



Appendix H

IRWMP Project Evaluation Criteria for Habitat¹

| IRWMP HABITAT PROJECT SCORE SHEET | | |
|---|-----------------|-------|
| <p>For all proposed projects, please answer items 1 through 3. For projects that propose land acquisition, habitat creation, enhancement, or restoration components; or the development of a habitat management plan, please complete the appropriate HABITAT DESIGN EVALUATION CRITERIA WORKSHEET(S) (4). Projects are scored by the total points calculated from Items 1 through 4.</p> | | |
| 1. CONSISTENCY WITH EXISTING REGULATORY DRIVERS | Points Possible | Score |
| The proposed project is consistent with existing regulatory drivers (such as: the Los Angeles County Significant Ecological Area (SEA) Program, regional watershed master plans, management and basin plans, IRWMP subregional goals and objectives, etc.). | 10 | |
| 2. RESOURCE EXPANSION | | |
| The proposed project would expand an existing wildlife linkage, buffer zone, riparian/riverine habitat, freshwater wetland habitat, tidal wetlands, and/or upland habitat block. | 10 | |
| 3. RESOURCE CONSERVATION | | |
| The proposed project has a direct relationship in regional resource conservation measures including protection of scenic resources and areas with rich biological habitat. Site characteristics to be considered include: listed species protection; landscape connectivity; natural communities representation; watershed protection. | 10 | |
| 4. HABITAT DESIGN EVALUATION CRITERIA WORKSHEET | | |
| <p>Habitat Design Evaluation Criteria Worksheets are attached for the following habitat creation, restoration, or enhancement project categories: Uplands (Wildlife Linkage, Buffer Zone, or Upland Habitat Block) and Wetlands (Riparian/Riverine Wetland Habitat, Freshwater Wetland Habitat, or Tidal Wetland). Each worksheet provides an evaluation of the potential value of the habitat enhancement, restoration, and/or creation plan based on the proposed project design. A proposed project may be designed to include more than one category. Applicant should fill out and include all worksheets appropriate to project design, not all worksheets are applicable/necessary for all projects. NOTE: FOR HABITAT PROJECT SCORE SHEET TO BE CONSIDERED COMPLETE, WORKSHEETS MUST BE ATTACHED.</p> | | |
| 5. HABITAT DESIGN EVALUATION WORKSHEET SCORE(S) | Points Possible | Score |
| Wildlife Linkage <input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Attached | | |
| Buffer Zone <input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Attached | | |
| Upland Habitat Block <input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Attached | | |

¹ These criteria are not part of the IRWM project scoring criteria which may be found in the IRWMP Update when it becomes available.



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| Riparian/Riverine Wetland Habitat | <input type="checkbox"/> Completed | <input type="checkbox"/> Attached | | |
| Freshwater Wetland Habitat | <input type="checkbox"/> Completed | <input type="checkbox"/> Attached | | |
| Tidal Wetlands | <input type="checkbox"/> Completed | <input type="checkbox"/> Attached | | |
| TOTAL | | | | |
| WILDLIFE LINKAGES WORKSHEET | | | | |
| A wide area of native vegetation that connects or has the potential to connect two or more large patches of habitat on a landscape or regional scale through which a species will likely move over time. The move may be multi-generational, therefore, a linkage should provide both wildlife connectivity and biological diversity. | | | | |
| PROJECT IMPACT EVALUATION | | | Points Possible | Score |
| Project provides both wildlife connectivity and biological diversity. | | | 10 | |
| Proposed project will not provide any habitat benefits. | | | 0 | |
| The project permanently converts a wetland or riparian area to uplands without providing offsetting mitigation and/or converts or prevents the establishment an upland linkage, habitat corridor, or buffer zone. | | | -50 | |
| ACQUISITION | | | | |
| Proposed project does not include land acquisition. | | | 0 | |
| If the project does include land acquisition, answer the following: | | | | |
| The site has the potential to provide a significant contribution to accomplish a subregional target due to its size (i.e., greater than 10 percent of the target). | | | 10 | |
| The site has the potential to provide a moderate contribution to accomplish a subregional target due to its size (between 5 to 10 percent). | | | 5 | |
| The site has the potential to provide a minor component to accomplish a subregional target due to its size (less than 5 percent). | | | 3 | |
| LAND PROTECTION | | | | |
| Land is protected by a conservation easement or other land use restrictions. | | | 10 | |
| Restoration or management activities are being proposed to ensure maintenance of functions. | | | 10 | |
| Land is not being protected by a conservation easement or other land use restrictions, but the implementation of restoration or management activities are incorporated to ensure maintenance of functions. | | | 5 | |
| Land is not protected by a conservation easement or other land use restrictions or no restoration or management activities are being proposed to ensure maintenance of functions. | | | -10 | |
| WIDTH | | | | |
| Linkage would be on average greater than 1,000 feet wide. Measured width can include wetland/stream. | | | 10 | |
| Linkage would be on average between 750 and 1,000 feet wide. Measured width can include wetland/stream. | | | 5 | |



