

# Project Scoring Sheet – Wetlands and Water Bodies

Version 1

## Notes

- This is a static document intended for reference only. It includes information the Reviewer sees while scoring an application.
- Questions relating directly to requirements are indicated with a red asterisk\*.
- Checkmarks help reviewers focus in on key components of the scoring.
- The results of individual project reviews are available at the top of each project’s page in the [Conservation Certification Website](#).
- Information about other aspects of evaluations (e.g. methodology used for scoring) is available in the [Certification Support Center](#).

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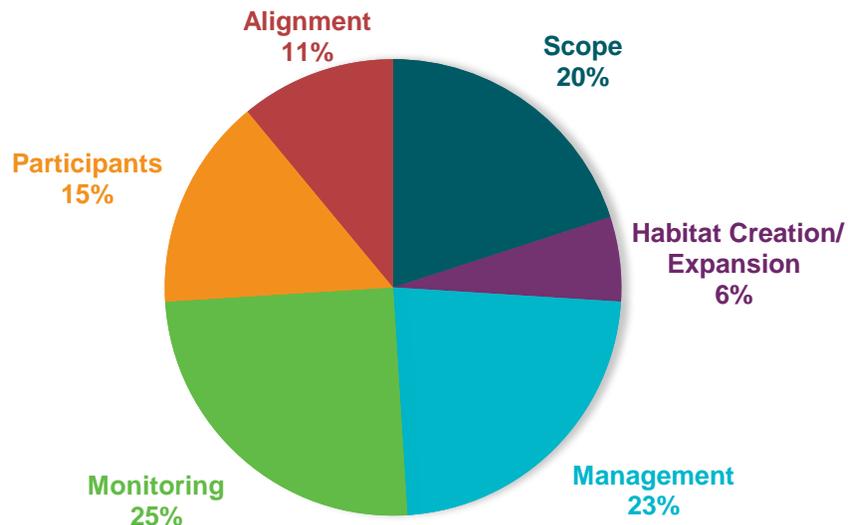
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## Overview

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Percentage of points achievable per section



## Scope | 20% of points achievable

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### \* Does the project exceed regulatory requirements?

If the applicant answered that no aspects of the project are done in relation to regulatory requirements, select N/A. If they answered that it was done in relation to regulatory requirements, select Yes or No depending on if it exceeds requirements.

- N/A
- No
- Yes

### \* What is the total size of the project (in acres)? | Up to 4 points

0 = Not large enough to function as a habitat or be considered as a habitat

Score = Number of acres greater than zero (an entry with partial acres is acceptable) | Points earned = score/100

### \* How long has the project been on the ground? | Up to 4 points

0 = Project started less than 1 growing season ago (not long enough to have a measurable outcome)

Score = Number of years | Points earned = score/10

### \* Is the project locally appropriate by using native plant species or targeting a native Wetlands and Water Bodies community? | Up to 12 points

*ONLY IF SELECT NON-VEGETATED: Because vegetation may play a reduced (or absent) role in some wetland habitats, a native community may include either a native plant or animal community, or both. Animal species can be appropriate indicators of habitat health, serving as proxy indicators of extent and diversity of native species.*

✓ Inventory has a date

✓ Inventory date is recent

0 - None of the plant/animal species listed are native

1 - Small percent (<50%) of the plant/animal species listed are native | 3.6 pts

2 - >50% of the plant/animal species listed are native | 9.6 pts

3 - ≥80% of the plant/animal species listed are native | 12 pts

### \* Is there a stated conservation objective?

✓ Applicant understanding

- No
- Yes

## Habitat Creation/Expansion | 6% of points achievable

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### Is this a new project or has the project been expanded?

- Yes
- No

**Does the newly created habitat add conservation value relative to the previous land use?**

**Replacing a previous land use of greater or lesser habitat value. | Up to 1.8 points**

*Use of the term "newly created" is used in its broadest sense, meaning to replace or otherwise improve.*

✓ Applicant understanding

N/A - the project was started prior to their last certification and no additional acreage was added  
0 - Does not replace a less valuable land use (or not large enough to be considered added habitat - refer back to size score in Scope section)

1 - Replaces a land use that had habitat value (e.g. mostly non-native vegetation, or a steep-sided artificial pond or ditch) | 0.54 pts

2 - Replaces a land use that had a low habitat value (e.g. monoculture, such as turf grass or row crops) | 1.44 pts

3 - Replaces a land use that did not have any habitat value (e.g. asphalt, closed structures) | 1.8 pts

**Were appropriate design considerations taken into account for new additions to the project (not included in a previous application)? | Up to 1.8 points**

