self score” cell at the top of this page.

Project Name:	max points	self score	DNR score
Applicant Name:	20		
<b>1. Preparedness &amp; likelihood that the project will be completed</b>			
A. Has an appraisal been completed for this acquisition? Please provide the name of the appraiser: .5 points	.5		
B. Is there a signed option, letter of intent, purchase agreement or sale? Please explain which: .5 points	.5		
<b>2. Demonstration of local public support</b>			
A. Conservation of this property or the larger resource area (e.g. a park, priority watershed, natural feature or environmental corridor) is <i>specifically</i> referenced in local and/or regional comprehensive plans. Broad planning statements about prioritizing natural resource conservation cannot be counted for points in this question. 2 points  <b>Please explain and include link to or copy of the relevant section of the plan. DNR Staff will not research local planning on your behalf; please provide the information to support these points.</b>	2		
B. The Project has committed <i>financial</i> support from local government, user groups, friends' groups, community organizations, similar local partner(s).  <i>This question is asking for demonstration of local investment – match from federal sources via statewide or regional grantors will not count. Funds raised and committed by local chapters will.</i> 2 points  <b>Please list:</b>	2		

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<b>3. Improving access to public lands</b>			
<p>A. On this map showing ratio of population to acres of public conservation lands (see link below):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Is the project located in a red or yellow county? 4 points</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Is the project located in a green county? 2 points</p> <p><a href="http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Stewardship/documents/acresperpeople.pdf">http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Stewardship/documents/acresperpeople.pdf</a></p>	4		
<p>B. On this map showing driving distance from population centers (see link below):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Is the project is in zone A or B? 4 points</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Is the project in zone B 2 points</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Is the project is in zone C? 1 point</p> <p><a href="http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/stewardship/documents/ProximityToPlaces.pdf">http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/stewardship/documents/ProximityToPlaces.pdf</a></p>	4		
<p>C. Will the parcel enhance access to public conservation or recreation lands? <i>(Please note that you cannot claim legal pedestrian access from one parcel to another if the properties touch only at a corner).</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, it will link disjunct or isolated parcels 2 points</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, it will link a larger property to a section of public road where road access was limited or nonexistent (there must be legal parking along the road). 1 points</p>	2		
<p><b>4. Project contributions to water quality:</b> will this acquisition benefit water quality in one or more of the following ways?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Conserve land that will retain or absorb floodwaters</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Conserve headwaters</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Conserve wetlands</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Conserve land in a drinking water wellhead area</p> <p>For any of the above, please provide an explanation and a map illustrating the water quality benefits. Maps locating headwaters, wetland and well head protection areas can be generated from DNR's Surface Water Data Viewer (<a href="https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/SurfaceWater/swdv">https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/SurfaceWater/swdv</a>). Tips on using that mapping resource are available on the application materials tab on the NCO grant webpage <a href="https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Stewardship/ApplyNCO">https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Stewardship/ApplyNCO</a></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>4 points</b></p>	4		

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<b>5. Threats of conversion</b>			
<p><b>A.</b> Is it very likely that the property will be converted to uses inconsistent with conservation/public recreation in the next 0-2 years?</p> <p><i>These points will be awarded for <u>immediate</u> threat that conservation opportunity will be lost if this NCO purchase does not occur.</i></p> <p><b>Please describe the threat:</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">1 point</p>	1		

(End of criteria for all subprograms)



