

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary

Maine Aquatic Connectivity Restoration Project

Program:	Ranking Date:	Application Number:
Ranking Tool: Maine Aquatic Connectivity Restoration Project	Applicant:	
Final Ranking Score:	Address:	
Planner:	Telephone:	
Farm Location:		

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering “Yes” to the following question. Answering “Yes” to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the national priority category.	
1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is “Yes”, do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is “No”, proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)	
2. a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. c. Reducing impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides on land adjoining a designated “impaired water body” (TMDL, 303d listed waterbody, or other State designation)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a “non-impaired water body”?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)	
3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. d. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm water use as a result of changing to crops with lower water consumptive use, the rotation of crops, or the modification of cultural operations?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Air Quality - Will the proposed project improve air quality by: (select all that apply)	
4. a. Meeting on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Soil Health :- Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil “T”)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Wildlife Habitat – Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat by: (select all that apply)	
6. a. Implementing practices benefitting threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?	
6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project improve plant and animal communities by: (select all that apply)	
7. a. Implementing practices that result in the management control of noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Energy Conservation– Will the proposed project reduce energy use by: (select all that apply)	
8. a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Business Lines – Will the practices to be scheduled in the “EQIP Plan of Operations” result in:	
9. a. Enhancement of existing conservation practice(s) or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is received?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering “Yes” to the following question. Answering “Yes” to question 1 will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the State priority category.	
1. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is “Yes”, do not answer any other State level questions. If answer is “No”, proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section. (400 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
If the application is NOT for a CAP, answer the following questions as applicable. Answer ONLY ONE of 2a, 2b, 2c, or 2d - The Project target species: Note: if multiple projects targeting different species are included in the application, chose the response based on a project with the highest priority fish species.	
2. a. Atlantic salmon and is in mapped designated Critical Habitat for Atlantic salmon (90 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. b. River herring, depressed or extirpated populations (70 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. c. Brook Trout, Regional Initiative-Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture (40 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. d. State listed aquatic species (i.e. wood, blanding’s turtles) “hits” within .5 mile from site or within a 5-miles radius within the connected freshwater network. (30 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Species benefit: Answer ONLY ONE of 3a, 3b, or 3c	
3. a. Mapped as a designated Critical Habitat for Atlantic salmon and full barrier removal will allow salmon access to suitable upstream spawning and or rearing habitat. (90 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. b. River herring is the target species and full barrier removal will allow access to historic breeding grounds. (70 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. c. Mapped as a Priority Brook Trout watershed and will benefit brook trout, but Atlantic salmon cannot access site due to a downstream permanent natural or man-made barrier. If the downstream barrier has a verified working fishway, or DMR trucks Atlantic salmon around the barrier, choose 2a instead. (50 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Aquatic Organism Passage Barrier Severity (e.g., dams, road-stream crossings, remnant log drive dams, side channels, and other man-made barriers): Choose only one of 4a, 4b, or 4c	
4. a. All of the projects in the application have been identified as meeting Maine Road-Stream Crossing Barrier Survey criteria as complete AOP barriers (i.e., perched culverts and/ or other severe physical barriers inhibiting passage and affects AOP throughout the year). i.e. meets perennial definition; OR is an impassible dam, i.e. without a verified functioning fishway. (50 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. b. Not all, but at least one of the projects in the application have been identified as meeting Maine Road-Stream Crossing Barrier Survey criteria as complete AOP barriers (i.e., perched culverts and/ or other severe physical barriers inhibiting passage and affects AOP throughout the year), i.e. meets perennial definition; OR is an impassible dam i.e. without a verified functioning fishway. (40 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