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| Linkage would be on the average less than 750 feet wide, but aids in providing a continuous linkage. | 3 | |
| VEGETATION | | |
| Overlapping structural diversity is the degree of vertical overlap between the layers that form a plant community (i.e., tall, medium, low, or trees, shrubs, forbes). Specifically, forbes should be partially covered by the shrub layer and both by the tree layer. | | |
| The site would be planted with appropriate native vegetation that provides for overlapping structural diversity as well as for food and cover. | 10 | |
| The site would be planted with appropriate native vegetation, but does not provide for overlapping structural diversity, food, and/or cover. | 3 | |
| The site would be planted with a mix of native and non-native vegetation that provides for overlapping structural diversity and cover. | 5 | |
| Design description includes performance standards for plant growth. | 5 | |
| Plan includes a maintenance (removal of non-native or invasive species) and long-term management plan. | 5 | |
| LIGHTING | | |
| No adjacent lighting would be present. | 10 | |
| Adjacent lighting is or would be directed downward or away from the corridor. | 5 | |
| Adjacent lighting would be not direct downward or away from the corridor or lighting in corridor/linkage. | 0 | |
| CROSSINGS | | |
| No crossings are needed. | 10 | |
| All crossings are bridged. | 8 | |
| If bridged crossings not possible, culverts are installed with the following design elements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12-foot by 12-foot box culvert or bigger; • set as close as possible to channel bottom; • natural materials included as part of culvert bottom; • an adjacent small 1-foot diameter tube parallel to large box (note: upstream end of small tube should be a few inches higher than bottom of upstream end of the box culvert); • vegetation maintained at culvert entrances, but without blocking (visually or physically) the entrances; and • appropriate fencing installed to funnel animals towards the culverts. | 5 | |
| The installed culverts would be less than 12-foot by 12-foot and the smaller culvert system is not provided. Other elements may or may not be present. | 2 | |
| HUMAN ACTIVITIES | | |
| Human activities in linkage would be absent or limited. | 10 | |
| Human activities would be present in linkage. These activities are generally considered to be passive and largely limited to the outside perimeter. | 5 | |



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| Human activities would be present in linkage. These activities are generally considered to be intrusive and severe and/or be located throughout the linkage area. | 0 | |
| WILDLIFE RESOURCE VALUE | | |
| The site when preserved, enhanced, restored could be used by a threatened or endangered animal or bird species. | 10 | |
| The site directly abuts and increases the effective size of a protected habitat area. | 8 | |
| The site when enhanced, restored, or created has the potential to be used by a wide variety of animals. | 5 | |
| The site would provide habitat for only the most human-tolerant native species. | 0 | |
| TOTAL | | |



| BUFFER ZONE WORKSHEET | | | |
|--|-----|--------------------|-------|
| <p>A buffer zone is an area adjoining a wetland, channel, or upland linkage or wildlife corridor that is in a natural or semi-natural state and not dedicated to anthropogenic uses that would severely detract from its ability to contain contaminants, discourage visitation into the habitat area by people and non-native predators, and/or protect the habitat area from stress and disturbance. For wetland and riparian systems, a buffer is primarily intended to maintain or improve water quality by trapping and removing various non-point source pollutants from both overland and shallow subsurface flows. In addition, buffers may provide a variety of other functions, including, but not limited to, providing erosion control, providing water temperature control, reducing flood peaks, serving as groundwater recharge points, etc. Buffer zones occur in a variety of forms, including herbaceous or grassy buffers, grassed waterways, or forested riparian buffer strips.</p> | | | |
| PROJECT IMPACT EVALUATION | | Points Possible | Score |
| Proposed project is in natural or semi-natural state and functions to protect the habitat from stress or disturbance. | 10 | | |
| Proposed project will not provide any habitat benefits. | 0 | | |
| The project permanently converts a wetland or riparian area to uplands without providing offsetting mitigation and/or converts or prevents the establishment an upland linkage, habitat corridor, or buffer zone. | -50 | | |
| ACQUISITION | | | |
| Proposed project does not include land acquisition. | 0 | | |
| If the project does include land acquisition, answer the following: | | | |
| The site has the potential to provide a significant contribution to accomplish a subregional target due to its size (i.e., greater than 10 percent of the target). | 10 | | |
| The site has the potential to provide a moderate contribution to accomplish a subregional target due to its size (between 5 to 10 percent). | 5 | | |
| The site has the potential to provide a minor component to accomplish a subregional target due to its size (less than 5 percent). | 3 | | |
| LAND PROTECTION | | | |
| Land is protected by a conservation easement or other land use restrictions. | 10 | | |
| Restoration or management activities are being proposed to ensure maintenance of functions. | 10 | | |
| Land is not being protected by a conservation easement or other land use restrictions, but the implementation of restoration or management activities are incorporated to ensure maintenance of functions. | 5 | | |
| Land is not protected by a conservation easement or other land use restrictions or no restoration or management activities are being proposed to ensure maintenance of functions. | -10 | | |
| TYPE OF VEGETATION | | | |
| The site is to be planted with appropriate native vegetation that provides for structural complexity. | 10 | | |
| The site is to be planted largely with native vegetation; either structural complexity is lacking or | 5 | | |



