

West Central Local Integrating Organization (LIO)

Criteria for Tiering Near Term Actions (NTAs)

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The LIO Working Group has developed the following criteria to be used to tier NTAs for inclusion in the Puget Sound Partnership's 2018-2022 Action Agenda. This document is a guide to help the LIO's Working Group review NTA submissions and rank them on a 1-4 scale, with Tier 4 equating to the strongest NTA submissions. The Working Group recommends that NTA owners structure their presentations to the LIO around the following five criteria (see below).

Scoring Criteria Details:

- Question A determines if an NTA is scored under the other criteria (Questions B-D). During informational NTA sessions, the Working Group reviewers will continue with scoring as feedback. However, during the actual review session, reviewers will not review NTAs that they feel do not address the LIO's Priority Recovery Strategies. These reviewer scores will be marked zero.
- Each reviewer will individually score each NTA submission.
- Using their scores for questions B-E, each reviewer will determine an average score.
- Questions B and C will be weighted 2:1 relative to Questions D and E to reflect the relative importance of these questions.
- All the scores for each submission will be averaged to determine an overall average score. The overall average score will be rounded to the nearest whole number and placed in one of four tiers:
 - Tier 4 Outstanding (Green)
 - Tier 3 Good (Yellow)
 - Tier 2 Intermediate (Orange)
 - Tier 1 Poor (Pink)
- NTAs will not be ranked within each tier.
- If any Working Group reviewer gives a score of one or two to a submission, they will provide written feedback so the NTA owner can improve their submission.

NTA CRITERIA		Reviewer Score Selection	Reviewer Comments (necessary for 1s and 2s, optional for 3s and 4s)
Question A: Does the NTA address the Priority Recovery Strategies identified in the Ecosystem Recovery Plan?			
YES	Proceed to next questions		
NO	Do not proceed, NTA will score 0 on all other questions		
Question B: Is the NTA based on West Central LIO's Ecosystem Recovery Plan , specifically the goals (p.18), priority recovery strategies (p.6), and/or identified gaps and barriers (p.45)?			
Outstanding (4)	Perfectly aligned: addresses one or more goals, priority recovery strategies, and/or gaps and barriers in a meaningful way.		
Good (3)	Near perfect alignment: addresses goals, priority recovery strategies, and/or gaps and barriers.		
Acceptable w/ Revisions (2)	Modifications needed to achieve alignment with goals, priority recovery strategies, and/or gaps and barriers.		
Poor (1)	Is not targeted to the LIO's goals, priority recovery strategies, and/or gaps and barriers.		
Question C: Has the owner demonstrated clear, meaningful, and lasting ecological, economic, and social project benefits?			
Outstanding (4)	Clearly articulates how it will help make meaningful and lasting progress to improve Puget Sound, providing immediate and/or future ecological, economic, and social benefits.		
Strong (3)	Will improve Puget Sound and provides ecological, economic, and social benefits.		
Intermediate (2)	Will make some gains to improve Puget Sound.		
Poor(1)	Provides small, limited, or diminishing present and potential future gains toward Puget Sound restoration.		

NTA CRITERIA	Reviewer Score Selection	Reviewer Comments (necessary for 1s and 2s, optional for 3s and 4s)
Question D: Does this NTA have an achievable plan and access to the resources it needs?		
Outstanding (4)	The project clearly defines the methodology, the resources, and schedule demonstrating that the objectives will be met, and its goals are achievable.	
Good (3)	The project clearly defines the methodology, the resources, and schedule demonstrating that the objectives will be met, but its goals are challenging.	
Difficulties Expected (2)	There is a question about whether the methods, timelines, and resources are adequate to accomplish objectives.	
Unlikely to succeed (1)	Stated objectives are unlikely to be achieved.	

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Question E: Do the NTA owners, partners and outside experts have experience and expertise in this area?			
Outstanding (4)	Owner and partner(s) have the applicable expertise, demonstrated on similar projects, to implement the NTA. The owner has demonstrated experience in hiring outside experts if needed.		
Strong (3)	Owner and partner(s) have some applicable expertise and experience. The owner has demonstrated experience in hiring outside experts if needed.		
Difficulties Expected (2)	Owner and partner(s) have minimal applicable expertise and experience. The owner has demonstrated little experience in hiring outside experts if needed.		
Unlikely to succeed (1)	Owner and partner(s) have no applicable expertise and experience OR have failed at similar past projects. The owner has demonstrated no experience in hiring outside experts if needed.		
		Final Score= {2(B+C)+D+E} /6	