4. c. All of the projects in the application have been identified as meeting Maine Road-Stream Crossing Barrier Survey criteria for a PARTIAL AOP barrier (i.e., velocity barrier, low-flow barrier, or perched), OR is a partial barrier not associated with a road-stream crossing (e.g., remnant log drive dam, blocked side channel, debris dam). (20 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Upstream miles accessible after Barrier Removal, NOTE: All solid blue lines in ArcGIS above the project site(s) count toward total upstream miles newly available for passage of target species after barrier removal. Accessible stream mile calculation stops at the 1st upstream partial or complete barrier for the target species, which is typically the next road-stream crossing. For applications with multiple projects on different tributaries and that are not in succession use the project with the greatest upstream stream miles reconnected after barrier removal. Choose only one of 5a,5b,5c,5d, or 5e	
5. a. Greater than 4.0 upstream miles accessible after barrier removal (75 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. b. Greater than 2.5 up to 4.0 upstream miles accessible after barrier removal (60 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. c. Greater than 1.5 up to 2.5 upstream miles accessible after barrier removal (35 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. d. greater than 0.25 up to 1.5 upstream miles accessible after barrier removal (25 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. e. .01 up to 0.25 upstream miles accessible after barrier removal (1 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Historic Breeding Pond Alewife Carrying Capacity after Barrier Removal. Alewife carrying capacity = surface acres x 235. No points will be given if barriers above and below the project still exist eliminating access to pond or lake for alewives. Choose only one of 6a, 6b, or 6c	
6. a. Alewife Carrying Capacity is greater than 300,000 (60 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. b. Alewife Carrying Capacity is less than 300,000, but greater than 100,000 (40 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. c. Alewife Carrying Capacity is less than or equal to 100,000 (20 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Stream Habitat Complexity/Function Practice Scenario. Choose only one of 7a, 7b, or 7c.	
7. a. Stream habitat complexity enhancement to be implemented (i.e., large wood placements, remnant log drive dam removal, obstruction removal, boulder clusters, or floodplain connectivity, and riparian buffer establishment) (35 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. b. Engineered stream habitat complexity enhancement to be implemented (i.e., engineered rock stream barbs, and rock J-hooks) (20 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. c. Streambank stabilization, or similar conservation practices adjacent to a water body that will enhance aquatic environments. (10 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1 will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the Local priority category.	
1. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other Local level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section. 250 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
If the application is NOT for a CAP, answer the following questions as applicable. Structure removal: Choose only one of 2a, 2b or 2c	
2. a. All projects planned in the application are full barrier removals (e.g. dam removal, road decommission) (75 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. b. <100% of projects planned in the application are full barrier removals (e.g. dam removal, road decommission) with no engineered AOP structures (e.g. stream simulation road stream crossings, technical fishway (65 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. c. 100 % projects planned in the application consist of stream simulation road stream crossings, or technical fishway (50 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Connectivity to of AOP migratory habitat: Choose only one of 3a, 3b, 3c or 3d.	
3. a. At least one project in the application reconnects (provides full passage) of a freshwater ecosystem to the saltwater. (100 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. b. At least one project in the application will provide for increased tidal flow to mapped coastal wetlands including tidal salt, brackish or freshwater marshes, tidal mudflats, sand flats, tidal creeks, or	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

ponds, or low-lying adjacent lands subject to flooding by extreme high tides or are within 3 feet vertical elevation of the mapped High Annual Tide (Maine OGIS HAT+3) (90 points)	
3. c. At least one project in the application restores direct connectivity between a lake and its tributaries (40 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. d. At least one project in the application does not provide direct connectivity to saltwater environment (30 point)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Small tributary cold water refugia: Choose only one of 4a, 4b, or 4c.	
4. a. All projects in the application are on a 1st or 2nd order stream and are < .25 stream miles from a confluence from a 3rd order stream or higher and are the only known complete or partial barriers between.(40 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. b. At least one project in the application is on a 1st or 2nd order stream and is < .25 stream miles from a confluence from a 3rd order stream or higher and are the only known complete or partial barriers between.(20 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. c. No projects in the application are on a 1st or 2nd order stream and is <.25 stream miles from a confluence from a 3rd order stream or higher and are the only known complete or partial barriers between. (-1 point)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Additional target fish and/or state listed aquatic species present: Choose only one of 5a, 5b, or 5c. This purpose of this question is to provide additional points to projects that are benefitting multiple species.	
5. a. Target fish (that is, those species listed in state question #2) species present (only choose if in additional to answer for state question #2) AND state listed aquatic species. (35 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. b. Target fish species (in addition to answer for state question #2). (25 points)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. c. One or more state listed aquatic species (additional to answer for state question #2). (15 point)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Land Use:

Resource Concerns	Practices
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Ranking Score

<p>Efficiency:</p> <p>Local Issues:</p> <p>State Issues:</p> <p>National Issues:</p> <p>Final Ranking Score:</p>

This ranking report is for your information. It does not in any way guarantee funding. When funding becomes available, you will be notified if your application is selected for funding. Some changes to the application may be required before a final contract is awarded.

Notes:

<p>NRCS Representative:</p> <p>Signature Date:</p>	<p>Applicant Signature Not Required on this report for Contract Development unless required by State policy:</p> <p>Signature Date:</p>
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