*New addition = not included in a previous application (e.g. new plantings or structures such as basking logs, floating islands, snags or brush piles).*

✓ Applicant understanding

✓ Documentation

N/A - the project was started prior to their last certification and no additional acreage was added

0 - Harmful or no design considerations for the habitat or wildlife (e.g. planting invasive species, planting in an inappropriate area, too small an area or too short a period of inundation to be considered a wetland habitat)

1 - Good design consideration(s) but with some flaw(s) (e.g. planting native and non-native species) | 1.26 pts

2 - All design considerations are valid and valuable (e.g. planting 100% native, choosing the right location or plants suitable for the soil). | 1.8 pts

**Is a new area being managed?**

Yes

No

**What is the size of the new area managed? | Up to 1.5 points**

0 = Not large enough to function as a habitat or be considered as a habitat

Score = Number of acres greater than of zero (an entry with partial acres is acceptable) |

Points earned = score/100

**Does the mitigation wetland type match the wetland type impacted? | Up to 0.9 points**

N/A - The project is not a mitigation wetland

0 - Wetland type is different, more common type or is less valuable (e.g. pond replaces a swamp)

1 - Wetland type is different, yet of similar frequency or value | 0.45 pts

2 - Wetland type is the same, or more rare or valuable even if not fully established (e.g. young forested wetland) | 0.9 pts

## Management | 23% of points achievable

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### How valuable are the steps taken for maintenance and management of the habitat? | Up to 18.4 points

- ✓ Applicant understanding (see monitoring section)
- ✓ Documentation

Actions being evaluated:

- managed utilizing techniques appropriate for the region (e.g. taking into account seasonal rainfall patterns)
- managed utilizing techniques appropriate for the wetland biotic community (e.g. restricting insecticide use in the area, maintaining non-disturbance zones around vernal pools, incorporating sediment management)
- managed in accordance with conservation objectives
- managed adaptively (utilizing monitoring information to guide practices)
  - 0 - nothing, not actively managed (just monitored)
  - 1 - a OR b | 11.04 pts
  - 2 - a OR b AND either c OR d | 14.72 pts
  - 3 - a OR b AND c AND d | 18.4 pts

### To what level has the project minimized disturbances? | Up to 4.6 points

*Minimizing disturbance by: guiding access (boardwalk, designated points), preventing noise, excess sediment, other pollution, dust, other.*

- ✓ Applicant understanding
  - 0 - No minimization of disturbance
  - 1 - One of the above minimizations documented | 1.15 pts
  - 2 - Two of the above minimizations documented | 2.3 pts
  - 3 - Three or more of the above minimizations documented | 4.6 pts

## Monitoring | 25% of points achievable

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### Does the project include project-relevant baseline documentation? | Up to 3.75 points

- ✓ Applicant understanding
- ✓ Documentation is relevant
  - 0 - No baseline
  - 1 - Mid-project baseline collected (collected after on the ground activities started) | 1.875 pts
  - 2 - Initial baseline data collected (collected before the start of the project) | 2.8125 pts
  - 3 - Initial and new baseline data collected (collected prior to the addition of new habitat areas/features) | 3.75 pts

## Does the project include a relevant, scientifically rigorous monitoring protocol? | Up to 6.25 points

*Relevant = Monitoring that would inform assessment of habitat.*

✓ Applicant understanding

✓ Includes methodology/procedure, timing and frequency

0 - No monitoring plan or protocol. Or, monitoring protocol is not relevant

1 - Monitoring protocol that is relevant but not scientifically rigorous (i.e. may not fully protect against bias) | 3.75 pts

2 - Monitoring protocol that is both relevant and scientifically rigorous | 6.25 pts

## \* To what level is monitoring implemented? | Up to 8.75 points

*Adequate monitoring = providing data that can be compared over time to assess whatever is being monitored.*

Initial programs ✓ Documentation is from at least the past year

Renewal programs ✓ Documentation includes each year since last applied up to date applied

0 - No monitoring or inadequate/irrelevant monitoring (monitoring that is not directly tied to the habitat such as wildlife observed on site not specifically noted as occurring in the habitat)

1 - At least annual adequate monitoring not of the vegetation directly but of associated factors (such as wildlife observed in the habitat) | 2.625 pts

2 - Adequate monitoring of vegetation or water quality at least annually | 5.25 pts

3 - Adequate monitoring of vegetation or water quality at least two times a year OR adequate monitoring of vegetation/water quality at least annually AND adequate monitoring of at least 1 additional aspect (e.g. wildlife use) | 7 pts

