



Project Scoring Worksheet
 (To be completed by Applicant)

Project Name: _____

Applicant(s): _____

This Project Scoring Worksheet uses a numeric system and standard criteria to quantify aspects of an application. It is only one piece of the evaluation process, and the entire application will be considered when determining suitability for approval. There may be circumstances where the Project Scoring Worksheet does not truly reflect the value or uniqueness of a project, or where the scoring over-values a project. Higher scoring projects are not guaranteed to be approved, nor are lower scoring projects guaranteed to be denied. Please see the Ravalli County Open Lands Guidelines document for more information.

Issue	Criteria	Possible points	Score	Comments
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General Attributes

GA 1	Size of property to be put in an easement			
	More than 400 acres	4		
	100 to 400 acres	3		
	25 to 99 acres	2		
	Less than 25 acres	1		

GA 2	Water rights			
	Retains senior water rights or adequate irrigation district shares and well-maintained conveyance system to sustain production/ conservation values	4		
	Retains junior waters rights or some irrigation district shares and an adequate conveyance system that generally maintains conservation values.	2		
	There are insufficient water rights or irrigation district shares and no conveyance system or the system is in disrepair.	0		

GA 3	Percent of land reserved for future home sites	<1%	4		
		1%	3		
		2%	2		
		3 %	1		
		>4 %	0		

GA 4	Weed management	Property has effective weed management practices	4		
		Property has partially effective weed management practices	2		
		Property has ineffective weed management practices	0		

Total General Attributes Category Score: ____ out of possible 16

Agriculture Resources

AR 1	Percent of soils classified as Prime/Statewide Importance or Unique/ Locally Significant	Over 50%	4		
		10 to 49%	2		
		0 to 9%	0		

AR 2	Percent of land that is irrigated or could potentially be irrigated	60 to 100%	4		
		20 to 59%	2		
		0 to 19%	0		

AR 3	Maximum Animal Unit potential over a six-month growing season	More than 75	3		
		25 to 75	2		
		1 to 25	1		
		No grazing potential	0		

AR 4	Irrigation	Sprinkled by gravity or gas/electric pump, or flood Irrigated	4		
		Sub-irrigated	2		
		No irrigation	0		

AR 5	Annual crop/hay/timber production potential per acre	e.g. >3 tons hay/acre or >60 bushels of grain/acre or >60 cubic feet timber/acre	4		
		e.g. 1.5 – 3 tons hay/acre or 25 – 60 bushels of grain/acre or 20-60 cubic feet timber/acre	2		
		e.g. <1.5 tons hay/acre or <25 bushels of grain/acre or <20 cubic feet timber/acre	0		

AR 6	Management that enhances, or maintains, agricultural resources and production potential	Management that enhances agricultural resources and production potential	3		
		Management that maintains agricultural resources and production potential	2		
		No agricultural resources present, or management that does not maintain them	0		

AR 7	Proximity to other operating farms/ranches	Surrounded by other farms/ranches	4		
		Contiguous to one or more farms/ranches	3		
		Within 1/4 mile of other farms/ranches	2		
		Within 1 mile of other farms/ranches	1		
		More than 1 mile to other farms/ranches	0		

AR 8	Proximity to other farms/ranches protected by conservation easement	Contiguous with other protected farms/ranches	4		
		Within 1/4 mile of other protected farms/ranches	3		
		Within 1/2 mile of other protected farms/ranches	2		
		Within 1 mile of other protected farms/ranches	1		
		More than 1 mile to other protected farms/ranches	0		

Total Agricultural Resources Category Score: _____ out of possible 30

Natural Attributes			
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NA 1	Percent of soils classified as hydric or typically associated with wetland or riparian areas			
	More than 50%	3		
	10% to 50%	2		
	Less than 10%	0		

NA 2	Wildlife habitat			
	Property contains riparian areas, elk and mule deer winter range, special habitats, or provides linkage between such habitats.	4		
	Property contains riparian areas or habitat for common species such as waterfowl, coyotes, or whitetail deer	2		
	Property contains little or no habitat for native species	0		