**NCO Stewardship grants scoring and ranking – FY 2022-23  
HABITAT AREAS**

<b>Property's value for wildlife-based recreation</b>			
<p><b>4. Is the property well-suited for wildlife viewing?</b> Is there is a population of raptors, shorebirds, waterfowl, or songbirds on this property all or part of the year? <span style="float:right">4 pts.</span> <b>Describe:</b></p> <p>a. Does the property offer a good viewing opportunity – e.g. treeless bluff top, shoreline, boardwalk or viewing platform? <span style="float:right">2 pts.</span> <b>Describe:</b></p> <p>b. If a. is true, is this viewing opportunity less than ½ mile from legal parking?  <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <span style="float:right">2 pts</span>  <input type="checkbox"/> No  <i>(these points are additive: if all three things are true, a project can score 8 points).</i></p>	8		
<p><b>5. Is the property reasonably accessible?</b></p> <p>These points are to give priority to projects where pedestrian use will not be complicated significantly by terrain or distance from public roads.</p> <p>All projects start with 4 points unless legal parking is further than ¾ mile by foot from legal parking, or more than 30 minutes by boat from a public landing, in which case those 4 are subtracted.</p> <p>Describe access to this property:</p>	4		
<b>Protection of designated waters and important aquatic habitat</b>			
<p><b>6. Is any of the following true of this parcel?</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Property includes frontage on a water body designated an Outstanding or Exceptional Resource Water  <a href="http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/SurfaceWater/orwerw.html">http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/SurfaceWater/orwerw.html</a>. <span style="float:right">7 points</span></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Property includes frontage on a Class I or Class II trout stream  <a href="http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/trout/streammaps.html">http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/trout/streammaps.html</a> <span style="float:right">6 points</span></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Property includes frontage on a federal or state-designated wild or scenic river. <a href="http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/wildrivers/">http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/wildrivers/</a> <span style="float:right">5 points</span></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Property includes coastal wetlands as identified in the Coastal Wetlands of Wisconsin <a href="http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wetlands/cw/">http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wetlands/cw/</a> <span style="float:right">4 points</span></p>	7		

**NCO Stewardship grants scoring and ranking – FY 2022-23**  
**HABITAT AREAS**

<p><b>7. Does the parcel include <i>naturally occurring</i> shoreline?</b> Include the length of both banks of a stream or river if the stream bisects the parcel with at least 66’ on both sides. This is protected shoreline on the parcel only, not a bigger project area. Points not awarded for ditches or ponds created for agricultural or landscaping purposes.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Parcel includes .25 – 1+ mile of frontage on a water body?           6 points</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Parcel includes .1 to .25 mile of frontage on a water body?           3 points</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Parcel includes some but less than .1 mile of frontage?           1 point</p>	6		
<b>Protection of important habitat types or species</b>			
<p><b>8. Does the property contain an identified natural community type designated as a “major conservation opportunity” by the WWAP?</b>          Use the map on the ecological landscapes webpage (<a href="https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/landscapes/index.asp?mode=Choose">https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/landscapes/index.asp?mode=Choose</a>) to navigate to the appropriate region of the state. Use the “community opportunities” tab to identify natural communities designated “major” conservation opportunities.</p> <p><b>List the ecological landscape in which the property lies and any “major” natural communities present on the parcel:</b></p>	5		
<p><b>9. Does the property host any state or federal threatened or endangered species?</b>          If so, please list:</p>	6		
<b>Value added factors</b>			
<p><b>10. Is this acquisition adding to contiguous conserved land?</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The project is &gt;1000 acres alone <i>or</i> is contiguous to additional protected habitat greater than 1000 acres in size.           12 points</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The project is 500 to 1,000 alone <i>or</i> is contiguous to additional protected habitat 500 to 1000 acres in size.           9 points</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The project is 100 to 500 alone <i>or</i> is contiguous to additional protected habitat 100 to 500 acres in size.           6 points</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The project is 40 to 100 acres alone <i>or</i> is contiguous to additional protected habitat and between 40 and 100 acres in size.           4 points</p>	12		

**NCO Stewardship grants scoring and ranking – FY 2022-23**  
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<p><b>11. Is the site in an environmental corridor?</b> For this question, "environmental corridor" is defined as land which has been designated as a corridor by local or regional planning, or which lies within a linear area of interconnected green space or network of natural areas and features, conserved lands, and open space.</p> <p><b>Describe:</b></p>	<p align="center">6</p>		
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(End of Habitat Area criteria)



**NCO Stewardship grants scoring and ranking – FY 2022-23  
NATURAL AREAS**

Complete the score and fill in the total points for this section in the “self score” cell at the top of this page.

