



LAND PROTECTION GUIDELINES

CRITERIA

We seek to conserve land that will support or enhance ...

Clean Water

- Land overlying aquifers and aquifer recharge areas
- Frontage on rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, and reservoirs
- Wetlands, floodplains, buffer areas, and riparian zones

Forestry and Agriculture

- Tracts of woodland with sufficient size, appropriate soils, and other attributes that support responsible forest management, including the production of timber and other forest products
- Farmlands and open fields with prime soils and other attributes that support agriculture or have the potential to support agriculture

Wildlife and Special Natural Areas

- Large tracts of undeveloped habitat and corridors important for wildlife
- Land containing ecologically significant or rare natural communities or species
- Priority land as identified in the New Hampshire Wildlife Action Plan
- Other lands which increase the diversity and viability of wildlife populations, including fields, riparian areas, and land contiguous to existing protected natural areas

Recreation, Scenery, and Cultural Resources

- Land that offers opportunities for appropriate outdoor recreation by the public
- Scenic views, ridgelines, and other aesthetic areas
- Landscapes that preserve the region's cultural and historic heritage

Collaboration and Leverage

- Land that can best be protected in collaboration with citizen groups, municipalities, non-profit organizations, public agencies, and other important partners
- Land whose conservation has the clear potential to leverage additional land conservation projects

PRIORITIES

In general, we will favor land and projects that...

- Readily meet two or more of the above criteria
- Abut, enlarge, or provide linkages to existing conservation areas
- Are threatened by a change in use that will undermine identified conservation values
- Have been designated for protection by a municipality, public agency, land trust, or citizen group
- Offer meaningful public environmental education opportunities
- Benefit a wide range of people and enjoy demonstrated public support

In general, we are disinclined to pursue land projects that ...

- Do not readily meet two or more of the above criteria
- Are insufficient in size to protect the conservation values at stake
- Pose actual or potential hazards from man-made substances or structures
- Have title problems or encumbered ownership that cannot be easily resolved
- Present obstacles to effective, responsible monitoring and stewardship
- Could be better protected by another private or public organization
- Require changes to our standard easement that are disproportionate to the land's values
- May cost the Conservancy good will or disproportionate amounts of staff time or money

Adopted by the Board of Trustees February 2002; reviewed by the Lands Committee April 2007