

e-Appendix C

PROJECT ELIGIBILITY & EVALUATION PROCESS

A long sought after parcel of forest land, an abandoned farm field, a stretch of riverfront industrial property, the last acre of open space in town; each an example of an individual project, an opportunity requiring conservation action.

This appendix describes the unified system for evaluation of land conservation projects which is used by DEC, OPRHP and DOS. This system ensures that state actions closely follow priorities set forth in the Plan and pursue the following goals:

- establish priorities for land conservation actions given available public resources;
- provide for statutory and reasonable outside input into the project evaluation process;
- identify specific places with exceptional natural resource value (NRV) or recreational value which may be threatened by land use change or which could serve critical recreational needs;
- determine the most appropriate strategy for conserving the resource values of those places including what action should be taken by DEC, OPRHP or DOS;
- evaluate the costs and benefits of individual land conservation actions;
- when State acquisition of land is the most appropriate strategy, ensure that land is worthy of public investment and clearly meets the goals of this Plan.

I. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION & PROPOSAL

The request to consider a potential land protection project is an ongoing process in which any citizen, organization, or governmental body in the state can make a proposal. This includes the Regional Advisory Committees (RAC), individuals, organizations and groups, local governments, property owners, other state agencies, and OPRHP and DEC staff – anyone interested in the protection of open space and the natural and cultural resources of the state. Such a request should be made to the appropriate regional offices of the DEC, OPRHP or to the DOS office in Albany.

Project proposals are organized at the regional level into project inventories. The Agencies consult to determine which agency will conduct the project review and approval process for any proposed project.

Similarly, any citizen, organization or governmental body in the state may request a potential land protection project to be considered for the federal Coastal & Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) funding if they believe the project addresses this program's

priorities (e-Appendix D). Such requests should be made to the appropriate Regional Advisory Committee or to the Department of State.

II. PROJECT REVIEW & APPROVAL PROCESS

A. DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY

The first step in the review process is the investigation of all potential projects by the appropriate DEC or OPRHP regional office. That investigation begins with a determination of whether the individual project is within the scope of one of the priority conservation projects identified in e-Appendix A (www.dec.ny.gov/lands/47990.html) of the Plan. Individual projects that fit the scope of a listed conservation project are eligible for funding from the State's Environmental Protection Fund, and other State, federal and local funding sources.

The determination of eligibility proceeds with a determination of whether the project meets the minimum eligibility requirements; see e-Appendix C-1.

B. DETERMINATION OF VULNERABILITY OR CRITICALNESS

Once a project has been reviewed and qualified according to the eligibility screens, the vulnerability or criticalness of the project is examined. Vulnerability is the appropriate question for projects whose focus is the protection of the quality of the resource, while criticalness is the appropriate question for all other projects including those with a recreational or administrative focus.

Vulnerability is the measure of the degree of urgency for protection in order to preserve the resource. Vulnerability is expressed as a yes or no determination for each project that has been found to meet the previously described eligibility requirements. The determination is based on the reasonable expectation of substantial adverse impact to the resource occurring within two years if the project is not protected. In determining the expectation of impact the following factors, together with such additional factors as may be appropriate, may be considered:

- the present condition of the site;
- any announced plans for the site, including their nature, timing, scope and environmental compatibility;
- any pending applications for any form of governmental approval for the use or development of the site;
- the transfer or proposed transfer of ownership of the site including the public offering of the site for sale;
- the relationship of any proposal to any local land use plans;
- the land use pattern and development trends in the area.

Criticalness is expressed as the importance of the project in relation to the achievement of State objectives for enhancing the enjoyment or administration of public lands. The assessment uses the following factors together with other appropriate measures:

- the ability of the project – based upon its physical and natural characteristics – to achieve a program objective, other than preservation (such program objectives include access, resource management, facilitation of public use and enjoyment, and administration of public land);
- the availability or lack thereof, of alternative sites, or mechanisms to achieve program objectives.

C. ALTERNATIVES

Upon a determination that the proposed project is either vulnerable or critical, the project moves to the alternative screen. The intent of the alternative screen is to focus attention on methods, other than acquisition by the State of a fee or an easement, which will provide adequate protection or meet the program objective. There are a variety of alternative conservation tools available (see Chapter I – 'Our State's Open Space Conservation Plan').

D. RESOURCE VALUE RATING

Should a decision be made that there are no viable alternatives, a project is then moved to the subcategory resource value rating screen. Using the resource value rating system for the appropriate subcategory (see e-Appendix C-2) for the rating systems), a rating is determined for the project. The rating, expressed as a number, is the professional technical staff's evaluation of the resource value of the project. The rating is expressed numerically, as x out of 100 where x is the rating for any individual project.

NOTE: From text box:

Projects located within the Coastal & Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) planning area will also be evaluated using the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Area Resource Value Ratings System, resulting in a numerical value, out of 100. Similar to the other Resource Value Rating results, this represents the professional technical staff's evaluation of the project as it relates to the CELCP Plan priorities and establishes an early assessment of the potential competitiveness of the project for federal funding under the Coastal & Estuarine Land Conservation Program.

The maximum achievable score that can be obtained from the criteria in each rating (for each subcategory) is 100 points. Because of the advantages of avoided purchase costs, gifts of land, either in fee or easement, are awarded 10 extra points towards the 100 total.

Projects which meet the minimum qualifications of multiple subcategories also qualify for additional points. These points, for a project demonstrating multiple benefits, may go towards the 100 total or are added onto the 100 score (for projects already achieving the

100 score through the NRV rating). Projects that meet one additional subcategory qualify for three additional points; projects that meet more than one additional subcategory qualify for five additional points.

The purpose of rating the project is to provide a sense of the resource worth of the project. While each subcategory rating system uses a 100 point scale, they are individually unique and are designed so that the resource value of individual projects can be compared only within a given subcategory. They are not intended to provide a basis for, or a method of, making individual project comparison between different subcategories.

In order to provide a minimum threshold, this Plan requires that a project must achieve a score at or above the midpoint of the resource value rating system for the appropriate subcategory. Only those projects that meet or exceed the minimum threshold established by this Plan, or DEC, OPRHP or DOS acting pursuant to this provision of this Plan, may proceed to the Program Executive for review.

Note: from text box:

Similarly, a project must achieve a score at or above the midpoint (50 points) of the Coastal & Estuarine Land Conservation Area resource rating system for it to proceed to Program Executive for review as a possible nomination for federal CELCP funding.

E. QUALITATIVE REVIEW SCREEN

Should a project achieve a rating at or above the minimum threshold, it is submitted, together with a professional staff recommendation of priority, to the Program Executive for review and recommendation. In addition to the resource rating, Coastal & Estuarine Land Conservation Area resource rating, and the professional staff recommendation, the Program Executive will consider nine factors:

- the impact of the location of the project on its ability to achieve the objective;
- the compatibility of the project with SCORP and other State environmental plans;
- the compatibility of the project with regional and/or local environmental plans;
- the multiple benefits afforded by the project;
- the availability of alternative or additional funding for purchase of the project;
- post acquisition management needs and the availability of post acquisition management support;
- the extent to which the project encompasses agricultural lands;
- the fiscal and economic benefits and burdens resulting from the project, including those on state agencies, the local government and the local economy;
- the compatibility of the project with the Coastal & Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) priorities.

Post-acquisition management needs are a valid concern in the project selection process. The information necessary to address this criterion includes the identification of such needs and an estimate of their cost for a five-year time frame.

The analysis of economic factors includes project impact on:

- real property tax base;
- local and regional retail sales businesses and service businesses;
- real estate values;
- traffic flow;
- land use patterns;
- funding by bonding, direct allocation, gift, federal funds, or private funding sources;
- farming and forestry resource base in the town or county.

F. FINAL STEP – EXECUTIVE DECISION

Upon completion of the qualitative review, should the program executive approve the project, such recommendation is forwarded to the Commissioner. The Commissioner, in whom the decision regarding purchase is vested, will consider the project. Potential funding sources will be considered for approved projects, including EPF and CELCP.

NOTE: from text box:

For projects eligible for CELCP funding, the Commissioner will work closely with the Secretary of State to decide which projects to nominate to be considered under that federal funding program. The Secretary of State is responsible for nominating CELCP projects for federal funding and DOS's Division of Coastal Resources will be responsible for completing the CELCP nomination package and forwarding it to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

In making the acquisition decision, the Commissioner will consider not only the results of the various screens in the selection process but also other factors including:

- the extent to which the project's location contributes to the geographical balance and availability of the state's diversity of resources, as well as a fair distribution of the available monies across the state;
- the availability of the project for acquisition by purchase, gift or partial;
- the suitability and practicality of a conservation easement, or other less than fee acquisition strategies, as required by ECL Section 49-0203(2);
- the cost of the project in relation to its resource value;
- the social, cultural and educational values, benefits, and potential of the project;
- the comments of the State Land Acquisition Advisory Council (SLAAC) created by ECL Section 49-0211 to which each project is referred for review and recommendations;
- any other factors that may be appropriate.

Once the Commissioner has made a decision to proceed with acquisition, the Commissioner has the discretion to establish priorities for approved projects. The decision to acquire property will be implemented by designated agency staff.

Any project not approved can be reactivated for further consideration whenever there is a change of circumstance or other appropriate reason that would warrant reevaluation.

III. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT

The Environmental Protection Fund, the primary source of State funding for State-level open space conservation, requires that acquisition funds only be used with willing sellers except in extenuating situations. This requirement is consistent with the intent of the State Open Space Conservation Plan which recommends that any pursuit of acquisitions with unwilling sellers be as a last resort and resulting from unique circumstances.

The 1993 Environmental Protection Act includes a local government consultation process, at ECL §54-0303(5), which provides that if a particular open space land conservation project is not “listed” in the state land acquisition plan which was in effect when the EPF was enacted into law (i.e., is not contained in the list of priority acquisition projects in the June 19, 1992 edition of the plan), then the Commissioner of DEC or OPRHP may not acquire such project using EPF funding until after completion of a local government notification process. The statute provides that before proposing such a project for acquisition the appropriate commissioner must provide notification of the project to any town, village or city within which such a project is located. If the municipality takes no action within 90 days of such notification, then the appropriate commissioner may proceed with the acquisition using EPF funds. However, if the municipality passes a resolution objecting to the project within 90 days of such notification, EPF funds may not be used for the acquisition. Such a resolution is to be transmitted to the appropriate Commissioner via the regional land acquisition advisory committee.

The State Finance Law requires that individual priority open space conservation projects that are proposed for funding through the EPF be listed in the capital project budget prepared each year. As part of this process, the Department and the Office submit project recommendations for inclusion by the Governor. Priority projects included in the final budget, as approved by the Legislature, will then be implemented by the agencies within funds available.