Project Name:	max points	self score	DNR score
Applicant Name:	80		
<p><b>1. Rarity, quality, and number of natural communities on the property</b>  <i>Please reference Wisconsin DNR’s NHI Working List of natural community types to answer the questions below. <a href="http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/nhi/wlist.html">http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/nhi/wlist.html</a></i></p> <p><i>The S-Rank, or “State Element Rank” is an indicator of the statewide extent or abundance of a community type.</i></p> <p><i>The EO-Rank, or “Element Occurrence Rank” is an indicator of the significance of the natural community at this site. Applicants may not have access to the data needed to complete the EO-Rank questions. DNR will confirm these scores.</i></p> <p><i>The “primary community” is the focal community for protection on this property, not necessarily the largest or most prominent.</i></p> <p><b>WHAT IS THE PRIMARY natural community type?</b></p> <p>Find the state rarity (S-Rank) of the community type, and the significance (EO-Rank) of the specific <u>occurrence</u> of the community type and score as indicated below. For community types not ranked on the NHI Working List, such as most aquatic types, use S3. For parcels on which there is no classified natural community type (i.e. old field, agricultural land) this score may be 0.</p> <p><b>S - Rank point scale:</b>            S1 or S2 = 8 points            S2S3 = 6 points            S3 = 4 points            S4 = 1 points</p> <p><b>EO - Rank point scale:</b>            A or B = 16 points            BC = 8 points            C = 6 points            D = 1 points</p> <p><b>1A. Primary community score</b> - S - Rank _____ + EO - Rank _____ = _____            (24 max points)</p>	A. 24		

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<p><b>1B.</b>  <b>If there are additional natural communities</b> present with EO ranks of A, B or C, list the communities present. 6 points for each, up to 12 total.  <b>List any ADDITIONAL natural community types</b>  Additional community score _____ (12 max)</p>	B. 12		
<p><b>1C.</b>  <b>Up to 4 additional points</b> may be awarded if this parcel hosts an especially diverse or otherwise exceptional example of one of the natural communities considered above.  <b>Please list the community type and include justification for your claim that this is an exceptional natural community.</b></p> <p>Additional points _____ (4 max)</p>	C. 4		
<p><b>TOTAL Score of sections 1 A, B and C _____ (40 max)</b></p>	TOTAL 40		

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<p><b>2. Occurrence of rare species.</b> <i>Rare species are defined as those listed as state or federally endangered or threatened, or which have an NHI Working List State Element Rank of S3 or rarer. The Working List is on DNR's website: <a href="http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/nhi/wlist.html">http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/nhi/wlist.html</a></i></p> <p><b>2A. Rare species occurrence has been documented on the parcel</b> within the past 20 years. Documented" occurrence means a rare species is catalogued in the NHI, or its presence is otherwise cited by a dependable source. The parcel must support, or be capable of supporting, a reproducing population of the species, or – for animals – provide essential non-breeding habitat (example: bald eagle winter roost). Migratory species observations during non-breeding periods should not score points here</p> <p><b>Please list:</b> <span style="float: right;">9 points</span></p> <p>”.</p>	A 9		
<p><b>2B. Rare species occurrence other than those listed in 2A has been documented in the vicinity of the parcel in the past 20 years AND</b> the parcel either</p> <p>1) currently provides viable habitat likely to support the species, or 2) viable habitat for the species will be restored on the parcel.</p> <p><b>Please list:</b> <span style="float: right;">6 points</span></p>	B 6		
<p><u>OR</u> (one cannot get points for both 2B and 2C)</p> <p><b>2C. Rare species occurrence other than those listed in 2A has been documented in the vicinity in the past 20 years, but the parcel contains poor to marginal habitat for that species.</b></p> <p><b>Please list:</b> <span style="float: right;">3 points</span></p>	C 3		
<p><b>SUBTOTAL 2A &amp; B or C ____ (15 points max)</b></p>	15		

