

DMS Technical Review Scoresheet Guidelines

Purpose and Intent

The purpose of the scoresheet is to evaluate and rank DMS buffer and nutrient projects based on the potential to successfully maximize functional uplift and deliver the requested mitigation. This scoresheet was developed to qualify/quantify uplift solutions rather than problems and is intended to facilitate thoughtful discussion by the technical review team.

Terms and Definitions

The terms “projects, project area, on-site and the site” refer to land within the project easement where the treatment will take place.

The term “off-site” refers to areas adjacent to the easement.

Artificial barriers include all obstructions or obstacles that inhibit stream flow and aquatic passage.

Potential is interpreted as the ability to address a functional stressor/issue **and** the probable successful treatment of the functional stressor/issue.

Functional Category refers to Water Quality, Hydrology and Habitat

Functional Stressors have been defined to represent dominant underlying process within each functional category

Project Sustainability refers to the capacity of one or more project elements to maintain function and ensure the long-term success of the project.

Evaluation of Functional Uplift Potential

Each functional stressor should be evaluated for the uplift potential for the majority of the aquatic resources and/or asset. Potential should consider the ability to address and successfully treat the functional issue.

A *LOW* rating is the threshold for awarding points.

Ultimately, field observations and discussion between the technical scoring team and the provider, along with the documentation provided in the proposal by the provider will factor into the final decision.

Each functional stressor can attain a rating of *LOW*, *MODERATE*, or *HIGH* based on the project’s **potential for functional uplift of the aquatic resource**. Additional factors including but not limited to: buffers greater than 100ft, alternative buffer mitigation, easement contiguity, and excessive stressor loads may improve a stressor’s uplift potential rating.

Determination of functional uplift potential must consider all proposed levels of restoration and treatments related to a stressor. For example, a project with *MODERATE* potential for fecal coliform uplift (active pasture within and adjacent to project area) could get bumped up to a *HIGH* if it includes buffer widths greater than 100ft. These extra factors are not necessarily additive – for example, a *LOW* project site doesn't necessarily become a *HIGH* scoring project if it has both wide buffers and BMPs.

A rating of *VERY HIGH* may only be attained if the functional category achieves a *HIGH* based on technical merit, AND demonstrates one of the following: 1) the project includes alternative buffer mitigation options or 2) if the project includes additional buffer beyond 100ft.

Achieving a *VERY HIGH* rating for a functional stressor's uplift potential is meant to acknowledge and reward projects that present opportunities for ecological restoration beyond standard levels, or that address unique situations.

Single sided buffer projects offer limited functional improvement potential by addressing and protecting only half of the aquatic resource. As such single sided buffer projects typically only achieve up to *MODERATE* uplift ratings. In instances where the proposed easement abuts existing functioning buffers that protect the remainder of the resource, higher ratings may be achieved.

Having considered the effectiveness and inherent functional benefits of traditional buffer enhancement and restoration practices, Table 1 below gives a reference point to initiate scoring for Water Quality and Hydrology functions. A higher functional uplift rating can be achieved for each stressor if: 1) the proposal documents how the project will address the stressor, 2) there is substantial functional uplift between the existing condition and the proposed improved condition, 3) the magnitude of functional improvement is significant at the project scale.

Table 1. Scoring for Water Quality and Hydrology Functions

Predominant Buffer	Stressor Location	Low	Moderate	High
One-sided	on-site	x		
	off-site	x		
	on-site and off-site		x	
Double-Sided	on-site		x	
	off-site		x	
	on-site and off-site			x

Section 1. Minimum Requirements

An answer of NO to any of this section's questions results in the rejection of technical proposal.

Section 2. Functional Uplift Evaluation

Functional Category: Water Quality

Sediment. Functional uplift related to sediment involves identification of sediment sources, and all or partial removal and/or treatment of the sediment sources. Sediment sources include non-point and point source from upstream or adjacent land. Functional uplift is scored by evaluating the potential for successful treatment of sediment issues to provide increased function to the resource relative to current conditions.

Nutrients. Functional uplift related to nutrients involves identification of the nutrient source, loading and all or partial removal/treatment of source. Estimates of nutrient loading or concentrations pre and post construction can be used to justify uplift potential. Functional uplift is scored by evaluating the potential for successful removal and/or treatment of nutrient inputs to provide increased function to the resource relative to current conditions.

Fecal Coliform. Functional uplift for fecal coliform involves the amount of fc loading to the resource by direct input and/or overland flow input to the resource. Estimates of fc loading pre and post construction can be used to justify uplift potential. Functional uplift is scored by evaluating the potential for successful removal and/or treatment of fc inputs to provide increased function to the resource relative to current conditions.