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| some non-native vegetation is included in planting mix. | | |
| Planting of the site provides for structural complexity to be present, but plans provide area to be planted with a substantial amount of non-native vegetation. | 3 | |
| Area to be retained as barren ground. | 2 | |
| HUMAN ACTIVITIES | | |
| Human activities in buffer would be absent or limited. | 10 | |
| Human activities would be present in the buffer. These activities are generally considered to be passive and largely limited to the outside perimeter. | 7 | |
| Human activities would be present in the buffer. These activities are generally considered to be intrusive and severe and/or be located throughout the buffer zone. | 2 | |
| WILDLIFE RESOURCE VALUE | | |
| The site when preserved, enhanced, restored could be used by a threatened or endangered animal or bird species. | 10 | |
| The site directly abuts and increases the effective size of a protected habitat area. | 8 | |
| The site when enhanced, restored, or created has the potential to be used by a wide variety of animals. | 5 | |
| The site would provide habitat for only the most human-tolerant native species. | 0 | |
| OTHER | | |
| Design description includes performance standards for plant growth. | 5 | |
| Plan includes a maintenance (removal of non-native or invasive species) and long-term management plan. | 5 | |
| TOTAL | | |



| HABITAT BLOCK WORKSHEET | | | |
|---|--|-----------------|-------|
| <p>A habitat block is a self-sustainable area that provides habitat for a state or federal listed species or other special status species, has been designated as critical habitat for a listed species, or is considered important to the maintenance or protection of sensitive biological resources. A habitat block may be composed of one or more of the native plant communities within the project area.</p> | | | |
| PROJECT IMPACT EVALUATION | | Points Possible | Score |
| Proposed project provides landscape level habitat block. | | 10 | |
| Proposed project will not provide any habitat benefits. | | 0 | |
| The proposed project permanently converts a wetland or riparian area to uplands without providing offsetting mitigation and/or converts or prevents the establishment an upland linkage, habitat corridor, or buffer zone. | | -50 | |
| ACQUISITION | | | |
| Proposed project does not include land acquisition. | | 0 | |
| If the project does include land acquisition, answer the following: | | | |
| The site has the potential to provide a significant contribution to accomplish a subregional target due to its size (i.e., greater than 10 percent of the target). | | 10 | |
| The site has the potential to provide a moderate contribution to accomplish a subregional target due to its size (between 5 to 10 percent). | | 5 | |
| The site has the potential to provide a minor component to accomplish a subregional target due to its size (less than 5 percent). | | 3 | |
| LAND PROTECTION | | | |
| Land is protected by a conservation easement or other land use restrictions. | | 10 | |
| Restoration or management activities are being proposed to ensure maintenance of functions. | | 10 | |
| Land is not being protected by a conservation easement or other land use restrictions, but the implementation of restoration or management activities are incorporated to ensure maintenance of functions. | | 5 | |
| Land is not protected by a conservation easement or other land use restrictions or no restoration or management activities are being proposed to ensure maintenance of functions. | | -10 | |
| SITE POTENTIAL | | | |
| The site contains substantial potential (e.g., size, non-disturbed soils, presence of some native vegetation, enlargement of an existing protected habitat block, etc.) for as a habitat. | | 10 | |
| The site contains limited potential (small size, disturbed/compacted soils, bare ground or presence of only exotics, human intrusions, etc.) for use as a habitat block, but initiates the protection of a habitat block. | | 5 | |
| VEGETATION | | | |
| <p>Overlapping structural diversity is the degree of vertical overlap between the layers that form a plant community (i.e., tall, medium, low, or trees, shrubs, forbes). Specifically, forbes should be partially covered by the shrub layer and both by the tree layer.</p> | | | |



