

BLAINE COUNTY LAND WATER & WILDLIFE PROGRAM

Project Evaluation Checklist

Please respond to each question by selecting Y for Yes, N for No or N/A for Not Applicable.
See the Appendix for data sources and descriptions of all highlighted items.

I. Six Minimum Requirements: In order to be eligible for funding from the Land, Water and Wildlife Program, projects must meet all of the following criteria.

1. Is the project located in Blaine County? Yes
2. Does the project serve at least one of the three primary levy purposes by protecting land, water, or wildlife? The project indirectly protects wildlife and water by enhancing habitat for keystone pollinator species.
3. If this is an acquisition, is there a willing seller? For all other projects, has the landowner committed their property for the project? N/A
4. Is there a qualified entity willing and able to hold and maintain the land interest to be conveyed? If a non-acquisition project, is there a qualified entity willing to take responsibility for the completion, maintenance and enforcement of the project? Yes, the Wood River Land Trust takes responsibility for completion, maintenance and enforcement of this project.
5. Have matching funds or other leverage for the LWWP's funding been sought? (Matching funds may be required). A grant acquired through Project WOW's Youth Philanthropy Initiative in conjunction with private fundraising by the Wood River Land Trust will act as matching funds for this project.
6. Will the project have lasting conservation outcomes? The application proposes habitat restoration for pollinators species that offer an array of ecological service benefiting plant and animal communities as well as our own.

II. Protect Water Resources: as the following criteria reflect the goals of the Land, Water & Wildlife Program, and yet each project is unique, projects are encouraged to, but not required to, meet the following criteria.

1. Is the property:
 - a. On the Big Wood or Little Wood River?
 - b. Within .25 mile of the Big Wood or Little Wood River?
 - c. Within 1 mile of the Big Wood or Little Wood River?
2. Is the property proximate to one of the following tributaries of the Big Wood: East Fork Big Wood River, Warm Springs Creek, Trail Creek, North Fork Big Wood River, Indian Creek, Deer Creek, Croy Creek, or Seaman's Creek?
(Please identify which one):
 - a. Immediately adjacent
 - b. Within .5 mile of one of the above-named tributaries
 - c. Within 1 mile of one of the above-named tributaries
3. Does the property currently contain the following ecological/natural characteristics that support protection of water quality and quantity?
 - a. Floodplain
 - b. Riparian corridor
 - c. Wetlands

d. Other aquatic sources, such as lakes or ponds

5. Does the project propose to restore or improve habitat in the new or an existing buffer?

Improve habitat.

6. Does the property contain the three essential characteristics of wetlands: hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils and wetland ecology?

7. Within the ecologically important areas identified in the prior question, is the vegetation currently:

- a. Completely undisturbed (100%)?
- b. 75% - 99% undisturbed?
- c. 50% - 74% undisturbed?
- d. Less than 50% undisturbed?

8. If the project is executed as proposed, will the vegetation in the ecologically important areas identified in the previous 2 questions be:

- a. Restored?
- b. More disturbed?
- c. In the same condition?

9. Are water rights appurtenant to the project/property? No

10. Will all of the appurtenant water rights be tied to the property in perpetuity using a legally binding instrument? N/A

11. Is the delivery rate sufficient to support the proposed project and planned future uses of the property? N/A

12. If this is a working farms and ranches project, are all appurtenant water rights on the property being used for agricultural purposes? N/A

13. Are any changes (i.e. transfers) to existing water rights necessary to implement the project as proposed? No

14. Are additional water rights required in order to implement the project as proposed? No

15. Are highly erodible soils, as defined by NRCS, present on the project site? Prime farmland if irrigated

16. Will the project improve a stream segment listed as impaired on Idaho's 303(d) listing? No

17. Is the project in one of the following time-of-travel zones identified by Parcel (RP) Number on Blaine County Geographic Information System (GIS) to protect drinking water? No

- a. 3 year
- b. 5 year
- c. 10 year

18. Will the project restore or enhance natural hydrological processes in any Blaine County watershed?
Please explain. (Examples include: restoring naturally functioning floodplain or natural flow regime, protecting in-stream flows, reconnecting severed tributaries and planting native vegetation.) No

