

Riparian Grant Program Scoring Guidance

2025 – 2027 Mid-Biennium Funding Opportunity

Each project site and project area (ie: DIP, cost share, maintenance area, TA target area) proposed within a track will be evaluated with the criteria described below. The final score for the track application will be the aggregated results for the set of activities in the track.

CRITERION 1

Water Quality & Salmon Habitat Improvement

Up to 60 pts

PRIORITIZED PLANS OR OTHER DOCUMENTED, COORDINATED LOCAL SALMON RECOVERY STRATEGIES (up to 21 points)

For each project site, maintenance area, and/or TA target area in the application:

- ★ Project/area alignment with prioritized plans identified in the RGP Guidelines, Section 5.1, or other local salmon recovery strategies.
 - For other local salmon recovery strategies, multiple partners must be involved in the strategy development to demonstrate local prioritization.
 - If the site or project area aligns with a plan or strategy, name the relevant document.
 - For maintenance areas, indicate whether the area was prioritized for maintenance or for restoration in a plan or documented strategy, and name the document.
 - For TA target areas, indicate whether the area is prioritized for restoration in a plan or documented strategy, and name the document.
 - If the site/area is not located in a salmon recovery region, a WDFW letter justifying the importance of the specific project to salmon recovery may be provided.
- ★ If the specific project site/area, at the reach, stream, or HUC12 sub-watershed scale, is named in a prioritized plan or documented strategy, indicate the location name (e.g., Smith Creek) and reference the language and section of the document. This demonstrates a higher level of prioritization for the specific project location.
- ★ If the majority of the project's proposed activities align directly with the specific language of the plan or document for the site/area (e.g., plant native trees to restore riparian forest), reference the language and section of the document. For maintenance/TA target areas, describe how proposed activities directly support the intended outcomes named in the document for the area.

RESTORATION OF CRITICAL RMZ (up to 21 points)

For each project site, maintenance area, and/or TA target area in the application:

- ★ Provide a concise description of the specific impairments to riparian function, such as insufficient shade and observed erosion, and include details of the site assessment which demonstrate impairments.
- ★ For implementation and maintenance, clearly describe how proposed BMPs will directly improve the functional impairments identified and the steps to achieve the intended outcome. Site prep alone will not be considered addressing functional impairment. For TA target areas, describe how proposed activities will specifically address documented impairments.

- ★ If the project/area is located on a salmonid bearing stream/river, identify species and time of year present, and name the data source.

WATER QUALITY (up to 18 points)

For each project site, maintenance area, and/or TA target area in the application:

- ★ If your project site/maintenance area/TA target area is adjacent to a waterbody that is 303(d) listed for temperature or dissolved oxygen, provide the listing ID and parameter impaired.
- ★ If your project implements activities which address actions or impairments described in a TMDL or Straight to Implementation Plan, cite the plan title, year, and relevant section.
- ★ For implementation and maintenance, if your project addresses site-specific water pollution inputs, such as erosion or runoff, identified through on-the-ground assessments at the site/within the area, describe what was found and the significance to water quality in that watershed. For TA target areas, cite documentation of site-specific water pollution inputs at potential restoration sites within the area, and the significance of the issues to that watershed.

CRITERION 2

Budget and Schedule

Up to 25 pts

BUDGET

- ★ Ensure your budget template is complete with all costs accounted for and justified with methods for cost estimates.
- ★ For implementation and maintenance projects, complete metrics spreadsheets (maintenance sites and DIPs) and/or CPDS (cost share) to demonstrate outputs for the BMPs listed in the budget template. For TA target areas, quantify planned outputs where applicable to explain the costs.

SCHEDULE

- ★ Provide start and end dates for BMPs and/or TA tasks in the budget template. Describe readiness to proceed in the application, such as permits in hand and landowner agreements secured, to ensure work will be completed by June 30, 2027.
- ★ Specifically identify each project site for implementation and maintenance in metrics spreadsheets/CPDS (each site within each maintenance area should be listed).

RMZ FOCUS

- ★ For implementation and maintenance, RGP will prioritize projects with less than 50% of the cost for instream/river BMPs, such as LWD structures and repairs. For TA target areas, RGP will prioritize projects with less than 50% of the cost for instream/river engineering. Upland work is ineligible.

CRITERION 3

Tribal Support

Up to 5 pts

DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED

For each project site, maintenance area, and/or TA target area in the application:

- ★ Tribal support for a project can be demonstrated through formal agreements, including MOUs, ILAs, or Tribal resolution, match, and/or in-kind services provided.
- ★ For maintenance areas, support can be demonstrated for maintenance activities or for the original restoration of the site(s). For TA target areas, support can be demonstrated through committed match and/or in-kind services for project development.
- ★ CCA notification and cultural resources engagement alone do not qualify.

CRITERION 4

Overburdened Communities & Vulnerable Populations

Up to 5 pts

IDENTIFY THE COMMUNITY AND DESCRIBE THE BENEFIT

For each project site, maintenance area, and/or TA target area in the application:

- ★ If the project will benefit an *overburdened or underserved community*, or a *vulnerable population*, based on the definitions in RGP's Request for Applications, name the specific group and provide justification using tools provided in the addendum to SCC's Community Engagement Plan or other resources.
- ★ To earn points, also clearly describe the *direct and meaningful benefits* to the group, based on the definition provided in RGP's Request for Applications. Benefits should be directly tied to the project, such as reduced flood risk, not general, such as addressing climate change.

CRITERION 5

Targeted Projects

Up to 5 pts

INCREASING ECOSYSTEM SCALE BENEFITS

For each project site, maintenance area, and/or TA target area in the application:

- ★ If the project site/area is located in the same *HUC12 sub-watershed* as at least one other restoration project that was completed in the last five years or is ongoing, provide the past project's name, HUC12 code, project sponsor, and date completed. Also provide the HUC12 code for the proposed project, maintenance area, or TA target area.