IV. COASTAL & ESTUARINE LAND CONSERVATION PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The Coastal & Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) was established pursuant to the Department of Commerce, Justice, and State Appropriations Act of 2002 (Public Law

107-77) to protect important coastal and estuarine areas that have significant conservation, recreation, ecological, historical, or aesthetic values, or that are threatened by conversion from their natural or recreational state to other uses. Priority is given to lands which can be effectively managed and protected and that have significant ecological value.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) established guidelines which were published in the Federal Register on June 17, 2003. The guidelines provide eligibility requirements for projects funded under the program and establish procedures to select projects through a competitive process. The guidelines outline a three-stage process for competitive funding under the program: development of a state coastal and estuarine land conservation plan; a process for identifying and ranking qualified projects within the state and nominating them to a national competitive selection process annually; and a process for conducting peer review and selection of projects at the national level. The complete federal guidelines may be found at:
<http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/pdf/CELCPfinal02Guidelines.pdf>.

Federal funds awarded under this program must be matched with funds from non-federal sources on a 1:1 basis. The non-federal share of funding may be derived from state, local, non-governmental or private sources in the form of cash or the value of non-monetary or in-kind contributions, such as the value of donated lands or interests therein, or services such as on-site remediation, restoration, enhancement, or donated labor and supplies, provided that the in-kind contributions are necessary and reasonable to accomplish the objectives of the project. Lands acquired through CELCP funding must be purchased within three years of the grant start date. CELCP funds may also be applied retroactively to acquisitions made within three years of the grant start date. Costs for services must be incurred within the grant period.

In order to qualify to receive funds under this program, a coastal state must develop a Coastal & Estuarine Land Conservation Program plan (CELCP plan) that provides an assessment of priority conservation needs and clear guidance for nominating and selecting land conservation projects within the state. The New York State Open Space Plan was initially expanded during a 2006 revision, to address and include federal Coastal & Estuarine Land Conservation Program priorities to enable New York to compete for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration 1:1 matching funds for the acquisition of coastal and estuarine lands.

To that end, the 2008 Open Space Plan includes the following CELCP requirements:

- a map or description of the coastal and estuarine land conservation program planning area;
- a description of the types of lands or values to be protected;

- identification of "project areas" that represent the state's priority areas for conservation, including areas threatened by conversion, based on state and national criteria for the CELCP program;
- a description of existing plans that are incorporated into the plan;
- a list of state or local agencies that are eligible to hold title to protected lands;
- a description of the state's process for reviewing and prioritizing proposals to the national selection process; and
- a description of public involvement and interagency coordination.

The New York State Department of State, responsible for the administration of New York's coastal management program, is lead state agency for state administration of the Coastal & Estuarine Land Conservation Program, and as such is responsible for nominating projects for consideration under this federal program, would be the recipient of such funds, and would be responsible for their re-distribution.

APPROPRIATE MEASURES FOR CONSERVING NEW YORK STATE'S OPEN SPACES UNDER OPTION 6 – STATE ACQUISITION PRINCIPLE PURCHASING FROM WILLING SELLERS: OUR STATE'S EMINENT DOMAIN POLICY

While the State has rarely used eminent domain for land conservation purposes, the agencies recognize the concern over the use of this tool, particularly in the Adirondack and Catskill Parks. The open space planning process has therefore proceeded with recognition of the State's partnership responsibility to communicate openly and fairly with local governments and landowners.

I BACKGROUND

The principal funding source for state acquisition of open space is the EPF. The EPF requires that acquisition funds only be used with willing sellers, except in extenuating situations (Article 54-0303, Environmental Conservation Law), where property listed as a priority project in the Open Space Plan is exposed to a change of use that would pose an immediate and irreversible threat to a specific and highly significant open space resource; and then only to the extent necessary to remove that threat; or "to clear title or establish a fair market price for property offered by a willing seller." This restriction is applicable to any State open space acquisition project, not just those which are located within the two Parks. While the present state acquisition process using EPF funds specifically requires local government consultation and public participation, including an environmental

review, additional interaction with local interests is recommended prior to a decision to employ eminent domain.

As this section of law underscores the State's desire to avoid using eminent domain to protect open space; the State retains the power to use eminent domain which it will only continue to use as a last resort under unique circumstances. Therefore, without limiting the State's statutory authority, it is the policy of DEC and OPRHP to acquire land, interests in land, and improvements on land for open space conservation purposes from willing sellers and without recourse to the power of eminent domain.

In the unusual case, where an open space conservation project is identified for fee and/or easement acquisition, meeting the established criteria as specified in Section 49-0203 of the Environmental Conservation Law and the State Open Space Conservation Plan (adopted pursuant to that law); and where the State must consider the use of eminent domain, the following consultation process will be employed:

II CONSULTATION PROCESS

- A. The State will undertake negotiations with the landowner(s) looking to reach a voluntary agreement to sell.
- B. If the landowner(s) is willing to sell, then the State will follow its normal procedures to review, appraise and negotiate the purchase of the property. If a landowner is unwilling to sell, then the State will consider the following two questions:
 - Are the natural resource values of the property seriously threatened as a result of uses or changes in uses by the current landowner?
 - How important is the parcel in question to the current and long term interests of the people of New York?
- C. After reviewing these two questions, the State will either decide to drop the parcel from further consideration or continue the process by preparing a report which evaluates the issues in question about the parcel. This report will be provided to the landowner and to the appropriate Regional Land Acquisition Advisory Committee for advice and consultation. In the latter case, the State should continue to the next step.
- D. The State will consult further with the Regional Land Acquisition Advisory Committee where the parcel is located:
 - If there is a unanimous recommendation of the Committee not to proceed with the eminent domain process, then the committee shall forward such recommendation to the Commissioner of DEC with a statement of the reasons for the Committee's recommendations. If the Commissioner wishes to proceed, he or she will be

required to meet with and provide an explanation to the Committee as to the reasons for that decision.

- If there is not a unanimous recommendation, the Committee, with technical support from the State, will provide the Commissioner with recommendations, which may include majority or minority opinions.

E. Following the review of the recommendations referred above, the Commissioner of DEC would decide whether or not to initiate acquisition of the parcel through the process laid out in the Eminent Domain Procedure Law. Should such action proceed, the comments of the Regional Advisory Committee shall be submitted as part of the record of the required proceedings.

e-Appendix C-1

CONSERVATION PROJECT ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

LAND PROTECTION CATEGORIES & SUB-CATEGORIES

The Open Space Conservation Plan identifies seven major resource categories which are a synthesis of over a century of resource protection undertaken by our State. The function of these seven categories and their subcategories is to identify all of the various types of resources that are the subject of conservation attention. Each represents a discrete resource serving a separate function. Given the great diversity of resources found within the Adirondack and Catskill Parks, land conservation projects proposed for protection in either park may be evaluated using any of the 29 land protection subcategories. Also, many land conservation projects fulfill criteria of different categories, and thus receive additional points in the Resource Value Ratings System (e-Appendix C-2).

	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	VI.	VII.
	Adirondack & Catskill Forest Protection	Water Resource Protection	Significant Ecological Areas	Recreational Opportunity	Distinctive Character	Public Lands Enhancement	Coastal & Estuarine Land Conservation Areas
A.	Forest Preserve Additions	Aquifer Recharge Areas	Exceptional Forests	Metropolitan Parks & Shorelines	Historic Preservation	Access	CELCP Priorities
B.	Forest & Scenic Easements	Watershed Protection	Shoreline Protection	Parklands	Working Landscapes	Buffer	Conservation
C.		Aquatic Ecosystem Protection	Unique Areas	Public Fishing Rights	Heritage Areas	Consolidation & Inholdings	Ecological

D.		Floodplain Preservation	Wetlands	Trailways & Greenways	Scenic Resources		Recreation/ Access
E.			Wildlife Habitat	Waterway Access			Historic/ Aesthetic
F.			Biodiversity				

LAND PROTECTION CATEGORIES & SUB-CATEGORIES CRITERIA

I ADIRONDACK & CATSKILL FOREST PROTECTION

A. FOREST PRESERVE ADDITIONS

1. The proposed project must be located within either the Adirondack or Catskill Park; and
2. The proposed project must be located outside of the boundaries of an incorporated village or city; and
3. The proposed project must be located outside of the Towns of Altona and Dannemora in Clinton County.

B. FOREST & SCENIC EASEMENTS

1. The proposed project must protect productive forest land located within either the Adirondack or Catskill Park.

II WATER RESOURCE PROTECTION

A. AQUIFER RECHARGE AREAS

1. The proposed project area to be protected must be part of an aquifer recharge area which is protected by local watershed rules and regulations, groundwater protection ordinances, zoning ordinances, subdivision regulations, site plan review procedures, or other methods acceptable to the commissioner; and
2. The local government must agree to manage the acquired lands in a manner acceptable to the commissioner. A formal agreement with the Department must be executed at the time of acquisition; and
3. The local agency must participate in the funding of the acquisition in an amount to be determined by agreement with the commissioner based on such factors as: 1) the size, cost and public health and environmental significance of the proposed project on a local, regional or statewide basis; 2) the significance and substantial nature of any proposed financial contribution by the municipality in relationship to the municipality's size, population and fiscal resources; 3) the relationship of any proposed "in kind" contribution by the acquisition of a portion of the lands

- included in the project in lieu of a direct financial contribution to the state's purchase; and 4) any other factors that may be relevant. Credit will only be given for local acquisition activities subsequent to the completion and approval of this State Open Space Conservation Plan (November 18, 1992). This requirement is waived if the primary purpose for the acquisition is not aquifer recharge; and
4. The local government must either have applied or agree to apply for a water supply permit pursuant to section 15-1501 of the Environmental Conservation Law. Application must be made before the acquisitions are implemented. This requirement is waived if the primary purpose for the acquisition is not aquifer recharge.

B. WATERSHED PROTECTION

1. WATER SUPPLY RESERVOIR PROTECTION

- a. The proposed project lies within the watershed of a water supply reservoir; and
- b. The owner of the water supply reservoir must have enacted watershed rules and regulations pursuant to section 1100 of the Public Health Law; and
- c. The owner of the water supply reservoir must apply for a water supply permit for the purchase of the project lands. This requirement is waived if the primary purpose for the acquisition is not watershed protection; and
- d. The local agency must participate in the funding of the acquisition in an amount to be determined by agreement with the Commissioner based on such factors as:
 - (i) the size, cost and public health and environmental significance of the proposed project on a local, regional or statewide basis;
 - (ii) the significance and substantial nature of any proposed financial contribution by the municipality in relationship to the municipality's size, population and fiscal resources;
 - (iii) the relationship of any proposed "in kind" contribution by the acquisition of a portion of the lands included in the project in lieu of a direct financial contribution to the states purchase; and
 - (iv) any other factors that may be relevant. Credit will only be given for local acquisition activities subsequent to the completion and approval of this State Open Space Conservation Plan (November 18, 1992). This requirement is waived if the primary purpose for the acquisition is not watershed protection; and
- e. At the discretion of the Commissioner, the owner of the water supply reservoir must agree to manage the lands acquired in a manner acceptable to the commissioner.
- f. The Commissioner and the owner of the water supply reservoir may negotiate an agreement relative to public use of the reservoir and surrounding watershed land where appropriate.

C. AQUATIC ECOSYSTEM PROTECTION

1. The proposed project is within the watershed (and upstream of) of a water body that is classified no lower than C as per Title 6, Chapter X, Parts 700–705 of NYCRR.
2. The proposed project encompasses a minimum of 50 acres of watershed. Proposals less than 50 acres that contain critical features for protection of the water such as springs, tributary mouths or highly erodible land features also qualify.