III. Protect Wildlife & Fish Habitat

1. Is the project in an area identified as being important for either biodiversity or species of concern in one of Idaho Department of Fish and Game's wildlife plans?
 - a. Mule Deer Management Plan 2008; Mule Deer Initiative
 - b. Comprehensive Plan for Greater Sage-grouse in Idaho (2006)
 - c. Wolf Management Plan
 - d. Idaho Bird Conservation Plan

2. Is the project within a priority protection area for one of Blaine County's potential partner agencies or organizations?
 - a. Carey Lake Wildlife Management Area (WMA)
 - b. Minidoka National Wildlife Refuge (NWR)
 - c. Silver Creek Preserve
 - d. Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve
 - e. Sawtooth National Recreation Area (SNRA)
 - f. Pioneer Mountains foothills

3. Have species federally designated in Idaho as Species of Concern, Threatened, or Endangered been found on the subject property? No

4. Have species under consideration for designation in Idaho as Species of Concern, Threatened or Endangered been found on the property? If Yes, please name.

5. Does the project contain identified elk winter range? Yes

6. Does the project contain identified mule deer winter range? Not identified

7. Does the project contain priority habitat types as described in the Idaho Comprehensive Wildlife Strategy or Big Wood Conservation Plan, or areas of high species richness or important land cover as indicated in Gap Analysis? Yes

8. Within the priority habitat types identified in the prior question, is the vegetation currently:
 - a. Completely undisturbed (100%)?
 - b. 75% - 99% undisturbed?
 - c. 50% - 74% undisturbed?
 - d. Less than 50% undisturbed?

9. If the project is executed as proposed, will the vegetation in the priority habitat types identified in the previous two questions be:
 - a. Restored?
 - b. Disturbed further?
 - c. In the same condition?

10. Is the project located within one of the zones identified by the public in the criteria workshops being important for wildlife? **Yes**
11. Does the project protect areas through which wildlife move?
- Across major roads where there are frequent wildlife/vehicle collisions?
 - Between protected lands and water sources or other resource areas?**
 - By linking protected lands to other protected lands within winter range or corridors?**
12. Will the project expand or improve wildlife corridors, or increase connectivity for wildlife between other areas that are already conserved? **Yes, connecting pollinator habitat is one goal of this project.**
13. Will the project result in improved habitat for game or nongame wildlife species through activities such as post-fire restoration or re-vegetation with native plants?
14. Does the property contain any of the following specific stretches of water known to be important fish habitat?
- Big Wood River tributaries
 - Big Wood River
 - Little Wood River above Reservoir
 - Headwaters of Salmon River to Custer County Line
15. Does the property abut or contain frontage on a stream subject to IDFG Special Rules?
- Mainstem Big Wood only above the Glendale diversion to the North Fork; Silver Creek and tributaries above Highway 93 bridge;
 - Reaches of the Little Wood within the Beartrack Williams WMA near Richfield and the upper river above the Baugh Creek confluence.
16. Does the property contain one of the following important types of fish habitat?
- Fish spawning and rearing grounds?
 - Spring creeks?
 - Others? Please name:
17. Is the aquatic habitat identified in the prior question currently:
- Completely undisturbed (100%)?
 - 75% - 99% undisturbed?
 - 50% - 74% undisturbed?
 - Less than 50% undisturbed?
18. If the project is executed as proposed, will the habitat for fish and other aquatic species be:
- Restored?
 - Disturbed?
 - In the same condition?
19. Has the waterway on the property been identified as habitat for, or **as a** reintroduction location for an aquatic Species of Concern? (See distribution maps)
- Wood River Sculpin
 - Inland Redband Trout
 - Sockeye and Chinook Salmon
 - Steelhead
 - Westslope Cutthroat

f. Other

20. Is the project contiguous with public land? The property is contiguous with BLM land.

21. Is the project contiguous with other protected land that is privately owned? The property is contiguous with City of Hailey and WRLT lands.

22. Is the project an inholding within public or protected land? No

23. Does the project contain priority habitat as identified in previous questions in this section or in other sources you may know about that is contiguous with comparable, but unprotected, habitat on another property? Yes

24. If this is a restoration project, are there restoration or wildlife management activities on adjacent properties? Yes