

**Nonprofit Conservation Organization  
Stewardship Grant Evaluation – fiscal year 2017-18**

**December 19, 2016**

**PLEASE NOTE:**

The DNR is revising ranking criteria for nonprofit grant subprograms and has not posted final ranking criteria for the fiscal year 2017-18 grant cycle.

The criteria that follow are those from the last grant cycle and are offered as an example for prospective applicants, but should not be completed and filled out with application material.

The revisions underway are designed to:

- Adjust the relative weight and metrics used to evaluate Habitat Area and Natural Area projects.
- Refine the questions asked of all projects to align with agency-wide Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program priorities including improved access to public lands.
- Include a comprehensive evaluation of any agricultural resources on property proposed for Stewardship grant cost share.

The Department will make proposed revisions available for input and comment from the public before finalizing and incorporating into application material. We expect revisions to be available for public input in late January, 2017. Check the Nonprofit application website for details: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Stewardship/Grants/ApplyNCO.html>

**Nonprofit Conservation Organization  
Stewardship Grant Evaluation – fiscal year 2016-17  
How to Use the Ranking and Scoring Criteria**

Applications for Stewardship grants to NCOs are evaluated against scoring criteria and ranked to identify the highest priority projects 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. In spaces provided, please explain the score you feel your project deserves. DNR staff will consider your explanations.

In some cases, sponsors may not have access to the data required to answer each question. This is especially true in the Natural Area criteria. We ask sponsors to complete as much as they are able. Applications will not be penalized for questions unanswered.

**Applicants should complete the self-scoring process for the subprogram that best fits each project.**

Each project will be funded under the most apt Stewardship subprogram – Habitat Areas, Natural Areas, Stream Bank Protection or State Trails. When a project suits more than one subprogram, DNR will fund the project from the subprogram in which the project scores the best. Subprogram descriptions are found on line:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Stewardship/Grants/Index.html>

**All projects are scored in both a subprogram and with *Criteria for All Subprograms*.**

For criteria common to all subprograms, the points earned for those criteria vary per subprogram. Why? Because the maximum points available for each type of NCO grant vary from subprogram to subprogram, the score for each “All Subprogram” question also varies so that these common criteria have similar relative importance for all projects. See the example below.

For a project that might be funded under either Habitat Area or Stream Bank Protection, the applicant should submit a score sheet filled out like this:

<b>Project Name:</b> <b>Greatest Place Ever</b>	max points HA	max points NA	max points SB	max points TR	<b>Self Score</b>	DNR Score
<b>Applicant Name:</b> <b>Knowles-Nelson Land Trust</b>						
3. Project sponsor has confirmed match for this project that covers A ≥ 50% of the project costs <b>3 points</b> B ≥ 35% of the project costs <b>2 points</b> C ≥ 25% of the project costs <b>1 point</b>	A = 3 B = 2 C = 1	A = 3 B = 2 C = 1	A = 2 B = 1 C = .5	A = 2 B = 1 C = .5	<b>HA 3 or SB 2</b>	

As you encounter questions, please stay in communication with the grant staff in your region. Customer Service Specialists' contact information is online:  
<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Stewardship/Grants/Contacts.html>

**Please sign up for electronic program updates!** The Grant Program Update email service is intended to communicate important Stewardship grant program information. It's not a newsletter and not a high volume channel of information. This service is an efficient way for us to share important information directly to the people who need to stay abreast of Stewardship grant program deadlines, changes and announcements.

To sign up,

- 1) click the red envelope icon on the DNRs home page - <http://dnr.wi.gov/>
- 2) enter your email
- 3) check the box under **Grants and Loans** for "Stewardship Grant Program Updates"
- 4) scroll all the way down to the bottom of the page and hit "submit."

Thank you!

EXAMPLE

**NCO Stewardship Grants Scoring and Ranking – fy 2016-2017  
CRITERIA FOR APPLICATIONS TO ALL SUBPROGRAMS**

Please complete the score for this section and fill in the total points for this section in the cell at the top of this page.

Project Name:	max points HA	max points NA	max points SB	max points TR	Self Score	DNR Score
Applicant Name:	25	26	14.5	8		
<b>Likelihood that the Project will Succeed</b>						
1. If an easement, has the applicant submitted a draft easement, using DNR's standard format, signed by seller/landowner indicating that the draft is a fair representation of negotiations and common goals for the property? If NO, then <b>subtract 1 point</b>	(-1)	(-1)	(-1)	(-1)		
2. Has an appraisal has been completed and submitted?	2	2	1	1		
3. Project sponsor has confirmed match for this project that covers A ≥ 50% of the project costs B ≥ 35% of the project costs C ≥ 25% of the project costs	A=3 B=2 C=1	A=3 B=2 C=1	A=2 B=1 C=.5	A=2 B=1 C=.5		
<b>Project completion</b>						
4. <b>Is this parcel part of a larger project</b> , one with an identified geographical extent and with a master plan? (examples include designated State Natural Areas and the Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area, etc.) If so, to what extent will acquisition of the subject parcel advance project toward completion? Within the project boundary: A. The parcel is the last tract to be acquired or brings the acquisition acreage to 95% or more of goal B. The parcel brings acreage to ~80-94% of goal C. The parcel brings acreage to ~50-79% of goal D. The parcel brings acreage to <50% of goal or is not within a larger project boundary  <b>Please name the larger project and describe what portion of it this project will complete:</b>	A =10 B = 8 C = 4 D = 0	A = 12 B = 9 C = 5 D = 0	A = 6 B = 3 C = 1 D = 0	N/A		