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| Site is pristine or close to pristine. May require few, if any, management activities. Management plan proposed as part of the project. | 10 | |
| The site will or could be planted with appropriate native vegetation that provides for overlapping structural diversity as well as for food and cover. | 9 | |
| The site will or could be planted with appropriate native vegetation, but does not provide for overlapping structural diversity, food, and/or cover. | 6 | |
| The site will or could be planted with a mix of native and non-native vegetation that provides for overlapping structural diversity and cover. | 2 | |
| LIGHTING | | |
| No adjacent lighting would be present. | 10 | |
| Adjacent lighting and lighting in corridor is or would be directed downward or away from the corridor. | 5 | |
| Adjacent lighting and/or lighting in corridor is or would be not direct downward or away from the corridor. | 0 | |
| HUMAN ACTIVITIES | | |
| Human activities would be absent or limited. | 10 | |
| Human activities would be passive and largely limited to the outside perimeter. | 5 | |
| Human activities would be present and considered to be intrusive and severe and/or be located throughout the linkage area. | 0 | |
| WILDLIFE RESOURCE VALUE | | |
| The site when preserved, enhanced, restored could be used by a threatened or endangered animal or bird species. | 10 | |
| The site directly abuts and increases the effective size of a protected habitat area. | 8 | |
| The site when enhanced, restored, or created has the potential to be used by a wide variety of animals. | 5 | |
| The site would only supply habitat for only the most human-tolerant native species. | 0 | |
| OTHER | | |
| Design description includes performance standards for plant growth. | 5 | |
| Plan includes a maintenance (removal of non-native or invasive species) and long-term management plan. | 5 | |
| TOTAL | | |



| RIPARIAN/RIVERINE WETLAND SYSTEMS WORKSHEET | | | |
|--|--|-----------------|-------|
| <p>This system includes all waters, wetlands, and other plant communities living within a river or stream, including the adjacent wetland and riparian areas along their banks. This classification includes not only the Riverine and adjacent Palustrine Systems as described by the National Wetlands Inventory (Cowardin et al, 1979) but also the transitional areas between these wetlands and the adjacent terrestrial systems.</p> | | | |
| PROJECT IMPACT EVALUATION | | Points Possible | Score |
| Proposed project provides additional habitat benefits. | | 10 | |
| Proposed project does not negatively impact any type of wetland system. | | 0 | |
| The proposed project permanently converts a wetland or riparian area to uplands without providing offsetting mitigation and/or converts or prevents the establishment an upland linkage, habitat corridor, or buffer zone. | | -50 | |
| ACQUISITION | | | |
| Proposed project does not include land acquisition. | | 0 | |
| If the project does include land acquisition, answer the following: | | | |
| The site has the potential to provide a significant contribution to accomplish a subregional target due to its size (i.e., greater than 10 percent of the target). | | 10 | |
| The site has the potential to provide a moderate contribution to accomplish a subregional target due to its size (between 5 to 10 percent). | | 5 | |
| The site has the potential to provide a minor component to accomplish a subregional target due to its size (less than 5 percent). | | 3 | |
| LAND PROTECTION | | | |
| Land is protected by a conservation easement or other land use restrictions. | | 10 | |
| Restoration or management activities are being proposed to ensure maintenance of functions. | | 10 | |
| Land is not being protected by a conservation easement or other land use restrictions, but the implementation of restoration or management activities are incorporated to ensure maintenance of functions. | | 5 | |
| Land is not protected by a conservation easement or other land use restrictions or no restoration or management activities are being proposed to ensure maintenance of functions. | | -10 | |
| LOCATION/PROJECT FEASIBILITY | | | |
| The site is a wetland/riparian area or in an active floodplain of a riverine system. | | 10 | |
| The site is an historic wetland/riparian area or in a historic floodplain of riverine system, but either no longer provides habitat or its habitat values have been impacted. | | 8 | |
| The site is an upland, but is adjacent to a riverine system. | | 4 | |
| The site is an upland and is not adjacent to a riverine system. | | 1 | |
| WATER SOURCE/SUPPLY AND HYDROPERIOD | | | |
| Wetlands depend on constant or recurrent, shallow inundation, or saturation at or near the surface of the substrate. | | | |



