

Cooperative Watershed Management Program Evaluation Criteria

The Evaluation Criteria portion of your application should thoroughly address each of the following criterion and subcriterion in the order presented to assist in the complete and accurate evaluation of your proposal (*Note: it is suggested that applicants copy and paste the below criterion and subcriterion into their application to ensure that all necessary information is adequately addressed*). The Evaluation Criteria compromise 100 points of the total evaluation weight.

Please note that proposals submitted under Task A and Task B will be independently evaluated using the same funding criteria. Activities may be prioritized to ensure balance among the program Task Areas and to ensure that the proposed activities address the goals of the WaterSMART program.

Evaluation Criteria A: Watershed Group Diversity and Geographic Scope (30 points).

Up to 30 points shall be awarded for the establishment/ expansion of a watershed group that represents maximum diversity of interests and/or serves a sub-basin-sized watershed with an eight digit hydrologic unit code, as defined by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

<http://water.usgs.gov/GIS/huc.html>.

Subcriterion No. 1-- Watershed Group Diversity:

Points shall be awarded to proposals that encourage collaboration with a diverse array of stakeholders across the watershed.

A watershed group should incorporate a diverse array of stakeholders, to the extent possible, including representatives of the different sectors and interests identified in the definition (e.g., hydropower production, livestock grazing, state and tribal governments, etc...). In order to allow Reclamation to assess the extent of the watershed groups' diversity, please include letters supporting the establishment or expansion the watershed group and describe the affected stakeholders that are/ will be involved in the watershed group's activities and whether there is widespread support for the group within the watershed.

Subcriterion No. 2 –Geographic Scope:

Please provide a map illustrating the geographic boundaries of the existing or proposed watershed group. In addition, please indicate whether your watershed group serves/ will serve a sub-basin sized watershed within an eight digit hydrological unit code (HUC). For more information on HUCs, downloadable boundary descriptions, and the names of the eight digit cataloging units please see: <http://water.usgs.gov/GIS/huc.html>

If a map cannot be provided, please describe the geographic scope to the best of your knowledge.

Subcriterion No. 3- Increasing/Establishing Diversity or Geographic Scope:

Existing Watershed Groups: For existing watershed groups, please describe any efforts that you will undertake to increase the diversity or expand the geographic scope of the watershed group, such as engaging in outreach to include new members or collaborating with different groups or partners. Please provide details on how the watershed group will inform affected stakeholders about their efforts (i.e., outreach activities, marketing materials, or recruitment of new members, etc).

New Watershed Groups: For new watershed groups, please describe the efforts that you will undertake to ensure that the new watershed group will include a diverse array of stakeholders, or to establish a broad geographic scope, including outreach to stakeholders or collaborating with other groups or partners. Please provide details on how the watershed group will inform affected stakeholders about their efforts (i.e., outreach activities, marketing materials, and recruitment of new members).

Evaluation Criteria B: Addressing Critical Watershed Needs (30 points).

Up to 30 points may be awarded to those watershed groups that have developed/ will develop strategies to address critical issues or needs within the watershed.

Subcriterion No. 1 – Critical Watershed Needs or Issues

Please describe the critical issues or needs occurring within the watershed including, for example, addressing potential water shortages, water quality issues, endangered species issues, conflicts over water, and other related issues faced by affected stakeholders.

Subcriterion No. 2 – Contributions that Address Watershed Needs or Issues:

Please describe in detail how the watershed group will/plans to positively contribute to the management of the watershed needs issues or needs. For example, how will the watershed group: Address/enhance water conservation; improve water quality; improve ecological resiliency of a water source; reduce the potential for water conflicts; and/or advance any other goals associated with water quality and quantity?

Evaluation Criteria C: Implementation and Results (30 Points).

Points shall be awarded to proposals based on the level of planning that supports the proposal and, on the extent to which the applicant is capable of proceeding with the establishment or expansion of a watershed group upon entering into a financial assistance agreement.

Subcriterion No. 1-- Project Planning:

Does the project have a nexus to a State or regional watershed plan? Please describe how the existing or proposed watershed group, or the proposed activities of the watershed group, conform to or meet the goals of any applicable State or regional water plans. Such plans could include a water conservation plan, System Optimization Review (SOR), or other relevant planning efforts. Relevant water plans, or excerpts from them, may be attached to your proposal, if appropriate.

If the establishment/ expansion of the proposed watershed group is contributing to a watershed plan, please reference the watershed plan but, do not include it as part of this application.

Subcriterion No. 2-- Readiness to Proceed:

Please describe the implementation plan for the proposed project. Please include an estimated project schedule that shows the stages and duration of the proposed work, including major tasks, milestones, and dates (e.g., major milestones could include the development of a mission statement, restoration plan, bylaws and articles of incorporation, and the development of project concepts)..

Please provide a specific discussion of any problems or major difficulties anticipated in performing or accomplishing the work.

Describe any *previous* work or activities (e.g., collaborative efforts, studies, or projects) that relate to the establishment or enlargement of a watershed group, which will support the establishment or expansion of the watershed group.

Evaluation Criteria D: Watershed Group/Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCC) Nexus (10 points).

Up to 10 points may be awarded based on the extent to which there is a nexus between the proposed or existing watershed group (or any of its' members) and the local LCC(s). A nexus to the LCC(s) could include participation in the LCC(s); involvement in LCC activities; or that the goals of the proposed or existing watershed group are complementary to the goals of the LCC(s).

Subcriterion No. 1 – Active Participation in an LCC

If you (or other members of the existing or proposed watershed group) are participating in a LCC, please identify the LCC and describe your role in the LCC (i.e., Steering Committee Member, Sub-Committee Member, Working Group, interested party, etc). If

the watershed group's geographic extent lies within more than one LCC, please address the role you have in each LCC within your response.

Please provide a map illustrating where the watershed group's activities are/will be focused in relation to LCCs. If a map cannot be provided, please provide a narrative response.

Subcriterion No. 2 – Direct Relationship to LCC Activities:

Please describe any activities, including activities related to the formation or establishment of the watershed group *and/or* other activities of the watershed group, that relate directly to goals of the LCC(s) within the geographic area of the watershed.

Subcriterion No. 3– Goals of Watershed Group Complementary to LCC Goals or Activities:

If you are not participating in a LCC because the local LCC(s) has not yet become active or you were not previously aware of the LCCs, please describe how the goals of the proposed or existing watershed group are complementary to the goals of the local LCC(s), or the goals of LCCs in general. Applicants are strongly encouraged to establish a relationship with their local LCC(s).

For more information about LCC's within the geographic area of the watershed, please refer to the following websites:

<http://www.usbr.gov/WaterSMART/lcc.html>

<http://www.fws.gov/science/SHC/lcc.html>