**NCO Stewardship Grants Scoring and Ranking – fy 2016-2017  
CRITERIA FOR APPLICATIONS TO ALL SUBPROGRAMS**

<b>Application demonstrates public support</b>						
5. Project has written support from <u>up to three</u> other entities with either land management or user-group interests (e.g. friends groups, schools who will use the property, partner non-profits, County Parks, etc.). Please note that letters of support from any DNR program cannot be counted for these points. <b>Please list supporting parties:</b>	1 each max 3	1 each max 3	.5 each max 1.5	.5 Each max 1.5		
<b>Federal Funding Involved</b>						
6. <b>Project is an identified component of a federal grant application</b> on the part of the applicant and partners under the Coastal Wetland Protection Program, North American Wetlands Conservation Act, Great Lakes Restoration Initiative or other similar federal grants funding acquisition. <b>Please name of federal program:</b>	3	3	1	1.5		
<b>Nature Based Outdoor Activities (NBOA)</b>						
7.						
A. <b>Project will provide opportunities for all five NBOAs</b> (hunting, trapping, hiking, cross-country skiing, and fishing where fishable waters are present – fishing n/a where no water present).	2	2	2	2		
OR						
B. Project will allow four of the five NBOAs.	1	1	.5*	.5**		
<b>The following notes are related to questions 7 above:</b> <i>* If the project is a stream bank corridor that is 66' wide on either side of the stream or less, project will not be penalized for not allowing hunting. If all other NBOAs will be allowed, such projects receive 2 points. ** If project is an Ice Age Trail easement along the trail corridor only, such projects receive 2 points. NOTE – all selected projects must also comply with ch. NR 52. .</i>						
<b>Tiebreaker.</b> If competing projects in the same subprogram score the same number of points, the project allowing more NBOAs will receive an additional tiebreaker point.	TB 1	TB 1	TB 1	TB 1	N/A	
<b>Recreational Support Facilities</b>						
8. Has the applicant submitted plans for management of the property which include recreational support facilities? Examples include an adjacent gravel parking lot, trail construction, a canoe landing, etc.? (please note: such improvements cannot be funded with Stewardship dollars). Recreational support facilities on Stewardship-funded properties must be consistent with the legal purposes of the applicable subprogram.	2	1	1	n/a		

(End of Criteria for All Subprograms)

**NCO Stewardship Grants Scoring and Ranking - fy 2016-2017**  
**HABITAT AREAS**

Complete the score for this section; fill in the total points for this section at the top of this page.

Project Name:	Max possible points	Applicant Self Score	DNR Score
Applicant Name:	102		
<p>1. <b>Proximity to population.</b> As informed by zones A – E on the map, “DNR Managed Lands and their Proximity to People.” This map is available from <a href="http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Stewardship/Grants/Forms.html">http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Stewardship/Grants/Forms.html</a></p> <p>A. Project is located in Zone A or B <b>18 points</b>            B. Project is located in Zone C or D <b>9 points</b>            C. Project is located in Zone E <b>6 points</b></p>	18		
<p>2. <b>The degree to which the project will enhance wildlife based recreation.</b> Will the subject parcel provide the following:</p> <p>A. Opportunities for viewing a confirmed population of bald eagles? (this point assumes eagles have been seen on the site, not simply that the habitat will support them). <b>3 points</b></p> <p>B. Opportunities for viewing confirmed population/s of large native mammals (including but not limited to deer, wolves, etc.)? <b>3 points</b></p> <p>Please list: _____</p> <p>C. Opportunities for viewing a confirmed concentration of migratory birds? <b>3 points</b></p> <p>Please describe: _____</p> <p>D. An area well suited, developed or enhanced to accommodate wildlife viewing. Examples include but are not limited to trails to vantage points for wildlife viewing, interpretive signage. <b>3 points</b></p> <p>Please describe: _____</p>	12		

