

CONSOLIDATED REVISED ROUND 15 RANKING CRITERIA
Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA)

The ranking criteria that follow for the Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas; Capital Improvements; Conservation Initiatives; Environmentally Sensitive Land Acquisitions; Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention; and the Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project categories were approved by SNPLMA Executive Committee during a meeting on August 6, 2014, for use during the Round 15 nominations for expenditure of funds in the SNPLMA Special Account.

All of the above named categories as well as the Clark County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan and Implementation (MSHCP) are eligible to nominate projects in Round 15. The Subgroup for each project category, except the Clark County MSHCP, reviews, scores and ranks the nominations according to these approved criteria. The MSHCP category ranking process is managed by Clark County according to a process outlined in a SNPLMA Executive Committee decision memorandum dated August 10, 2010, which amended the *SNPLMA Implementation Agreement*.

PARK, TRAIL, AND NATURAL AREA CRITERIA

Respond to each of the following criteria in the order provided below. These criteria will be used by the PTNA Subgroup to evaluate, score and rank project nominations. Applicants must respond to each criterion. If a factor does not apply respond with N/A. The total points available for each criterion are shown to the right. Ranking criteria scoring is on a sliding scale.

Point value for assessment questions is provided for information purposes only in order to reinforce the importance of addressing each factor. Nominating entities are not to assign a point value to their responses.

Demand: Provides a new or improves an existing park, trail, or natural area to meet the demands and changing demographics of residents and visitors.

Factors:

A. The project serves communities or identified populations within communities that have been traditionally and historically underserved in the provision of parks, trails, and natural areas facilities and services.	5
B. The project meets the needs of communities which have faced social/economic barriers that have limited their access or connectivity to healthy natural environments.	5
C. The project is unique and/or significant to the region it is or will be established in.	5
D. The project addresses, remedies or improves public health and safety concern(s).	5
Total	20

Resources: Protects or improves the integrity of resources (community, cultural, educational, environmental, historical, open space, and recreational) while addressing the quality of the human experience.

Factors:

A. The project enhances community, cultural, educational, environmental, historical, open space, and recreational resources.	5
B. The project helps protect existing parks, trails and natural areas, or other natural/cultural resources, particularly where urgent action is required.	5
C. The project utilizes a sustainable design, particularly with regard to the conservation of energy, water and materials.	5
D. The project protects and enhances the quality of the human experience by fostering an interaction with an increased understanding and appreciation of the natural environment.	5
Total	20

Connectivity: Promotes connectivity that links people to nature and to recreational opportunities, and unites important places across the landscape.

Factors:

A. The project enhances physical connectivity or access to or within a regional/local park, trail, or natural area, and/or federal lands.	5
B. The park, trail, or natural area is part of an approved regional or local plan. (If no formal regional/local approved plan describes the planning process.)	5
C. The project is integral in creating a comprehensive system of parks, trails and	5

natural areas.	
D. The project serves as an educational/interpretive bridge to connect people to the outdoors.	5
Total	20

Cost and Value of Investment: Evaluates, describes and considers the costs and benefits of the project.

Factors:

A. The projected deliverables, budget, associated costs, and phasing considerations of the proposal are stated and justified.	5
B. Public demand/use vs. investment required (i.e., service area/radius, communities benefited) is reasonable and is clearly identified.	5
C. The design or approach of the project minimizes future maintenance and/or replacement costs to the extent possible for the type of project.	5
D. Has identified committed non-SNPLMA sources of funding or in-kind contribution in the development and/or implementation of the project (i.e., financial, volunteerism).	5
Total	20
Grand Total	80

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT RANKING CRITERIA

Representative: _____ Agency: _____

Nomination Title: _____

Tab #: _____

Projects must be consistent with the SNPLMA program’s vision, mission, and goals associated with connecting people to the outdoors and conserving public lands while ensuring the projects’ fiscal sustainability.

