

## 2016 ESRP APPLICATION NARRATIVE SECTION

### —RESTORATION AND PROTECTION PROJECTS

**Project Title/Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Organization Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Contact** \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Budget Narrative**

Complete the budget narrative to support the “whole project” worksheet. A definition of how ESRP defines the “whole project” can be found in the [2012 ESRP Guidance](#) section on “Project Scoping Guidelines” We understand costs are estimates. Describe what funding has been secured already, other pending or planned grant proposals and remaining need. For pending match, describe current status if known. Describe how you will intend to secure the required 30% matching funds for ESRP and remaining funds needed to start implementation.

**Project Narrative (Please limit your narrative to 4,500 words or less)**

- A. **ECOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE (40 pts.)** - *An ideal project will restore dynamic natural ecosystem processes, structures and services, within a large complex process unit, resulting in site conditions where the composition and configuration of the landscape reflects historical complexity, and where the site is both resilient to current and future development impacts, and known to provide highly valued habitat services to target species.*

**Q1. Does it have a large effect on the delta or shoreline process unit?** – The project will maintain existing ecosystem services or provide a large increase in sustainable ecosystem services by protecting in-tact ecosystem processes or restoring the most significant sources of degradation to ecosystem processes.

**Points Possible**  
**0-10 Points**

**Evaluation Guidance and Best Practices:** *Ideal projects have some or all of the following:*

- Restores or protects historical ecosystem processes or services. (define some ecosystem benefits and what might be most important –broad context for ecosystem benefit –diversity web of life, etc).
- Protects intact areas.
- Addresses a high proportion of the restoration or protection needs (i.e. degradation or future risk) within a site.
- Project site is large and complex relative to other similar sites.
- Proposed action(s) **addresses** the PSNERP strategy for that process unit [Cereghino et. al. 2012](#).
- Cumulatively restores critical stressors within a group of smaller and simpler process units.

**Q1. Narrative Description**

**Q2. Will the site be resilient to future degradation?** – The project results in a highly functioning site that **1)** reflects historical ecosystem dynamics and connectivity, and if not delivered fully by the project action, the proposal describes how incremental work will reach this target condition at the site scale (climate change will be addressed in a later category).

**Points Possible**  
**0-10 Points**

**Evaluation Guidance and Best Practices:** *Ideal projects have some or all of the following:*

- Expected future condition of target ecosystem state is clearly described including predicted changes over time. A full range of ecosystem components (Shipman 2008) or conditions (Cereghino et al 2012) will increasingly provide historical ecosystem services over time.
- Rare shoreform types (e.g. lost barrier estuaries, oligohaline and freshwater tidal marsh), and relatively rare ecosystem components (e.g. stream deltas) are recovered.
- Proposed actions will result in large contiguous patches of habitat that are hydrologically connected in a manner sustainable by natural processes, and open to unconstrained river and/or tidal processes.
- Adjacent areas support the function of the site (e.g. well-vegetated buffers deliver clean, cold water; up-drift bluffs provide sediment etc.).
- If incremental restoration is proposed, future restoration is feasible and designs do not preclude full restoration in the future.

## **Q2. Narrative Description**

**Q3. Do the surrounding conditions support the project?** – The project approach is 1) responsive to potential risks of intense or complex site degradation, and 2) potential future impacts from population growth, and demonstrates a preference for work where historical processes will be restored or protected at the scale of the process unit or ‘nearshore ecosystem site’ (*Note: climate change should be addressed in section titled “Climate Change”*).

**Points Possible**  
**0-10 Points**

**Evaluation Guidance and Best Practices:** *Ideal projects have some or all of the following*

- The project will protect or restore an ecosystem component or landform that is critical for increasing the integrity of the region, compared to historical composition.
- Project actions are consistent with the scientific record, respond to risks identified in Cereghino et al. 2012, and utilize local assessments.
- The whole of intact sites are protected, and/or target processes are comprehensively restored. The project addresses multiple stressors and their cumulative impacts.
- Upland and watershed modifications do not substantially limit the ability of the proposed actions to provide intended benefits and/or such modifications are or will be addressed through the project design.
- The potential for future development within and adjacent to the site is explicitly explored. The processes and services of the site will be resilient to anticipated change [Cereghino et. al. 2012](#). Provides a range of risk metrics following [Simenstad et al. \(2011\)](#) and [Bolte & Vache \(2010\)](#).

*Sample questions to consider in this section*

- What are the known or anticipated (current and future) impacts to the project site from the surrounding landscape conditions?
- What are the known or anticipated (current and future) benefits to the project site from the surrounding landscape conditions?
- What are the historical conditions in and around the site? How does the restoration outcome improve upon the degraded conditions?