**NCO Stewardship Grants Scoring and Ranking - fy 2016-2017**  
**HABITAT AREAS**

<p>The following questions are designed to measure the degrees to which the property has been identified as significant and to which protecting the property will protect or enhance ecologically significant wildlife communities.</p>			
<p>As informed by 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><b>3. Conservation Opportunity Areas</b></p> <p>A. Project is located within a Conservation Opportunity Area (COA) of Global or Continental Significance. <b>12 points</b>  AND</p> <p>i. Land management plan (LMP) meets the objectives of restoring or protecting habitat type for which the COA was designated. <b>+ 4 points</b></p> <p>ii. LMP supports the objectives of the COA <b>+ 2 points</b></p> <p>iii. LMP is inconsistent with the objectives of the COA <b>minus 11 points</b></p> <p>B. Project is located within a COA of Upper Midwest or Statewide Significance. <b>11 points</b>  AND</p> <p>i. LMP meets the objectives of restoring or protecting habitat type for which the COA was designated. <b>+ 4 points</b></p> <p>ii. LMP supports the objectives of the COA <b>+ 2 points</b></p> <p>iii. LMP is inconsistent with the objectives of the COA <b>minus 10 points</b></p> <p><i>NOTE: The precision of a COA boundary is such that you may have a parcel that lies outside the boundary but contains the habitat/cover type for which the COA was designated. In those instances you may award points for the COA, but you must provide a justification for awarding those points in those instances.</i></p>	16		
<p>Use this section for any notes related to question 3 above. Please list briefly the relevant management plans that justify this score</p>			

**NCO Stewardship Grants Scoring and Ranking - fy 2016-2017**  
**HABITAT AREAS**

<b>As Informed by the Wisconsin Joint Venture Plan (JVP)</b>			
<p><b>4. Is any one of the following true?</b></p> <p>A. The project <i>restores</i> wetlands or grassland nesting cover in a priority township located within the Southeast, Northwest or Green Bay focus area identified in JVP. <b>12 points</b></p> <p>B. The project <i>restores</i> wetlands or grassland nesting cover in a priority township located outside of the Southeast or Northwest focus area identified JVP. <b>9 points</b></p> <p>C. The project <i>preserves</i> existing wetlands or grassland nesting cover in a priority township located within the Southeast or Northwest focus area identified JVP. <b>6 points</b></p> <p>D. The project <i>preserves</i> existing wetlands or grassland nesting cover in a priority township located outside of the Southeast or Northwest focus area identified in the JVP. <b>3 points</b></p>	12		
<p>Use this section for any notes related to question 4 above. List the relevant elements of the LMP that you feel justify your score. A map of priority townships on line <a href="http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Stewardship/Grants/Forms.html">http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Stewardship/Grants/Forms.html</a></p>			
<b>Protection of Designated Waters and important aquatic habitat</b>			
<p><b>5. Is any of the following true of this parcel?</b> Data relevant to these questions can be found on DNR's Surface Water Mapping site <a href="http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/surfacewater/swdv/">http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/surfacewater/swdv/</a></p> <p><b>A = 6 points</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Property includes frontage on a water body designated an Outstanding Resource Waters under s. 281.15, Wis. Stats <a href="http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/SurfaceWater/orwerw.html">http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/SurfaceWater/orwerw.html</a></li> <li>• Property includes frontage on a Class I Trout stream designated under ch. NR 1.02(7), Wis. Adm. Code <a href="http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/trout/streammaps.html">http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/trout/streammaps.html</a></li> <li>• Property includes frontage on a federal or state-designated wild or scenic river under ss. 30.26 and 30.27, Wis. Stats. <a href="http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/wildrivers/">http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/wildrivers/</a></li> <li>• 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></li> <li>• Property includes frontage on waters identified as priority water by the Wild Lakes Program (data only available to DNR)</li> </ul> <p><b>B = 4 points</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Property includes frontage on Exceptional Resource Waters under Section 281.15, Wis. Stats</li> <li>• Property includes frontage on a Class II Trout stream designated under Chapter NR 1.02(7), Wis. Adm. Code</li> </ul> <p><b>C = 2 points</b></p> <p>Property includes frontage on waters or wetlands that do not meet any of the above descriptions</p> <p><b>D = 0 points</b></p> <p>Property does not have any water or wetlands</p>	6		

**NCO Stewardship Grants Scoring and Ranking - fy 2016-2017**  
**HABITAT AREAS**

Use this space for any notes related to question 5 above			
<p><b>6. Does the parcel include 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. This is protected shoreline on the parcel only, not a bigger project area).</p> <p>A. Parcel includes more than a mile of frontage on a water body <b>6 points</b>          B. Parcel includes .25 – 1 mile of frontage on a water body <b>4 points</b>          C. Parcel includes .1 to .25 mile of frontage on a water body <b>2 points</b>          D. Parcel includes less than .1 mile of frontage <b>1 point</b>          E. Parcel has no frontage on a water body <b>0 points</b></p>	6		
<b>Additional measures</b>			
<p><b>7. Protection of Rare Habitat Type or Species</b></p> <p>A. 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. <b>2 points</b>          B. The property contains state or federal threatened or endangered species. <b>2 points</b></p> <p><b>Please list the community and/or species:</b></p>	4		
<p><b>8. The degree to which the site is threatened by conversion of land use.</b></p> <p>A. Habitat likely to be damaged in 0-4 years (e.g. property is listed on the market or offer made by a developer, etc.) <b>4 points</b>          C. Habitat likely to be damaged in &gt;4 years (zoned for subdivision under current land use plan, approaching development, etc.) <b>2 points</b>          D. There is no measureable threat of land use conversion. <b>0 Points</b></p>	4		
Use this space to explain points awarded for question 8 above:			