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| <p>Consistent, natural inflows of water to a wetland are important to their ability to perform and maintain most of their intrinsic ecological, hydrological, and societal functions and services. Natural sources of water are mainly direct rainfall, groundwater discharge, runoff, and riverine flows. (CRAM)</p> | | |
| <p>The site is within or adjacent to a stream, river, or other concentrated flow conduit, which provides the primary source of water to the site and that water provided by that is consistent with the natural hydroperiod for the site's location in the watershed and adequate to support the proposed revegetation plan.</p> | 10 | |
| <p>The site is sustained by consistent source of water, but the source is not associated with a stream, river, or other concentrated flow conduit (e.g., the site is sustained by groundwater or urban runoff). Water provided by that source is consistent with the natural hydroperiod for the site's location in the watershed and adequate to support the proposed revegetation plan.</p> | 8 | |
| <p>The site is either within or adjacent to the flow conduit or sustained by a consistent source of water. However, the water source would have to be supplemented to support the proposed revegetation plan. (Note: Irrigation that is supplied during the plant establishment period should not be considered in this criterion if the community developed would continue to be present after the irrigation is removed.)</p> | 3 | |
| <p>The water supply to the site would be solely from artificial irrigation to support the proposed revegetation plan.</p> | 0 | |
| <p>HYDROLOGIC CONNECTIVITY</p> | | |
| <p>The ability of water to flow into or out of the wetland, or to accommodate rising floodwaters without persistent changes in water level that can result in stress to wetland plants and animals. (CRAM)</p> | | |
| <p>The design provides that rising water would have unrestricted access to adjacent areas, without levees or other obstructions to the lateral movement of floodwaters.</p> | 10 | |
| <p>The design includes unnatural features (i.e, such as being deeply incised, having steep banks (slopes steeper than 3:1), or the presence of levees, or road grades) that limit the amount of lateral movement of floodwaters along less than 50 percent of the wetlands/streams boundary.</p> | 6 | |
| <p>The design includes unnatural features such as levees or road grades that limit the amount of lateral movement of floodwaters along between 50 and 90 percent of the of the wetlands/streams boundary.</p> | 2 | |
| <p>PHYSICAL STRUCTURE</p> | | |
| <p>The spatial organization of living and non-living surfaces that provide habitat for biota. (CRAM)</p> | | |
| <p>The design is geomorphologically appropriate for the site setting (considering stream gradient, upstream geology, etc.).</p> | 10 | |
| <p>WILDLIFE RESOURCE VALUE</p> | | |
| <p>The site when preserved, enhanced, restored could be used by a threatened or endangered animal or bird species.</p> | 10 | |
| <p>The site directly abuts and increases the effective size of a protected habitat area.</p> | 8 | |
| <p>The site when enhanced, restored, or created has the potential to be used by a wide variety of animals.</p> | 5 | |



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| The site would provide habitat for only the most human-tolerant native species. | 0 | |
| FLORISTIC RESOURCE VALUE | | |
| <p>The functions of whole-wetland systems are optimized when a rich native flora dominates the plant community, and when the botanical structure of the wetland is complex in 3-dimensional space, due to species diversity and recruitment, and resulting in suitable habitat for multiple animal species. Layers are characterized as: aquatic (in water or at water surface), short (less than 20 inches), medium (less than 30 inches), tall (less than 60 inches), very tall (taller than 60 inches). The aquatic layer may not be present in riverine systems that are not perennial.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(CRAM)</p> | | |
| The revegetation plan provides that all layers would be present and that more than 50 percent of the site would exhibit overlapping of the plant layers when mature. At least seven native plant species would be planted in each layer and each layer would represent at least five percent of the total area. Presence of invasive species to be less than ten percent. | 10 | |
| The revegetation plan provides that all layers would be present and that less than 50 percent of the site would exhibit overlapping of the plant layers. Less than seven native plant species are to be planted in each layer and one or more layers would represent less than five percent of the total area. Presence of invasive species would be less than ten percent. | 6 | |
| The revegetation plan does not provide that all layers would be present and less than 25 percent of the site would exhibit overlapping of the plant layers. Five or fewer native plant species are to be planted in each layer and one or more layers would represent less than five percent of the total area. Presence of invasive species would be less than ten percent. | 2 | |
| HUMAN ACTIVITIES | | |
| Human activities in wetland/riparian area would be absent or limited. | 10 | |
| Human activities would be present in the wetland/riparian area. These activities are generally considered to be passive and largely limited to the outside perimeter. | 6 | |
| Human activities would be present in wetland/riparian area. These activities are generally considered to be intrusive and severe and/or be located throughout the site. | 0 | |
| OTHER | | |
| Design description includes performance standards for plant growth. | 5 | |
| Plan includes maintenance (e.g., removal of non-native or invasive species) and a long-term management plan. | 5 | |
| TOTAL | | |