D. FLOODPLAIN PRESERVATION

1. The proposed project area to be protected lies in whole or in part within an area defined as the Special Flood Hazard Area by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. This is an area which is subject to a one percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year, as shown on maps produced by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.
2. The proposed project area has characteristics which, if developed, would constitute an extreme hazard to the development, or contains lands which are a natural benefit by providing significant amounts of natural flood storage.

III SIGNIFICANT ECOLOGICAL AREAS

A. EXCEPTIONAL FOREST OR PLANT COMMUNITY

1. The proposed project is at least ten acres in size and contains old growth (with or without associated buffer), defined as long lived native species where the average age of the dominant trees is at least 150 years. Long lived native species means any of the following: Chestnut Oak, Swamp White Oak, Bur Oak, Chinquapin Oak, American Basswood, White Ash, Atlantic White Cedar, Yellow Birch, Sweet Birch, Pignut Hickory, Bitternut Hickory, Mockernut Hickory, Red Maple, Black Cherry, Butternut, Eastern Hemlock, White Pine, Sugar Maple, Tulip Poplar, American Sycamore, Shagbark Hickory, Red Oak, White Oak, Beech, Red Pine, Northern White Cedar, Black Spruce, Black Walnut, Red Spruce; or
2. The proposed project contains plants or a plant community (with or without associated buffer) that is rare or unusual or offers the potential for the reintroduction of extirpated species. Rare or unusual is defined as having less than 100 existing sites in New York; or
3. The proposed project is a savanna or barren (with or without associated buffer). Savannas are defined as communities with a sparse canopy of trees (25 to 60% cover) and a ground layer that is either predominantly grassy or shrubby. Barrens are defined as upland woodland communities with a canopy of stunted or dwarfed trees (<16 feet tall) and/or contain typical species of pitch pine, oak species, or heaths. Woodland communities or savannas may also occur on shallow soils or bedrock with numerous rock outcrops.

B. SHORELINE PROTECTION

1. The proposed project has a natural protective feature as defined in section 34–0103 of the Environmental Conservation Law; or

2. The proposed project directly abuts the shoreline of any tidal water, or a river, stream or lake; or
3. The proposed project has characteristics which alteration of may result in reduction of the water quality of, or modification of the water discharge to, the receiving water bodies, or will degrade the scenic or fish and wildlife values of the water body.

C. UNIQUE AREAS

1. The proposed project possesses at least one of the following elements: special natural beauty, wilderness character, geological significance, ecological significance, historical or archaeological significance; and
2. The proposed project must be of a character suitable for inclusion in the State Nature and Historical Preserve; and
3. The proposed project must be located outside the Adirondack and Catskill Parks.

D. WETLANDS

1. FRESHWATER WETLANDS

- a. The proposed project is a freshwater wetland, with or without associated upland buffer, as defined in Article 24 of the Environmental Conservation Law; and by reason of the wetland benefits it provides, is clearly valuable when compared to the range of wetlands in the state; and
- b. The proposed project must possess two 15–point, or three 7–point, or one 15–point and one 7–point, substantially non–duplicative, wetland value characteristics as enumerated in the rating system for Freshwater Wetlands.

2. TIDAL WETLANDS

- a. The proposed project is a tidal wetland, with or without associated upland buffer, as defined in Article 25 of the Environmental Conservation Law, located in either the Marine and Coastal District as defined in section 13–0103 of the Environmental Conservation Law or in the Hudson River Valley between the Tappan–Zee Bridge and the federal dam at Troy; or
- b. The proposed project is an inventoried tidal wetland with or without associated upland buffer.

E. WILDLIFE HABITAT

1. The proposed project contributes to the state's biological diversity as a rare, unique or exemplary natural community and requires special protection and management as part of a state–administered system of representative ecosystems; or
2. The proposed project, together with necessary buffer, is a biologically significant area in that it serves as a significant habitat for a species of interest or as a wildlife concentration area including, but not limited to, whitetail deer wintering areas, hawk migration sites, spawning/nursery areas for fish; or it is unusually productive or supports an exceptional assemblage of animal species, particularly rare or uncommon ones; or

3. The proposed project contains the minimum geographic area, together with associated buffer, vital to continued use by a threatened or endangered species as defined in section 11-0535 of the Environmental Conservation Law.

F. BIODIVERSITY

1. The proposed project contributes to the state's biological diversity as a rare, unique, exemplary or significant natural community requiring special protection.
2. The proposed project is a biologically significant area in that it serves as significant habitat for a species of fauna or flora; is significant habitat based on its rarity, size, condition, landscape setting, or ecological function; or it is unusually productive or supports an exceptional assemblage of plant or animal species.
3. The proposed project contains the minimum geographic area, together with associated buffer, vital to continued use by a threatened or endangered species as defined in section 11-0535 of the Environmental Conservation Law, or other species considered rare, of special concern or exploitable vulnerable under New York State Environmental Conservation Law, or considered a high priority Species of Greatest Conservation Need in the New York State Wildlife Action Plan.
4. The proposed project contributes to an existing regional, state or multijurisdictional biodiversity conservation initiative, including, but not limited to Hudson River Estuary Management Plan, Open Space Institute, Biodiversity Research Institute, The Nature Conservancy, and other types of biological diversity initiatives.
5. The proposed project links similar and/or different habitat(s) together thereby creating a corridor and thus allowing for migration of fauna and flora species from one place to another.

IV RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

A. METROPOLITAN PARKS & SHORELINES

1. PARKS

- a. The proposed project, if developed, can be adopted for the intended use or can be reclaimed at reasonable cost given its location (cost benefit) and minimal resource impact; and
- b. The proposed project is of sufficient size and configuration to accommodate the intended use or development; and
- c. The proposed project must be located within or less than five miles from the borders of a recognized urban, suburban or other densely populated center (population > 10,000 people and density > 4,000 persons per square mile).

2. SHORELINES

- a. The proposed project is physically contiguous to a lake, canal, navigable river, marine or other coastal water body and provides for direct access; and
- b. To the extent development is planned for, the proposed project is physically and environmentally developable; and
- c. The quality and extent of the water body is suitable for the contemplated use or development; and

- d. The proposed project must be accessible by the general public for recreational, cultural or educational purposes; and
 - e. The proposed project must be located in a municipality within a county containing at least 500,000 population; or within a county within a city with a population greater than 500,000; and
 - f. The proposed project, if developed, can be adapted for the intended use or can be reclaimed at reasonable cost given its location (cost benefit and minimal resource impact).
- B. PARKLANDS**
1. Proposed project contains natural, scenic or open space resources that are unique, rare, or of statewide or regional significance; and
 2. The proposed project is of usable/manageable configuration and has suitable access; and
 3. The proposed project has potential for active or passive recreational use and development consistent with the carrying capacity of its natural resources.
- C. PUBLIC FISHING RIGHTS**
1. The proposed project would consolidate or link together existing stream rights; or
 2. The proposed project is on a stream which supports, or is capable of supporting, viable populations of sport fish on a year round basis; or
 3. The proposed project is on a stream which is subject, or potentially subject, to seasonal “runs” of sport fish, whether or not it supports residency of such fish.
- D. TRAILWAYS & GREENWAYS**
1. **TRAILWAYS**
 - a. The proposed project must be legally and physically accessible to the public, or be a portion of an identified trailways project which, when completed, will be legally and physically accessible to the public; and
 - b. The proposed project must be physically and environmentally developable as a trailway; and
 - c. The proposed project must help close existing gaps in the statewide recreationway network, or connect a population center with public lands, public parks or historic sites.
 2. **GREENWAYS**
 - a. The proposed project links parks or other public lands within a broader linear corridor that includes parks, open space areas, trails and other public lands with urban, suburban and rural areas.
- E. WATERWAY ACCESS**
1. The proposed project is physically contiguous to a lake, canal, navigable river, marine or other coastal waterbody and provides for direct access; and
 2. To the extent development is planned for, the proposed project is physically and environmentally developable; and
 3. The quality and extent of the water body is suitable for the contemplated use or development; and

4. The proposed project must be accessible by the general public for recreational, cultural or educational purposes.

V DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER

A. HISTORIC PRESERVATION & HISTORIC SITES

1. The proposed historic or archeological project is listed on the state or national register of historic places and is of sufficient significance in New York State history to qualify for inclusion in the OPRHP's Historic Sites System; and
2. The proposed project is sufficiently usable in terms of access and other physical characteristics to warrant actual operation by OPRHP or under agreement with other parties, as a historic site; and

3. VIEWSHEDS

- a. The proposed project contains lands which comprise the historic view out from a historic property or archeological site listed on the state or national register of historic places; or

4. SETTING

- a. The proposed project contains lands which comprise the view into a historic property or archeological site listed on the state or national register or the view from such a property or site; or

5. BUFFER

- a. The proposed project will control development, directly or indirectly, of lands contiguous to a historic property or archeological site listed on the state or national register of historic places; or

6. BOUNDARY REASSEMBLY

- a. The proposed project will comprise land which was part of either the original boundaries of a historic property or archeological site listed on the state or national register of historic places, or the boundaries of such a property or site in its historic period.

B. WORKING LANDSCAPES

1. The proposed project is within an area, identified as an area of concern, that has historic tradition as supported by identified historic sites, areas of archaeological significance, or local reference and recognition of historic associations, and other relevant factors; or
2. The proposed project has environmental protection significance as indicated by the presence of significant habitat, protected natural resources, aquifers, and other relevant factors; or
3. The proposed project has scenic objectives as demonstrated through local planning, documented public concern or state designations, or identification in promotional material based on scenic values, and other relevant factors; and
4. The proposed project has significant productive capacity due to high quality soils, micro-climatic conditions, topography, economic characteristics including site economics, proximity to markets, and other similar factors.

C. HERITAGE AREAS

1. The proposed project is located within a state designated Heritage Areas; and
2. The proposed project is identified in an heritage area management plan; and
3. The proposed project meets one or more of the four heritage area goals of preservation, education, recreation or economic development; and
4. The proposed project preserves, protects, or increases proper utilization of urban open space resources or values.

D. SCENIC RESOURCES

1. The proposed project exhibits outstanding arrangement of natural or man-made features (i.e., water features and/or land forms and/or vegetation patterns) that provide positive stimulation, hold interest and command attention of the viewing public; or
2. The proposed project contributes to the public enjoyment and/or appreciation of any established scenic resource.

VI PUBLIC LANDS ENHANCEMENT

A. ACCESS

1. The proposed project would provide or assist in providing access to public land which has no access or limited access due to geographic barriers; or
2. The proposed project will allow an environmentally acceptable through route for a trailway or vehicle access trail to public lands from an existing trail system or staging area; or
3. The proposed project will reduce the length of a circuitous route taken by the public to access public lands.

B. BUFFER

1. The proposed project provides resource or facilities use protection from non-compatible or potentially non-compatible adjoining land use.

C. CONSOLIDATION

1. INHOLDING

- a. The proposed project eliminates conflicting use, encroachment or offers an operational advantage. In-holdings are properties that are bounded on at least three sides by public lands; or

2. CONTIGUOUS PROPERTY

- a. The proposed project is needed for expansion of facilities or recreation services; or
- b. The proposed project would connect two parcels of public land unconnected or meeting only on a common corner.