**NCO Stewardship Grants Scoring and Ranking - fy 2016-2017**  
**HABITAT AREAS**

<p><b>9. The degree to which the site is part of a larger project where the multiple acquisitions of adjacent parcels will provide greater benefit for wildlife habitat conservation than single parcel project.</b></p> <p>A. The project is an isolated parcel more than 1,000 acres in size, or this parcel is contiguous to additional protected habitat that results in a project greater than 1000 acres in size. <b>18 points</b></p> <p>B. The project is an isolated parcel between 500 and 1,000 acres, or this parcel is contiguous to additional protected habitat that results in a project between 500 and 1,000 acres in size. <b>15 points</b></p> <p>C. The project is an isolated parcel between 100 and 500 acres, or is contiguous to additional protected habitat and results in a project between 100 and 500 acres in size. <b>9 points</b></p> <p>D. The project is an isolated parcel between 40 and 100, or is contiguous to additional protected habitat and results in a project between 40 and 100 acres in size. <b>6 points</b></p> <p>E. The project is an isolated parcel less than 40 acres, or is contiguous to additional protected habitat and will result in a project less than 40 acres in size. <b>3 points</b></p>	18		
<p><b>10. Does the parcel contain following habitat types? 3 points for each, not to exceed 6 points</b> (circle relevant habitat types for the region in which this project is located)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• south central WI: algific talus slope; pine relict; hemlock relict, mesic prairie</li> <li>• south east WI: Great Lakes ridge &amp; swale; bog relict; calcareous fen; cliffs associated with the Niagara Escarpment</li> <li>• northern WI: patterned peatland; mesic cedar forest; meromictic lake, mesic floodplain terrace; hemlock relict</li> <li>• western WI: central poor fen; any native prairie type; pine relict</li> <li>• north east WI: Patterned peatland; alvar; boreal rich fen; great lakes ridge and swale; alkaline rockshore; mesic prairie</li> </ul>	6		

(end of Habitat Area Criteria)

**NCO Stewardship Grants Scoring and Ranking - 2016-2017  
NATURAL AREAS**

Project Name:	Max possible points	Applicant Self Score	DNR Score
Applicant Name:	153		
<p><b>Gateway Question:</b> Is it probable that acquisition will provide permanent protection to the parcel's natural values so that it will function as a natural area, rare species habitat, or species concentration site into the foreseeable future, based on current ecological knowledge?            _____ Probable _____ Improbable            [STOP: If acquisition will not provide protection, project cannot be considered under the Natural Area subprogram.]</p>	n/a		
<p><b>1. Priority State Natural Areas</b>            Is the subject parcel within the approved boundaries of an existing State Natural Area or the boundaries of a proposed State Natural Area identified in a site conservation plan reviewed by the DNR's SNA Program?            A. The parcel is within the boundaries of a site on the priority list of DNR-owned SNAs. <b>15 points</b>            Site name: _____            B. The parcel is within the project boundary of an existing or proposed SNA not on the priority list. <b>10 points</b>            Site name: _____            C. The parcel is not within an SNA boundary. <b>0 points</b></p>	15		
<p><b>2. Land management plan</b>            A. Does the proposed land management plan (LMP) meet the objectives of the SNA? <b>5 points</b>            B. Does the proposed LMP support the objectives of the SNA? <b>2 points</b>            C. Is the proposed LMP inconsistent with the objectives SNA? <b>minus 4 points</b>            D. The parcel is not within or subject to an SNA. <b>0 points</b></p>	5		
<p><b>3. Value for Research and Education</b>            A. High potential (site very accessible, proximate to educational facilities, high diversity of natural values attractive to this user group, is currently a subject of research) <b>3 points</b>            B. Medium potential (site moderately accessible, not near educational facilities, moderate diversity of natural values) <b>2 points</b>            C. Low potential (site not accessible or no public access) <b>0 points</b></p>	3		

**NCO Stewardship Grants Scoring and Ranking - 2016-2017  
NATURAL AREAS**

<p><b>4. Rarity and Number of Natural Values</b> (<i>Applicants may not have access to the data needed to complete these questions. Applications will not be penalized for leaving this section blank.</i>)</p> <p>For the following, S (State) and EO (Element Occurrence) Rank are determined by Natural Heritage Inventory protocol, taking into account quality, size, condition, defensibility and viability, among other factors.</p> <p>S-Rank point scale:  S1 or S2 = 10  S2S3 = 7  S3 = 5  S4 = 1.</p> <p>EO Rank point scale:  A or B = 20  BC = 10  C = 7  D = 1</p> <p>What is the primary natural community found on the parcel, the state rarity rank of the community type, and the significance (EO rank) of the specific <u>occurrence</u> of the community type? For this analysis, the "primary community" is the focal community for protection, not necessarily the largest or most prominent. For unranked community elements, such as most aquatic types, use S3.</p> <p>PRIMARY Natural community type: _____  S-Rank* ____ + EO Rank * ____ = ____ Primary score (30 max points)</p> <p>Bonus points may be awarded for parcels that contain multiple high quality natural community types and/or for lands that strengthen protection or restoration of community types on this or adjacent protected land.  List</p> <p align="right">_____ Bonus points (up to 10)</p>	<p align="center">40</p>		
---	--------------------------	--	--

