**Gallatin County**
**Open Lands Project Rating Chart**

Project Identification #  _____
Funding Cycle:  May/November, 200__.
Scoring Date:  _____

This project rating chart shall be used by Gallatin County Open Land Board members to rank and compare applications for funding.  The maximum number of points that a project can receive is 100.

There are six major categories reflecting the goals of the Gallatin Open Lands Program. Each major category may have a maximum of 20 points, but must have a minimum of 8 possible points and the cumulative total must equal 100 points.  The reviewer allocates points to the categories based on their judgment of the most important values. For example, if a reviewer allocates 20 pts each to categories 1 and 2(40 pts.) and 15 points to categories 3 through 5 (45 pts.) the total is 85, which means that category 6 can have a total of 15 points to equal 100 possible points.  In order to be fair to all applicants in a review cycle, all applications must be judged on the same allocation of points to the categories and subcategories.  The points available for a specific category should be placed in the box to the right of the category heading.

Within each major category there are 2 to 5 subcategories.  The number of possible points you allocate to a major category should be allocated among the subcategories. (Note: We can allocate the points to the subcategories equally or at the discretion of the reviewer. The process works either way.  It is simpler to allocate equally but perhaps more responsive to reviewer concerns if it is done at reviewer discretion.  For this illustration I have assumed that they are equal.)  To allocate points to the subcategories divide the category points by the number of subcategories.  The allocation to the subcategories should be in the boxes below the category box.

Each of the subcategories is further broken down into ranking criteria, with the highest value at the top and the lowest value at the bottom.  Once the points available for each subcategory have been determined, points are awarded based on where the applicant falls within the range of criteria.  For example, if the property size is 800 acres and there are 5 points available in subcategory 1a, the maximum amount that you can allocate to this particular subcategory is 4 (1 less than the maximum).  Only the highest number of points can be allocated to the highest criteria in each subcategory.  Points are recorded in the appropriate subcategory box and then the total for the subcategories is entered in the category score box.  When all the categories have been scored, the total of all categories is entered at the end of the form.

To illustrate how to apply the points, consider the following example.  Assume that you had allocated 20 points to category 1, with 5 points then allocated to each of the subcategories.   The property you are reviewing is an 800-acre ranch with a 550-acre

easement, permitting 2 additional home sites and retaining all water rights.  You would allocate 4 points to 1a as determined above, 3 points to 1b, 4 points to 1c and 5 points to 1d for a total of 16 points out of the possible total of 20.

Remember, you must use the same scoring formula for all projects in a particular funding cycle.  Therefore, in the previous example all applicants would be allowed a maximum of 20 points for category 1, with each of the subcategories allowed a maximum of 5 points.

1.  <u>General Description</u>          Total Pts. Available          ☐

      Pts. Available for 1a, 1b, 1c          ☐☐☐

    1a.  Size of Property

- Over 1,200 acres
- 800 to 1,199 acres
- 400 to 799 acres
- 100 to 399 acres

    1b.  Size of Property to be restricted by easement

- Over 800 acres
- 600 to 799 acres
- 400 to 599 acres
- 200 to 399 acres
- 100 to 199 acres

    1c. Number of Reserved Homesites

- Zero or One
- Two or Three
- Three or Four

    1d. Retained Water Rights

- All water rights to be retained by easement
- Water rights sufficient to sustain conservation values to be retained

                                            #1 Score          ☐

- <u>Quality of Ag. Resource and Economic Viability</u>

Pts.Available

☐

Pts. Available for 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d  ☐☐☐☐

2a. Soils Classified as Prime, Statewide Importance or Locally Significant by NRCS

- Over 80%
- 50 to 79%
- 30 to 49%
- 10 to 29%

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2b.  Amount of Irrigated Land

- Over 200 acres
- 100 to 199 acres
- 50 to 99 acres

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2c.  Average annual AUM's in past 5 years

- 300 or more
- 100 to 299
- 75 to 99

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2d. Average annual crop/hay production in past 5 yrs.

- Over 800 tons of hay/alfalfa and/or over 15,000 Bu. grain production and/or 65,000 Cwt. potatoes
-  600 to 799 tons of hay/alfalfa and/or 12,000 to 14,999 Bu. grain production and/or 55,000 Cwt to 64,999 Cwt. potatoes
- 400 to 599 tons hay/alfalfa and/or 9,000 to 11,999 Bu, grain production and/or 45,000 Cwt. to 54,999 Cwt. Potatoes
- 200 to 399 tons hay/alfalfa and/or 7,000 to 8,999 Bu, grain production and/or 30,000 Cwt. to 44,999 Cwt. Potatoes

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#2 Score  ☐

3.  Quality of Natural Resources Important to Sustaining Wildlife, Natural Communities and Water Quality

Pts. Avail. ☐

Pts. Available for 3a,3b ☐☐

3a. Significant Habitat Diversity (according to Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks)

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair (local significance)

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☐
☐

3b. Significant Water Resource or Fishery

- Perennial River or Class 1 stream (MFWP)
- Perennial Stream or Creek or Class 2,3 or 4 Stream (MFWP)
- Lake, ponds or wetlands with a cumulative total over twenty acres in size

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#3 Score ☐

4. Multiple Community Values

Pts. Available ☐

Pts. Available for 4a, 4b, 4c ☐☐☐

4a. Public Recreational Benefits

- Establishes or maintains important public trail linkage
- Establishes or maintains public fishing access
- Establishes or maintains access to public lands
- Establishes or maintains public hunting access

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4b. Scenic Values

- From federal or state hwy. corridor or if identified in local plans or ordinances as having high scenic value
- From primary county road
- From minor county road

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4c.  Public Policy

- In area where preservation of open space, agricultural or rural character is encouraged by adopted land use plan or regulation
- Consistent with the intent, goals and policies of applicable land use plans or regulations

#4 Score ☐

5. Continuation of Agriculture and/or Natural Values

Pts. Available ☐

Pts. Available for 4a, 4b, 4c, 4d ☐☐☐☐

5a. Proximity to Other Ranches or Significant Wildlife or Natural Areas

- Surrounded

- Contiguous to one or more
- Within 1/2 mile

5b. Proximity to other ranches or natural areas protected by conservation easements or to public lands

- Contiguous
- Within 1/2 mile
- Within 1 mile

5c. Human Resources

- Family members operate ranch
- Opportunity for new or existing rancher to expand

5d.  Continuation of Ranching Heritage: ranch owned by same family for:

- Over 100 years

- 75 to 99 years
- 50 to 74 years
- 25 to 49 years

#5 Score [     ]

6. <u>Leverage</u>

Pts. Available [     ]

Pts. Available for 6a, 6b, 6c, [  |  |  ]

6a.  Landowner Contribution and/or Terms

- 50% or more of the value

- 25 to 49% of the value
- 15 to 24% of the value

6b.  Project partners: cost covered by partners

- 80% or more of the cost

- 60 to 79% of the cost
- 40 to 59% of the cost
- 20 to 39% of the cost

6c. Matching conservation easements: % of project cost matched with new donation of a conservation easement.

- More than 50%

- 20 to 49%
- 10 to 19%

#6 Score [     ]

[     ]

Total Points for Application

Project Rating Chart Adopted 6/4/02 by County Commission

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