VII COASTAL & ESTUARINE LAND CONSERVATION AREAS

A. COASTAL & ESTUARINE LAND CONSERVATION PROGRAM (CELCP)

1. The proposed project must be located within the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) planning area; and
2. The proposed project must address CELCP priorities; and

3. The proposed project must possess significant conservation, recreation, ecological, historical, or aesthetic values, or have such values threatened by conversion from their present natural or recreational state to other uses.

e-Appendix C-2

RESOURCE VALUE RATINGS SYSTEM

Note: Throughout e-Appendix C-2 an urban area is defined as having a population >10,000 or a population density >4,000 persons per square mile.

I. ADIRONDACK & CATSKILL PARK FOREST PROTECTION

A. FOREST PRESERVE ADDITIONS

The maximum value is: (100)

CHARACTERISTICS	RATING
1. The proposed project contributes to the preservation of a river corridor designated as Wild, Scenic or Recreational or eligible for inclusion in the Wild, Scenic or Recreational River System pursuant to Title 27 of Article 15 of the Environmental Conservation Law, and/or provides public access thereto.	10
2. The proposed project conforms to the unit boundary to ecological or geographical features;	
(a) entirely;.....	10
(b) significantly (≥66%);.....	6
(c) somewhat (<66%).....	4
3. The proposed project provides for consolidation of existing Forest Preserve unit;	
(a) interior holding surrounded by Forest Preserve;	15
(b) bounded on 3 sides by Forest Preserve;	8
(c) adjoins Forest Preserve on two sides;.....	6
(d) adjoins Forest Preserve on one side..	3
4. The proposed project will provide new or enhance existing recreational opportunities.	
(a) Choose one:	
(i) Project provides six or more opportunities for a variety of both land and water related recreational activities; or	10
(ii) (Project provides two to five opportunities for a variety of either land or water related recreational activities; or	8
(iii) Project provides for a single purpose recreational opportunity of either a land or water related activity	2
(b) Choose one:	
(i) Project provides alternate recreational opportunities within 10 miles of an existing recreational area which is currently experiencing high use; or 10	
(ii) Project provides a type(s) of recreational opportunity to a geographical area where there is a documented demand for such use(s) but which currently has little or no such recreational opportunity; or.10	

(iii) Project provides additional recreational opportunity to an area which is not presently experiencing high use2

5. The proposed project preserves scenic areas or views, including scenic highway corridors where manipulation of vegetation is not required to maintain the area or views. It exhibits outstanding arrangement of natural features that provides positive stimulation, holds interest and commands attention of viewing public. Features include:

(a) water;..... 10

(b) landforms;..... 10

(c) vegetation patterns 10

6. The proposed project provides or enhances access to inaccessible or poorly accessible portions of Forest Preserve.

(a) Project would provide access or assist in providing access to Forest Preserve to which existing access is poor because of physical barriers, including barriers to access by the physically challenged; or 10

(b) Project would reduce the length of a circuitous route of more than three miles necessary for public use of existing Forest Preserve 8

B. FOREST & SCENIC EASEMENTS

The maximum value is: (100)

CHARACTERISTICS	RATING
1. The proposed project will provide new or enhance existing recreational opportunities.	
(a) Choose one:	
(i) Project provides five or more opportunities for a variety of both land and water related recreational activities;	10
(ii) provides between two and five opportunities for a variety of either land or water related recreational activities; or	5
(iii) Project provides for a single purpose recreational opportunity of either a land or water related activity	1
(b) Choose one:	
(i) Project provides alternate recreational opportunities for an existing recreational area which is currently experiencing high use;	10
(ii) Project provides recreational opportunity to a geographical area where there is a demand for recreational use but which currently has little or no recreational opportunity; or	10
(iii) Project provides additional opportunity to an area which is not presently experiencing high use	1
2. The proposed project:.....	(30)
(a) protects threatened or endangered plant or animal species, or high priority Species of Greatest Conservation Need;.....	10
(b) protects significant habitats;.....	10

- (c) protects rare natural communities; 10
- (d) protects Class I regulated wetlands; or..... 10
- (e) protects undeveloped shorelines of importance. Importance is defined by designation as: (i) a wild, scenic or recreational river; (ii) critical environmental area; or (iii) scenic area of statewide importance; or national natural landmark .10
- 3. The proposed project protects recognized scenic areas or views, including scenic highway corridors that require the manipulation of vegetation to preserve.....5
- 4. The proposed project provides or enhances access to inaccessible or poorly accessible portions of Forest Preserve or other lands or waters.
 - (a) Project would provide access or assist in providing access to public lands or waters which presently have no existing access open to the public; or 5
 - (b) Project would provide access or assists in providing access to public lands or waters to which existing access is poor because of physical barriers; or..... 3
 - (c) Project would reduce the length of a circuitous route of three miles or more necessary for public use of existing public lands or waters 1

If the project is a Forest Land Easement, continue with question 5; or if a Scenic Easement, skip to question 6.

- 5. The value of the continuation of forestry uses is determined by application of the following rating scale.

The maximum value is: (40)

 - (a) Productivity factor. Rate the overall productivity of the project using such factors as soils, income potential, species composition, products produced, significance to industry, and other relevant factors:
 - (i) high;..... 20
 - (ii) medium;..... 10
 - (iii) low 5
 - (b) Survival factor. Rate the likelihood of the project continuing in present use using such factors as: capital investment, product demand, owner commitment, accessibility and other relevant factors:
 - (i) high;..... 20
 - (ii) medium;..... 10
 - (iii) low 5
- 6. The present degree of development and extent of viewshed proposed for protection is determined by the application of the following rating scale.

The maximum value is: (40)

 - (a) Current degree of development as expressed as a percent of maximum buildout allowed under existing zoning:
 - (i) ≤20%..... 20
 - (ii) >20% and ≤50% 10
 - (iii) >50% and ≤70% 5

- (b) Ration of project acreage within either 500 feet of mean high water or 1000 feet of public viewing point (highway, trail, etc.) to total project acreage is not less than 40%:
 - (i) >75%.....20
 - (ii) 60% to <75%10
 - (iii) ≥40% and <60%5

II. WATER RESOURCE PROTECTION

A. AQUIFER RECHARGE AREAS

The maximum value is: (100)

CHARACTERISTICS	RATING
1. Type of aquifer protected:	
(a) recharge area for primary public water supply aquifer; or.....	35
(b) deep flow recharge area on Long Island; or.....	35
(c) recharge area for principal aquifer; or.....	20
(d) recharge area for public water supply	20
2. Recharge area within the well-head protection zone, which is defined as a surface and sub-surface area designated by the Department, surrounding a well or wellfield supplying a public water system, through which contaminants are reasonably likely to move toward and reach such water well or wellfield;	
(a) includes lands within 750 feet of well; or.....	35
(b) includes lands within 1,500 feet of well;	20
3. The proposed project is contiguous to lands owned by the water supplier or the state.....	15
4. The proposed project is within an area designated for acquisition in a plan certified by the commissioner pursuant to section 55-0117 of the Environmental Conservation Law for a special groundwater protection area	15

B. WATERSHED PROTECTIONS (use one of the following two sub-categories)

1. NEW YORK CITY RESERVOIR PROTECTION –

If the project is located within the New York City Watershed, score the project according to criterion listed in (a) – (b), as well as criterion contained in (c) – (g).

The maximum value is: (100)

CHARACTERISTICS	RATING
(a) West-of-Hudson (Catskill-Delaware System)	
(i) Priority 1A – Sub-basins near intake within 60-day travel time	25
(ii) Priority 1B – Other sub-basins within 60-day travel time	20
(iii) Priority 2 – Other sub-basins within terminal reservoir basins	15
(iv) Priority 3 – Sub-basins with identified water quality problems	10
(v) Priority 4 – Remaining sub-basins in non-terminal reservoir basins.....	5
(b) East-of-Hudson (Catskill-Delaware System and Croton Basins)	
(i) Priority 1A (Catskill Delaware Basins) – Sub-basins near intake within 60-day travel time.....	25

- (ii) Priority 1B (Catskill Delaware Basins) – Other sub-basins within 60-day travel time20
- (iii) Priority A (Croton Basin) – Other sub-basins within terminal reservoir basins 15
- (iv) Priority B (Croton Basin)– Sub-basins with identified water quality problems 10
- (v) Priority C (Croton Basin)– Remaining sub-basins in non-terminal reservoir basins 5

Only one score may be selected for items c – g below.

- (c) The proposed project has frontage on a water supply reservoir and extends to the limits of the flood plain or 500 feet from the reservoir whichever is greater.
 - (i) The project is within 1,000 feet of a water supply intake.....45
 - (ii) The project is more than 1,000 feet distant from a water supply intake .40
- (d) The project has frontage on a river or, stream or wetland directly tributary to the reservoir and extends landward to the limits of the flood plain or 250 feet from the water body whichever is greater.
 - (i) tributary at the project site contributes more than 50% of the annual volume of runoff to the reservoir40
 - (ii) The tributary at the project site contributes more than 25%, and less than 50% of the annual volume of runoff to the reservoir35
 - (iii) The tributary at the project site contributes more than 15%, and less than 25% of the annual volume of runoff to the reservoir30
- (e) The proposed project has frontage on a perennial stream or wetland in the watershed and extends landward to the limits of the flood plain or 250 feet from the stream or wetland, whichever is greater30
- (f) The project is contiguous to lands owned by the reservoir owner or the state ...15
- (g) The project contains lands with particular potential to produce runoff which may impair the use of the reservoir, such as: areas of moderate or steep slope, areas with highly erodible soils, or areas of existing or potential land use inconsistent with water supply protection 5-40

2. WATER SUPPLY RESERVOIR PROTECTION

The maximum value is: (100)

CHARACTERISTICS

RATING

Only one score may be selected from items a–c below.

- (a) The project has frontage on a water supply reservoir and extends landward to the limits of the flood plain or 500 feet from the reservoir whichever is greater.
 - (i) The project is within 1,000 feet of a water supply intake45
 - (ii) The project is more than 1,000 feet distant from a water supply intake.....40
- (b) The project has frontage on a river or stream directly tributary to the reservoir and extends landward to the limits of the flood plain or 250 feet from the water body whichever is greater.