The following criteria will be used by the subgroup to evaluate, score, and rank all nominations in the Capital Improvement category. The total points available are shown to the right of the criteria. The factors used to score the criteria are listed below it with the points available for each factor. Unless stated below the factor, scoring is not on a sliding scale.

<p>1. SUSTAINABILITY: The project promotes sustainability by conserving resources to ensure availability to future generations, or restores or maintains natural processes. The project will remain relevant and continue to provide a benefit in the face of changing demographics and/or environmental conditions. The project minimizes the human impact on the environment. <i>(Factors (A or B) + C + D = total points)</i></p>	<p>Points = XX (max possible points = 23)</p>
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Factors:

A. Conserves the quality of the outdoor environment and mitigates future potential negative impacts by conserving, preserving, or protecting the natural and/or cultural resources of the project area.	10	
B Enhances or Restores the quality of the outdoor environment by reducing or eliminating existing impacts to the natural and/or cultural resources of the project area.	10	
C Project will enhance stewardship and shared support for the operations and maintenance over the life of the project. <i>(must show financial support and/or in-kind support)</i>	5	
D Project employs sustainable or “green construction” practices using recycled or renewable materials, improves energy efficiency or utilizes low-maintenance products in construction. Conserves resources during the manufacture and life-cycle of the project	8	
Total		

<p>2. CONNECTIVITY: The project provides recreational opportunities that link population centers, recreation facilities and natural landscapes. It encourages people to meaningfully connect with their natural environment, thus helping them appreciate and care for the environment. <i>(Factors A or B + C = total points)</i></p>	<p>Points = XX (max possible points = 20)</p>
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Factors:

A. Project provides access and/or amenities to previously undeveloped recreation areas and/or new recreation opportunities to enjoy the public lands. <i>(i.e., trails, kiosks with location maps and site information, parking, way-finding, restrooms, day or overnight camping, etc.)</i>	10	
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B.	Project improves access to previously developed recreation areas and sites on the public lands and/or upgrades site amenities. <i>(i.e., trails, kiosks with location maps and site information, parking, way-finding, restrooms, day or overnight camping, etc.)</i>	5	
C.	Project contains an outreach and education component to improve public awareness and engage the public in the conservation and protection of the surrounding natural environment through the use of resource interpretation (information signage, kiosks, educational programs etc.) (This factor <u>only</u> is scored on a sliding scale from 0 to 10)	10	
Total			

3. COMMUNITY: This project provides outdoor recreation opportunities to improve the quality of life, especially for underserved communities. It conserves or restores the functionality, resiliency, and integrity of biological communities. The project encourages partnerships, which in turn also builds community. <i>(Factors A + B + C = total points)</i>	Points = XX (max possible points = 25)
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Factors:

A.	Project provides new or enhances existing recreation opportunities for under-served or under-represented communities that cannot be addressed or met with current funding. <i>(Must be sustainable – see criteria #1)</i>	10	
B.	Project has identified committed non-SNPLMA sources of funding or in-kind contribution for the development of the project. <i>(see below for in-kind or volunteer hours calculation)</i>	5	
C.	Project has identified committed non-SNPLMA sources of funding or in-kind contribution for the implementation of the project. (10 pts. for project that engages the public in the conservation and protection of the surrounding natural environment through use of volunteer/stewardship resources)	10	
Total			

(3.C.) Volunteer labor, professional services, or contributed material and equipment may comprise a significant portion of the in-kind match for SNPLMA-funded projects. Project nominations that have identified in-kind contributions must submit a breakdown of the valuation of these contributions. The breakdown of these contributions may include:

- 1) Volunteer labor - valuation to be computed at the rate used by the Department of the Interior, which is currently \$21.36 per hour.
- 2) Salaried employees - actual hourly rate plus the value of any fringe benefits received.
- 3) Actual costs for material, equipment and supplies should be used. (Overhead costs may not be included in determining in-kind contributions).

