

Mid-Coast Water Planning Partnership

Water Action Plan Prioritization Process: Criteria Scoring Guide

The Prioritization Work Group decided to prioritize actions using scoring criteria that focus on the benefits of the actions and their readiness to be implemented, and to utilize the following prioritization process:

- Utilizing the attached scoresheet, individuals score each action using a scoring system described below for each of the criteria to sort actions into three priority groups (high, medium, and low; work plans will be developed for actions that fall into the High group first)
- For each action, individuals also have the option of identifying their expertise level associated with the action using a high-medium-low scoring system
- Individuals provide their completed scoresheets to GSI, and GSI presents the summarized information at the next Prioritization Work Group meeting when the Work Group will use the information to decide on scores together

Below are instructions and descriptions of the expertise levels, scoring criteria, and scoring systems. Please use the descriptions to provide your criteria scores and expertise scores for each action.

Expertise Level (Optional Self-assessment)

Instructions: You have the option of indicating your familiarity with the action using High, Medium, or Low based on the descriptions provided. This will help the Work Group understand the level of expertise in the Work Group regarding an action and identify knowledge gaps. Everyone is welcome to provide input in the prioritization process, including non-experts.

High: high subject matter expertise through substantial work experience, education, or other involvement in the topic

Medium: Some knowledge about the subject through work experience, education, or other involvement in the topic, but not an expert

Low: not very knowledgeable about the subject but interested in learning and sharing feedback

Criteria Descriptions and Scoring Descriptions

Instructions: Please review the following criteria descriptions and the scoring descriptions to help you assign a score for the criteria under each action. Descriptions can be refined as needed during the Prioritization Work Group meeting.

Improves water quantity: the action is expected to increase streamflow or the quantity of water available for instream and/or out-of-stream uses. This could occur through land management (e.g., forest management, beaver habitat), demand reduction (e.g., water conservation), instream protections, or increased storage.

High: substantial improvements are expected (the action is specifically focused on this type of benefit)

Medium: moderate improvements are expected

Low: no improvements or minor improvements are expected (maybe something would need to be added to the action or the action is not focused on this type of benefit)

Improves water quality: the action is expected to protect or improve water quality.

High: substantial improvements are expected (the action is specifically focused on this type of benefit)

Medium: moderate improvements are expected

Low: no improvements or minor improvements are expected (maybe something would need to be added to the action or the action is not focused on this type of benefit)

Improves stakeholder understanding: the action has an educational component, provides additional data that will help management (data collection/monitoring), or supports a study that will help stakeholders understand and manage water better.

High: substantial improvements are expected (the action is specifically focused on this type of benefit)

Medium: moderate improvements are expected

Low: no improvements or minor improvements are expected (maybe something would need to be added to the action or the action is not focused on this type of benefit)

Readiness: the degree to which an action has projects already identified and the extent that the projects are developed, active leads, and needed information gathered/developed to enable implementation, such as reports, data, or studies. *[Note: GSI provided information about projects in the spreadsheet based on project data collected to date to assist individuals with their scoring decisions.]*

High: projects have been identified and are well-developed, an active lead has been identified, **and** implementation is not known to be on hold pending something else, such as a study

Medium: projects have been identified, an active lead has been identified, **or** implementation is not known to be on hold pending something else, such as a study

Low: projects have not been identified, an active lead needs to be identified, and/or a technical report or study is needed to proceed with the action

NOTE FOR THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA: Distinguishing between high, medium, and low could be challenging or unnecessary. Perhaps these could be treated as Yes (currently high and medium) or No (currently low). We can discuss this potential simplification at the Prioritization Work Group meeting. If you are uncertain how to distinguish between high and medium, put both to indicate uncertainty.

Instream and Out-of-stream benefits: the action is expected to have instream benefits (e.g., enhance fish habitat) and out-of-stream benefits (e.g., enhance drinking water quality and quantity)

High: the action has strong instream and out-of-stream benefits

Medium: the action has instream and out-of-stream benefits, though less strong/direct for at least one

Low: the action only has instream benefits or out-of-stream benefits

Regionwide benefit: the action is likely to have regionwide benefit.

High: the action is likely to have a regionwide benefit at once

Medium: the action is likely to have a regionwide benefit over time through implementing the action in many locations

Low: the benefit would be localized and is unlikely to be broadly applied

Helps implement a state or regional plan: the action implements a plan in the crosswalk in Appendix D, or it references implementing another plan.

[Note: GSI scored this for you using Appendix D, but please make adjustments as needed if you know of another state or regional plan that the action falls under]

High: the action implements more than 2 plans (a plan in the crosswalk in Appendix D, or another known state or regional plan)

Medium: the action implements up to 2 plans (a plan in the crosswalk in Appendix D, or another known state or regional plan)

Low: the action does not implement a state or regional plan