

## Draft Individual Review Form

Proposal number: 2001-G203-1

Short Proposal Title: Battle Creek Protection

**1a) Are the objectives and hypotheses clearly stated?**

Provide detailed comments in support of your conclusion

No, the fact that TNC intends to acquire conservation easements and protect streamside vegetation in the Battle Creek watershed is clear. However, specific easement restrictions and wildlife compatible agriculture are not defined.

**1b1) Does the conceptual model clearly explain the underlying basis for the proposed work?**

Provide detailed comments in support of your conclusion

Yes, the conceptual model is clear and straightforward.

**1b2) Is the approach well designed and appropriate for meeting the objectives of the project?**

Provide detailed comments in support of your conclusion

Yes, the approach of buying easements is well planned and appropriate for this watershed.

**1c1) Has the applicant justified the selection of research, pilot or demonstration project, or a full-scale implementation project?**

Provide detailed comments in support of your conclusion

Yes. These proposed acquisitions will build on previous successful projects in this area.

**1c2) Is the project likely to generate information that can be used to inform future decision making?**

Provide detailed comments in support of your conclusion

No. Existing easements in this watershed are already in place generating data. I did not see any new ideas or practices outlined in this proposal.

**2a) Are the monitoring and information assessment plans adequate to assess the outcome of the project?**

Provide detailed comments in support of your conclusion

No. The focus of this proposal is to acquire easements. No specific conservation goals or practices are included other than the "fencing of certain riparian areas". Cattle grazing is listed as a compatible economic use but has no detailed monitoring or assessment plan. Reviewing agency generated flow and fish counts will not adequately assess the outcomes of this project.

**2b) Are data collection, data management, data analysis, and reporting plans well-described, scientifically sound and adequate to meet the proposed objectives?**

Provide detailed comments in support of your conclusion

Yes and No. The plans are scientifically sound but unspecific in terms of baseline data collection. Data collection does not include compatible agricultural uses (cattle grazing) and is insufficient to judge project success.

**3) Is the proposed work likely to be technically feasible?**

Provide detailed comments in support of your conclusion

Yes.

**4) Is the proposed project team qualified to efficiently and effectively implement the proposed project?**

Provide detailed comments in support of your conclusion

Unknown. The Proposal Solicitation Package asks applicants to “provide brief biographical sketches of the principal participants that identify qualifications”. No individuals are identified as members of the project team in this proposal.

**Miscellaneous comments**

H. Compliance with Standard Terms and Conditions – the applicant has requested several changes and did not indicate a willingness to comply with state and federal standard terms.

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**Overall Evaluation  
Summary Rating**

**Provide a brief explanation of your summary rating**

This will be an excellent project when fully developed. My understanding is that the applicant and landowners are in the process of negotiating conservation easements. It is impossible to determine the biological/ecological benefits of this proposal until sale agreements specify easement terms, property lines, and costs. Once the easement restrictions are in place a detailed land-use monitoring plan needs to be developed that address compatible agricultural uses.

- Excellent
- Very Good
- Good
- Fair**
- Poor