

**Land and Water Conservation Fund
FY 2000**

1. Program Guidance

- Land acquisition project priorities will be determined using the enclosed ranking criteria.
- Unobligated project funds will carryover and remain with the project until completion or until the project is no longer feasible.
- Emphasis will be placed on completing existing projects, on use of land exchange, and on the contribution of leveraged acquisition and/or management funds from non-BLM sources.
- Concerns about the effect of land acquisition on the local economy is an issue in some areas. Be sensitive to securing local support and look to options to fee purchase where appropriate. Although LWCF funds can be used to process land exchanges and/or purchase conservation easements, costs associated with these less than fee acquisitions can be funded by other "resource" accounts.
- No acquisitions can be completed until hazardous materials examinations have been performed and any cleanup costs approved.
- The LWCF Act is a funding authority only, not an acquisition authority. All acquisitions must be completed in accordance with existing authority and land use plans.
- LWCF funding cannot be used for construction on the acquired lands or interest therein after the acquisition.
- LWCF funding may be used for acquisition by purchase (fee or less than fee), exchange or costs associated with donation. However, lands conveyed from state government or a political subdivision may only be acquired by donation or exchange.
- All acquisitions must be voluntary unless condemnation is authorized by the legislation governing the project.
- Purchases cannot exceed fair market value without prior approval of Congress.
- Project funds can only be spent acquiring lands within or adjacent to the project boundary.
- Guidance for the use of LWCF funds is provided by Washington Office Instruction Memorandum 92-44 and Information Bulletin 97-96.

2. Submission Requirements

Documents must be prepared in WordPerfect 6.0. Use the attached formats exactly.

A. PROJECTS

There are no State cost targets for LWCF projects. Funding will depend on how well projects rank in comparison with those submitted by other states using Departmental and Bureauwide criteria and priorities. Each project submitted must include a completed Departmental ranking sheet, a narrative and fact sheet, BLM supplemental ranking sheet, color photographs, and a map. It is important to prepare these documents so they can be reproduced on 8 1/2" X 11" paper for placement in binders. Prepare the following for each project and

submit seven color copies of each photo page and map:

1). Departmental Ranking Sheet

Complete a project ranking sheet for each project submitted. Use the criteria and instructions contained beginning on page 5.

2). Narrative and Fact Sheet

Two support documents are needed for each project. The first is a one-page narrative detailing the request for FY2000 funds. The second document is a fact sheet which provides comprehensive information for the entire project, including estimated management costs after acquisition has occurred. Complete a narrative sheet as it appears on page 7 (sample shown on page 8). Complete a fact sheet as it appears on page 9 (sample shown on pages 10 and 11). Your submission should also be provided to your state budget officer for inclusion with the state SBP submission.

Items to consider in the one-page narrative are:

Type of designation if in specially designated area.

Discuss important resources.

Why is it important for these lands to be in Federal ownership.

Outside interest and support.

Major contributors or partners.

Resources and concerns of national or statewide significance.

Management goals for the project area.

Major initiatives acquisition supports (Recreation 2000, Fish & Wildlife 2000, etc).

When estimating project costs include both direct costs and processing costs.

Direct costs include consideration for the lands involved. Processing costs are project related work month costs, contracting costs and other costs associated with completing resource evaluations, title examination, appraisal, hazardous materials inventory, closing, tenant relocation, etc.

3). BLM Supplemental Ranking Criteria

Complete the ranking sheet as it appears on page 12 (sample shown on page 13)

4). Photographs

One or two pages of color photographs, neatly mounted with typed captions, showing a representative view of the project are preferred.

5). Map

Submit one color map for each project area. If possible, the 1:100,000 scale color surface ownership maps are preferred. Where the project size creates a multiple map requirement at that scale, use a 1:1,000,000 scale color surface ownership map. Assure that a locator exists showing where the project is located within the state along with a legend depicting the various ownerships.

Do not fold maps.

B. ACQUISITION MANAGEMENT

Emphasis continues to be placed on land exchanges as an alternative to direct purchase. It is appropriate to propose exchanges using acquisition management (3130) funds. Your proposals should identify resource values to be acquired as well as the funding level required for oversight, management and training in support of the overall LWCF program.