**NCO Stewardship Grants Scoring and Ranking - 2016-2017  
NATURAL AREAS**

<p><b>5. Occurrence of Rare Species</b> (Rare species defined as those listed as state or federally endangered or threatened, or ranked S3 or rarer.)</p> <p>Rare species occurrence documented* on the <u>parcel within the past 20 years</u> <b>10 points</b></p> <p>Please list:</p> <p>Rare species documented in the vicinity (distance variable, depending on species mobility) of the parcel in the past 20 years AND <u>the parcel</u> either 1) currently provides viable habitat likely to support the species, or 2) viable habitat for the species will be restored as part of the LMP. <b>7 points</b></p> <p>Please list:</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Rare species documented in the vicinity within the past 20 years, but <u>the parcel</u> contains poor to marginal habitat for that species. <b>3 points</b></p> <p>Please list:</p> <p>____ SUBTOTAL (17 points maximum)</p> <p><small>**"Documented occurrence" means a rare species is catalogued in the NHI, or its presence is otherwise cited by a dependable source. In general, 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 would not score points here.</small></p> <p>Bonus points may be awarded for parcels protecting (but not limited to) the following: An exceptional population of a rare species, rare species habitat that is extremely limited in WI, an outstanding congregation of multiple rare species, WI or regionally endemic species, regionally disjunct species, designated critical habitat for federally listed species, or are part of a state or federal species recovery plan.</p> <p>____ BONUS POINTS (5-15 points)</p> <p>[Note: Bonus points may be awarded to bring the TOTAL point amount to 25 maximum.]</p>	<p align="center">25</p>		
---	--------------------------	--	--

**NCO Stewardship Grants Scoring and Ranking - 2016-2017  
NATURAL AREAS**

<p><b>6. Other Significant Features?</b>  A. Archaeological feature (e.g. effigy mound, midden, rock art, etc.): <b>2 points</b>  Please list:</p> <p>B. Unusual or significant geological formation (e.g. representative or outstanding example of a glacial landform, bedrock outcrop, algific talus slope, escarpment, dalles, etc.) <b>2 points</b>  Please list:</p> <p>C. Important animal species concentration site (e.g., bat or reptile hibernaculum, roost, rookery, mussel bed, etc): <b>4 points</b>  Please list</p>	8		
<p><b>7. Degree to which the Natural Values are Already Protected in Wisconsin.</b> For the <u>primary</u> natural community found on this parcel, to what degree are the known high-quality <u>sites</u>* containing this type currently protected as SNAs in Wisconsin? (<i>Applicants may not have access to the data needed to complete these questions. Applications will not be penalized for leaving this section blank.</i> )</p> <p>Community type: _____  _____ fewer than ~10% of known sites containing this type protected  <b>15 points</b>  _____ ~10-25% protected <b>12 points</b>  _____ ~26-75% protected <b>6 points</b>  _____ &gt;75% protected <b>0 points</b></p> <p><small>*per the SNA gap analysis and NHI Database</small></p>	15		
<p><b>8. "Irreplaceability Factor".</b> If the opportunity to protect the primary natural values of <u>this</u> parcel is lost, what are the ramifications for the conservation of these values on a statewide basis? <i>I.e.</i>, this parcel harbors values that are "unique" or exceptionally rare and failure to protect the parcel would result in the loss of these elements of biodiversity in the state.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The natural values exist on &lt; 10 other known sites in WI. <b>20 points</b></li> <li>• The natural values exist on ~10-25 other known sites. <b>15 points</b></li> <li>• The natural values exist on ~26-100 other known sites. <b>7 points</b></li> <li>• The natural values exist on &gt;100 other known sites. <b>0 points</b></li> </ul>	20		

