

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?
2. Does the project serve at least one of the three primary levy purposes by protecting land, water, or wildlife?
3. If this is an acquisition, is there a willing seller? For all other projects, has the landowner committed their property for the project?
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?
5. Have matching funds or other leverage for the LWWP's funding been sought? (Matching funds may be required).
6. Will the project have lasting conservation outcomes?

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

4. If a buffer will be created, how much wider is it than required by Blaine County?
 - a. Less than 100 feet
 - b. 100-499 feet
 - c. 500-999 feet
 - d. 1000 feet or more?
5. Does the project propose to restore or improve habitat in the new or an existing buffer?
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?
10. Will all of the appurtenant water rights be tied to the property in perpetuity using a legally binding instrument?
11. Is the delivery rate sufficient to support the proposed project and planned future uses of the property?
12. If this is a working farms and ranches project, are all appurtenant water rights on the property being used for agricultural purposes?
13. Are any changes (i.e. transfers) to existing water rights necessary to implement the project as proposed?
14. Are additional water rights required in order to implement the project as proposed?
15. Are highly erodible soils, as defined by NRCS, present on the project site?
16. Will the project improve a stream segment listed as impaired on Idaho's 303(d) listing?
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?
 - 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.)

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?

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?

6. Does the project contain identified mule deer winter range?

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?

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?
11. Does the project protect **areas through which wildlife move**?
 - a. Across major roads where there are frequent wildlife/vehicle collisions?
 - b. Between protected lands and water sources or other resource areas?
 - c. 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?
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**?
 - a. Big Wood River tributaries
 - b. Big Wood River
 - c. Little Wood River above Reservoir
 - d. Headwaters of Salmon River to Custer County Line
15. Does the property abut or contain frontage on a stream subject to **IDFG Special Rules**?
 - a. Mainstem Big Wood only above the Glendale diversion to the North Fork; Silver Creek and tributaries above Highway 93 bridge;
 - b. 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?
 - a. Fish spawning and rearing grounds?
 - b. Spring creeks?
 - c. Others? Please name: _____
17. Is the aquatic habitat identified in the prior question currently:
 - a. Completely undisturbed (100%)?
 - b. 75% - 99% undisturbed?
 - c. 50% - 74% undisturbed?
 - d. Less than 50% undisturbed?
18. If the project is executed as proposed, will the habitat for fish and other aquatic species be:
 - a. Restored?
 - b. Disturbed?
 - c. 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)**
 - a. Wood River Sculpin
 - b. Inland Redband Trout
 - c. Sockeye and Chinook Salmon
 - d. Steelhead
 - e. Westslope Cutthroat

f. Other

20. Is the project contiguous with public land?
21. Is the project contiguous with other protected land that is privately owned?
22. Is the project an inholding within public or protected land?
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?
24. If this is a restoration project, are there restoration or wildlife management activities on adjacent properties?

IV. Protect Working Farms and Ranches

1. Is the project currently a working farm or ranch, meaning that it is being actively used to produce livestock, food or other agricultural products?
2. Does the property receive an agricultural tax exemption?
3. Is the project located in one of the **priority agricultural zones identified in public workshops**?
4. Has the project been identified as a "Century Farm" by the Idaho State Historical Society?
5. Is the project located within an area identified by **NRCS as "prime" farmland** or as being of local or state importance?
6. What percentage of the property's perimeter adjoins other working farms and ranches?
 - a. 0-25%
 - b. 26-50%
 - c. >50%
7. What percentage of the adjacent properties is protected?
 - a. 0-25%
 - b. 26-50%
 - c. >50%
8. Are locally consumed food products currently grown on the subject property?
9. If the project is executed as proposed, will locally consumed food products be grown on the property?
10. Is the property currently being managed in accordance with the **Best Management Practices as identified by the Idaho Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution Abatement Plan**?
11. If the project is executed as proposed, will the property be managed in accordance with the **Best Management Practices as identified by the Idaho Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution Abatement Plan**?
12. Does the agricultural operation currently have the following types of land resources/uses?

- a. Irrigated pasture
 - b. Cropland (Hay, grain)
 - c. Dryland grazing
 - d. Leases on federal or state land
 - e. Other. Describe: _____
13. If the project is executed as proposed, will the acreage in agricultural land uses mentioned in the previous question:
- a. Increase
 - b. Stay the same
 - c. Decrease
14. Is the project currently managed according to a certified farm or ranch management plan such as Idaho OnePlan Farm Conservation Plan, NRCS Energy Management Plan, NRCS Forest Management Plan, Landowner Forest Stewardship Plan or other plan?
15. If the project is executed as proposed, will the property be managed according to one of the certified farm or ranch management plans mentioned in the previous question?
16. Is the subject property currently managed in a manner that is specifically intended to benefit fish and wildlife? (Examples include planting hedgerows, retaining riparian vegetation and excluding livestock from waterways.)
17. If the project is executed as proposed, will management practices be instituted to benefit fish and wildlife?