Traditional allocations of acquisition management (3130) funds are being carefully reviewed. States with growing acquisition management carryover balances may receive reduced allocations.

Procedure for Compiling Federal Land Acquisition Priority List

I. Minimum requirements (must be met in all cases):

1. The property is (a) within the boundaries of an existing Federal conservation/recreation unit, if such boundaries are set by statute; or (b) contiguous with property now comprising a Federal conservation/recreation unit, if the unit's boundaries are administratively determined; or (c) the initial "building block" of a newly authorized Federal conservation/recreation unit.
2. The property presents no known health/safety/liability problems (e.g., hazardous waste contamination, unsafe structures).
3. There is no current indication of opposition from current owner(s) to Federal acquisition of the property (condemnations may be necessary in rare instances).
4. The cost of infrastructure necessary to make the property accessible, safe, and usable by the general public does not exceed 10 percent of the estimated purchase price.

II. Ranking Criteria

Each potential acquisition which meets the minimum criteria is then scored by summing points it receives from meeting one or more of the following "ranking criteria". The indicated number of points is awarded if the proposed acquisition would meet the definitions of each criterion listed below. (See instructions beginning on page 5).

Criterion

- 1.a. Prevent *imminent* (within 2-3 years) property development that is determined by the State Director to be incompatible with the affected unit's authorized purpose(s). **50 points**
- b. Prevent *short-to-medium term* (within 4-8 years) property development that is determined by the Secretary to be incompatible with the affected unit's authorized purpose(s). **25 points**
- 2.a. Provide multiple recreation opportunities and is within a county with a population of one million or more. **80 points**
- b. Provide multiple recreation opportunities within 100 miles of a Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA). **50 points**
- c. Provide *multiple* recreation opportunities between 100 and 250 miles of a SMSA. **35 points**
- d. Provide limited recreation opportunities within 100 miles of a SMSA. **35 points**
- e. Provide limited recreation opportunities between 100 and 250 miles of a SMSA. **20 points**
- 3.a. Preserve habitat of endangered species. **40 points**
- b. Preserve habitat of threatened species. **30 points**
- c. Preserve a recognized type of ecological community, for the purpose of promoting natural diversity. **20 points**
4. Preserve a nationally-significant natural or cultural feature of a type not now represented in any Federal conservation/recreation unit. **40 points**

- 5.a. The principal benefit to be derived from the acquisition is its wetlands characteristics as defined in the Emergency Wetlands Act of 1986. **80 points**
- b. The property contains a wetland or riparian area that is relatively scarce or unique. **60 points**
- c. The property contains a wetland or riparian area that while not scarce or unique nevertheless provides substantial public benefit. **40 points**
- 6.a. Includes existing infrastructure required to make property accessible to and usable by the general public *and* by elderly/handicapped citizens. **40 points**
- b. Includes existing infrastructure required to make property accessible to and usable by the general public, *but not* by elderly/handicapped citizens. **20 points**
7. Expands a unit with a record of visitor-day growth exceeding 5 percent per year in at least a three of the five prior years. **20 points**
8. Improves manageability and efficiency of a unit. **20 points**
9. Results in Federal savings in acquisition costs through the use of land exchange, donation, and other alternatives to the direct purchase of a property at full value. Add *five points* for each estimated 20 percent savings in Federal acquisition costs up to a maximum of 25 points. **5-25 points**
10. Involves Federal acquisition of less than full fee title to the property (e.g., purchase of scenic or conservation easements). **10 points**
11. Involves significant non-Federal partnership. For each non-Federal partner (State, local, private) contributing significant resources ("significant" - at least 25 percent of acquisition, development, or management dollars), add *5 points*, up to a maximum of 15 points. **5-15 points**
12. Provides a Federal land management agency with an opportunity judged by the appropriate Assistant Secretary to be necessary to substantially further the goals of a Presidential, Departmental, or Bureau MBO and to be essential to the fulfillment of the Agency's mission. (Each agency will rank their 20 highest priority projects which implement their MBO's and mission in descending order. The first priority project will be awarded 150 points, the second 142.5, the third 135, and so on). **7.5-150 points**