| FRESHWATER WETLAND WORKSHEET | | | |
|---|--|-----------------|-------|
| <p>This system includes seasonal and perennial waters and/or wetlands situated in a topographic depression or a dammed river channel such as ponds, lakes, reservoirs, etc. The system includes all waters, wetlands, and other plant communities living within the depression, including the adjacent wetland and riparian areas along their banks. This classification includes the Lacustrine System and adjacent Palustrine Systems as described by the National Wetlands Inventory (Cowardin et al, 1979).</p> | | | |
| PROJECT IMPACT EVALUATION | | Points Possible | Score |
| Proposed project does not impact any type of wetland system. | | 10 | |
| Proposed project will not provide any habitat benefits. | | 0 | |
| The project permanently converts a wetland or riparian area to uplands without providing offsetting mitigation and/or converts or prevents the establishment an upland linkage, habitat corridor, or buffer zone. | | -50 | |
| ACQUISITION | | | |
| Proposed project does not include land acquisition. | | 0 | |
| If the project does include land acquisition, answer the following: | | | |
| The site has the potential to provide a significant contribution to accomplish a subregional target due to its size (i.e., greater than 10 percent of the target). | | 10 | |
| The site has the potential to provide a moderate contribution to accomplish a subregional target due to its size (between 5 to 10 percent). | | 5 | |
| The site has the potential to provide a minor component to accomplish a subregional target due to its size (less than 5 percent). | | 3 | |
| LAND PROTECTION | | | |
| Land is protected by a conservation easement or other land use restrictions. | | 10 | |
| Restoration or management activities are being proposed to ensure maintenance of functions. | | 10 | |
| Land is not being protected by a conservation easement or other land use restrictions, but the implementation of restoration or management activities are incorporated to ensure maintenance of functions. | | 5 | |
| Land is not protected by a conservation easement or other land use restrictions or no restoration or management activities are being proposed to ensure maintenance of functions. | | -10 | |
| LOCATION/PROJECT FEASIBILITY | | | |
| The site is a wetland/riparian area or in an active floodplain of a riverine system. | | 10 | |
| The site is an historic wetland/riparian area, but either no longer provides habitat or its habitat values have been impacted. | | 7 | |
| The site is an upland. | | 3 | |
| WATER SOURCE/SUPPLY & HYDROPERIOD | | | |
| The freshwater sources would be precipitation, groundwater, and/or natural runoff, or natural flow from an adjacent freshwater body. The hydroperiod would be characterized by natural | | 10 | |



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| patterns of filling or inundation and drying or drawdown. The depressional area may lack water during the dry season. | | |
| The freshwater sources would be precipitation, groundwater, and/or natural runoff, or natural flow from an adjacent freshwater body. The hydroperiod would be characterized by patterns of filling that are of greater magnitude or duration than natural inundation, but subject to natural drying or drawdown. The depressional area may lack water during the dry season. There is an indication that there may be water source that is artificial. This artificial source may modify the site hydrology either occasionally or have only a small effect and do not control the overall hydrology of the site. | 8 | |
| While the freshwater sources would include are precipitation, groundwater, and/or natural runoff, or natural flow from an adjacent freshwater body, an artificial source modifies the site's hydrology and controls the overall hydrology of the site. The hydroperiod would be characterized by filling patterns that are natural or of greater magnitude or duration than natural inundation, but the site would be subject to more rapid or extreme drying or drawdown. The depressional area may lack water during the dry season. | 3 | |
| The water supply to the site would be solely from artificial irrigation to support the proposed revegetation plan and deviates from natural conditions. | 0 | |
| HYDROLOGIC CONNECTIVITY | | |
| The ability of water to flow into or out of the wetland, or to accommodate rising floodwaters without persistent changes in water level that can result in stress to wetland plants and animals. (CRAM) | | |
| The design provides that rising water has unrestricted access to adjacent areas, without levees or other obstructions to the movement of floodwaters. | 10 | |
| The design provides for features such as levees or road grades that limit the amount of movement of floodwaters along less than 50 percent of the of the wetlands/streams boundary. | 6 | |
| The design provides for features such as levees or road grades that limit the amount of lateral movement of floodwaters along between 50 and 90 percent of the wetlands/streams boundary. | 2 | |
| PHYSICAL STRUCTURE | | |
| The spatial organization of living and non-living surfaces that provide habitat for biota. (CRAM) | | |
| The design, in cross section, provides for at least two benches or breaks in the slope, including a riparian area above the channel bottom. | 10 | |
| The design, in cross section, provides for at least two benches or breaks in the slope, including a riparian area above the channel bottom. | 6 | |
| The design, in cross section, provides for a single bench. | 3 | |
| The design, in cross section, provides for little or no micro-topographic complexity. | 1 | |
| WILDLIFE RESOURCE VALUE | | |
| The site when preserved, enhanced, restored could be used by a threatened or endangered animal or bird species. | 10 | |
| The site directly abuts and increases the effective size of a protected habitat area. | 8 | |
| The site when enhanced, restored, or created has the potential to be used by a wide variety of animals. | 5 | |