V. Conserve Scenic Open Space

1. Is the project within:
 - a. .25 mile of a population center as defined by city limits?
 - b. 1 mile of a population center as defined by city limits?
2. Is the property:
 - a. Pristine, with no structures (i.e. buildings, barns, etc), roadways or significant modifications to the terrain, including agricultural fields, canals, ditches and berms.
 - b. 1-5% developed
 - c. 6-25% developed
 - d. > 25% developed
3. If the project is executed as proposed, will the property be:
 - a. Restored, with fewer structures or significant modifications?
 - b. Further developed, with additional structures and modifications?
 - c. Remain in current condition?
4. Does the project front:
 - a. A major transportation route (Hwy 75 or 20)?
 - b. A collector road?
5. Is the subject property visible from:

- a. A major transportation route (Hwy 75 or 20)?
 - b. A collector road?
6. If the project is executed as proposed, will modifications to the property be visible from the roadways listed in the previous question?
 7. Is the project located within one of the areas identified by the public in workshops as a view that contributes to local identity?
 8. Does the project buffer or separate communities?

VI. Support Transfer of Development Rights Program

1. Is the project located in the TDR Sending Area?
2. Is there a resource management plan on the sending property?
3. Is the project located in a TDR Receiving Area?
4. Do you have a buyer? If yes, is the transaction under contract?

VII. Increase Public Access for Recreation

1. Does the property currently provide public access to public lands?
2. Does the project propose to provide or secure public access to public lands?
3. Does the property currently provide public access to rivers, streams or lakes?
4. Does the project propose to provide or secure public access to rivers, streams, or lakes?
5. Will public access, even if on a limited basis, be allowed on the protected property?
6. Does the project add to the publicly accessible trail network with a new connection, trail segment or access point?

VIII. Evaluate “Development Potential”

1. Does the property have the following features?
 - a. Direct access to a public road
 - b. Water frontage
 - c. Views of the Sawtooths, Boulders, Pioneers, Smokies or White Clouds
 - d. Access to electricity to within .25 miles
 - e. Public water supply available within .25 miles
 - f. R-10 or denser zoning
 - g. Contiguous with public land
2. Has the land been platted?
3. Has the land been subdivided into four or more residential lots of record?

Appendix Data Sources, Links Descriptions

II. Protect Water Resources

3. Water quality and quantity
Go to: <http://maps.co.blaine.id.us/LandUseInfo/>
Check boxes for layers of interest: “Wetlands”, “Water Bodies”, “Water Areas”, “Floodplain Overlay” (from National Hydrography Dataset and National Wetlands Inventory)
4. Blaine County – Buffer requirements for waterways
See Blaine County Code 9-17-6 (A thru E)
Go to <http://www.co.blaine.id.us/>, click on “Blaine County Code” on left bar, type in “9-17-6” in the search bar, read on left “Riparian Setback Use Regulations”
6. Blaine County – Wetland soils
Go to: <http://maps.co.blaine.id.us/LandUseInfo/>
Check boxes for “Parcel”, then “Soils”, then “info” on the top right to get the list of soils for that parcel.
Then see [Attachment 1](#) of this document, List of Hydric Soils, to see which soil types are wetland soils.
15. NRCS – Highly erodible soils
Go to: <http://maps.co.blaine.id.us/LandUseInfo/>
Check the box for “Soils” and review the map for soil type(s).
Then see [Attachment 2](#) of this document for List of Highly Erodible Soils
16. Idaho’s 303(d) listing
Go to: <http://www.deq.idaho.gov/water-quality/surface-water/monitoring-assessment/integrated-report.aspx>
17. Time-of-travel zones: This refers to Wellhead Protection Districts regarding time of travel to municipal water supply.
Go to: <http://maps.co.blaine.id.us/LandUseInfo/>
On the Land Use Information Map, click on the “Wellhead Protection” box. Then click on the box for “Parcel” of interest, then on “info” on the upper right, then on the arrow next to the parcel number. This will show zone and time of travel.