**NCO Stewardship Grants Scoring and Ranking - 2016-2017  
NATURAL AREAS**

<p><b>9. Threats to Ecological Integrity</b></p> <p>A. Is the parcel threatened with permanent conversion to incompatible land use or are its natural values threatened with destruction if the parcel is not protected? Choose one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Likelihood natural values will be damaged in 0-4 years (e.g., parcel is developable and local market is present for that purpose (e.g. residential, frac sand, ag, etc.); offer on parcel made by a developer; timber sale slated, etc.) <b>6 points</b></li> <li>• Likelihood of damage , but &gt;4 years <b>4 points</b></li> <li>• No damage likely in foreseeable future <b>0 points</b></li> </ul> <p>B. Is the ecological integrity of the parcel threatened by invasive species, ecological succession (due to absence of fire, e.g.), or other natural threats? Choose one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Threat very high: natural values facing threat of significant damage from natural threats in next 2 years. <b>3 points</b></li> <li>• Threat high: likelihood of damage in 2 – 5 years <b>2 points</b></li> <li>• Threat moderate: likelihood of damage &gt; 5years <b>1 point</b></li> <li>• No identifiable threat <b>0 points</b></li> </ul> <p>C. Will the ecological integrity of adjacent, protected natural area lands be threatened if <u>this</u> parcel is not protected?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Threat very high; natural values of adjacent natural area lands face threat of significant damage in next 2 years if this parcel not protected. <b>2 points</b></li> <li>• Threat high; likelihood of damage to adjoining lands in 2-5 years <b>1 point</b></li> <li>• Threat low to unlikely, or there are no adjacent protected lands. <b>0 points</b></li> </ul>	11		
---	----	--	--

**NCO Stewardship Grants Scoring and Ranking - 2016-2017  
NATURAL AREAS**

<p><b>10. Alternative Protections.</b> Could the natural values on the parcel be adequately protected using tools other than acquisition? If yes to either, subtract points as listed.</p> <p>A. By applicable local and state regulation? Please list relevant regulations: <b>minus 2 points</b></p> <p>B. By land management agreement per an existing resource protection program? List program: <b>minus 2 points</b></p>	0		
<p><b>11. Other considerations</b></p> <p>A. To what degree would the acquisition of the parcel provide public access or increase public access to previously inaccessible lands (not including the parcel, itself)?</p> <p>    <input type="checkbox"/> Provides access to parcel and to nearby lands.      <b>2 points</b></p> <p>    <input type="checkbox"/> Provides access only to new parcel.                      <b>1 point</b></p> <p>B. Is parcel within a Conservation Opportunity Area identified in the <i>Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan</i>?</p> <p>    <input type="checkbox"/> Yes    <b>3 points</b></p> <p>    <input type="checkbox"/> No    <b>0 points</b></p> <p>C. Is parcel within an Important Bird Area?</p> <p>    <input type="checkbox"/> Yes    <b>3 points</b></p> <p>    <input type="checkbox"/> No    <b>0 points</b></p> <p>D. Does parcel provide linkage to other DNR lands or other protected land?</p> <p>    <input type="checkbox"/> Yes    <b>3 points</b></p> <p>    <input type="checkbox"/> No    <b>0 points</b></p>	11		

(end of Natural Area Criteria)

**NCO Stewardship Grants -- Scoring and Ranking- fy 2016-2017  
STREAM BANK PROTECTION**

Project Name:	Max Possible Points	Applicant Self Score	DNR Score
Applicant Name:	72		
<p><b>1. Degree to which the project will protect water quality and fish habitat.</b></p> <p>A. River or stream has high ecological importance: is classified as an exceptional warm water sport fish, Class I trout stream or as an <b>Exceptional</b> Resource Waters <b>15 points</b></p> <p>B. River or stream has good ecological importance or protects against an imminent threat to its ecological integrity: is classified as an <b>Outstanding</b> Resource Water way, or class II trout stream. <b>12 points</b></p> <p>C. River or stream has average ecological importance: is a class III trout stream or average or marginal warm-water sport fish class stream. <b>8 points</b></p> <p>D. River or stream has limited ecological importance: is stream with a aquatic life or a warm-water forage fish stream. <b>3 points</b></p> <p>E. River or stream is designated an impaired water, listed as 303d by the WI DNR. <b>0 points</b></p> <p>Data related to these criteria can be found on the surface water mapping tool on the DNR website: <a href="http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/surfacewater/swdv/">http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/surfacewater/swdv/</a></p>	15		
<p><b>Use this space to explain how are the water body protected by this parcel is designated or classified per question 1 above.</b></p>			
<p><b>2. Protection of endangered resources or rare habitat.</b></p> <p>A. 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. <b>3 points</b></p> <p>B. The property contains state or federal threatened or endangered species. <b>3 points</b></p> <p>Please list rare natural communities and/or species occurring:</p>	6		
<p><b>3. Parcel includes frontage on a state or federally designated Wild River. 5 points</b></p> <p>Please name the River:</p>	5		

