

Pair-Based Scoring Guidelines
Recreational Trails Program

*This is a guideline to the pair-based scoring method listed in (Pg. 10) of the Recreational Trails Program Manual. All of these guidelines are listed at the website, <https://www.parkrec.nd.gov/business/grants/recreation-trails-program>. When ranking a project please read through each application entirely, making sure to look at the project as a whole and if it fits the requirements of the Recreational Trails Program (Pg. 4). Individual grant awards are limited to a minimum of \$10,000 and a maximum of \$200,000. For a listed of eligible project sponsors please look at the criteria (Pg. 5).

1. "40-30-30" Requirement (Pg. 6)

- RTP Legislation (23 U.S.C. 206) requires that States use 40 percent of their funds in a fiscal year for diverse recreational trail use; 30 percent for motorized recreation; and 30 percent for non-motorized recreation. A project for diverse motorized use (such as snowmobile and off-road motorcycle use) may satisfy the 40 percent diverse use requirement and the 30 percent motorized use requirement simultaneously. A project for diverse non-motorized use (such as pedestrian and bicycle use) may satisfy the 40 percent diverse use requirement and the 30 percent non-motorized use requirement simultaneously.
- *Example:* As we have a lot of non-motorized applications that come in every year to fulfill this criterion, we need to make sure that the 30% for motorized recreation (ex. snowmobile/OHV) projects is met. A motorized application (if the only one) may rank higher than the rest of the non-motorized applications to fit this requirement.

2. Title VI (Pg. 5)

- An application that is Title VI compliant may rank higher than one that is not because they already meet the requirements of the program. *Applicants whom are not Title VI certified will need to gain compliance before grant award.

3. Trails SCORP (See Application & Recreational Trail Needs SCORP)

- A primary need may receive higher priority over a secondary or tertiary need.

4. Accessibility (See Application)

All RTP projects must meet accessibility guidelines in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Architectural Barriers Act, PRO WAG or the Outdoor Accessibility Guidelines. For more information refer to the U.S. Access Board at <https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards>.

5. Uses of Project Impact (See Application)

- The more boxes that are checked indicate more diverse opportunities for trail usage.

6. Funding (See Application)

- Secured funding may rank higher than non-secured funding as they have ensured proper planning and met the requirements to finish the trail. There is a risk of not finishing the trail if the funding is not secured.

7. Public Input/Support (See Application)

- This criterion shows that the project has been evaluated by the community and there is public input to demonstrate community need/support.

8. Environmental Considerations (See Application)

- While environmental reviews are conducted by the state on behalf of the project, applications that indicate minimal impact to the environment may rank higher than projects that may require significant mitigation.

9. Equipment Purchases: FHWA Buy America Act (Pg. 18)

- This certifies that all steel and iron supplied to the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) projects are manufactured domestically in the United States in compliance with the Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) Buy America requirements as outlined in 23 CFR §635.410. If so, the application may rank higher than an equipment application that has not followed this criterion.

RTPAC membership represents a broad range of motorized and non-motorized trail users and associations. A total of nine committee members are appointed by the Director of the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department and must be recreational trail users and represent trail interests (hiking, biking, horseback riding, paddling, OHV and snowmobile). In North Dakota, the committee serves as the evaluation committee that reviews and prioritizes grant applications and recommends projects for funding. The project evaluation allows committee members to bring their knowledge of statewide and local recreation patterns, resources, and needs into consideration. Reviewers may rank a project based upon their evaluation of site suitability, fiscal consideration, commitment to long-term operation and maintenance, superior design, superior leverage of funding and partnership, ADA compliance, and project presentation, heritage and legacy context, and regional issues (Pg.9).

Thank you!