III. Protect Wildlife & Fish Habitat

1. Idaho Department of Fish and Game’s wildlife plans:
See [Attachment 3](#), Title 36-103 of the Idaho Code for general comments
IDFG partners with numerous other organizations to secure fish and wildlife data
 - a. Mule Deer
Mule Deer Management Plan (2008)
<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/public/wildlife/planMuleDeer.pdf>
Mule Deer Initiative – identifies areas of sage steppe, riparian or aspen habitat
<https://fishandgame.idaho.gov/content/mdi>
 - b. Comprehensive Plan for Greater Sage grouse in Idaho (2006)
<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/public/wildlife/sageGrouse/conservPlan.pdf>
 - c. Wolf Management Plan
<https://fishandgame.idaho.gov/public/wildlife/wolves/>
 - d. Idaho Bird Conservation Plan
Identifies Idaho Priority Habitat (PIF) and high priority/focal species

<https://fishandgame.idaho.gov/public/wildlife/nongame/brochureBirdConservePlan.pdf>
<http://www.wildlife.uidaho.edu/idvmd/index.asp>

2. Priority protection areas:
 - a. Carey Lake Wildlife Management Area
<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/public/wildlife/wma/>
 - b. Minidoka National Wildlife Refuge
<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/public/wildlife/wma/>
 - c. Silver Creek Preserve
<http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/idaho/placesweprotect/silver-creek-preserve.xml>
 - d. Sawtooth National Recreation Area
<http://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/sawtooth/recreation/hiking/recarea/?recid=5842&actid=51>
 - e. Pioneers Mountains foothills
<http://www.pioneersalliance.org/about/landscape/>
3. Federally designated in Idaho: Species designated of Concern, Threatened, or Endangered:
See http://species.idaho.gov/thr_endgr.html
 - a. Sage Grouse: (Idaho-All Data Types-Sage Grouse)
<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/public/wildlife/sageGrouse/>
 - b. Pygmy Rabbit maps: (Idaho-All Data-Wildlife-Pygmy Rabbit)
http://www.wildlife.uidaho.edu/idvmd/idvmd_general.asp?Elcode=AMAEBO4010
<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/ifwis/cwcs/pdf/PygmyRabbit.pdf>
 - c. Species of Concern lists/maps from Idaho Comprehensive Wildlife Strategy
For the lists go to: <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/public/docs/compWildStrategy/appendixB.pdf>
For maps go to: <https://fishandgame.idaho.gov/ifwis/cwcs/appendixf.htm>
 - d. Gap Analysis: <http://www.wildlife.uidaho.edu/idgap/index.htm>
Gap maps: http://www.wildlife.uidaho.edu/idvmd/download_whr.asp Class=WHR&I1.x=17&I1.y=14
5. Elk winter range
Go to: <http://maps.co.blaine.id.us/LandUseInfo/>
Check the box for the Elk winter range layer
6. Mule deer winter range
Go to: <http://maps.co.blaine.id.us/LandUseInfo/>
Check the box for the Mule deer winter range layer
7. Idaho Comprehensive Wildlife Strategy:
<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/public/wildlife/cwcs/>
Big Wood Conservation Plan:
https://fishandgame.idaho.gov/ifwis/idnhp/cdc_pdf/bwplan.pdf
Gap Analysis (requires the browser DjVu Plug-in):
<http://www.wildlife.uidaho.edu/idgap/index.htm>
Gap Maps (requires the browser DjVu Plug-in):
http://www.wildlife.uidaho.edu/idgap/idgap_maps.asp

10. Public Workshop on project criteria, Feb. 2010: Areas identified by public as important for wildlife
Go to LWWP website: <http://processblaine.wix.com/blainelwpp>
Click on "Information" then "Conservation Materials" then "Wildlife"
11. Wildlife migration routes identified by IDFG:
 - a. Across major roads where there are frequent wildlife/vehicle collisions
http://www.westerntransportationinstitute.org/documents/reports/4W1403_Final_Mitigation_Report.pdf
<https://fishandgame.idaho.gov/ifwis/>
 - b. Between protected lands and water sources or other resource areas
Go to <http://maps.co.blaine.id.us/LandUseInfo/>
Check boxes for waterways, wetlands, etc.
 - c. By linking protected lands to other protected lands within winter range or corridors
Go to <http://maps.co.blaine.id.us/LandUseInfo/>
Click boxes for deer and elk winter range
14. Stretches of water known to be important for fish habitat:
Go to <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/public/fish/planBigWood.pdf>
 - a. Bigwood Tributaries
 - b. Big Wood River
 - c. Little Wood River above Reservoir
 - d. Headwaters of Salmon River to County line
15. IDFG Special Rules
Go to <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/public/fish/rules/magicvalley.pdf>
19. Distribution maps:
 - a. Wood River Sculpin
http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/ifwis/cwcs/pdf/Wood_River_Sculpin.pdf
 - b. Inland Redband Trout
http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/ifwis/cwcs/pdf/Inland_Riband_Trout.pdf
 - c. Sockeye and Chinook Salmon
[http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/ifwis/cwcs/pdf/Sockeye%20Salmon%20\(Snake%20River\).pdf](http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/ifwis/cwcs/pdf/Sockeye%20Salmon%20(Snake%20River).pdf)
 - d. Steelhead
<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/ifwis/cwcs/pdf/Steelhead>
 - e. Westslope Cutthroat
http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/ifwis/cwcs/pdf/Westslope_Cutthroat_Trout.pdf
 - f. Other
Bull Trout http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/ifwis/cwcs/pdf/Bull_Trout.pdf
Chinook [http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/ifwis/cwcs/pdf/Chinook_Salmon_\(Snake_River_spring_summer_run\).pdf](http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/ifwis/cwcs/pdf/Chinook_Salmon_(Snake_River_spring_summer_run).pdf)