4. Addresses maintenance and operation costs. <u>Score only for one of the three factors</u>	Max Points = 10
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Factors:

A.	Operations and Maintenance costs will be reduced. <i>Factor A is scored on a sliding scale: 6 points for short-term up to 10 points for long-term reduction to operations and maintenance cost</i>	10	
B.	Operations and Maintenance costs will remain the same.	5	

C. Operations and Maintenance costs will increase, but the project will improve an existing situation or address an immediate health or safety issue.	0	
Total		

CONSERVATION INITIATIVES RANKING CRITERIA

Ranking Criteria: Priorities identified in the Strategic Plan or Implementation Agreement, or developed by the Subgroup	
	TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE
1. Project supports one of the three priority types of projects: <i>(Points should be awarded on a scale of 0-10.)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Habitat Enhancementb. Cultural Resourcesc. Safety and Public Health	10
2. Project includes public outreach/education as a component –examples could include, but are not limited to: Volunteer/Partnership Coordination, Youth Initiatives-Teach the Teachers, Mobile Models, Make the Classroom/Lessons Accessible, Off Highway Vehicle Impacts, Water Conservation, projects that facilitate getting youth into the environment-i.e., Hands on the Land, or projects that incorporate modern outreach efforts and techniques using social media platforms. <i>(Points should be awarded on a scale of 0-5.)</i>	5

<p>3. Project supports 1 of the 20 priority sub-types of projects: <i>(Factors a-b are mutually exclusive. If the project supports more than one priority sub-type, award points based on the primary priority sub-type. This list is not all inclusive, but gives priority to projects that leave a legacy on the landscape and those that are important to program partners.)</i></p> <p>a. Project supports any of the priority sub-types – 10 pts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Cultural – Protection/Site Stewards</i> 2. <i>Habitat Enhancement – Endangered Species</i> 3. <i>Safety and Public Health – AML Reclamation with habitat restoration component</i> 4. <i>Habitat Enhancement – Proactive Steps to Prevent Listing</i> 5. <i>Habitat Enhancement – Invasive Species Treatment and/or Control (Plant or Animal)</i> 6. <i>Habitat Enhancement – Restoration of Habitat for Sensitive Species at the watershed or landscape level</i> 7. <i>Cultural – Restoration/Stabilization</i> 8. <i>Safety and Public Health – Litter/Dumping Clean-up</i> 9. <i>Cultural – project includes tribal involvement and/or consultation</i> 10. <i>Habitat enhancement-project addresses climate change</i> 11. <i>Habitat Enhancement – Water Quality and Quantity Monitoring</i> 12. <i>Habitat Enhancement – Cave Management</i> 13. <i>Habitat Enhancement – Restoration of Springs/Streams/Rivers</i> 14. <i>Habitat Enhancement – Road decommissioning and rehabilitation</i> 15. <i>Habitat Enhancement – Reintroduction of Extirpated Species to restore overall ecosystem</i> <p>b. Project supports any of the priority sub-types – 5 pts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 16. <i>Cultural – Surveys</i> 17. <i>Cultural-National Register nominations</i> 18. <i>Safety and Public Health – Information Kiosks and Signs</i> 19. <i>Safety and Public Health – Project addresses and mitigates adverse impacts to resources caused by the volume of people using the resource</i> 20. <i>Safety and Public Health-resolving trespass/encroachment/illegal use of public lands (i.e., marijuana grow sites)/boundary surveys</i> 	10
<p>4. Project enhances partnerships in promotion of cooperation and collaboration – 5 pts <i>(Points should be awarded between 0-5 based on the following factors:)</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Involves individual citizen groups or organizations in the development and accomplishment of resource management goals and other activities during project implementation – 2 pts b. Addresses the needs of more than one Federal agency – 1 pt c. Involves non-Federal public partners – 2 pts 	5