- (i) The tributary at the project site contributes more than 50% of the annual volume of runoff to the reservoir40
- (ii) The tributary at the project site contributes more than 25%, and less than 50% of the annual volume of runoff to the reservoir35
- (iii) The tributary at the project site contributes more than 15%, and less than 25%, of the annual volume of runoff to the reservoir30
- (c) The project has frontage on a perennial stream in the watershed and extends landward to the limits of the flood plain or 250 feet from the stream, whichever is greater30
- (d) The project is contiguous to lands owned by the reservoir owner or the state ...15
- (e) The project contains lands with particular potential to produce runoff which may impair the use of the reservoir, such as: areas of moderate or steep slope, areas with highly erodible soils, or areas of existing or potential land use inconsistent with water supply protection5-40

C. AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS PROTECTION

The maximum value is: (100)

CHARACTERISTICS	RATING
1. Proposed project is upstream or adjacent to water body section that has been identified as serving as critical habitat for recreationally or ecologically important aquatic species.	
(a) Spawning and Nursery.....	30
(b) Thermal Refuge.....	20
(c) Spawning	10
(d) Nursery	10
2. Proposed project is adjacent to or upstream of stream with mean stream width (larger streams that are currently capable of supporting large biomass of wild trout are more valuable) (add 5 points to the applicable score if wild brook trout are the only trout present).	
(a) ≥ 20 ft	20
(b) ≥ 10 ft and < 20 ft.....	10
(c) < 10 ft	5
3. Proposed project is upstream or adjacent to water body section that harbors state endangered, threatened, or special concern species:	
(a) Endangered	30
(b) Threatened.....	20
(c) Special Concern and/or Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN	10
(d) Species w High Vulnerability to Climate Change.....	5
4. Proposed project is upstream of or adjacent to water body section that supports a wild trout biomass (add 5 points to the applicable score if wild brook trout are the only trout present):	
(a) ≥ 60 pounds per acre	20

- (b) ≥ 30 but < 60 pounds per acre..... 10
- (c) ≥ 10 but < 30 pounds per acre..... 5

D. FLOODPLAIN PRESERVATION

The maximum value is: (100)

CHARACTERISTICS	RATING
1. The project contains a significant area of mapped floodway, which is the part of the floodplain which receives rapidly moving floodwaters.....	30
2. The project provides natural flood storage which would cause a flood rise at any downstream location of:	
(a) One inch to one foot	20
(b) foot to two feet	30
(c) Over two feet	40
3. The project contains wetlands	30
4. The project contains erosion hazard areas.....	30
5. The project contains lands that would be inundated during the one percent annual flood to depth of:	
(a) Under two feet	20
(b) Two to five feet	30
(c) Over five feet	40

III. SIGNIFICANT ECOLOGICAL AREAS

A. EXCEPTIONAL FOREST OR PLANT COMMUNITY

The maximum value is: (100)

CHARACTERISTICS	RATING
Rate on either (1), or (2), or (3) first, and then rate on (4).	
1. Average age of dominant trees:	
(a) over 250 years;	50
(b) over 200 but less than 250 years;	40
(c) over 150 but less than 200 years	30
2. Rarity of the species, throughout its range:	
(a) five or fewer existing sites and critically imperiled;.....	50
(b) between 6 and 20 existing sites;.....	40
(c) between 21 and 99 existing sites;.....	30
(d) historic or extirpated	25
3. Woodland communities of savannas or barrens:	
(a) community's species typical of savanna or barrens, with non-typical species comprising less than 50% of total cover;	50
(b) community's species typical of savanna or barrens, with non-typical species comprising 51% to 75% of total cover;.....	40
(c) community's species typical of savanna or barrens, with non-typical species comprising greater than 75% of cover;	30

- 4. Rarity of the community in New York:
 - (a) < 6 sites;..... 50
 - (b) between 6 and 20 sites; 40
 - (c) between 21 and 99 sites; 30
 - (d) 99 sites; 25
 - (e) historic or extirpated 25

B. SHORELINE PROTECTION

The maximum value is: (100)

CHARACTERISTICS	RATING
1. Proposed project is adjacent to a water body which is classified no lower than C (freshwater) or SC (saltwater) per Title 6, Chapter X, Parts 700–705 of NYCRR.	
(a) A or SA, or better;	25
(b) B or SB;.....	15
(c) C or SC.....	10
2. Ratio of project acreage within 500 feet of mean high water, to total project acreage, is not less than 40%:	
(a) 75% or greater;.....	25
(b) 60 – 74%;	15
(c) 40 – 59%	10
3. Adjacent water body has been recognized as important:	(15)
(a) Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers (federal or state);	5
(b) Critical Environmental Area;	5
(c) Scenic Areas of Statewide Significance;	5
(d) National Rivers Inventory Study, under State Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers;.....	5
(e) National Natural Landmark;.....	5
(f) National Estuary or National Estuarine Research Reserve;.....	5
4. Designated Resource Areas:.....	(5)
(a) Wetland improved through the 1972 EQBA Municipal Wetlands Restoration Projects;	5
(b) Significant Coastal Fish and Wildlife Areas;	5
(c) Water improved through funding from the Clean Water Act;	5
(d) Significant historic or cultural resource areas;.....	5
5. Existing Development Factor:	
(a) Water body is heavily developed (project is the last or one of the last undeveloped parcels on the waterbody); or.....	30
(b) Water body is moderately developed; or.....	20
(c) Water body is lightly developed, or	10
(d) Water body is undeveloped	5

C. UNIQUE AREA

The maximum value is: (100)

CHARACTERISTICS	RATING
1. Relative Uniqueness. Exceptional and/or rare example of an outstanding arrangement of natural beauty or man-made features, wilderness character, geological significance, ecological significance, historical or archaeological significance:	
(a) one of a kind in the country;	55
(b) one of a kind in the Northeast;	40
(c) one of a kind in the state;	30
(d) one of a kind in a region appropriate to the resource being rated;	20
(e) best of a kind in a county	10
2. Specific Values. Evaluate each proposed project for its primary value only, according to the rating system for that value set forth below.	
(a) Outstanding Natural Beauty or Man-Made Features. Additional consideration of (1) point should be given for each example of outstanding arrangements of natural or man-made features such as water features and/or landforms and/or vegetation patterns that provide positive stimulation, hold interest and command the attention of the viewing public up to a maximum of 5;	1-5
(b) Wilderness Character. The acreage of primeval character undisturbed by human influences:	
(i) ≥ 1000 acres;	5
(ii) 500 acres but < 1000 acres;	3
(iii) ≤ 500 acres	1
(c) Geological Significance. Additional consideration of 1 point should be given for each distinct type of paleontological relic or physical geological feature recorded on the property to a maximum of 5;	1-5
(d) Ecological Significance. Additional consideration of 1 point should be given for each animal or plant species which has been recorded on the property and which is listed on the federal, international and/or New York State rosters of species identified as endangered, threatened, rare, of special concern or high priority Species of Greatest Conservation Need, to a maximum of 5 species.	1-5
(e) Historical Significance. Additional consideration on 1 point should be given for each distinct type of historical or archaeological object, feature or culture which has been recorded on, or associated with the property, maximum of 5	1-5
3. Miscellaneous Values.	
(a) Property (or part thereof) has been designated as a National Natural Landmark (NNL)	15
(b) Property (or part thereof) has been designated as a National Historic Landmark (NHL)	15
(c) Property (or part thereof) has been included in the National or State Register of Historic Places, or is deemed eligible for such listing (exclusive of NHL designation).	10

- (d) Property has received a high ranking within the NYS Natural Heritage Program (exclusive of NNL designation) 10
- (e) Property is adjacent to, near, or visually accessible from a State Historic Site, National Historic Site, or a site, park, recreation area or nature preserve owned by a public or qualified not-for-profit entity 5
- 4. **Recreational Factor.** Prospective recreational uses are in harmony with the area's unique values 5

D. WETLANDS

The maximum value is: (100)

CHARACTERISTICS

RATING

1. FRESHWATER WETLANDS

In assigning points to a given wetland, it must be recognized that freshwater wetlands are a diverse group and exhibit different characteristics depending on the type of wetland being considered. Thus, although there are more points available in this rating system than the 100 maximum, many of the wetland value characteristics are mutually exclusive, pertaining to very different wetland types. Notwithstanding the fact that a few of the very best wetlands in the state could conceivably score more than 100 points.

The proposed freshwater wetland:

- (a) supports animal species in abundance or diversity unusual for the state or the region of the state in which it is found; 15
- (b) is tributary to a body of water which could subject a substantially developed area to significant damage from flooding should the wetlands be modified, filled or drained;..... 15
- (c) is adjacent or contiguous to a reservoir or other body of water that is used primarily for public water supply;..... 15
- (d) has exceptional recreational potential, especially in view of its proximity to major centers of population; 15
- (e) is in a Focus Area as identified in the Lower Great Lakes – St. Lawrence Basin Joint Venture or Atlantic Coast Joint Venture Plans of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan; 15
- (f) constitutes a headwater source of any stream with a (TS) classification; 15
- (g) is or contains a rare wetland natural community, such as, but not limited to, the following: classic kettlehole bog, inland salt marsh, rich fen, patterned peatland, or Atlantic white cedar swamp; 15
- (h) is an emergent marsh in which purple loosestrife and/or reed (phragmites) constitute less than one third of the cover type; 7
- (i) contains two or more of the following wetland structural groups; emergent herbaceous cover types, consisting of emergent and/or wet meadow vegetation constituting at least 25 percent of the area of the wetland; woody cover types, consisting of deciduous swamp, coniferous swamp and/or shrub swamp

constituting at least 25 percent of the area of the wetland; water cover types, consisting of submergent vegetation, floating vegetation and/or wetland open water constituting at least 15 percent of the area of the wetland;7

(j) is contiguous to a tidal wetland; 7

(k) is associated with permanent open water outside the wetland;7

(l) is adjacent or contiguous to streams classified C(t) or higher under Article 15 of the Environmental Conservation Law;7

(m) is resident habitat of an animal species vulnerable in the State;7

(n) supports animal species in abundance or diversity unusual for the county in which it is found; 7

(o) is tributary to a body of water which could subject a lightly developed area, an area used for growing crops for harvest, or an area planned for development by a local planning authority, to significant damage from flooding or from additional flooding should the wetland be modified, filled or drained;7

(p) is within or near an urbanized area;7

(q) is one of the three largest wetlands within the city, town, or New York City borough; 7

(r) is part of a surface water system with permanent open water and receives significant pollution of a type amenable to amelioration by wetlands;7

(s) contains an upland island;2

(t) has a total alkalinity of at least 100 parts per million;2

(u) is adjacent to fertile upland;2

(v) is resident habitat of an animal species vulnerable in the region of the State in which it is found, or is traditional migration habitat of an animal species vulnerable in the State or in the region of the State in which it is found;2

(w) contains a plant species vulnerable in the region of the State in which it is found;2

(x) is visible from an interstate highway, a parkway, a designated scenic highway or a passenger railroad, and serves a valuable aesthetic or open space function;2

(y) is one of the three largest wetlands of the same cover type within a town;2

(z) is in a town in which wetland acreage is less than one percent of the total acreage.2

2. TIDAL WETLANDS

The proposed tidal wetland:

(a) supports and contributes to the productivity of the marine or estuarine ecosystem;20

(b) is accessible and amenable to management for the enhancement or continued viability of wetlands characteristics; 5

(c) is accessible for public use, or5

(d) is potentially accessible for public use;2.5

- (e) includes habitat for rare, threatened or endangered species, high priority Species of Greatest Conservation Need or rare natural communities, or has potential, through restoration, to provide such habitat or communities;5
- (f) is in proximity to recreational or commercial marine or estuarine finfish or crustacea harvest areas;5
- (g) is in proximity to a commercially valuable shellfish harvesting area;..... 5
- (h) is contiguous to other federal, state, local governmental or qualified not-for-profit conservation organization preserves; 5
- (i) has total acreage, including contiguous preserves owned by federal, state, local governments or not-for-profit conservation organizations which exceeds 75 acres; 5
- (j) provides diverse habitat and contributes to diversity of the marine or estuarine ecosystem from a state and global perspective by containing one or more of the following:
 - (i) intertidal marsh; 16
 - (ii) high marsh; 11
 - (iii) fresh coastal marsh; 8
 - (iv) shoals, bars and mudflats; 6
 - (v) freshwater-tidal wetland interface..... 4

E. WILDLIFE HABITAT

One point score is selected from each of the five categories of species or habitat characteristics. A score of 0 in any of the categories will disqualify a project from further consideration. For purposes of this rating system, wildlife shall mean all fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals, shellfish, and invertebrates.