4 - Adequate monitoring of vegetation or water quality at least two times a year AND adequate monitoring of at least 1 additional aspect (e.g. wildlife use) | 8.75 pts

## Is monitoring data evaluated? | Up to 6.25 points

*An evaluation of monitoring data involves examining how successful the project was in achieving desired outcomes and reviewing if changes need to be made to the project. Examples of evaluation of monitoring data include: assessing whether plantings successfully established, and if not, determining what changes can be made to improve the success of future plantings.*

0 - No evaluation provided (or nonsensical/irrelevant)

1 - Evaluation provided (does not consider how correct the evaluation is) | 3.125 pts

2 - Use results of evaluation to create next steps for the project | 6.25 pts

## Participants | 15% of points achievable

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### Do employees actively contribute to the project?

Yes

No

### How many employee hours were spent on project specific activities each year? | Up to 3.5 points

*Hours are calculated as: all planning + all implementation / # years of cert term with full data*

0 = No employee hours

Score = Average number of employee hours/year over the course of the certification term (an entry with partial hours is acceptable) | Points earned = score/100

**What was the depth of employee engagement in the project? | Up to 3.5 points**

*This criterion does not take into account the number of employees engaged.*

- 0 - No employee participation
- 1 - One-off/ single event or irregular involvement of employees | 0.7 pts
- 2 - Regular involvement of employees in implementation OR development or long-term planning | 2.45 pts
- 3 - Regular involvement of employees in implementation AND development or long-term planning | 3.5 pts

**Do any groups or partners actively contribute to the project?**

- Yes
- No

**How many partner hours were spent on project specific activities each year? | Up to 2.8 points**

*Hours are calculated as: all planning + all implementation / # Years of cert term with full data*

- 0 = No partner hours
- Score = Average number of partner hours/year over the course of the certification term (an entry with partial hours is acceptable) | Points earned = score/50

**What was the depth of partner engagement in the project? | Up to 2.8 points**

*This criterion does not consider the number of partners engaged.*

- 0 - No partner participation
- 1 - One-off/ single event or irregular involvement of partners | 0.56 pts
- 2 - Regular involvement of partners in implementation OR development or long-term planning | 1.96 pts
- 3 - Regular involvement of partners in implementation AND development or long-term planning | 2.8 pts

**What was the level of technical advice used in the project? | Up to 2.4 points**

- ✓ Applicant understanding
  - 0 - No technical advice
  - 1 - Technical advice sought (from partner or other resources) | 0.72 pts
  - 2 - Demonstrated implementation of technical advice | 1.68 pts
  - 3 - Ongoing regular use of technical advice (at least once per year) | 2.4 pts

**Alignment | 11% of points achievable**

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**Is the project designed to connect to Wetlands and Water Bodies habitat on nearby property?**

**| Up to 3.5 points**

- ✓ Applicant understanding
- ✓ Connecting habitat is off-site
  - 0 - No
  - 1 - Connects to adjacent properties' Wetlands and Water Bodies | 2.625 pts
  - 2 - Coordinated management of the Wetlands and Water Bodies with adjacent properties | 3.5 pts

**How does the shoreline project affect habitat quality in the waterbody? | Up to 1.5 points**

✓ Applicant understanding

0 - Not a shoreline project that affects habitat quality in the waterbody

1 - Shoreline project with general viable explanations of impacts on habitat quality (e.g. reduce runoff to improve water quality for wildlife) | 1.05 pts

2 - Shoreline project with clear goals for specific impacts on habitat (e.g. re-grading the shoreline will enable species such as turtles to enter and exit the waterbody) | 1.5 pts

**Does the project tie to a corporate level commitment to Wetlands and Water Bodies? | Up to 1.2 points**

*General corporate commitments to the environment, biodiversity, or education are not recognized.*

✓ Specific to project type

0 - No

1 - Yes | 1.2 pts

**Does the project align with a large-scale conservation initiative? | Up to 3.9 points**

✓ Applicant understanding

0 - No stated alignment with an established initiative

1 - Alignment with a general plan (not Wetlands & Water Bodies specific), or an initiative (without a specific plan). Example of both types: State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP), migratory pathway | 1.95 pts

2 - Managed in accordance with an established Wetlands & Water Bodies specific plan | 3.12 pts

3 - Managed in accordance with a local or regional watershed plan | 3.9 pts

**Does the project demonstrate success through a third-party Wetlands and Water Bodies certification that meets WHC criteria? | Up to 0.9 points**

0 - No

1 - Yes (one or more) | 0.9 pts