

2018 MISSOULA COUNTY OPEN SPACE BOND

OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE PROJECT EVALUATION WORKSHEET

[Draft November 2020]

This evaluation is used by the City of Missoula's Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC) to evaluate open space projects when proposed funding will be derived from the 2018 Missoula County Open Space Bond or other City funding sources pursuant to MMC 12.56 (Open Space ordinance). The results of this evaluation will be used by each committee member to support their participation in the overall committee discussion and review process. The results of this evaluation will help inform OSAC's recommendation with respect to individual open space projects to the Missoula City Council.

This evaluation uses a rating scale to balance various open space values and criteria. The entire application will be considered when making a final determination regarding funding and committee recommendations. There may be circumstances in which a project's rating, as determined by OSAC members utilizing this OSAC Project Evaluation Worksheet, does not truly reflect the value or uniqueness of a project, and, conversely, there may be circumstances in which the ultimate rating overvalues a project. This evaluation is intended to be a guide for generally evaluating projects and facilitating discussion. Higher rated projects are not guaranteed to be approved, and lower rated projects are not guaranteed to be rejected.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Fill out the first portion of the evaluation if this is a conservation easement, other interest in land, or a fee title acquisition project.
 - Fill out the first portion of the evaluation if this is a conservation easement, other interest in land, or a fee title acquisition project.
 - If this is a capital improvements project or if there is an improvements component to the project, fill out the improvements portion of the evaluation.
 - Evaluate each question with a High, Medium, Low, or N/A. Check the corresponding box that applies: High (H) if the criteria is definitely met for the project, Medium (M) if the criteria is somewhat met, or Low (L) if the criteria is scarcely met, or an N/A if a particular criterion does not apply to the proposed project.
 - If Yes (Y) or No (N) is the more appropriate response, select (H) for Yes or (L) for No.
 - When a rating would benefit from explanation, please provide it in the Notes section below.
 - At the end of each section, tally the number of highs, mediums, and lows and record in the provided blanks. The overall section rating is determined by the rating (i.e., high, medium, or low) that comprises the highest number of questions. Record each section's rating in the chart at the end of this document.
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CONSERVATION EASEMENT, FEE TITLE ACQUISITION, OR OTHER INTEREST IN LAND PROJECT EVALUATION

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Project name | |
| Sponsoring Entity | |
| Current Landowner | |
| Date of Evaluation | |

I. Project Overview

- H M L N/A The project is consistent with the open space goals contained within the 2018 Open Space Bond language. (“Conserving, enjoying, and enhancing open-space land, to include providing public access to water and land; conserving agricultural lands, fish and wildlife habitat, and rivers, lakes, and streams; protecting scenic views; and making improvements to lands acquired or designated as open space that are accessible to the public”)
- H M L N/A The project is consistent with a current open space plan, parks and trails plan, growth policy, community goal statement or plan, and/or land use regulations.
- H M L N/A The land uses associated with this proposal are consistent with the ecological, physical, and social environment in the surrounding area.
- H M L N/A The project is contiguous to existing conserved or protected open space.
- H M L N/A The property is in an area that is underserved with respect to open space conservation, parks and/or trails.
- H M L N/A There is high potential that, if not protected, the property will be developed or undergo a change in land use that is incompatible with open space values.

Responses ___*High* ___*Medium* ___*Low* ___*N/A*

Overall Section Rating _____

II. Project Funding

- H M L N/A The project provides or plans for long-term maintenance, management, and/or stewardship costs related to the property.
- H M L N/A There are financial contributions from partners or funding sources other than the Open Space Bond, and in addition to the landowner or sponsoring entity.
- H M L N/A There is a donation of value or a matching contribution (e.g. stewardship donation) from the landowner and/or sponsoring entity.

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Responses ___*High* ___*Medium* ___*Low* ___*N/A*

Overall Section Rating _____

Conservation/Open Space Values and Resources

III. Wildlife Habitat/Native Plant Communities

- | | | | | |
|---|---|---|-----|---|
| H | M | L | N/A | The property provides habitat for a diverse array of wildlife species. |
| H | M | L | N/A | The property contains habitat for animal or plant species that are state or federally-listed endangered or threatened species, or species of concern. |
| H | M | L | N/A | The property is located near other protected areas (public or private) that contain wildlife habitat. |
| H | M | L | N/A | The property serves as a component of wildlife movement or migration corridors and provides habitat connectivity. |
| H | M | L | N/A | Native plant communities are present and healthy on the property. |
| H | M | L | N/A | Invasive/noxious weed management efforts are being successfully conducted on the property. |
| H | M | L | N/A | The property's proposed land uses are consistent with maintaining wildlife and native plant habitat. |

Responses ___*High* ___*Medium* ___*Low* ___*N/A*

Overall Section Rating _____

IV. Water Quality and Water Resources

- | | | | | |
|---|---|---|-----|--|
| H | M | L | N/A | The property contains wetlands or water bodies of high resource value and quality. |
| H | M | L | N/A | The water resources are surrounded by native plant communities or riparian habitat. |
| H | M | L | N/A | The property provides a benefit to nearby/adjacent water resources. |
| H | M | L | N/A | The property's proposed land uses are consistent with maintaining and/or enhancing water resource values, riparian habitat, and water quality. |