| | | |
|---|----|--|
| The site would only supply habitat for only the most human-tolerant native species. | 0 | |
| FLORISTIC RESOURCE VALUE | | |
| <p>The functions of whole-wetland systems are optimized when a rich native flora dominates the plant community, and when the botanical structure of the wetland is complex in 3-dimensional space, due to species diversity and recruitment, and resulting in suitable habitat for multiple animal species. Layers are characterized as: aquatic (in water or at water surface), short (less than 20 inches), medium (less than 30 inches), tall (less than 60 inches), very tall (taller than 60 inches). The aquatic layer may not be present in freshwater systems that are not perennial.</p> | | |
| The revegetation plan provides that all layers would be present and that more 50 percent of the site to exhibit overlapping of the plant layers when mature. At least seven native plant species are to be planted in each layer and each layer would represent at least five percent of the total area. Presence of invasive species to be less than ten percent. | 10 | |
| The revegetation plan provides that all layers would be present and that less than 50 percent of the site would exhibit overlapping of the plant layers when mature. Less than seven native plant species are to be planted in each layer and one or more layers would represent less than five percent of the total area. Presence of invasive species would be less than ten percent. | 6 | |
| The revegetation plan does not provide that all layers would be present and less than 25 percent of the site would exhibit overlapping of the plant layers when mature. Five or fewer native plant species are to be planted in each layer and one or more layers would represent less than five percent of the total area. Presence of invasive species would be less than ten percent. | 2 | |
| HUMAN ACTIVITIES | | |
| Human activities in the freshwater wetland would be absent or limited. | 10 | |
| Human activities would be present in the freshwater wetland. These activities are generally considered to be passive and largely limited to the outside perimeter. | 6 | |
| Human activities would be present in the freshwater wetland. These activities are generally considered to be intrusive and severe and/or be located throughout the linkage area. | 0 | |
| OTHER | | |
| Design description includes performance standards for plant growth. | 5 | |
| Plan includes maintenance (removal of non-native or invasive species) and a long-term management plan. | 5 | |
| TOTAL | | |



| TIDAL WETLANDS WORKSHEET | | | |
|---|--|-----------------|-------|
| <p>Tidal wetlands consists of deepwater tidal habitats and adjacent tidal wetlands that are usually semienclosed by land, but have an open, partly obstructed, or sporadic access to the open ocean, partly obstructed, or sporadic access to the open ocean, and in which ocean water is at least occasionally diluted by freshwater runoff from the land. This classification is the Estuarine System as described by the National Wetlands Inventory (Cowardin et al, 1979) as well as brackish water marshes and transition areas adjacent to tidal wetlands.</p> | | | |
| PROJECT IMPACT EVALUATION | | Points Possible | Score |
| Proposed project does not impact any type of wetland system. | | 10 | |
| Proposed project will not provide any habitat benefits. | | 0 | |
| The project permanently converts a wetland or riparian area to uplands without providing offsetting mitigation and/or converts or prevents the establishment an upland linkage, habitat corridor, or buffer zone. | | -50 | |
| ACQUISITION | | | |
| Proposed project does not include land acquisition. | | 0 | |
| If the project does include land acquisition, answer the following: | | | |
| The site has the potential to provide a significant contribution to accomplish a subregional target due to its size (i.e., greater than 10 percent of the target). | | 10 | |
| The site has the potential to provide a moderate contribution to accomplish a subregional target due to its size (between 5 to 10 percent). | | 5 | |
| The site has the potential to provide a minor component to accomplish a subregional target due to its size (less than 5 percent). | | 3 | |
| LAND PROTECTION | | | |
| Land is protected by a conservation easement or other land use restrictions. | | 10 | |
| Restoration or management activities are being proposed to ensure maintenance of functions. | | 10 | |
| Land is not being protected by a conservation easement or other land use restrictions, but the implementation of restoration or management activities are incorporated to ensure maintenance of functions. | | 5 | |
| Land is not protected by a conservation easement or other land use restrictions or no restoration or management activities are being proposed to ensure maintenance of functions. | | -10 | |
| LOCATION/PROJECT FEASIBILITY | | | |
| The site is a salt marsh. | | 10 | |
| The site is salt marsh, but has been degraded. | | 8 | |
| The site was historically a salt marsh, but either no longer provides habitat or its habitat values have been impacted. | | 4 | |
| The site is an upland, but is adjacent to an existing salt marsh. | | 1 | |
| WATER SOURCE/SUPPLY & HYDROPERIOD | | | |
| Wetlands depend on constant or recurrent, shallow inundation, or saturation at of near the surface of the substrate. | | | |