The maximum value is: (100)

CHARACTERISTICS	RATING
1. Species Value:	
(a) endangered species habitat;.....	35
(b) threatened species habitat;	30
(c) concentration of a species or unusual combination of species;	25
(d) rare species, high priority Species of Greatest Conservation Need, or a species of limited distribution;	15
(e) common species and widely distributed.....	0
2. Habitat Rarity. Species or Species Combination Occurs at:	
(a) 25 or fewer sites in State;.....	30
(b) 50 or fewer sites in State;.....	20
(c) 100 or fewer sites in State;.....	10
(d) 200 or fewer sites in State;.....	5
(e) more than 200 sites in State	0
3. Population Size. Contains one of the:	
(a) 10 largest concentrations in State;	20

- (b) 40 largest concentrations in State; 15
- (c) 75 largest concentrations in State; 10
- (d) 125 largest concentrations in State; 5
- 4. **Habitat Quality:**
 - (a) High quality habitat for this species or combination of species; 10
 - (b) Medium quality habitat for the species or low quality habitat, but restorable; 5
 - (c) Low quality habitat and not restorable 0
- 5. **Population Permanence:**
 - (a) Regular or predictable use; 5
 - (b) Highly unpredictable or ephemeral use; 0

F. BIODIVERSITY The maximum value is: (100)

CHARACTERISTICS	RATING
1. Biodiversity Potential of Proposed Project.	
(a) Area protects an animal listed as endangered, threatened or special concern under New York State Environmental Conservation Law, or high priority Species of Greatest Conservation Need under NYS Wildlife Action Plan 10	10
(b) Area protects a plant listed as endangered, threatened, rare or exploitably vulnerable under New York State Environmental Conservation Law, or high priority Species of Greatest Conservation Need under NYS Wildlife Action Plan; 10	10
(c) Area protects a natural community that is rated as S1, S2, S3, G1, G2, or G3 by the New York Natural Heritage Program because of its rarity, size, condition or landscape setting; 10	10
(d) Area contributes to an existing regional, state or multijurisdictional biodiversity conservation initiative; 10	10
(e) Area protects a species that is at the periphery of its range in New York or is restricted to narrow ecological zones; 10	10
(f) Additional consideration of 1 point should be given for each animal or plant species that has been recorded on the property that is listed on the New York rosters of species identified as endangered, threatened, rare, special concern, or exploitably vulnerable, to a maximum of four species; 1-4	1-4
(g) Is or contains a rare wetland natural community, such as, but not limited to, the following: classic kettlehole bog, inland salt marsh, rich fen, patterned peatland, or Atlantic white cedar swamp; 15	15
(h) Is an emergent marsh in which purple loosestrife and/or reed (phragmites) constitute less than one third of the cover type; 7	7
2. Overall Habitat Quality.	
(a) High quality habitat for a species or combination of species 3	3
(b) Medium quality habitat for a species or combination of species, or low quality habitat, but restorable 2	2
(c) Low quality habitat for a species or combination of species and not restorable ... 0	0
3. Parcel Design.	

- (a) Area expands an existing parcel (by at least 10 percent) that already protects a biodiversity conservation target; 10
 - (b) Area is large enough to adequately support the fauna and/or flora present at the site, taking into considerations the shape (area:perimeter ratio) of the parcel and surrounding land use(s); 10
 - (c) Area creates a buffer zone or otherwise enhances (e.g., reduces negative edge effects) the viability of the conservation target and ensures that the ecological processes upon which the species or habitat depends on may function properly (e.g., flooding, fire); 10
 - (d) Area links habitat(s) of animals or plants listed as endangered, threatened, rare, special concern, exploitably vulnerable, high priority Species of Greatest Conservation Need, or protected under New York State Environmental Conservation Law to encourage gene flow between isolated populations or demes, or creates corridors for migration and/or dispersal of other fauna and flora species; 10
- 4. Management Considerations.**
- (a) Area requires no active management to sustain biodiversity conservation target; 3
 - (b) Area requires minimal active management to sustain biodiversity conservation; 2
 - (c) Area creates a buffer zone or otherwise enhances (e.g., reduces negative edge effects) the viability of the conservation target and ensures that the ecological processes upon which the species or habitat depends on may function properly (e.g., flooding, fire); 1

IV. RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

A. METROPOLITAN PARKS & SHORELINES

The maximum value is: (100)

CHARACTERISTICS	RATING
1. METROPOLITAN PARKS	
(a) Need for the proposed project is based on SCORP needs analysis:	
(i) 8-10;.....	30
(ii) 5-7;.....	20
(iii) <5 10	
(b) Degree of urbanization, population per square mile:	
(i) 0-199;.....	5
(ii) 200-499;.....	10
(iii) 500-999;.....	15
(iv) 1000-2499;.....	20
(v) 2500	25
(c) Resource value:(20)	

- (i) Project exhibits outstanding arrangements of natural or man-made features (i.e., water features and/or land forms and/or vegetation patterns) that provide positive stimulation, hold interest and command attention of viewing public;..... 10
- (ii) Proposed project contains natural, fish and wildlife, scenic, open space or cultural resources that are unique, rare or of statewide or regional significance. 10
- (d) Proposed project provides a buffer from non-compatible adjoining land uses.5
- (e) Proposed project is accessible by the general public via:(10)
 - (i) A Class I, II, III designated bikeway;5
 - (ii) A locally franchised mass transportation system.5
- (f) Relative financial status of residents in area served:
 - (i) Percentage of residents below 125% of poverty level exceeds statewide figure (by county);5
 - (ii) Public assistance expenditures per capita exceeds 100% of statewide figure (by county) excluding New York City.5

2. METROPOLITAN SHORELINES

CHARACTERISTICSRATING

- (a) Proposed project is on a waterbody within an area that has a prior, established, formal status, i.e.(30)
 - (i) Designated as national or state wild, scenic, or recreational;..... 10
 - (ii) Site, area, lake or reservoir designated or eligible for designation as scenic pursuant to ECL, Article 49; or area designated as a State Heritage Area; or designated as scenic area of statewide significance by Department of State; 10
 - (iii) Identified in a Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan; 10
 - (iv) Area designated as a National Estuary; 10
 - (v) Designated wetlands; 10
 - (vi) Wetland improved through the EQBA-Municipal Wetlands Restoration Projects;..... 10
 - (vii) Significant Coastal Fish and Wildlife Areas;..... 10
 - (viii) Water improved through funding from the Clean Waters Act; 10
 - (ix) Significant historic or cultural resource areas. 10
- (b) Proposed project would provide access where none exists presently, or where existing access is inadequate, undevelopable, or restricted:
 - (i) No general public access exists;..... 15
 - (ii) Access is undeveloped or restricted; 10
 - (iii) Access is inadequate. 5
- (c) Proposed project would fulfill public demand as identified in SCORP, the joint OPRHP/DEC 1990 Boat Facilities Use Survey, the Marine District Access Plan or similar study.(35)

- (i) Demand as identified in the joint 1990 OPRHP/DEC Boating Facilities Use Survey. Project is on a water named in the:
 - (1) upper ¼ of the list;35
 - (2) 2nd ¼ of the list;20
 - (3) 3rd ¼ of the list;10
 - (4) lowest ¼ of the list.5

OR

- (ii) Demand as identified in the SCORP needs analysis:
 - (1) 8-10;35
 - (2) 5-7;20
 - (3) <5.10

OR

- (iii) Project area recommended by the Marine District Access Plan.....35
- (iv) Proposed project provides a buffer from non-compatible adjoining land uses..... 10
- (v) Proposed project is accessible by the general public via:(10)
 - (1) A Class I, II, III designated bikeway;5
 - (2) A locally franchised mass transportation system.5

B. PARKLANDS

The maximum value is: (100)

CHARACTERISTICS

RATING

For Headings 1. and 2. choose either:

Column A ~ Open Natural Areas, or

Column B ~ Recreation Areas -A- -B-

1. **Resource value of functional units.** Maximum score: (40) (20)

(a) Proposed project protects species listed as:..... (10) (5)

(i) Endangered or threatened species..... 10 5

OR

(ii) Species of Special Concern; high priority Species of Greatest Conservation Need; or species that are rare, exploitable or vulnerable as identified on DEC or DOS lists 5 3

(b) Proposed project protects wetlands: (10) (5)

(i) Class I or intertidal or high marsh; 10 5

(ii) Class II or fresh coastal marsh or shoals, bars or mudflats;..... 5 3

(iii) Class III or tidal-freshwater interface..... 1 1

(c) Proposed project contains significant habitat areas identified on DEC or DOS or Natural Heritage inventories..... 10 5

(d) Proposed project is within a scenic district area, or corridor designated pursuant to Article 49 of the Environmental Conservation Law. 4 3

OR

(e) Proposed project has scenic vistas of statewide or regional significance..... 4 3

- (f) Proposed project provides frontage on a lake, pond or river of statewide or regional significance. 3 1
 - (g) Proposed project protects significant historical or cultural resources..... 3 1
- 2. Recreation value.**
- (a) Need for proposed project based on SCORP recreation needs analysis.
 - (i) 8–10 20 40
 - (ii) 5–7 15 20
 - (iii) < 5 10 10

OR

- (b) Proposed project provides opportunities for passive (including fish and wildlife) recreation..... (20 40)
 - (i) 60% of the project is suitable for the intended passive recreational activity. 8 15
 - (ii) Proposed project possess a variety of diverse habitats that support the intended recreational activity..... 8 15
 - (iii) Need of proposed project based on SCORP recreation needs analysis.(5 or greater)..... 4 10

Continue with the following (3, 4 & 5) for both Open Natural Areas and Recreation.

3. Resource Management (15)

- (a) The proposed project will allow for the relocation or redistribution of existing recreational facilities to improve the protection and management of the natural and cultural resources..... 5
 - (b) Proposed project provides protection of a water resource, including lake, stream, groundwater aquifer..... 5
 - (c) Proposed project provides a buffer from non-compatible adjoining land uses or will eliminate an inholding. 5
 - (d) Proposed project will link or consolidate public recreation or natural or cultural resource areas..... 5
 - (e) Proposed project is free of man-made intrusions or can be reclaimed at reasonable cost and minimal resource impact..... 5
 - (f) Proposed project provides for active management of the natural resource base. 5
4. Proposed project will create a cohesive land holding of:
- (a) 1,000+ acres;..... 10
 - (b) 500–999 acres; 8
 - (c) 100–499 acres; 5
 - (d) 5–99 acres. 1
5. Proposed project is within 25 miles of the boundary of a defined urban area..... 15

C. PUBLIC FISHING RIGHTS

Classification. In applying this ranking system, the proposed project will be assigned to one of the following classifications:

1. Coldwater Streams which are defined as those where trout (salmonids) predominate; or
2. Warmwater Streams which are defined as those where non-trout, sport fish predominate; or
3. Tributaries of the Hudson River which are defined as any tributary of the Hudson River, south of the federal dam at Troy, upstream to the first barrier impassable to fish.

