



FAQs on the 5-year SCORP Recertification process

Below is a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) regarding the change.

What is the new the 5-year recertification process?

For states that are wanting to transition their 5-year SCORP to a 10-year SCORP, the state must certify that the existing SCORP still meets their needs through the 5-year recertification process.

When should a state start the recertification process?

Ideally a state would start the recertification one year before the current SCORP expires. The table below is an example for states that have SCORPs expiring the next two years.

Current 5-year SCORP expires	Start the recertification process by	If approved, next SCORP starts
2026	2025	2031
2027	2026	2032

We want to shift to a 10-year SCORP but need more time, can we request an extension for current SCORP planning?

Yes, you can request a one-year extension to your current SCORP planning effort to help you transition to a 10-year cycle if you need more time for development.

For example, if the state identifies it needs a mini update to the current SCORP during the recertification process, the state can ask for a one-year extension, but the recertification would continue to be through the 10-year period and not add an additional year.

How to determine if something is a minor vs. major change?

States have discretion to determine what constitutes a minor versus a major change. NPS can be consulted if a state isn't sure that their changes are major and merit a full SCORP update.

For example, if a change is easily explained within a paragraph or two, that could be added as a mini update to that section of the SCORP via appendix/addendum. If the assessment uncovers items that need to be further researched or need a lot of explanation, then that would likely tip towards needing to do a full update.

What is a mini update and what format should it follow?

If there have been minor changes, the state should include a mini update of the SCORP and discuss the items that have changed. This should be attached with the Letter of Support from the SLO/ASLO and also posted as an addendum to the state's public facing site where the SCORP is listed.

An example of what this could look like is the LWCF Manual Release notes section ([LWCF-manual Release notes - Land and Water Conservation Fund \(U.S. National Park Service\)](#)). As we get mini updates in from states, we will share them as examples.

Does a major change to the OPSP require a full SCORP update?

Since the OPSP can be updated at anytime, a major change to the OPSP doesn't necessarily mean it needs a full SCORP update. However, if the major change is because the priorities or implementation plan has changed, then yes, that should be captured in

either the mini update or a full SCORP update.

Examples of minor and major OPSP changes **not** needing a full SCORP update:

Minor – adding how a state approaches cost increase amendments or how a state splits the apportionment (state vs. local)

Major – changing the ranking criteria from a score card to point range determined by state staff

What if I have questions beyond what is covered in the FAQ?

NPS can always be consulted to help answer any question and provide guidance. Please reach out to: lwcf_planning@nps.gov.