| | | |
|---|----|--|
| <p>Consistent, natural inflows of water to a wetland are important to their ability to perform and maintain most of their intrinsic ecological, hydrological, and societal functions and services. Natural sources of water are mainly direct rainfall, groundwater discharge, runoff, and riverine flows. (CRAM)</p> | | |
| The design provides that the wetland would be subject to natural freshwater inflows and natural full tidal prism, with two daily tidal minima and maxima. The site may naturally be closed seasonally. | 10 | |
| The design provides that the wetland would be subject to either modified (i.e., absent or unseasonal) freshwater inflows and/or reduced or a muted tidal prism, although two daily tidal minima and maxima would be observed. The site may naturally be closed seasonally. | 8 | |
| The design provides that the wetland would be subject to either modified (i.e., absent or unseasonal) freshwater inflows and/or reduced or a muted tidal prism in relation to the extreme daily highs or spring tides. The site may naturally be closed seasonally. | 5 | |
| The design provides that the wetland would be subject to either modified (i.e., absent or unseasonal) freshwater inflows and/or reduced or a muted tidal prism and inadequate drainage, such that the marsh plain would tend to remain flooded during low tide. The site may naturally be closed seasonally. | 3 | |
| <p>HYDROLOGIC CONNECTIVITY</p> <p>The ability of water to flow into or out of the wetland, or to accommodate rising floodwaters without persistent changes in water level that can result in stress to wetland plants and animals. (CRAM)</p> | | |
| The design provides tidal waters have unrestricted access over 90 percent or more of the marsh plain. | 10 | |
| The design provides tidal waters have unrestricted access between 50 to 89 percent of the marsh plain. | 6 | |
| The design provides tidal waters have unrestricted access less than 50 percent or more of the marsh plain. | 2 | |
| <p>PHYSICAL STRUCTURE</p> <p>The spatial organization of living and non-living surfaces that provide habitat for biota. (CRAM)</p> | | |
| The design, in cross section, provides for a vegetated plain that has an abundant variety of microtopographic features, including but not limited to, tidal channels, natural-looking levee systems, potholes, pannes, etc. | 10 | |
| The design, in cross section, provides for a vegetated plain that has microtopographic features, such as, tidal channels, natural-looking levee systems, potholes, pannes, etc., but the variety is not abundant. | 6 | |
| The design, in cross section, does not provide for a variety of microtopographic features. | 0 | |
| The design, in cross section, provides for little or no micro-topographic complexity. | 1 | |
| <p>WILDLIFE RESOURCE VALUE</p> | | |
| The site when preserved, enhanced, restored could be used by a threatened or endangered animal or bird species. | 10 | |
| The site directly abuts and increases the effective size of a protected habitat area. | 8 | |



| | | |
|---|----|--|
| The site when enhanced, restored, or created has the potential to be used by a wide variety of animals. | 5 | |
| The site would only supply habitat for only the most human-tolerant native species. | 0 | |
| FLORISTIC RESOURCE VALUE | | |
| <p>The functions of whole-wetland systems are optimized when a rich native flora dominates the plant community, and when the botanical structure of the wetland is complex in 3-dimensional space, due to species diversity and recruitment, and resulting in suitable habitat for multiple animal species. Zones include high, middle, and high saltmarsh as well as those brackish water wetlands and transitional areas immediately adjacent (i.e., within 100 feet) of the wetland.</p> | | |
| The revegetation plan provides that most of the marsh plain would be vegetated and all vegetation zones would be present when mature. At least one native plant species to be planted in the lower saltmarsh zone and more than five native plant species would be planted in the middle and high saltmarsh zones. Each zone would represent at least five percent of the total area. | 10 | |
| The revegetation plan provides that most of the marsh plain would be vegetated and all vegetation zones would be present when mature. At least one native plant species to be planted in the lower saltmarsh zone and five native plant species or fewer would be planted in the middle and high saltmarsh zones. Each zone would represent at least five percent of the total area. | 6 | |
| Not all zones would be present when mature. One to three native plant species are to be planted in each zone and one or more zones would represent less than five percent of the total area. | 2 | |
| HUMAN ACTIVITIES | | |
| Human activities in wetlands would be absent or limited. | 10 | |
| Human activities would be present in wetlands. These activities are generally considered to be passive and largely limited to the outside perimeter. | 5 | |
| Human activities would be present in wetlands. These activities are generally considered to be intrusive and severe and/or be located throughout the linkage area. | 0 | |
| OTHER | | |
| Design description includes performance standards for plant growth. | 5 | |
| Plan includes a maintenance (removal of non-native or invasive species) and long-term management plan. | 5 | |
| TOTAL | | |