Other. Other functional stressors include identifying a pollutant source, the amount and frequency of direct pollutant inputs from a point source, e.g., failing septic, broken sewer lines, direct discharge of fertilizers, UST. Functional uplift is scored by evaluating the potential for successful removal and/or treatment of pollutant inputs to provide increased function to the resource relative to current conditions.

Determination of *LOW*, *MODERATE*, *HIGH* and *VERY HIGH* functional uplift potential is the responsibility of the provider. Justification for uplift potential must be documented.

Functional Category: Hydrology

Peak Flows. Functional uplift for peak flows involves addressing the flashiness, timing, and delivery of peak flow events. Restoration and enhancement activities that slow or retain runoff address this stressor. Functional uplift is scored by evaluating the potential for attenuating peak flows to provide increased function to the resource relative to current conditions.

Non-diffuse Flow. Non-diffuse flow involves areas where drainage has been anthropogenically altered to concentrate flow. Functional uplift is scored by evaluating the potential to disperse flow through the buffer.

Other. Other hydrologic functional stressors include identifying specific impairments to hydrologic function not included above. Functional uplift is scored by evaluating the potential for successful treatment to provide increased function to the resource relative to current conditions.

Determination of *LOW*, *MODERATE*, *HIGH* and *VERY HIGH* functional uplift potential is the responsibility of the provider. Justification for uplift potential must be documented.

Functional Category: Habitat

Lack of Riparian Canopy. Absence of riparian canopy considers the ability of existing riparian buffer to prevent solar heating and contribute organic matter to the channel. Functional uplift is scored by evaluating the stream banks for abundance, density and maturity of trees. Unlike Water Quality and Hydrology functions, the riparian canopy evaluated solely on existing conditions.

LOW: Sparse trees line the channel, but mature trees provide some benefit

MODERATE: Sparse trees line the channel

HIGH: No trees along channel

Other. Other habitat stressors include identifying specific impairments to aquatic habitat not included above. Functional uplift is scored by evaluating the potential for successful treatment of an impairment and/or successful uplift of a targeted species by providing increased function to the resource relative to current conditions.

Determination of *LOW*, *MODERATE*, *HIGH* and *VERY HIGH* functional uplift potential is the responsibility of the provider. Justification for uplift potential must be documented.

Planning Identified Stressor

The intent of this scoring metric is to incentivize proposals within DMS Planning Areas. Planning Areas are identified using a watershed approach to maximize the ecological benefit within the watershed. *Functional stressors* must receive a *Low* or greater to be evaluated for addressing watershed stressors as identified by DMS Planning. Watershed plans include Local Watershed Plans (LWPs), Regional Watershed Plans (RWPs), Targeted Local Watersheds (TLW) and Targeted Resource Areas (TRAs). When multiple planning areas overlap for a single *functional stressor*, the planning areas yielding the highest points will be selected.

To receive point in this portion of the scoresheet the proposed project **must**:

- Reside in a DMS Planning Area (LWP, RWP, TLW/TRA)
- Received *Low* or greater for any given *Functional Stressor*
- Address a *Functional Stressor* specifically identified within the Planning Area

Functional Planning and Subtotal. Record the counts of the check boxes and calculate Function Sum and Planning Sum.

Total Function and Planning. Sum of Function + Sum of Planning.

Section 3. General

These metrics will be calculated by DMS Planning staff prior to the DMS technical review:

The percent of the RFP request the proposed project provides.

Physical constraints or barriers are obstacles that affect project design and effectiveness. Percentages are calculated by totaling the linear footage impacted by crossings, roadways, utilities, or reduced buffer; divided by total linear footage. Circle the percentage that best represents the project crossings if applicable.

Project Density considers the project's proximity to other DMS projects. The equation below is intended to award points for synergy within the watershed. The *Watershed Area* is calculated using USGS stream stats Delineate function. The *Project Count* is the number of DMS projects within the identified watershed area. For the purposes of this calculation the "Watershed Area" is defined as area with the highest point yield.

$$\text{Project Density} = \frac{\text{Watershed Area}}{\text{Project Count}}$$

'Connectivity to another permanently protected area' incentivizes connection to and extension of existing protected lands. To meet this criterion, the proposed project and adjacent protected land must be within 100ft.

'Resource drains to 303(d) waters or TMDL Watershed' is intended to incentivize functional uplift watersheds identified to have impairments. To meet this this criterion, the proposed project must directly benefit a 303(d) listed water, be contained within a TMDL Watershed and/or drain to a 303(d) listed stream or TMDL Watershed that is no more than one mile downstream.

Total all general points.

Section 4. Total Score

Total score = Total Function and Planning + Total General