**Comment [PJFF1]:** Exceptional and outstanding reversed – fix in FY 18

**NCO Stewardship Grants -- Scoring and Ranking- fy 2016-2017  
STREAM BANK PROTECTION**

<p><b>4. Potential threat from agriculture and urban runoff.</b> The project will provide for acquisition of lands where it can be documented that the lands are threatened by runoff.</p> <p>A. The parcel is developable and local market is present for that purpose (e.g. residential, industrial, frac sand extraction, timber sale, etc.) <b>4 points</b></p> <p>OR</p> <p>A. The property is listed on the open market or an offer has been made by a developer. <b>6 points</b></p> <p>OR</p> <p>B. The property is currently a working farm without any permanent riparian protection. "Working farm" is defined for the purposes of the question as land used for: crop or forage production, keeping of livestock, nursery or sod production, floriculture, aquaculture, Christmas tree farming or timber and forest products production. <b>6 points</b></p>	6		
<p><b>Use this space to describe the market circumstances or other information relevant to question 4 above.</b></p>			
<p><b>5. Critical drainage area protected?</b></p> <p>C. The proposed project includes and protects all the land within 66 feet of and on both sides of the river or stream. <b>4 points</b></p> <p>D. The proposed project includes and protects all the land within 66 feet of and on one side of the river or stream. <b>2 points</b></p>	4		
<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>A. Parcel includes ≥ 1 mile of frontage on a water body <b>10 points</b></p> <p>B. Parcel includes .5 – 1 mile of frontage on a water body <b>8 points</b></p> <p>C. Parcel includes .1 to .5 mile of frontage on a water body <b>5 points</b></p> <p>D. Parcel includes less than .1 mile of frontage <b>1 point</b></p>	10		
<p><b>7. Is the stream identified in the Department's streambank protection easement acquisition area?</b> <b>3 points</b></p>	3		

**NCO Stewardship Grants -- Scoring and Ranking- fy 2016-2017  
STREAM BANK PROTECTION**

<b>Relationship to conservation programs per chapter NR 51.63 (c)</b>			
<p><b>8 This property is enrolled in or part of one of the following plans or programs:</b> : [Maximum one point each.]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Conservation Reserve Program – 16 USC 3831 to 3836</li> <li>B. Land and Resource Management Planning program under s. 92.10, Wis. Stats.</li> <li>C. A Soil and Water Conservation Plan under s. 92.104, Wis. Stats.</li> <li>D. The soil and water resource management program under s. 92.14, Wis. Stats.</li> <li>E. The Priority Watershed Program Plan (nonpoint) under s. 281.65, Wis. Stats.</li> </ul> <p align="right"><b>4 points</b></p>	4		
<b>Additional factors</b>			
<p><b>9. Plans for Restoration and Improvements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Project management plans include restoration of badly eroded sections of stream bank. <b>1 point</b></li> <li>B. Project management plans include demolition or removal of impervious surfaces. <b>1 point</b></li> <li>C. Submitted Land Management Plan calls for restoration to improve fish habitat via measures NOT mentioned in A or B above. <b>1 point</b></li> </ul>	3		
Use this section to explain the points assigned for question 9 above:			
<p><b>10 Relationship to resource protection planning:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. This project will implement recommendations specifically described in two or more public or privately prepared resource protection plan that have been endorsed by DNR resource specialists. <b>4 points</b></li> </ul> <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>B. This project will implement recommendations specifically described in one public or privately prepared resource protection plan that has been endorsed by DNR resource specialists. <b>2 points</b></li> </ul>	4		
<p><b>11. Connectivity:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. This parcel is the first piece within a planned river protection corridor; is not immediately adjacent to another protected parcel. <b>3 points</b></li> <li>B. This parcel is extending a currently protected area in the river corridor. <b>6 points</b></li> <li>C. This parcel connects 2 previously protected parcels. <b>9 points</b></li> </ul>	9		
<p><b>12. Access:</b> This parcel will create new public access to a river or stream (this point is not for creating new access via the river corridor itself, rather new access to the river or stream from publicly accessible lands or a public road). <b>3 points</b></p> <p>Pease describe:</p>	3		

(end of Streambank Protection criteria)

**NCO Stewardship Grants - Scoring and Ranking fy 2016-2017**  
STATE TRAILS

Project Name:	Max Possible Points	Applicant Self Score	DNR Score
Applicant Name:	85		
<p><b>Gateway Questions: Answers to the following questions must be “yes” to proceed.</b></p> <p>1. Is the subject parcel to be part of a designated a “State Trail” by the legislature or the DNR under ch. NR 51.73, Wis Adm. Code?</p>	If “no,” project ineligible		
<p><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.</p>	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>A. <b>Trails system benefitting:</b> Is the trail is 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. <b>15 points</b></p> <p>AND – chose the most applicable of one of the following:</p> <p>B. <b>Consistency with existing land use plans:</b> Is the project identified in the State Trail Network Plan? <b>10 points</b></p> <p>OR</p> <p>C. Is the trail is referenced in the County’s Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, Open Space Plan, Green Space plan or equivalent publically adopted land use plan? <b>8 points</b></p> <p>OR</p> <p>D. Is the trail is referenced in local or municipal land use plans. <b>3 points</b></p>	25		
<p><b>2. Is the subject parcel likely to be converted to uses incompatible with trail use?</b></p> <p>A. The subject property is listed on the market or an offer has been made by buyer who will not allow trail corridor <b>6 points</b></p> <p>OR</p> <p>B. The subject property can be divided under the current land use plan. <b>3 points</b></p>	6		