**NCO Stewardship grants scoring and ranking  
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<p>question 2 cont'd</p> <p><b>2D ADDITIONAL POINTS (4 points max)</b> Up to <b>4</b> additional points may be awarded for parcels where any of the following is true. Check any that apply below and justify the case for the exceptional nature of this tract.</p> <p>This property:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> hosts an exceptional population of a rare species</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> contains rare species habitat which is extremely limited in WI</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> hosts an outstanding congregation of multiple rare species</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> hosts a rare species which is endemic to WI or the region</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> is within designated critical habitat for federally listed species</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> is part of a state or federal species recovery plan</li> </ul> <p>Please describe:</p>	D 4		
<p><b>TOTAL points question 2 (A, B or C, and D) ____ (19 MAX)</b></p>	TOTAL 19		
<p><b>3. Degree to which the natural values are already protected in Wisconsin.</b> For the <u>primary natural community</u> found on this parcel, what percentage of known high-quality sites are currently protected statewide? (<i>Applicants may not have the data needed to complete this; ok to leave this section blank.</i>)</p> <p>Community type:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> ~0-25% protected            6 points</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> ~26-75% protected        3 points</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> &gt; 75% protected            0 points</li> </ul>	6		

**NCO Stewardship grants scoring and ranking  
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<p><b>4. Other significant features?</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Does the property host an archaeological feature (e.g. effigy mound, midden, rock art, etc.) <span style="float: right;">3 points</span></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Does the property host an unusual or significant geological formation (e.g. representative or outstanding example of a glacial landform, bedrock outcrop, algalic talus slope, escarpment, dalles, etc.) <span style="float: right;">3 points</span></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Does the property support an important animal species concentration site for Species of Greatest Conservation Need as identified in the WWAP (e.g., bat or reptile hibernaculum, roost, rookery, mussel bed, etc.) <span style="float: right;">3 points</span></p>	9		
<p><b>Please describe features for points in question 4 above:</b></p>			
<p><b>5. Threats to ecological integrity</b></p> <p>Is the ecological integrity of this parcel and/or adjacent protected lands threatened by invasive species, ecological succession (due to absence of fire, e.g.), or other threats <i>that acquisition will reduce</i>? <b>Choose one of the following:</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Threat very high: high likelihood of significant damage from natural threats in next 2 years <span style="float: right;">3 points</span></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Threat high: likelihood of damage in 2 – 5 years <span style="float: right;">2 points</span></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Threat moderate: likelihood of damage &gt; 5 years <span style="float: right;">1 point</span></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No identifiable threat <span style="float: right;">0 points</span></p> <p>Please explain:</p>	3		
<p><b>6. Is parcel within a Conservation Opportunity Area</b> identified in the Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan <a href="http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Wildlifehabitat/ActionPlan.html">http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Wildlifehabitat/ActionPlan.html</a></p> <p>Name of COA:</p>	3		
<p><b>7. Is the property within approved boundary of an existing DNR owned or managed State Natural Area?</b> This question is a tie breaker – no numeric score assigned.</p>			

(End of Natural Area Criteria)

## NCO Stewardship grants scoring and ranking STREAM BANK PROTECTION

Complete the score and fill in the total points for this section in the “self score” cell at the top of this page.