NA 3	Wildlife			
	Property is occupied seasonally or year-round by elk and mule deer, or animal species of concern.	4		
	Property is occupied by common species such as waterfowl, coyotes, or whitetail deer	2		
	Property is occupied by few or no wildlife	0		

NA 4	Protection of river/stream/creek quality			
	Property contains buffered native riparian systems	4		
	Property contains natural perennial streams or watercourses.	3		
	Property contains perennial streams or buffers to adjacent watercourses.	2		
	Property contains natural ephemeral streams or watercourses.	1		
	Property contains little or no natural streams or watercourses.	0		

NA 5	Protection of wetlands and open water quality (e.g. lake, pond, marsh)	Property contains buffered native wetland or open water.	4		
		Property contains natural perennial wetlands or open water sources.	3		
		Property contains perennial wetlands or open water, or it buffers adjacent water sources.	2		
		Property contains natural seasonal wetlands or open water.	1		
		Property contains little or no natural wetlands or open water.	0		

NA 6	Management that enhances or maintains habitat/wildlife/water if present	Management that enhances habitat/wildlife/water	3		
		Management that maintains habitat/wildlife/water	2		
		No or little habitat/wildlife/water or no management to maintain it	0		

NA7	Proximity to important wildlife or fisheries habitat, natural areas, or Important Bird Areas	Contiguous to one or more	4		
		Within 1/4 mile	3		
		Within 1/2 mile	2		
		Within 1 mile	1		
		Greater than a mile	0		

NA 8	Proximity to other natural areas protected by conservation easements or to public lands	Contiguous	4		
		Within a 1/4 mile	3		
		Within a 1/2 mile	2		
		Within a mile	1		
		Greater than a mile	0		

Total Natural Attributes Category Score: _____ out of possible 30

Additional Community Benefits

CB 1	Scenic values			
	The property is adjacent to a federal, or state, highway	4		
	The property is adjacent to a major county road, and/or visible from a federal, or state, highway	3		
	The property is visible from a major, or minor, county road	2		
	The property can only be viewed from a private road	0		

CB 2	Public policy			
	Management of the property consistently conforms with the intent and goals of federal, state, county and local land use regulations, plans and policies.	3		
	Management of the somewhat conforms with the intent and goals of federal, state, county and local land use regulations, plans and policies.	2		
	Management of the property in no way conforms with the intent and goals of federal, state, county and local land use regulations, plans and policies.	0		

CB 3	Public access			
	Establishes or maintains public access to trails, public lands, or hunting and/or fishing	3		
	Establishes or maintains public access to 2 of the 3: trails, public lands, or hunting and/or fishing	2		
	Establishes or maintains public access to 1 of the 3: trails, public lands, or hunting and/or fishing	1		
	Does not establish or maintain public access	0		

Total Additional Community Benefits Category Score: _____ out of possible 10

Proposed Funding

PF 1	Landowner contribution				
		>50% of the value	3		
		21 to 50% of the value	2		
		1-20% of the value	1		
		no contribution	0		

PF 2	Proposal partners				
		>81% of the cost	3		
		40 to 80% of the cost	2		
		20 to 39% of the cost	1		
		<20% of the cost	0		

PF 3	Matching "neighborhood" conservation easements				
		>100 acres contiguous to the proposed project	3		
		>100 acres within 1/4 mile of the proposed project	2		
		<100 acres and/or >1/2 mile from the proposed project	1		
		No matching easement	0		

Total Proposed Funding Category Score: _____ out of possible 9

Special Attributes

Describe any other unique or exceptional features of the property that should be considered as open land values. Up to 5 points may be awarded for special attributes.

Total Special Attributes Category Score: _____ out of possible 5

Project Name: _____ **Total Score:** _____

FORM COMPLETED BY OLB MEMBER: _____