**Q3. Narrative Description**

**Q4. Does it provide ecosystem benefits that society places value on?** – The site provides a high level of ecological services compared to other similar landforms, based on an identified and accurately cited assessment.

**Points Possible**  
**0-10 Points**

**Evaluation Guidance and Best Practices:** Ideal projects have some or all of the following:

- Proposed actions restore or protect ecosystems that have experienced significant loss in size or quantity in Puget Sound or sub-basin, or that contain rare, vulnerable or ecologically important species or resources (e.g. PSP indicators: estuarine wetland, eelgrass meadow, seabirds, unarmored sediment sources, forage fish, and Chinook salmon; state or federal listed species, WDFW's priority habitats and species).
- Proposed action is logically linked to a change in habitat and other conditions that provide direct benefits for species of concern. The mechanism by which habitat change leads to species benefits is described (e.g. increases in tidal wetland area and re-establishment of channel networks is anticipated to increase juvenile salmon carrying capacity; predicted change in sediment texture and increase in overhanging shoreline vegetation increases forage fish spawning area).
- Proposed actions are clearly identified in regional or species recovery plans.

#### **Q4. Narrative Description**

**B) TECHNICAL MERIT AND READINESS (35 pts.)** - A strong technical and social review of the project is well documented or proposed for the current phase. Work will be done quickly, and the project is being designed to meet a range of contingencies, advance ecological science, and maximize resilience under climate change.

**Q5. Are the techniques reliable?** – 1) The project team includes the range of professional skills and experience suited to the scope of the project, ensuring high confidence the project will result in the predicted benefits, and 2) the project has been improved by critique from an independent and documented interdisciplinary technical review process.

**Points Possible**  
**0-15 Points**

**Evaluation Guidance and Best Practices:** Ideal projects have some or all of the following:

- The project team contains the range of expertise needed to complete proposed actions.
- Proposal references or proposes an independent and well documented external review of project strategies and alternatives. Proposal has identified, by name, an interdisciplinary design team that supports the proposed project.
- The project addresses links between ecosystem elements and the processes that maintain them so that the project is likely to have the outcomes described in Ecological Importance (considers ecological context, confidence in predictions, and predictability of the management measures).
- Acquisition
  - Risks to ecological processes at the site can largely be controlled through acquisition. A strong stewardship plan is provided or is proposed as an early project deliverable, to be approved by ESRP, which clarifies how the site will be managed.
- Restoration
  - Sponsor has engaged key stakeholders and technical experts to identify key uncertainties and constraints regarding project performance. Proposed approach is designed to address the uncertainties and constraints to the extent possible and consider alternative scenarios in the design process. For construction projects, the sponsor has a clearly defined contingency plan to address uncertainties.

#### **Q5. Narrative Description**

**Q5. Narrative Description (continued)**

**Q6. Have you identified and resolved uncertainty around technical methods and ecological response to actions? – 1)** The post-construction uncertainties and associated risks have been well defined, **2)** a strategy for monitoring and managing uncertainty is defined, and **3)** opportunities for learning are fully developed and integrated into the project design.

**Points Possible**  
**0-5 Points**

**Evaluation Guidance and Best Practices:** *ideal projects have some or all of the following:*

- Feasibility and design – proposal explicitly lists factors anticipated that may create uncertainty in project outcomes, including impacts from partial restoration, landscape setting, future threats, ongoing human use, and fundamental assumptions about climate change.
- Acquisition
  - Long-term stewardship and management plan has been (acquisition phase) or will be developed (site identification phase) based on known uncertainties and risks.

- Restoration
  - Projects requesting monitoring funds should have completed a monitoring and adaptive management plan, which will be the basis for evaluating requests for monitoring funding.
  - A management strategy, including an appropriate level of qualitative or quantitative monitoring, has been (or will be) developed to monitor the evolution of natural processes and to observe characteristics of the site during and following implementation that are explicitly linked to outcomes.
- Proposal has identified specific learning objectives, and a systematic approach for achieving new knowledge, through the implementation of robust experimental design. Specific postulates and hypotheses are listed.
- Proposal will identify staff responsible for site management including the skills, knowledge, and experience needed for proposed outcomes.

#### **Q6. Narrative Description**



**Q7. Does the project help address climate change issues?** – The action increases the resilience of both natural and human systems or fosters adaptation to anticipated sea level rise and local climate change.