Project Name:	max points	self-score	DNR score
Applicant Name:	80		
<b>1. Degree to which the project will protect water quality and aquatic habitat.</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> River or stream has high ecological importance: is classified as an exceptional warm water sport fish, class I trout stream or as an Outstanding Resource Waterway. <span style="float: right;">16 points</span> <input type="checkbox"/> River or stream has ecological importance or protects against an imminent threat to its ecological integrity: is classified as an Exceptional Resource Waterway, or class II trout stream. <span style="float: right;">13 points</span> <input type="checkbox"/> River or stream has average ecological importance: is a class III trout stream or average or marginal warm-water sport fish stream. <span style="float: right;">8 points</span> <input type="checkbox"/> River or stream has limited ecological importance: is a stream with aquatic life or a warm-water forage fish stream. <span style="float: right;">3 points</span> <input type="checkbox"/> River or stream is designated an impaired water, listed as 303d by the WI DNR. <span style="float: right;">0 points</span>  Data related to these criteria can be found on DNR’s Surface Water Data Viewer: <a href="http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/surfacewater/swdv/">http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/surfacewater/swdv/</a>	16		
<b>Use this space to explain how the water body protected by this parcel is designated or classified per question 1 above.</b>			
<b>2. Protection of endangered resources or rare habitat.</b> <input type="checkbox"/> The property preserves an existing rare natural community or rare species habitat or will be restored to a rare natural community or habitat for rare species. <span style="float: right;">3 points</span> <input type="checkbox"/> The property contains state or federal threatened or endangered species. <span style="float: right;">3 points</span>  <b>Please list rare natural communities and/or species occurring:</b>	6		
<b>3. Parcel includes frontage on a state or federally designated Wild River.</b> <a href="http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/wildrivers/">http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/wildrivers/</a> 6 points <b>Please name the River:</b>	6		

**NCO Stewardship grants scoring and ranking  
STREAM BANK PROTECTION**

<p><b>4. Potential threat from agriculture and urban runoff.</b> The project will provide for acquisition of lands threatened by agricultural or urban runoff.</p>	8		
<p><b>Use this space to describe circumstances justifying the points in question 4 above.</b></p>			
<p><b>5. Critical drainage area protected?</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The proposed project includes and protects all the land within 66 feet of both sides of the river or stream. <span style="float: right;">6 points</span></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The proposed project includes and protects all the land within 66 feet of only one side of the river or stream. <span style="float: right;">3 points</span></p>	6		
<p><b>6. Length of protected shoreline?</b> (count the length of both banks of a stream or river if the stream bisects the parcel with at least 66' on both sides)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Parcel includes <math>\geq 1</math> mile of frontage <span style="float: right;">11 points</span></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Parcel includes .5 to 1 mile of frontage <span style="float: right;">9 points</span></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Parcel includes .1 to .5 mile of frontage <span style="float: right;">5 points</span></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Parcel includes less than .1 mile of frontage <span style="float: right;">1 point</span></p>	11		
<p><b>7. Is the stream within the Department's Stream Bank protection easement acquisition area?</b> (Applicants may not have info to answer this. DNR will confirm points).</p>	3		
<p><b>Relationship to conservation programs per chapter NR 51.63 (c)</b></p>			
<p><b>8. This property is enrolled in or part of one of the following plans or programs:</b> (one point each; maximum of four points)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Reserve Program – 16 USC 3831 to 3836</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Land and Resource Management Planning program under s. 92.10, Wis. Stats.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> A Soil and Water Conservation Plan under s. 92.104, Wis. Stats.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The soil and water resource management program under s. 92.14, Wis. Stats.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The Priority Watershed Program Plan (nonpoint) under s. 281.65, Wis. Stats.</p>	4		
<p><b>Additional factors</b></p>			
<p><b>9. Plans for restoration and improvements</b> (one point each)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Project management plans include restoration of badly eroded sections of stream bank.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Project management plans include demolition or removal of impervious surfaces.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Submitted land management plan calls for restoration to improve fish habitat via measures NOT mentioned in two points above.</p>	3		