Ranking criteria listed under a single number (e.g., "1.a.", "1.b.") are mutually exclusive; points may not be awarded for more than one. For example, a proposed acquisition may score 40 points for meeting criterion 3.a., but cannot score 70 points for meeting both criteria 3.a. and 3.b. Each property proposed for acquisition would normally be scored separately. However, if several related properties were proposed for purchase as a group to optimize use of funds, the group could be assigned a composite score (e.g., the criteria could be applied and a score assigned to the Forest Service Lake Tahoe project or the Park Service Santa Monica Mountains project as a whole).

**Departmental LWCF Project Ranking
Criteria/Instructions**

I. Minimum Requirements

- 1 Show type of designation under A, B, or C.
- 2-4 Check if minimal requirements are met. If met, rank the project under the following criteria.

II. Ranking Criteria

- 1 A or B. Show type of potential development/damage.
- 2 A - E. Use current census and SMSA map. Show the name of the city designated as an SMSA.
Use the nearest boundary of the county in which the city is located in determining the distance from the project area.
- 3 List the threatened or endangered species (Federal List).
- 4 To receive points the project must be a "one-of-a-kind." (e.g. No points are provided if the project is another wild and scenic river, historic trail etc.). Describe the unique feature.
- 5 Consult the RMP for Wetland/Riparian values and review the 1986 Emergency Wetlands Act for characteristics.
- 6 Points are provided if the project is currently useable by either the handicapped or the general public without improvements.
- 7 Use an estimate based on similar sites if specific data is not available.
- 8 No points are available for new projects located entirely on non-Federal land.
- 9 This criterion relates Federal expenditures to the fair market values of the property. For example, if almost one half of the property value (not number of tracts) can be acquired by exchange or donation (rather than purchase), 10 points would be available.
- 10 Points are available if any acquisition in the project is for a less than fee title interest (ie conservation easement).
- 11 Each non-Federal partner must contribute at least 25 percent of the cost in order to receive points.
Identify the partner.
- 12 List the primary initiative (ie Recreation 2000). Headquarters will evaluate all projects under this criterion and assign the points.

III. General

- 1 Fill out a ranking sheet for each project.
- 2 Only one alpha factor may be used for a single numbered criteria ex: 2a, not 2a and b.
- 3 Use N/A if criteria does not apply.
- 4 Provide name and title of preparer.

5 Rank projects in State priority order on bottom line of form.
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT Evaluator:

**Land and Water Conservation Fund
 FY 2000 Departmental Ranking Sheet**

Title:

<i>I . MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS</i>			
1A			
1B			
1C			
2			
3			
4			
<i>II. RANKING CRITERIA</i>			
	Narrative	Points Available	Allocated
1A		(50)	
1B		(25)	
2A		(80)	
2B		(50)	
2C		(35)	
2D		(35)	
2E		(20)	
3A		(40)	
3B		(30)	
3C		(20)	
4		(40)	
5A		(80)	
5B		(60)	
5C		(40)	
6A		(40)	
6B		(20)	
7		(20)	
8		(20)	
9		(5-25)	
10		(10)	

11		(5-25)	
TOTAL POINTS (Items 1-11)			
12	Bureauwide Priority / (Completed by WO)	(7.5-150)	
III. STATE DIRECTOR'S PRIORITY RANKING			

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT - Narrative

Project Name

STATE		County		Congressional District __	
	To Date	FY 2000	Acquisition Total	Estimated out year costs/yr (development, O&M, etc.)	Total (over 10 yrs)
Cost	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Acres				N/A	
<p><i>Location:</i></p> <p><i>Purpose:</i></p> <p><i>Acquisition Opportunities:</i></p> <p><i>Other Cooperators:</i></p> <p><i>Project Description:</i></p>					

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT - Narrative

King Range National Conservation Area

CALIFORNIA		Humboldt and Mendocino Counties		Congressional District 1	
	To Date	FY 2000	Acquisition Total	Estimated out year costs/yr (development, O&M, etc.)	Total (over 10 yrs)
Cost	\$7,690	\$750,000	\$16,000,000	\$250,000	\$18,500,000
Acres	13,594 ¹	265	17,034 ²	N/A	17,034

Location: Northern California coast, 185 miles north of San Francisco, 50 miles south of Eureka.