IV. Protect Working Farms and Ranches

3. Public workshops (3) on project criteria, Feb. 2010: Priority agricultural zones
<http://processblaine.wix.com/blainelwpp>
Click on "Conservation Materials", then "Working Farms and Ranches"
5. NRCS: "Prime" farmland or farmland of local or statewide importance

Go to: <http://maps.co.blaine.id.us/LandUseInfo/>

Check box for Parcel, then "Soils", then "info" to get the list of soils for that parcel.

Attachment 4: List of Prime and Other Important Farmlands (ID) Blaine County Idaho

10. Best Management Practices identified by the Idaho Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution Abatement Plan
<http://www.scc.idaho.gov/pdf/AgPlan.pdf>
Section F, Table F 1-7
11. Best Management Practices identified by the Idaho Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution Abatement Plan
<http://www.scc.idaho.gov/pdf/AgPlan.pdf>
14. Certified farm or ranch management plans, such as:
 - a. Idaho OnePlan Farm Conservation Plan
 - b. NRCS Energy Management Plan
 - c. NRCS Forest Management Plan
 - d. Landowner Forest Stewardship Plan
 - e. Other

http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/?&cid=stelprdb10_48817
<https://fishandgame.idaho.gov/public/wildlife/?getPage=223>
16. Property management to benefit fish and wildlife:
 - Planting hedgerows, retaining riparian vegetation, or excluding livestock from riparian or wetland areas.
E.g., IDFG Habitat Improvement Program guidelines or NRCS programs:
<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/public/wildlife/?getPage=221>
<http://www.id.nrcs.usda.gov/>
 - Using wildlife friendly fencing
<http://www.co.blaine.id.us/>
Click on "Blaine County Code" on left, then click on Title 10 Chapter 5-3, scroll to right. Wildlife, 1. Fencing

<http://wfen.files.wordpress.com/2013/02/certified-wildlife-friendly-standards-final-2013-v1-0.pdf>
 - Using non-lethal methods for predator management
<http://wfen.files.wordpress.com/2013/02/certified-wildlife-friendly-standards-final-2013-v1-0.pdf>

V. Conserve Scenic Open Space

7. Public workshops (3) on project criteria, Feb. 2010: Views that contribute to local identity
Go to <http://processblaine.wix.com/blainelwpp>
Click on Info, Conservation Materials, Scenic

VI. Support Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) Program

1. TDR Sending Areas
Go to: <http://maps.co.blaine.id.us/LandUseInfo/>
Click on TDR Sending Areas
3. TDR Receiving Areas
Go to: <http://maps.co.blaine.id.us/LandUseInfo/>
Click on TDR Receiving Areas

Attachments

Attachment 1: Wetland or “Hydric” Soils in Blaine County

Attachment 2: List of Highly Erodible Soils, Blaine County

Attachment 3: Idaho Code 36-103

Title 36-103 of the Idaho Code authorizes the Idaho Fish and Game department to administer wildlife policy and where the 2005 Idaho Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy created by the Idaho Fish and Game department states the following goals, “Sustain Idaho’s fish and wildlife and the habitats upon which they depend” and “Ensure the long-term survival of native fish, wildlife, and plants and increase the capacity of habitat to support fish and wildlife”; and the Idaho Fish and Game’s 2005 Idaho Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy identifies important habitat and the need for conservation to protect and manage a mosaic of habitats for fish and wildlife species.

<http://legislature.idaho.gov/idstat/Title36/T36CH1SECT36-103.htm>

<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/public/wildlife/cwcs/>

Please Note: Idaho Fish and Game partners with numerous other organizations to secure fish and wildlife data.

Attachment 4: “Prime” farmland or farmland of local or statewide importance.