**NCO Stewardship grants scoring and ranking  
STREAM BANK PROTECTION**

<b>Use this section to explain the points assigned for question 9 above:</b>			
<b>10. Relationship to resource protection planning</b> <input type="checkbox"/> This project will implement recommendations <i>specifically</i> described in an approved resource protection plan. (e.g. regional planning commission natural resources plans, local comprehensive planning, etc.). Provide relevant sections of plans, or specific links to such, that support these points.	4		
<b>11. Connectivity</b> <input type="checkbox"/> This parcel is the first piece within a planned river protection corridor; is not adjacent to another protected parcel. <span style="float: right;">3 points</span> <input type="checkbox"/> This parcel is extending or adding to a currently protected area in the river corridor. <span style="float: right;">7 points</span> <input type="checkbox"/> This parcel connects 2 previously protected parcels. <span style="float: right;">10 points</span>	10		
<b>12. Access:</b> This parcel will create new public access to a river or stream (this point is not for creating new access along the river corridor itself, rather new access to the river or stream from publicly accessible lands or a public road). <b>Pease describe:</b>	3		

(end of Stream Bank Protection criteria)



## NCO Stewardship grants scoring and ranking STATE TRAILS

Complete the score for this section and fill in the total points in the “self score” cell at the top of this page

Project Name:	max points	self score	DNR score
Applicant Name:	80		
<b>Gateway question:</b> Is the subject parcel to be part of a designated “State Trail” by the legislature or the DNR under ch. NR 51.73, Wis Adm. Code? If “no,” project is ineligible			
<b>Filter question:</b> If the subject property is in a rail corridor, is it vulnerable to possible reversion to rail use under state or federal law? If yes, DNR staff must evaluate potential risk before application can proceed.	n/a		
<p><b>1. Trail project significance:</b> The following questions are related to the merits of the overall trail project, not exclusively to the subject parcel of the application.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Trails system benefitting:</b> Is the trail part of the National Ice Age Trail, the North Country Trail, or any other corridor designated as a National Trail by the US National Park Service. <span style="float: right;">15 points</span></p> <p>AND – chose the most applicable of one of the following:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Consistency with existing land use plans:</b> Is the project identified in the State Trail Network Plan?- <span style="float: right;">9 points</span>  <a href="https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/sites/default/files/topic/Parks/NetworkPlanPR0313.pdf">https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/sites/default/files/topic/Parks/NetworkPlanPR0313.pdf</a></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Is the trail identified as priority in the County’s Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, Open Space Plan, Green Space plan or equivalent publicly adopted land use plan? <span style="float: right;">7 points</span></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Is the trail identified as a priority in local or municipal land use plans. <span style="float: right;">3 points</span></p>	24		
<p><b>2. Connectivity</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The subject parcel will create or improve connections between existing segments of public trails with similar uses. <span style="float: right;">10 points</span></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The subject parcel will create or improve connections to resource areas of statewide or regional significance or outstanding natural scenery as identified in a published resource management plan (applicant must provide documentation of the significance of areas. <span style="float: right;">7 points</span></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The subject parcel will create or improve links between existing parks or trails or to a city center or other recreational sites. <span style="float: right;">3 points</span></p> <p><u>OR</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The subject parcel will provide a buffer along a trail corridor. (These points only available to parcels that will provide ONLY a buffer and not include the trail itself). <span style="float: right;">3 points</span></p>	20		