**Points Possible**  
**0-5 Points**

**Evaluation Guidance and Best Practices:** *Ideal projects have some or all of the following:*

- Proponent demonstrates understanding of how climate change is likely to affect site processes and functions and demonstrates how the information has been considered in the site selection and design process, and monitoring.
- Opportunities to facilitate landward movement of coastal ecosystems subject to dislocation by sea-level rise and other climate change impacts are considered. For example:
  - Beach projects allow for landward migration area of shorelines within the project and sustained sediment supply necessary to adjust beach elevations.
  - Adequate opportunities for landward migration of tidal wetlands are available with the project area
  - The project design and system conditions allows for adequate and timely delivery of sediments to support marsh accretion within the project area and drift cell.
- Proposal identifies and addresses potential impacts of the project to adjacent land uses under climate change scenarios.

#### **Q7. Narrative Description**

**Q8. Is the project ready to go?** – The proposed schedule is reasonable for project phase and not likely to be significantly delayed by social controversy or uncertainty over landowner willingness.

**Points Possible**  
**0-10 Points**

**Evaluation Guidance and Best Practices:** ideal projects have some or all of the following:

- Proposals will be evaluated for readiness as defined within each of the ESRP status categories.
- Landowner has provided written support for the project.
- Proposed actions are consistent with local land use goals, policies, and regulations.
- There have been documented public communication efforts concerning the project and evidence that the sponsor has taken appropriate steps to prevent or limit controversy that would prevent or substantially delay implementation.
- Budget needs for the proposed phase of project, including matching funds, are secured or pending and likely. A clear strategy is provided for financing necessary additional phases that comprise the whole project.

#### **Q8. Narrative Description**

**C) COST JUSTIFICATION (15 pts.)** - *Ideal projects will have clear budgets that are appropriate for the type of actions proposed in the given location and demonstrate that cost-saving mechanism (design considerations, low-cost partners, diverse funding sources etc.) have been incorporated into the project.*

**Q9. Are actions cost effective for the site?** – The relationship between expected outcomes and total project cost is appropriate for the project location and landform.

**Points Possible**  
**0-10 Points**

**Evaluation Guidance and Best Practices:** *Ideal projects have some or all of the following:*

- Conceptual design and costs are focused on the most relevant management measure(s). Only a limited proportion of funds are focused on supporting management measures.
- Operations and maintenance costs are minimized and cost-savings mechanisms are used (e.g. low cost partners; volunteers, partnerships etc.).
- Non-state funding sources are leveraged to maximize the ecological protection and restoration benefits.

**Q9. Narrative Description**

**Q10. Is there a clear and understandable budget?** – The budget is complete and provides a fair estimate of all elements required for successful implementation of proposed actions.

**Points Possible**  
**0-5 Points**

**Evaluation Guidance and Best Practices**

*Ideal projects have some or all of the following:*

- The whole project budget is complete, sources of funding are explicit, and their status can be clearly discerned.
- Line item costs are clearly described in a budget narrative so that the nature of the costs and the estimation method can be easily discerned.
- Budget narrative describes uncertainties considered when developing the budget. Modest but reasonable contingency (based on specific and identified risks) is built into the budget at the task level.
- Funding partners and contributions reflect the diversity of benefits that will be delivered by the project (e.g. projects addressing drainage or flood control have contributions from agricultural groups or dike districts; if public access is improved, matching funds or in-kind from a user-group included; if salmon recovery project, SRFB dollars included).

**Q10. Narrative Description**

**D) PUBLIC SUPPORT AND INVOLVEMENT (10 pts.)** - The project will build community support for protection and restoration, engage the local community and/or encourages valuable partnerships.

**Q11. Are there social benefits?** – The project provides benefits in addition to ecological restoration or protection.

**Points Possible**  
**0-5 Points**

**Evaluation Guidance and Best Practices:** Ideal projects have some or all of the following:

- The project references or provides documentation that the project will deliver multiple benefits to local communities including but not limited to public education or engagement, recreational/commercial fisheries, appropriate low-impact public use, flood hazard mitigation, drainage improvements, or infrastructure upgrades.

**Q11. Narrative Description**

**Q12. Are there many stakeholders and partners involved?** – The project engages many local and regional partners that will collaboratively support education, technology transfer, and stakeholder participation.

**Points Possible**  
**0-5 Points**

**Evaluation Guidance and Best Practices:** Ideal projects have some or all of the following:

- Letters of support indicate a broad and diverse base of support.
- Partners have been identified and specific mechanisms developed to support communications and collaboration relevant to successful completion of ESRP tasks and on-going project stewardship.
- Project is in a demonstrably visible location and proponent has a project communications strategy describing how specific groups of stakeholders will be made aware of project activities and related issues.
- Partners or key stakeholders actively involved in feasibility, design and/or implementation.

#### **Q12. Narrative Description**