

## **CWMTF - Stream Restoration Grant PROGRAM CHANGES 2019**

The CWMTF application evaluation system (previously known as the Scoring Criteria) is now called the **Application Rating System**.

Stream restoration application guidelines and detailed information on the Restoration Application Rating System may be found on the CWMTF website after 12/1/18 at <https://cwmtf.nc.gov/restoration-questions-guidelines-rating-system>

### **Updates for the 2019 Cycle**

The Application Rating System and budget policy for stream restoration projects has been modified for the 2019 cycle to reflect the CWMTF Board of Trustee's intent to promote stream restoration applications that will excel in the following four ways: protect key resources, identify both actively eroding streams and streams where degradation is imminent, provide both environmental and financial value, provide ecological uplift and ensure long-term stewardship.

Five areas of change:

- 1) Adjustments to resource scoring for Water Supplies and Fish Nursery Areas
- 2) Allow project areas with imminent threat of erosion to collect Effectiveness points
- 3) Adjustments to scoring of project costs
- 4) Allow alternative methods to demonstrate ecological uplift
- 5) Allow limited CWMTF contribution to dedicated stewardship endowment funds

Each area with change is detailed below:

### **APPLICATION RATING SYSTEM**

(ordered by the same headings as the Application Rating System found on the CWMTF website, linked above):

#### **Section I. Resource Significance**

A) **Primary Resource Benefits** – changes include:

**Stream Restoration applications will receive points for Resource Significance only for water bodies within the proposed project area or less than one (1) river mile downstream from the project site.** This allows the fund to more closely target significant resources as compared to previous years when downstream classifications as far as 5 miles may have been considered.

- Item 1) **Water Supply II (WS-II)** has been moved up to the 13-point category. This is the same point value as for Water Supply I (WS-I) and Water Supply Critical Area (WS-CA) watersheds.
- Item 2) The point value for **Water Supply III and IV** watersheds have been raised to the 11-point category.
- Item 3) **Primary Nursery Areas** (including **Inland Primary Nursery Areas**) have been moved up to the 11-point category.
- Item 4) **Surface Drinking Water Susceptibility Rating of “Higher”** will now receive 9-points a **reduction in score** from last year. This is due to the broad and widespread distribution of areas designated as having an elevated Surface Drinking Water Susceptibility Rating.
- Item 5) Due to the lack of a clear definition and without a State agency mediator for the category of **“Other impaired waters but not on the 303(d) list”**, this designation **has been removed from the rating system** as of the 2019 cycle.

## Section II. Effectiveness/Measurable Outcomes

### A) Effectiveness of Project – changes include:

Recognizing that streams in imminent danger of erosion are just as important as actively eroding streams for restoration opportunities, CWMTF has made the following changes to the Effectiveness/Measurable Outcomes Section II.A.1:

1. To collect points as a project that proposes stream Restoration or stream Enhancement, the stream banks may be described as “Severely degraded or **threatened with imminent degradation.**” One clear example of a stream reach threatened with imminent degradation would be any area immediately upstream of a headcut.
2. through 4. No Changes
5. **Cost per unit.** To further reward applications that proposed lower cost solutions, the point allocation based on cost per linear foot has been adjusted:

New Cost per Unit Table:

<b><i>COST PER LINEAR FOOT (\$/LF)</i></b>		
<b><i><u>Design</u></i></b>	<b><i><u>Construction</u></i></b>	<b><i><u>Points</u></i></b>
<b><i>&lt;20</i></b>	<b><i>&lt;75</i></b>	<b><i>10</i></b>
<b><i>20-29</i></b>	<b><i>75-109</i></b>	<b><i>9</i></b>
<b><i>30-39</i></b>	<b><i>110-144</i></b>	<b><i>8</i></b>
<b><i>40-49</i></b>	<b><i>145-169</i></b>	<b><i>7</i></b>
<b><i>50-59</i></b>	<b><i>170-209</i></b>	<b><i>6</i></b>
<b><i>60-69</i></b>	<b><i>210-249</i></b>	<b><i>5</i></b>
<b><i>70-79</i></b>	<b><i>250-299</i></b>	<b><i>4</i></b>
<b><i>80-89</i></b>	<b><i>300-349</i></b>	<b><i>3</i></b>
<b><i>90-99</i></b>	<b><i>350-399</i></b>	<b><i>2</i></b>
<b><i>100-120</i></b>	<b><i>400-500</i></b>	<b><i>1</i></b>
<b><i>&gt;120</i></b>	<b><i>&gt;500</i></b>	<b><i>0</i></b>

## 6) Habitat and/or Ecological Uplift

**Alternative methods to demonstrate ecological uplift.** Applicants may now use several habitat models to demonstrate ecological uplift as an alternative to estimating sediment reduction.

There are now several options for estimating ecological uplift:

**Option 1:** Estimate habitat uplift by calculating sediment load transport reduction [in pounds per LF restored per year]. Use a CWMTF approved sediment load estimation method to calculate load as described the Restoration Guidelines document and then see table below.

SEDIMENT REDUCTION		
<u>Score</u>	<u>(lb/LF/Yr)</u>	<u>Score</u>
	>500	10
	450-500	9
	400-459	8
	350-399	7
	300-349	6
	250-299	5
	200-249	4
	150-199	3
	100-149	2
	10-99	1
	<10	0

**Option 2:** Estimate habitat uplift by determining the percentage of project length or area that is predicted to receive significant habitat improvement.

The assessment methods listed below may be used to determine percentage of the project that completely lacks functioning habitat, as well as the percentage that has only limited function:

- Completed field assessment forms from the North Carolina Stream Assessment Method (NC SAM\*)
- North Carolina Wetland Assessment Method (NC WAM\*)
- Stream Quantification Tool (SQT)

The assessment of your choice should be attached to the project application to receive points using Option 2.

Points will then be determined by CWMTF staff based on the general function:

$$\text{Habitat uplift score} = (\% \text{ project that will raise non-function habitat to functioning}) * 10 \\ + (\% \text{ project that will raise poorly functioning to functioning}) * 5$$

## BUDGET

**New allowance: applicants may apply for limited CWMTF contribution to dedicated stewardship endowment funds.**

For Restoration Projects **where conservation easements meet or exceed CWMTF guidelines and where a land trust organization, Accredited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, has agreed to steward project easements, applicants may request up to 50% of endowment funds** established to monitor the project easements in perpetuity. If awarded, stewardship funds provided by the applicant organization must be deposited into a stewardship endowment before receiving funds from CWMTF.

During the application process, applicants will be asked to complete a stewardship table in addition to the budget table in GMS. The amount calculated on the budget sheet must be split between CWMTF and Grant Recipient, with CWMTF funding no more than 50% of the endowment amount.