**NCO Stewardship Grants - Scoring and Ranking fy 2016-2017**  
STATE TRAILS

<p><b>3. Connectivity</b></p> <p>A. The subject parcel will create or improve connections between existing segments of public trails with similar uses. <b>9 points</b></p> <p>B. 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 this project will link). <b>6 points</b></p> <p>C. The subject parcel will create or improve links between existing parks or trails or to a city center or other recreational sites. <b>3 points</b></p> <p>OR</p> <p>D. 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). <b>3 points</b></p> <p>E. The subject parcel will provide public access to a currently landlocked parcel. (Note: it is not possible to get both 9 points for A above and 3 points for question E). <b>3 points</b></p>	18		
<p><b>4. Trail Corridor Improvement</b> The subject parcel will replace an on-road section of trail with an off-road section of trail. <b>3 points</b></p>	3		
<p><b>5. Length of Trail</b></p> <p>A. The subject parcel will create or improve access to a trail project that will provide less than 1 miles of contiguous trail. <b>1 point</b></p> <p>B. The subject parcel will create or improve access to a trail project that will provide between 1 and 5 miles of contiguous trail. <b>3 points</b></p> <p>C. The subject parcel will create or improve access to a trail project that will provide more than five miles of contiguous trail. <b>6 points</b></p>	6		
<p><b>6. Number of Allowable Uses</b> - The questions below are relevant to four common, non-motorized trail uses: hiking, skiing, equestrian use, and bicycling.</p> <p>A. Trail will provide access for 3 or 4 recreational uses <b>9 points</b></p> <p>B. Trail will provide access for 2 recreational uses. <b>6 points</b></p> <p>C. Trail will provide access for 1 recreational use. <b>3 points</b></p>	9		
<p><b>7. Redevelopment:</b> Project is related to brownfield redevelopment as defined in s. 23.09(19)(a) 1., Wis. Stats. <b>3 points</b></p>	3		

**NCO Stewardship Grants - Scoring and Ranking fy 2016-2017**  
STATE TRAILS

<p><b>8. 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:</p> <p>A. Protect state or federal threatened or endangered species or species of special concern? <b>2 points</b></p> <p>B. Preserve an identified archeological or historical site? <b>2 points</b></p> <p>C. Preserve unique geological or physical characteristics (e.g. unique rock outcroppings, glacial features, etc.)? <b>2 points</b></p>	6		
<p><b>9. Location &amp; Population Served:</b> As informed by zones A – E on the map, "DNR Managed Lands and their Proximity to People" This map is available on line <a href="http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Stewardship/Grants/Forms.html">http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Stewardship/Grants/Forms.html</a></p> <p>A. Project is located in Zone A or B <b>9 points</b></p> <p>B. Project is located in Zone C or D <b>6 points</b></p> <p>C. Project is located in Zone E <b>3 points</b></p>	9		

(end of State Trail Criteria)

EXAMPLE

## Stewardship Grants to NCOs – Project Selection Process

Grants staff will scoring and ranking process when evaluating Stewardship grant applications submitted by nonprofit conservation organizations (NCO). 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.

**Note:** Copies of application forms and instructions are available from the DNR, Bureau of Community Assistance, Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707.

(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 that begins the following July 1 <sup>st</sup> .
<b>Scoring</b>	Projects will be scored by regional 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 and to maximize award of high-scoring projects in all subprograms.
<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-sharing is available to award because that is all that remains in the subprogram, those remaining funds will be offered to the next highest-ranked applicant and the applicant will decide whether to 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.

### Stewardship Grants to NCOs – Project Selection Process

<b>Unsuccessful Applicants</b>	Sponsors of eligible by unfunded applications will have the option to: (a) Request that their application to be considered as-is during the next grant cycle, or (b) Reapply at a later date.
<b>Funds Not Awarded</b>	If all funds allocated to a particular subprogram are not awarded during an evaluation process for whatever reason, the remaining balance in that subprogram becomes available for award to other 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>
<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>
<b>Adjustments to Fund Partitioning</b>	There may be times when an application of extraordinary importance is submitted, funds within the subprogram are insufficient to make a 50% cost-sharing award to that project, and the project cannot be completed with less than 50% assistance from the Stewardship Program. In such cases, the Department may choose to adjust the procedure above and alter the percent of available funds attributed to each subprogram with the goal of making sufficient funds available to award to the extraordinary application. In such a circumstance, the Department will seek concurrence from the Stewardship Advisory Council and approval of the Natural Resources Board before deviating from the approved allocation plan.
<b>Borrowing Ahead</b>	There may be times when several applications of extraordinary importance are submitted but funds within one or more subprograms are insufficient to make a 50% cost-sharing award to those projects. In such cases, the Department may choose to commit funds from the coming fiscal year, following the procedures outlined in s. 23.0917(5), Wis. Stats., with the goal of having sufficient funds available to award to the extraordinary applications. In such a circumstance, the Department will seek concurrence from the Stewardship Advisory Council and approval of the Natural Resources Board before borrowing ahead.