Purpose: Inholding acquisition within the designated boundary of King Range National Conservation Area. Provides diverse recreational opportunities and habitat for multiple T&E species.

Acquisition Opportunities: Sought-after beachfront and western slope tracts facing primitive rural residential development.

Other Cooperators: The American Land Conservancy and Mill Creek Conservancy.

Project Description: A breath-taking seashore bounded by forested mountains, the largest stretch of pristine beach along California's northern Pacific Coast, and sharply defined canyons cut by roaring creeks and rivers make up the rugged terrain of the 50,000-acre King Range National Conservation Area (NCA). Rising abruptly from the ocean beach to 4,100 feet within three miles of the shoreline, King Range was the first Congressionally-established National Conservation Area.

The 26 miles of untouched coastline within the NCA support numerous biological resources. This wide variety of habitats provide niches for 31 species of reptiles, 75 terrestrial and marine mammals, and 258 species of birds. Colonies of nesting seabirds cling to nearby rocks along with large numbers of seals and sea lions. The rare beach layia decorates the King Range beach line, and three pristine tidepools add to the shoreline's treasures. Steelhead, silver, and king salmon use the upland streams for spawning and rearing. Old growth stands of Douglas fir are prime habitat for the threatened northern spotted owl and marbled murrelet. Several endangered bald eagles winter in the area as well.

Recent contacts with landowners have presented BLM with its first sincere opportunity in five years to acquire key tracts on the western slope of King Range. Acquisition of these parcels is crucial in avoiding severe impacts from their development and would enhance the BLM's ability to manage the lands for recreation and other resource values. Two of these parcels contain beach/ocean frontage, adding significantly to the integrity of the shoreline and the uninterrupted completion of the Lost Coast National Recreation Trail.

¹ Does not include 48 acquisitions by land exchange (12,526 acres valued@ \$21,144,000)

² Land exchange may be used to acquire a portion of this acreage

LAND ACQUISITION

BLM Administrative Unit:

BUREAU: Bureau of Land Management

Purpose/Program

Owner's name	
Resource threat	
Land exchange alternatives	
Inholding?	
Appraisal done? Value?	
Plans for project area? Infrastructure?	
Hazardous material evaluation done?	
Resource rehabilitation or restoration projects? Cost?	
Can funds be obligated in the FY?	

Authorization

- Is acquisition authorized?
- What is authorized ceiling?
- Is proposal within authorized ceiling?
- How much has been appropriated to date (vis-a-vis ceiling)?
- Is acquisition within the boundary?

Funding

President's Budget Request? \$
 Is budget amount for same purpose? Yes No
 Appropriations to date? \$
 Current unobligated balance as of _____ \$
 Plans to use unobligated balances

Acquisition Status	Tracts	Acres	Cost	Cost/Acre
Purchases thru FY 1998	_____	_____	_____	_____
Scheduled for FY 1999	_____	_____	_____	_____
Planned for FY 2000	_____	_____	_____	_____
Remaining to be Acquired	_____	_____	_____	_____

LAND ACQUISITION

BLM Administrative Unit:

BUREAU: Bureau of Land Management

Arcata Field Office

Purpose/Program

Owner's name	Multiple.
Resource threat	Rural residential development.
Land exchange alternatives	48 previous exchanges have diminished available federal land base in the two counties; owners do not want to exchange.
Inholding?	Yes.
Appraisal done? Value?	Appraisals are done as parcels are identified for acquisition; estimated values range from \$4,000-\$10,000/acre.
Plans for project area? Infrastructure?	Provide multiple recreation opportunities, facilities, and access; management for T&E species and other wildlife. Most infrastructure in place; trailhead for south end of NCA and Lost Coast Trail planned.
Hazardous material evaluation done?	No. Surveys completed upon identification of parcels for acquisition.
Resource rehabilitation or restoration projects? Cost?	None.
Can funds be obligated in the FY?	Yes.