<p>5. Project has identified committed non-SNPLMA sources of funding or in-kind contributions in the development and/or implementation of the project – 3 pts</p> <p>The breakdown of in-kind contributions may include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Volunteer labor – valuation to be computed at the rate used by the Department of the Interior, which is currently \$21.36/hour 2) Salaried employees – actual hourly rate plus the value of any fringe benefits received 3) Actual costs for material, equipment and supplies should be used <p>*Overhead costs may not be included in determining in-kind contributions.</p>	3
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Ranking Criteria: Executive Committee Values	
	TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE
<p>6. Project promotes sustainability by providing benefits in the near and long term by emphasizing healthy and resilient landscapes as well as durability, relevancy, and shared support – 10 pts</p> <p><i>(Points should be awarded on a scale of 1-10 based on the following factors. Projects can be given a score of 0 to 2 for each factor, depending on how well they address the factor.)</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Conserves resources to ensure availability to future generations – 2 pts b. Restores or maintains natural processes as demonstrated by implementation monitoring within the project timelines – 2 pts c. Will remain relevant and continue to provide a benefit beyond the existence of SNPLMA – 2 pts d. Includes a stewardship component to broaden support and share responsibility for operating or maintaining the project – 2 pts e. Reduces long-term costs and minimizes the human impact on the environment – 2 pts 	10
<p>7. Project promotes connectivity by linking people to nature and recreational opportunities, and by uniting important places across the landscape – 5 pts</p> <p><i>(Points should be awarded on a scale of 0-5 based on how well the project supports the following factors):</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Encourages people to meaningfully connect with their natural environment and helps them appreciate and care for the environment <p style="text-align: center;">AND/OR</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> b. Connects habitats, migratory corridors, or protected areas 	5

<p>8. Project promotes community by improving the quality of life for the human community and protecting the integrity of biological communities – 15 pts <i>(Points should be awarded on a scale of 0-15 based on the following factors. Projects can be given a score of 0 through 5 for each factor, depending on how well they address the factor.)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Conserves or restores the functionality, resiliency, and integrity of biological communities – 5 pts b. Encourages partnerships and helps build a sense of community – 5 pts c. Improving quality of life for the human community by preserving the past (cultural or historic sites) for present or future generations – 5 pts 	15
TOTAL POINTS AWARDED <i>(63 pts possible)</i>	

ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE LAND ACQUISITION

I. Contributes toward preservation of a specially designated species

Factors:

A. Does the acquisition have a significant contribution toward preservation or recovery of one or more specially designated species present on the property? (Include both plant and animal.)	6
B. Does the acquisition contain habitat which supports one or more special status species?	4
C. Are there one or more species present on the property that are listed as threatened and endangered?	6
D. Does the acquisition contribute to creation, conservation, and/or preservation of biodiversity, wetland/riparian area or watershed?	4
Total	20

II. Preserves a significant natural, aesthetic or scientific feature

Factors:

A. Does the property contain one or more natural, aesthetic, or scientific features?	4
B. Is one or more of the features in A above eligible for special designation? (Do not address plant or animal species.)	4
C. Does the acquisition make a significant contribution to preserving these values?	5
D. Does a specific management plan(s) exist for these resource values?	2
Total	15

III. Preserves significant historic, paleontological, or cultural values

Factors

A. Does the property contain one or more historic, paleontological, or cultural values?	4
B. Is one or more sites on the property eligible for a special designation? (Do not address plant or animal species.)	4
C. Does the acquisition make a significant contribution to preserving these resource values?	5
D. Does a specific management plan(s) exist for these resource values?	2
Total	15

IV. Enhances recreational opportunities or improves access to Federal or other public lands

Factors:

A. Does acquisition of the property provide recreational opportunities on the land?	3
B. Does the acquisition provide improved access to Federal or other public lands?	3
C. Does the acquisition address a public demand for recreational opportunity or a public demand for access to Federal or other public lands?	3
D. Does a specific management plan(s) exist for these resource values?	1
Total	10

V. Provides for better management of Federal lands or better management of resource values

Factors:

A. Does the acquisition provide for better management of Federal lands or better management of resource values?	10
B. Is the property an in holding in a specially designated area or does the property otherwise consolidate federal ownership?	5
Total	15

VI. Estimated post-acquisition management costs (Pick One Only)

Factors:

A. There are no added management costs.	5
B. There are added management costs but costs are offset by contributions from other entities or future cost savings due to consolidation of Federal lands.	5
Total	5

VII. Has the support of the State, local governments, other agencies, and/or other interested parties (Written verification of support but be included in the nomination to receive points.)