***Proposed acquisition projects once so classified will be evaluated using the rating system only against other proposed projects within the same classification.**

The maximum value is: (100)

CHARACTERISTICS	RATING
1. Stream Quality. Stream quality reflects the overall condition of selected stream characteristics including water quality; stability of flow; summer water temperatures; stream bank stability and cover; number and quality of spawning and nursery grounds for important species of sport fishes. It also reflects stream productivity or the capacity of the stream to grow and support a harvestable crop of fish:	
(a) very high;	37
(b) high;	20
(c) average;	9
(d) low.2	
2. Stream Width. Special consideration is given to stream width because of its direct relationship to the capacity of the stream to provide fishing grounds, absorb fishing pressure, and the total productive area per mile of stream:	
(a) ≥ 50 feet;	13
(b) ≥ 20 and < 50 feet;	10
(c) ≥ 10 and < 20 feet;	6
(d) < 10 feet.	2
3. Fishing Quality. Consideration is given to the following factors:	
• Uniqueness of the fishery, including use by migratory sport fishes;	
• Species composition and desirability for sport fishing or as food fishes;	
• Abundance and size of fishes;	
• Relative intensity of fishing pressure and its effect on fishing quality;	
• Aesthetic factors including scenic aspects of adjacent lands, degree of pollution, historical or traditional aspects associated with the fishery;	
• Relative rarity of this type of sport fishing in the region;	
• High populations of wild produced sport fish.	
The fishing quality of the proposed project is:	
(a) very high;	37
(b) high;	20
(c) medium;	10
(d) low.	2

4. **Accessibility.** Consider the following factors:

- Proximity to human population centers;
- Distance that fishable sections lie from the nearest public road;
- Parking convenience.

The proposed project is:

- (a) very accessible;9
- (b) moderately accessible;6
- (c) access difficult.4

5. **Outstanding Streams.** Following calculation of the natural resource value rating a range of point totals from 10 to 96 will result. Streams achieving a 93 or 96 point total will be classed “Outstanding” as a group, and will be further evaluated for the assignment of bonus points according to the following additional criteria:

- (a) Stream supports substantial recognized salmon run providing an extended fishing season for trophy class fish; and/or The stream provides a fishery for sport fish that is either unique to the state or region or is of much higher quality than others in the regionAdd 3 points
- (b) The stream currently receives unacceptably high use per unit area of public water; and/or the stream is in an area with land values that are exceptionally high
.....Add 4 points

*** Outstanding streams will thus receive ratings of 93, 96, 97 or 100.**

D. TRAILWAYS & GREENWAYS

The maximum value is: (100)

CHARACTERISTICS RATING

1. TRAILWAYS

- (a) Proposed project enhances the following trail systems:(20)
 - (i) Designated national trail, or
 - (ii) Statewide recreationway system;20
 - (iii) Regional recreationway system; 15
 - (iv) Local trail system.....5
- (b) Proposed project utilizes an existing corridor (i.e., railroad right-of-way, canal towpath, utility lines)..... 10
- (c) Proposed project will have multiple, year-round uses.10
- (d) Proposed project connects parks, significant fish and wildlife habitat areas, public lands or historic sites with parks, cultural resources, designated heritage areas and/or urban centers. 15
- (e) Proposed project will improve continuity of a trail system:
 - (i) less than 5 miles in length;.....5
 - (ii) 5–10 miles in length;..... 10
 - (iii) over 10 miles in length.20
- (f) Need of the proposed project is based on SCORP recreation needs analysis (Index of Need):

(i)	8–10;	10
(ii)	5–7;	8
(iii)	< 5.	5
(g)	Proposed project is within 25 miles of the boundary of a defined urban area. ...	15
2. GREENWAYS		
(a)	Proposed project links:.....	(20)
(i)	Urban areas with the countryside;	10
(ii)	Public lands and/or historic sites with other public lands, or private land with public easements;	10
(iii)	Greenbelts around urban and suburban areas.	10
(b)	Resource value of functional units:.....	(30)
	Proposed project protects species listed as:	
(i)	Endangered or threatened species; or.....	10
(ii)	Species of Special Concern; high priority Species of Greatest Conservation Need; or that are rare, exploitable, or vulnerable as identified on DEC or DOS lists.	5
(c)	Proposed project protects wetlands:	
(i)	Class I or intertidal or high marsh;	10
(ii)	Class II or fresh coastal marsh or shoals, bars or mudflats;	5
(iii)	Class III or tidal–freshwater interface	1
(d)	Proposed projects contain significant habitat areas identified on DEC, DOS or Natural Heritage inventories.....	10
(e)	Proposed project is within a scenic district area, or corridor designated pursuant to Article 49 of the Environmental Conservation Law or has scenic vistas of statewide or regional significance.	10
(f)	Proposed project provides frontage on a lake, pond or river of statewide or regional significance.	10
(g)	Recreation value.....	(30)
	Need of the proposed project based on SCORP recreation needs analysis:	
(i)	8–10;	30
(ii)	5–8;	20
(iii)	<5.	10
OR		
(h)	Proposed project provides opportunities for:	(30)
(i)	60% of the proposed project is suitable for the intended passive recreational activity;	10
(ii)	Possesses a variety of diverse landscapes that support the intended recreational activity;	10
(iii)	Need for proposed project based on SCORP recreation needs analysis of 5 or greater.	10
(i)	Proposed project provides a buffer along resources of natural, scenic or recreational values, such as wetlands, lakes, rivers, streams, ridges and parkways	

- which are publicly owned or owned by a not-for-profit conservation or historic preservation organization, qualified under the Internal Revenue Service.....5
- (j) Proposed project utilizes an existing corridor (i.e. railroad right-of-way, canal towpath, utility lines).....5
- (k) Proposed project is within 25 miles of the boundary of a defined urban area. ...10

E. WATERWAY ACCESS

The maximum value is: (100)

CHARACTERISTICS

RATING

1. Proposed project is on a water body within an area that has a prior, established, formal status, i.e.: (20)
 - (a) River designated (or eligible for designation) as national or designated as state wild, scenic or recreational; or5
 - (b) Site, area, lake or reservoir designated or eligible for designation as scenic under ECL, Article 49 or pursuant to Coastal Scenic Area of Statewide Significance; or ..5
 - (c) Identified in a local Waterfront Revitalization Program; or 5
 - (d) Area designated as a State Heritage Area; or5
 - (e) Area designated as a National Natural Estuary; or 5
 - (f) Water improved through funding from the Clean Water Act.5
2. Proposed project proximity to the boundary of a defined urban area:
 - (a) Within boundary;25
 - (b) Within 25 miles of boundary;20
 - (c) Within 50 miles of boundary. 15
3. Proposed project would provide access where none exists presently, or where existing access is inadequate, undeveloped or restricted:
 - (a) No general public access exists;25
 - (b) Existing access is undeveloped or restricted;20
 - (c) Existing access in inadequate..... 15
4. Proposed project would fulfill public demand. (30)
 - (a) A project is on a water named in the joint 1990 OPRHP/DEC Boating Facilities Use Survey; water appears on the:
 - (i) Upper ¼ of the list; 30
 - (ii) Second ¼ of the list;25
 - (iii) Third ¼ of the list;20
 - (iv) Lowest ¼ of the list. 15

OR

- (b) Proposed project would fulfill public demand as identified by SCORP; project is in a county with an index of:
 - (i) 8-10; 30
 - (ii) 5-7;25
 - (iii) <5.20

OR

- (c) Project is in an area identified as recommended by the Marine District Access Plan or Hudson River Access Plan.30

V. DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER

A. HISTORIC PRESERVATION

The maximum value is: (100)

CHARACTERISTICS	RATING
1. Significance of property in New York State history.	
(a) A contributing resource within a listed property, site or district, but not individually eligible (carriage house, barn, rowhouse); or,.....	15
(b) An historic resource that is representative in the local context and either individually listed or within a listed historic district and meets the criteria for individual listing; or,	17
(c) An historic resource that is pivotal in the local context and is either individually listed or within a listed historic district and meets the criteria for individual listing; or,	20
(d) An historic resource that is exceptional or outstanding in a statewide or larger context and is either individually listed or within a listed historic district and meets the criteria for individual listing.	25
(e) An individually designated NHL, or a resource within a designated NHL district. 5	
2. Relationship of acquisition to planning priorities or potential of acquisition to fill a void in existing State Historic Site or Heritage Area system..... (15)	
(a) Resource type fills a void in the statewide system, or addresses one planning priority.	7
(b) Add four points if resource type fills more than one void in the statewide system, or addresses more than one planning priority.....	4
(c) Add two points if project is located in CLG community.	2
(d) Add two points if project is located in ULP community.....	2
3. Ownership of historic property that will be protected by the proposed acquisition:	
(a) state; or	10
(b) municipal; or	3
(c) not-for-profit; or	3
(d) private.....	1
4. Contribution which acquisition will make to physical integrity of original or historic property:	
(a) critical; or.....	15
(b) significant; or	10
(c) moderate; or	7
(d) negligible.	3
5. Relevance of acquisition to interpretive focus of currently owned property:..... (10)	
(a) direct relevance to primary interpretive focus,	3
(b) allows addition of new major focus,	3

- (c) direct relevance to minor interpretive focus,2
- (d) allows addition of new minor focus.....2
- 6. Ten additional points may be added based on the percent of the original or historic resource currently owned or proposed for acquisition:
 - (a) 0% to 9% 1
 - (b) 10% to 19%.....2
 - (c) 20% to 29%.....3
 - (d) 30% to 39%.....4
 - (e) 40% to 49%.....5
 - (f) 50% to 59%.....6
 - (g) 60% to 69%.....7
 - (h) 70% to 79%.....8
 - (i) 80% to 89%.....9
 - (j) 90% to 100%.....10
- 7. Public benefit. Proposed project is proximate to a population center within a 25 mile radius:
 - (a) 10,000 to 25,000 people, 3
 - (b) 25,000 to 50,000 people,5
 - (c) 50,000 to 100,000 people,7
 - (d) more than 100,000 people.....10

B. WORKING LANDSCAPE (WORKING FOREST ONLY)

The maximum value is: (100)

CHARACTERISTICS	RATING
1. Location. The proposed project is located in an area where commercial forest use occupies:	
(a) >75% of the land;.....	30
(b) 25% to 75% of the land;.....	20
(c) <25% of the land.....	10
2. Project Size. The proposed project occupies:	
(a) ≥1000 acres;.....	20
(b) ≥500 and <1000 acres;.....	15
(c) <500 acres.....	5
3. Ownership and Management History.	
(a) The proposed project is currently owned by a forest-based industry and is under a formal management program.....	25
(b) The proposed project is in private non-forest industry ownership and is under a formal forest management program (e.g., Tree Farm, RPTL Sec. 480-a, managed by private consultant forester, or managed with Cooperative Forest Management assistance).	20
(c) There is no formal management program for the proposed project property.	10