**NCO Stewardship grants scoring and ranking**  
**STATE TRAILS**

<input type="checkbox"/> The subject parcel will provide public access to a currently landlocked parcel. (Note: it is not possible to get both 10 points for the first item above and 3 points for this item). 3 points			
<b>Use this section to explain the points given in question 2 above:</b>			
<b>3. Trail corridor improvement</b> The subject parcel will replace an on-road or sidewalk section of trail with an off-road section of trail. 6 points	6		
<b>4. Length of trail</b> <input type="checkbox"/> The subject parcel will create or improve access to less than 1 mile of contiguous trail. 2 points <input type="checkbox"/> The subject parcel will create or improve access to between 1 and 5 miles of contiguous trail. . 5 points <input type="checkbox"/> The subject parcel will create or improve access to more than five miles of contiguous trail. . 9 points	9		
<b>5. Number of allowable uses</b> - The questions below are counting common trail uses: hiking, skiing, equestrian use, bicycling and motorized recreation.  <input type="checkbox"/> Trail will provide access for 3 or 4 recreational uses. 8 points <input type="checkbox"/> Trail will provide access for 2 recreational uses. 6 points <input type="checkbox"/> Trail will provide access for 1 recreational use. 3 points	8		
<b>6. Redevelopment:</b> Project is related to brownfield redevelopment as defined in s. 23.09(19)(a) 1., Wis. Stats.	4		
<b>7. Subject parcel's resource significance</b> and degree to which this project will result in natural resource protection. Will the subject parcel and proposed management plan: (three points each)  <input type="checkbox"/> Protect state or federal threatened or endangered species or species of special concern? 3 points Please list:  <input type="checkbox"/> Preserve an identified archeological or historical site? 3 points Please explain  <input type="checkbox"/> Preserve unique geological or physical characteristics? 3 points Please explain	9		

(End of State Trail Criteria)

## Stewardship Grants to NCOs – Project Selection Process

Authority to create scoring criteria appears in s. NR 51.04, Wis. Adm. Code, and reads as follows:

**NR 51.04 Application procedures and eligibility for grant assistance.**

*(1) APPLICATION PROCEDURES.*

*(a) Applications for stewardship grant assistance shall be submitted to the appropriate region office on forms provided by the department. The department may request more detailed information and may withhold evaluation of the application until the additional information requested has been received.*

*(b) The department may approve applications as they come in, year-round to the extent that funds are available or the department may establish application deadlines for individual components of the stewardship programs in order to rate and rank competing applications.*

<b>Application submittal and review deadlines</b>	All applications postmarked by deadline/s will be evaluated against established subprogram criteria for possible award of Stewardship grant funds in the fiscal year (July 1 <sup>st</sup> - June 30).
<b>Scoring</b>	Projects will be scored by grant program staff. Project scores will be composed of both points applicable to all subprograms and points earned in the relevant subprogram.
<b>Ranking</b>	Statewide consistency in scoring will be ensured by review of central office program management staff.
<b>Competition by subprogram</b>	Projects will compete against all other projects in the same subprogram.
<b>Funding allocation</b>	The Natural Resources Board has approved the allocation of NCO funds as follows ( <i>based on current state budget setting \$7 million aside for NCO grants</i> ): 40% Natural Areas = \$2,800,000 40% Habitat Areas = \$2,800,000 10% Stream Bank Protection = \$700,000 10% State Trails = \$700,000
<b>Subprogram assignment</b>	Projects meeting the requirements of more than one Stewardship grant subprogram will be evaluated in multiple subprograms to determine which subprogram is the best fit for the project.
<b>Preliminary award decisions</b>	Grant funds will be allocated, by subprogram, beginning with the highest-scoring project, in rank order until all subprogram funds are exhausted. If less than 50% cost-share is available to award, those remaining funds will be offered to the next highest-ranked application and the applicant may accept or refuse the lesser amount.
<b>Notice to applicants</b>	Successful applicants will receive “tentative award” notices, in writing, approximately 12-15 weeks after the application submission deadline.
<b>Unsuccessful applicants</b>	Sponsors of eligible but unfunded applications will have the option to request that their application to be considered in the next grant cycle.
<b>Funds not awarded</b>	If all funds allocated to a particular subprogram are not awarded, the remaining balance in that subprogram becomes available for award to projects in other subprograms.
<b>Funds awarded but not spent</b>	If a grant award is withdrawn or terminated by the DNR or refused by the applicant, funds associated with that application will be offered to the next highest ranked project in the same subprogram. If there is not such an application, those unused funds will become available for award to unfunded projects, regardless of subprogram, with the highest percentage of the maximum possible score. ( <i>Note: Applications in subprograms NA, HA and Stream Bank have higher priority than Trails per s. 23.0917(3)(c). Wis. Stats.</i> )