Factors:

A. Is the acquisition supported by the County/local government in which the property is located?	2
B. Is the acquisition supported by environmental, recreational, and/or scientific groups?	2
C. Is the acquisition supported by Fish & Wildlife Service Ecological Services, State Historic Preservation Office, or other federal, state or tribal governmental entities?	2
D. Does the acquisition further the goals and objectives of the County/local government land use plan or goals/objectives contained in some other official County/local government document?	2
Total	8

VIII. Other Considerations

Factors:

A. Would the acquisition prevent planned development or other incompatible uses?	5
B. Have funds been committed from another source to defray some of the costs of acquiring the property?	2
Total	7

Note: A letter of commitment on the letterhead of the entity making the commitment under Factor B must be included in the nomination to receive points for the factor.

IV. Is proposed Federal acquisition in Clark County, Nevada?

Points = 5

Total Possible Points	100
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HAZARDOUS FUELS AND WILDFIRE PREVENTION RANKING CRITERIA

Four criteria will be used by the subgroup to evaluate, score and rank nominations in this category. Planning projects are evaluated on the anticipated results and methodology of the resultant project. The subgroup reserves the right to elevate the top ranking project from each geographic area in its recommendation. The total points available for each criteria is shown to the right of the criteria. The factors used to score the criteria are listed below it with the points available for each factor. The factor scores are cumulative to make up the total points available for each criteria. Unless otherwise indicated in the factor, score each factor on a sliding scale.

1. Improves the community within and/or adjacent to the project area.	Points = 25
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Factors:

A. Addresses immediate public health and safety and community infrastructure.	
1. Project is within the Defense Zone, generally an area within 0.25 mile of life and property, as depicted by the most current Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) map in the applicable plan.	15
2. Project is within the Threat Zone, generally an area between 0.25 mile and 1.50 miles of life and property, as depicted by the most current WUI map in the applicable plan.	10
3. Project is within the general forest or other lands beyond the WUI (generally greater than 1.5 miles from life and property), as depicted by the most current map in the applicable plan.	5
B. Promotes protection of source water (rivers and lakes) or municipal watersheds.	5
C. Project includes education and outreach to the community on Living with Fire or Fire Adapted Communities and/or the importance of fuels reduction on federal, state, and local government land.	5

Select the most appropriate Factor (A1, A2, A3) and award all points indicated. Score Factors B and C on a sliding scale.

2. Improves the connection of fuels reduction activities and wildlife habitat.	Points = 30
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Factors:

A. Project connects previously treated areas to create or increase contiguous blocks of treated land.	10
B. Project protects or enhances wildlife habitat and/or resilient vegetative communities.	10
C. Project enhances the effectiveness of other treatments in progress or complete.	10

3. Improves sustainability of the multijurisdictional 10-year plans, environment, and financial resources.	Points = 25
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Factors:

A. The project will:	
1. Improve the sustainability of the forest health and ecosystem function (e.g. stand density, desired species mix and age, tree health, etc.)	8
2. Improve habitat for sensitive species and Threatened and Endangered species. Includes mitigation and/or minimization measures when treatment in sensitive habitat is unavoidable.	7
3. Include broadcast prescribed fire for resource management objectives for sustainable landscapes.	5
B. The method of treatment is fiscally responsible for the project area by balancing resource objectives, values at risk, and cost per acre factors or cost-benefit analysis.	5

4. Demonstrates sound project management and quality control measures	Points = 20
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Factors:

A. Project goals and implementation processes are clear, measurable, achievable, and demonstrable.	5
B. Project proponent has the capacity to implement this project in a timely manner (contractor and staff availability, no backlog of current projects, etc.) and within budget.	5
C. Is a phase or related component to a previously funded project.	5
D. Has identified committed non-SNPLMA sources of funding or in-kind contribution in the development and/or implementation of the project.	5

Total Possible Points	100
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EASTERN NEVADA LANDSCAPE RESTORATION PROJECT (ENLRP)
RANKING CRITERIA

Five criteria will be used by the subgroup to evaluate, score, and rank nominations in this category. The total points available are shown to the right of the criteria. The factors used to score the criteria are listed below it with the points available for each factor. Unless stated below the Factor, scoring is on a sliding scale.

1. Fuels Management: Projects that are designed to change vegetation composition and/or structure to modify potential fire behavior for the purpose of improving fire suppression effectiveness and limiting fire spread and intensity.	Points = 25
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Factors:

A. Project will conduct treatments to maintain healthy sagebrush rangelands, including preventative measures for annual grass invasion and conifer encroachment.	15
B. Project will conduct treatments to address the conversion of overgrown/decadent sagebrush, annual grass understory, and conifer encroachment.	10
C. Project will conduct treatments to address the annual grass and/or conifer dominated landscape within or adjacent to sagebrush rangelands.	5
D. Project is to remove pinyon pine and juniper to decrease the fire risk to large intact sagebrush habitat, riparian areas, and/or aspen stands.	10

Factors A-C are mutually exclusive, points are awarded all or none for only one of these factors. Factor D is scored on a sliding scale.

2. Habitat Recovery/Restoration	Points = 25
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Factors:

A. The project will implement habitat restoration or recovery actions within a defined Priority Area for Conservation (PAC), essential/irreplaceable or important habitat*, riparian area, or aspen stand.	20
B. The project will implement habitat restoration or recovery actions within a moderate habitat*, riparian area, or aspen stand.	10
C. The project will implement habitat restoration or recovery action within low value habitat*.	5
D. Sagebrush landscape cover	
1. Project area is characterized as low resistance and resilience and greater than 25% sagebrush landscape cover.	5
2. Project area is characterized as high resistance and resilience and greater than 25% sagebrush landscape cover.	3

Select Factor A, B, or C depending on the majority of the landscape in the nomination and score on a sliding scale. Factor D1, and D2 are mutually exclusive; points are awarded all or none for only one of these factors.

3. Fire Prevention and Post Fire Rehabilitation	Points = 25
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Factors:

A. Project is located to strategically prevent fire spread or support suppression activities to minimize the loss of sagebrush rangelands. A strategically placed fuel break as an anchor point for suppression or fuels reduction activities to lessen potential fire intensity.	15
B. Project will rehabilitate a previously burned area to prevent the establishment of invasive annual grasses.	10

4. Implementation of the project will lead to additional scientific information.	Points = 5
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Factors:

A. Project will lead to needed/improved scientific information on the design, implementation, and/or adaptation of landscape-scale restoration treatments, including known gaps in land health or sagebrush data.	5
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5. Supports strategic plan values of community, connectivity, and sustainability.	Points = 20
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Factors:

A. Involves non-governmental groups, volunteers, or organizations in the development and accomplishment of resource management goals, education, outreach, and other activities. Has identified committed non-SNPLMA sources of funding or in-kind contribution in the development and/or implementation of the project.	5
B. Community: in addition to the direct benefit to the nominating entity, actively involves and addresses the needs of at least one additional governmental agency, community or private land manager.	5
C. Connectivity: completed, current/on-going, or future restoration projects, of any funding source and jurisdiction (including private lands), where the physical project boundaries connect and/or habitat and vegetation connectivity is enhanced.	5
D. Sustainability: project data can be incorporated into the ongoing rangeland health monitoring of the sponsoring or benefiting entity.	5

The term “governmental” in Factor 5B, includes Federal, state, local, and tribal governments.

Total Possible Points	100
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* As defined by the State Management Category Map