- 4. Survival Factor. Rate the likelihood of the project continuing in present use taking into consideration such factors as owner commitment, recent or planned capital investment, likely demand for products that can be produced, and other relevant factors. The project will continue in its present use for:
 - (a) <10 years;.....20
 - (b) ≥10 and <20 years; 10
 - (c) ≥20 years.....5
- 5. Proposed projects will provide new or enhance existing recreational opportunities. Choose one:
 - (a) Project provides six or more opportunities for a variety of both land and water related recreational activities; or5
 - (b) Project provides two to five opportunities for a variety of either land or water related recreational activities; or4
 - (c) Project provides for a single purpose recreational opportunity of either a land or water related activity. 1

C. HERITAGE AREAS

The maximum value is: (100)

CHARACTERISTICS	RATING
1. The proposed project meets one or more of the Heritage Area goals of preservation, education, recreation, or economic development:	
(a) one goal;.....	10
(b) two goals;	20
(c) three goals;	30
(d) four goals.....	40
2. Relevance of the proposed project to Heritage Area theme(s) identified in Heritage Area management plan:	
(a) direct relevance to primary thematic focus;.....	20
(b) enhancement of the primary thematic focus;	15
(c) direct relevance to secondary thematic focus;	10
(d) enhancement of the secondary thematic focus;.....	6
(e) addition to other than a primary or secondary thematic focus.	4
3. The proposed project enhances the function and visual quality of the Heritage Area by benefitting:	
(a) multiple resources;.....	10
(b) single resource or site.....	5
4. Impact of the proposed project on the enhancement of the statewide Heritage Area system:	
(a) critical; or.....	20
(b) significant; or	15
(c) moderate; or	10
(d) negligible.	3

- 5. Impact of the proposed project on the enhancement of the local Heritage Area:
 - (a) critical; or 10
 - (b) significant; or 8
 - (c) moderate; or 6
 - (d) negligible. 2

D. SCENIC RESOURCES

The maximum value is: (100)

CHARACTERISTICS	RATING
1. The proposed project exhibits outstanding arrangement of natural or man-made features (i.e., water features and/or landforms and/or vegetation patterns) that provide positive stimulation, hold interest and command the attention of the viewing public;	15-30
2. The proposed project contributes to the public enjoyment and/or appreciation of any established scenic resource;	3-8
3. The proposed project shows public use, or evidence of attempts of public use;	3-8
4. Number of viewers served by the project:	
(a) substantial;	10
(b) moderate;.....	7
(c) minimal.....	4
5. The proposed project has prior established formal status:	(36)
(a) National Natural Landmark;.....	9
(b) National or State Wild, Scenic or Recreational River;	9
(c) Site, area, lake, reservoir designated or eligible for designation as scenic pursuant to ECL Article 49;	9
(d) Property on, or eligible for inclusion in, National or State Register of Historic Places.....	9
6. The proposed project has published recognition of scenic values in scholarly works, professional journals, or popular publications	3-8

VI. ENHANCEMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS

The maximum value is: (100)

CHARACTERISTICS	RATING
A. ACCESS	
1. The proposed project creates or improves access to public lands of:	
2. 500 acres or more;.....	35
3. 100 to 499 acres;.....	20
4. 99 acres or less.....	10
5. The proposed project conforms to recommendations contained in Unit Management Plans, State Park System Plan, State Park Master Plans or other approved plans	20

- (a) The proposed project would connect two parcels of public land unconnected or meeting only on a common corner.....5
- (b) The proposed project has an existing roadway and trailway.5
- (c) The proposed project contains, or would provide improved access to existing public lands that contain: (20)
- (d) unusual flora or fauna; 10
- (e) wild, scenic and recreational river; 10
- (f) frontage on a lake, pond or river that provides recreational opportunities;10
- (g) regulated wetlands;..... 10
- (h) significant fish and wildlife habitat;..... 10
- (i) area of public land with existing high-intensity use;..... 10
- (j) unique watershed..... 10
- 6. The proposed project is within 25 miles of the boundary of a defined urban area. 15

B. BUFFER

- 1. The proposed project conforms to recommendations contained in Unit Management Plans, State Park System Plan, State Park Master Plans or other approved plans.20
- 2. The proposed project eliminates or reduces:
 - (a) a significant amount of encroachment or conflicting use;25
 - (b) a moderate amount of encroachment or conflicting use: 15
 - (c) some amount of encroachment or conflicting use..... 10
 - (d) The proposed project contains, or would provide protection or improved management capability to existing public lands that contain: (40)
 - (e) unusual flora or fauna;20
 - (f) wild, scenic and recreational river;20
 - (g) frontage on a lake, pond or river that provides recreational opportunities;20
 - (h) regulated wetland;20
 - (i) significant fish or wildlife habitat;20
 - (j) area of public land with existing high-intensity use;.....20
 - (k) unique watershed.....20
- 3. The proposed project is within 25 miles of the boundary of a defined urban area. 15

C. CONSOLIDATION

- 1. The proposed project provides:
 - (a) a significant management advantage or expansion of facilities, programs or services;30
 - (b) a moderate management advantage or expansion of facilities, programs or services;20
 - (c) some management advantage or expansion of facilities, programs or services..10
- 2. The proposed project will provide a cohesive area of:
 - (a) 1,000 or more acres;..... 10

(b) 500–999 acres; 8
(c) 100–499 acres. 4
3. The proposed project contains, or would provide improved public access or protection to existing public lands that contain: (15)
(a) unusual flora or fauna; 5
(b) wild, scenic and recreational river; 5
(c) frontage on a lake, pond or river that provides recreational opportunities; 5
(d) regulated wetland; 5
(e) significant fish or wildlife habitat; 5
(f) area of public land with existing high-intensity use; 5
(g) unique watershed. 5
4. The proposed project eliminates or reduces:
(a) a significant amount of encroachment or conflicting use; 10
(b) a moderate amount of encroachment or conflicting use; 8
(c) some amount of encroachment or conflicting use. 4
5. The proposed project links trailways or public access roads. 5
6. The proposed project conforms to recommendations contained in Unit Management Plans, State Park System Plan, State Park Master Plans or other approved plans 20
7. The proposed project is within 25 miles of the boundary of a defined urban area 10

VII. COASTAL & ESTUARINE LAND CONSERVATION AREA

The CELCP resource value rating system is to be applied to projects located in the CELCP planning area.

The maximum value is: (100)

CHARACTERISTICS	RATING
A. CELCP PRIORITIES	
1. The proposed project advances the goals, objectives, or implementation of any of the following (see e-Appendix D).....	(10)
(a) New York State Coastal Management Program	
(b) Local Waterfront Revitalization Programs	
(c) Watershed Protection Plans	
(d) Regional Resource Management Plans	
(e) Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve Management Plan	
(f) New York State Climate Action Plan	
(g) Community Reconstruction Plans	
2. The proposed project is located within the New York State Coastal Area Boundary	(5)
3. The proposed project is at a threat of conversion.	
(a) Project is located in an Urbanized Area	(4)
(b) Project is located in a county with a population growth (2000–2010):	
(i) 0 to 5 %	(1)

- (ii) 5 to 15 % (2)
- (iii) > 15 %..... (3)
- 4. The proposed project is at a threat for development. Choose one:
 - (a) Has the transfer or proposed transfer of ownership of the site, including public offering of the site for sale, been announced?..... (1)
 - (b) Have plans for the site, including their nature, timing, scope and environmental compatibility, been announced? (2)
 - (c) Are there any pending applications for any form of governmental approval for the use or development of the site? (3)
- 5. The proposed project addresses multiple CELCP priorities (significant conservation, recreation, ecological, and historic/aesthetic values) (4)

B. CONSERVATION

- 1. The proposed project provides watershed and/or shoreline protection through its proximity to a water body (including a lake, stream, river, bay, or estuary); groundwater aquifer; or wetland.
Choose one:
 - (a) Project is located within the NYS Coastal Area Boundary; or..... (4)
 - (b) Project is located within 500 feet of a water body (lake, estuary, bay, etc.) or wetland within the NYS Coastal Area Boundary; or (2)
 - (c) Project is located within 500 feet of a water body or wetland in the CELCP planning Area (1)
- 2. The proposed project is located within any of the following:..... (3)
 - (a) A Coastal Hazard Area designated under the Coastal Erosion Hazard Areas Act of 1981 (Article 34-0103 of the Environmental Conservation Law); or
 - (b) A V-zone or A-zone as designated on Flood Insurance Rate Maps prepared pursuant to the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (P.L. 90-448) and the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-234).
- 3. Project includes provisions to manage the property for long-term protection of its ecological, conservation, recreational, aesthetic, or historical/cultural values, consistent with CELCP guidelines (2)
- 4. The proposed project expands or buffers an existing protected area with significant ecological, recreational, and/or historical/aesthetic importance; or provides an opportunity for landward migration of tidal wetlands; or provides 'green infrastructure' functions for a working waterfront..... (5)

C. ECOLOGICAL

- 1. The proposed project is located within or adjacent to an area with any of the following characteristics (Choose all that apply):
 - (a) Essential to the survival of a significant portion of a particular fish or wildlife population (i.e. spawning areas, nursery, nesting, or breeding areas, wintering areas, migratory corridors, etc.) (5)
 - (b) Supports populations of rare, endangered, threatened, high priority Species of Greatest Conservation Need or special concern species (5)

- (c) Supports commercially and/or recreationally significant fish and wildlife (5)
 - (d) A regionally rare coastal community (5)
 - 2. The proposed project is within or adjacent to a state-designated Significant Coastal Fish and Wildlife Habitat (5)
 - 3. Ecological Significance: add 1 point for each State endangered, threatened, or species of special concern which has been recorded on or adjacent to the project site (5)
- D. RECREATION / ACCESS**
- 1. The proposed project provides physical linkages to an existing public recreation/access site within the NYS Coastal Area Boundary..... (5)
 - 2. The proposed project provides physical linkages that establish or expand a greenway and/or blueway trail (3)
 - 3. The proposed project provides access for recreational use in compatible with conservation, ecological, and historic/aesthetic values (2)
- E. HISTORIC/AESTHETIC**
- 1. The proposed project is located within or adjacent to a Scenic Area of Statewide Significance (SASS) designated by the Department of State (3) (3)
 - 2. The proposed project includes or is located adjacent to a Wild, Scenic or Recreational River designated under Article 15 of Environmental Conservation Law (2), and is located within the NYS Coastal Area Boundary (3).....(2/3)
 - 3. The proposed project is located within or adjacent to a scenic resource area or a designated historic or archaeological resource or district protected by a local law or ordinance (2), and is located within the NYS Coastal Area Boundary (3).....(2/3)
 - 4. The proposed project includes or is located adjacent to a designated National Historic Landmark, or any resource on, nominated to be on, or determined eligible to be on the National or State Register of Historic Places (2), and is located within the NYS Coastal Area Boundary (3)(2/3)
 - 5. The proposed project is located within or adjacent to a national heritage area or a heritage area designated by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, or any archaeological resource which is on the inventories of archaeological sites maintained by the New York State Department of Education or the Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (2), and is located within the NYS Coastal Area Boundary(3) (2/3)