



**State of Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department
Landowner Incentive Program
Ranking Guidelines for Conservation Easement Projects**

Applicant:
Project Title:
Town:
Date of Review:
Field Visit: Yes or No
Inspector:

Total Score:

A. Focus Area	Total Point Value	Applicant's Score
Select One Site lies in the Champlain Valley	15	
B. Preseence of LIP species-at-risk		
Select All That Apply	Property contains:	
	Significant Natural Community	5 X number of community types
	At-Risk-Animal Species	2 X total # of species
	At-Risk-Plant Species	2 X total # of species
C. Ranking of natural community occurrence on the property		
Select One	A-ranked example	10
	B-ranked example	5
	C-ranked example	3
D. Documented occurrence of federal and state listed species		
	G1-ranked # of spp. X 3	
	G2-ranked # of spp. X 2	
	G3-ranked # of spp. X 1	
	S1-ranked # of spp. X 3	
	S2-ranked # of spp. X 2	
	S3-ranked # of spp. X 1	
E. State and Global ranking of natural community occurrence on the property		
Select One	Consideration of the global rank of the natural community to the best of our ability (G1=10, G2=8, G3=5)	
	S1-ranked community	10
	S2-ranked community	5
	S3-ranked community	3
F. Total acreage of property		
Select One	>200 acres	10
	100-200 acres	8
	50-100 acres	6

G. Ecological integrity of the property			
Select One	Property has no roads, structures, invasive species, cultivated areas, or other evidence of human impact.	10	
	Property has roads used for forestry or farming, has recently undergone management operations related to extraction of natural resources, but does not have significantly degraded natural habitats. Invasive species may be present but are easily controlled.	5	
	Ecological restoration is needed and an appropriate restoration plan has been developed and submitted with application	3	
H. Imminent threats			
Select One	There are imminent threats to the property that can be abated with LIP funds	5	
	There are imminent threats to the property that will be ameliorated with LIP funds	3	
I. Current level of protection and buffering			
	Property is adjacent to conserved land	5	
	Property and surrounding landscape is not likely to be developed	3	
J. Landscape setting			
Select One	Property is embedded in an undeveloped setting	5	
	Property is embedded in a minimally developed setting, dominated by forestry and/or agriculture	3	
	Property is embedded in a moderately developed setting, dominated by residential development	1	
K. Connectivity			
Select One	Habitat at project site connects to similar or complimentary habitats	5	
	Habitat at project site has potential to connect to similar or complimentary habitats	3	
L. Probability of project success (based on project readiness, feasibility, capacity to steward the easement and/or management agreement, etc.)			
Select One	Landowner and applicant have both signed a letter of intent stating their commitment to this project	5	
M. Match availability and amount secured			
Select One (Note: that if the project does not have a minimum of 25% match secured then they are not eligible for funding)	>50% match	10	
	26-50% match	5	
	25% match	3	
N. Stewardship of conservation easements			
If the applicant has not considered the following criteria, then they are not eligible for funding.	Applicant has funds secured for stewardship into the long-term and a plan for completing a baseline documentation report, annual monitoring and follow-up reports.	10	
		TOTAL SCORE	

Additional Questions/Comments?

Are you familiar with this property? If so to what extent?

In your opinion, would the proposed LIP project contribute substantially to the conservation of the natural communities/species on the site?

Can you provide any suggestions to improve the project proposal?

Any other comments/suggestions?