Responses ___*High* ___*Medium* ___*Low* ___*N/A*

Overall Section Rating _____

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V. Agriculture and Working Lands

- H M L N/A The project contributes to maintaining or restoring a working landscape, including land uses such as ranching, farming, or timber management.
- H M L N/A The property helps maintain a sense of agricultural tradition and/or rural character.
- H M L N/A The property is located adjacent to or near other working farms/ranches.
- H M L N/A The property is located adjacent to or near working farms/ranches protected by conservation easements.
- H M L N/A The property contains soils classified as Prime/Statewide Importance or Unique/Locally Significant by NRCS.
- H M L N/A The associated water rights and irrigation status and infrastructure are sufficient to protect agricultural conservation values.

Responses ___*High* ___*Medium* ___*Low* ___*N/A*

Overall Section Rating _____

VI. Outdoor Recreation/Public Use

- H M L N/A The project provides or will provide public recreation and/or access opportunities.
- H M L N/A The project includes a plan for public access facilities and infrastructure (e.g. parking, signage, restrooms) that will support the proposed uses.
- H M L N/A The property is adjacent to/provides connectivity to existing publicly accessible trails, corridors, or open space lands.
- H M L N/A The proposed recreational or public access uses are appropriate given the ecological, physical, and social environment associated with the property and surrounding area.
- H M L N/A The property is located in an area where public access and/or recreational amenities are encouraged by local plans or priorities.

Responses ___*High* ___*Medium* ___*Low* ___*N/A*

Overall Section Rating _____

VII. Scenic/Aesthetic Values

- H M L N/A The property provides or protects scenic vistas.
- H M L N/A The property provides scenic features that are associated with the community's identity and sense of place.

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H M L N/A The property is visible from major roads, trails, or other prominent locations.

H M L N/A The property offers other unique or exceptional open space features or attributes that should be considered. If yes, describe:

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

Responses ___ *High* ___ *Medium* ___ *Low* ___ *N/A*

Overall Section Rating _____

VIII. Cultural/Historic Resources

H M L N/A The property contains cultural, archaeological or historic values/resources of concern or interest.

H M L N/A The property contains culturally-sensitive sites or resources identified by Tribal representatives or documents.

H M L N/A The property provides historic/cultural features that are strongly associated with the community's identity and sense of place.

H M L N/A If applicable, to what extent are there existing and/or potential environmental, historic and/or cultural education opportunities for the public at large, educational groups, and/or researchers?

*Responses*___ *High* ___ *Medium* ___ *Low* ___ *N/A*

Overall Section Rating _____

OVERALL EASEMENT/ACQUISITION PROJECT RATING

Although this evaluation manifests a relative value or rating for an individual project, the evaluation system does not necessarily reflect the holistic value or uniqueness of a particular project. The project evaluation process is intended as a guide to facilitate thorough committee discussion and inform a committee recommendation to City Council.

| Section | Overall Section Rating (High, Medium, Low, or N/A) |
|-----------------|--|
| Context | |
| Project Funding | |

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| | |
|---|--|
| Wildlife Habitat/Native Plant Communities | |
| Water Quality and Water Resources | |
| Working Lands/Agricultural/Ranchland | |
| Outdoor Recreation/Public Use | |
| Scenic/Aesthetic | |
| Cultural/Historic | |
| Other | |

Additional Notes: Record additional comments, questions, notes, or clarity related to project evaluation in the space below. Please reference the particular section or criterion by section name and number.

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CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT EVALUATION

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Project name | |
| Sponsoring Entity | |
| Current Landowner | |
| Date of Evaluation | |

I. Project Context

- H M L N/A The project addresses a need or desire for improvements on open space lands.
- H M L N/A The project is on lands that are or will be accessible to the public and designated as open space prior to disbursement of funds.
- H M L N/A The project area is identified in a current open space plan, parks and trails plan, growth policy, community goal statement or plan, and/or land use regulations.
- H M L N/A The lifespan of the improvements/infrastructure is of sufficient duration to adequately protect the investment of Open Space Bond funds.

Responses ___*High* ___*Medium* ___*Low* ___*N/A*

Overall Section Rating _____

II. Project Funding

- H M L N/A The sponsoring entity or landowner has a plan for and is able to steward and manage the project and its resulting infrastructure.
- H M L N/A There is a financial contribution component from the sponsoring entity or landowner.
- H M L N/A There are financial contributions from partners or funding sources other than the Open Space Bond, and in addition to the landowner or sponsoring entity.

Responses ___*High* ___*Medium* ___*Low* ___*N/A*

Overall Section Rating _____

III. Conservation and Open Space Values

- H M L N/A The proposed uses are appropriate given the ecological, physical, and social environment associated with the property and surrounding area.

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H M L N/A Current and proposed uses are consistent with maintaining or protecting the open space values of the property.

H M L N/A The project location is currently used and/or otherwise valued by the public.

H M L N/A The project addresses ADA access, use, and benefits for people of all abilities.

Responses ___*High* ___*Medium* ___*Low* ___*N/A*

Overall Section Rating _____

OVERALL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT RATING

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