Authorization

Is acquisition authorized? Yes; P.L. 91-476 (King Range Act),
 FLPMA
 What is authorized ceiling? \$6,500,000
 Is proposal within authorized ceiling? N/A
 How much has been appropriated to date (vis-a-vis ceiling)? \$1,189,635 in Congressional appropriations over ceiling
 Is acquisition within the boundary? Yes

Funding

President's Budget Request? \$750,000 (FY99)
 Is budget amount for same purpose? Yes
 Appropriations to date? \$7,689,635
 Current unobligated balance as of 04/01/98 \$100,500
 Plans to use unobligated balances Continue purchases/exchanges

Acquisition Status	Tracts	Acres	Cost	Cost/Acre
Purchases thru FY 1998	120	26,120	\$8,500,00 0	\$10,000
Scheduled for FY 1999	2	100	\$800,000	\$10,000
Planned for FY 2000	4	85	\$750,000	\$10,000
Remaining to be Acquired	32	3,255	\$5,050,00 0	\$10,000

LAND ACQUISITION

BUREAU: Bureau of Land Management

Criteria Definition

1 Threat to Ecosystem Values (Indicate YES or NO)
Is the property facing imminent (2 years) threat of development, subdivision, etc. which would be incompatible with the affected units authorized purposes(s)?

Briefly explain:

2 Political Support (Local/National) / (Indicate YES or NO)
Is there significant local national, constituent and representative support?

Briefly explain:

3 Threatened and Endangered Species - Seasonal/Resident: (Indicate YES or NO)
Does the property provide exclusive, year-round habitat to a nominated, candidate or listed species? Is the species animal or plant?

Briefly explain:

4 Existing Project vs. new Project: (Indicate YES or NO)
Has this project ever received a LWCF appropriation?

Briefly explain:

5 Acquisition Partnerships: (Indicate YES or NO)
Has this property been optioned or purchased by a third party nonprofit for resale to the BLM, by a prior mutual agreement?

Briefly explain:

6 Is parcel within a Congressionally-designated "Special Areas": (Indicate YES or NO)

Name of area:

7 Is the property within one of the following Departmental Priority Ecosystems? (Indicate YES or NO). (If YES, check as appropriate)

- Desert Tortoise Planning Area (AZ, CA, NV and UT)
- Greater Yellowstone (ID, MT, UT and WY)
- Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Name:

- California Natural Communities Conservation Planning Area of Southern
- Pacific Northwest (Northern CA/ID, OR and WA)

LAND ACQUISITION

BUREAU: Bureau of Land Management

Criteria Definition

1 Threat to Ecosystem Values (YES)
Is the property facing imminent (2 years) threat of development, subdivision, etc. which would be incompatible with the affected units authorized purposes(s)?

Briefly explain: Rural residential development on parcels is incompatible with management prescriptions in King Range NCA Management Plan.

2 Political Support (Local/National) / (YES)
Is there significant local national, constituent and representative support?

Briefly explain: The King Range NCA is a well-received conservation area in Northern California; well supported by both local and national political organizations and by local communities.

3 Threatened and Endangered Species - Seasonal/Resident (YES)
Does the property provide exclusive, year-round habitat to a nominated, candidate or listed species? Is the species animal or plant?

Briefly explain: Animal and plant T&E species.

4 Existing Project vs. new Project: (YES)
Has this project ever received a LWCF appropriation?

Briefly explain:

5 Acquisition Partnerships: (YES)
Has this property been optioned or purchased by a third party nonprofit for resale to the BLM, by a prior mutual agreement?

Briefly explain:

6 Is parcel within a Congressionally-designated "Special Areas": (YES)

Name of area: King Range National Conservation Area

7 Is the property within one of the following Departmental Priority Ecosystems?
(NO). (If YES, check as appropriate)

- Desert Tortoise Planning Area (AZ, CA, NV and UT)
- Greater Yellowstone (ID, MT, UT and WY)
- Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Name:

California _____ Natural Communities Conservation Planning Area of Southern
_____ Pacific Northwest (Northern CA/ID, OR and WA)