

Section II

Conservation & Recreation Land

Overview

The Land for Maine's Future Board established a process for the public to nominate lands for acquisition in a broad category called **Conservation and Recreation Lands**. Most proposals will fall under this category. If your project is a small parcel of land specifically for boating and fishing water access, please first review Section III. If it is related to farmland protection, please first review Section IV.

Proposal Process

This section of the Proposal Workbook provides you with all the information you need to apply for funds in the Conservation and Recreation Lands category. This process is open to everyone. If you have any questions about your proposal or the Land for Maine's Future process, please call (207) 287-1485 and speak with a member of our staff.

Proposal Inquiry Form

The form (found in Appendix A) provides the Land for Maine's Future Program staff with information they need to determine if a project meets established criteria.

Final Full Proposal Review Process for Recreation and Conservation Lands

Proposal Period - Proposals must be received by the closing date of a proposal period. Proposal forms must be complete with responses to all the numbered subject headings found in the Format and Instruction Section. Incomplete proposals will be returned for additional information. Contact the Program Director for the dates and other information on the next Proposal Period. (Please note there is an expedited process for proposals for water access projects appropriate for the Public Access to Maine Waters Fund, and they may be received at any time. See Section III for information on the process for this category.)

Please note that for a proposal to be complete, it must have a State Agency sponsor. You must contact the appropriate sponsoring agency well in advance of the application deadline – the next application deadline is April 1, 2008 (see page 22 for agency contact information).

State, Regional or Local Significance - Projects supported by the LMF Program may be of state, regional, or local significance. It's important that applicants indicate which of these sub-categories the proposal fits based on the definitions found on pages 31-32 in this section. Proposals will compete with other proposals within the same sub-category. Staff will correct the sub-category if it is inaccurate based on proposal information. The applicant will be notified if this is done.

Scoring & Nomination Procedure - Once the proposal is reviewed by LMF Program staff and judged to be complete, it will be scored using the scoring system summarized on the next page. The scoring criteria evaluates the land itself and includes the following: an assessment of the naturalness of the land; relative state, regional, or local significance; access to the site; any single exceptional values; proximity to and relationship to other public conservation holdings; and the need to conserve the proposed property.

At the close of the Proposal Period, all scores will be reviewed by the Board's Scoring Committee. The full list of scored proposals are then given to the Board's Nominations Committee, which reviews in detail the top proposals identified in the state, regional, or local land sub-categories. The Nominations Committee flags any issues or attributes and proposes a list of finalists, to the full Board for consideration. The Board will review the proposals, select the finalists, and allocate funding. Proposals that are not selected will be returned to applicants.

If the application envisions that the land or easement will be held by an organization other than the State, the Nominations Committee and the Board will also consider the capacity of the organization to bring the project to a successful conclusion including, without limitation, fund raising capacity, project management experience and land stewardship experience.

All applicants will be contacted and notified of the status of their proposal after final Board decisions. Please note that the scores serve as a guide for the Board.

Scoring System for Evaluating Conservation and Recreation Land Proposals

This scoring system has been devised as a guide to enable the Land for Maine's Future Board to sort through a diversity of proposals of state, regional, and local significance and identify those that are most aligned with the state's land acquisition priorities. It is designed to highlight proposals that bring high public value projects to the Board. In addition to applications receiving a numerical score, the Board established threshold and other criteria that are also used in evaluating proposals. These can be found on pages 36-38

The scoring system assigns points according to the relative value of six criteria associated with an acquisition proposal. These are:

	Maximum Points
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Naturalness of the Land	(12 points)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accessibility of the land	(8 points)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Proximity to Other State Lands or Component of a Larger Conservation/Recreation Effort	(16 points)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major Land Type	
- Significance	(30 points)
- Need	(20 points)
- LAPAC Multiplier (see page 33)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Single Exceptional Value	(50 points)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Additional Land Types	(50 points)

The scoring system uses those factors stressed by the Legislature in "An Act to Establish the Land for Maine's Future Fund," the findings of the Land Acquisition Priorities Advisory Committee's Final report (Nov. 1997), and public input received by the Board.

Please note that Farmlands and many Water Access Lands are their own categories, and proposals that are specifically for water access or farm preservation should review sections III and IV.

The Scoring System

Points

1. Naturalness of the Land (Maximum Points = 12)

The land is essentially natural with little or no discernable human impact..... 12

The land is moderately natural, with some site disturbance but the disturbance does not negatively impede/affect the intended uses of the property..... 8

The land has been significantly disturbed by human activity and restoration (or time) will be required to return the site to a more natural condition..... 4

The property has extensive site disturbance or improvements which will severely impede the use of the property for its intended purposes, or the site does not have a high probability of being successfully restored..... 0

SCORE _____

2. Accessibility of the Land (Maximum Points = 8)

Access roads can accommodate, without substantial improvement, the traffic that will be associated with the intended use of the property 8

or

Access is by water to an island and there is adequate water depth to land or moor recreational boats 8

or

The parcel is inaccessible by vehicles; however, because of the intended use of the property this is not a limitation or in fact may be an advantage in protecting the resource values of the property 8

Access to the parcel will require modest improvements to existing roads which will be a minor cost factor in developing the property for its intended use 6

Access to the parcel will require substantial improvements to existing roads which will be a major cost factor in developing the property for its intended use 0

SCORE _____

3. **Regional Considerations, Proximity to Other Public Lands or Component of a Larger Plan (Maximum Points =16)**

The project will achieve benefits for multiple towns, will address regional conservation needs and has one or more of the following attributes:

- Is linked to a regional conservation effort to protect open space, recreational opportunities or other natural resource values such as a greenbelt, trail network or river corridor. This may include a regional economic development plan: e.g. undeveloped lands essential for the success of regional tourism efforts.
- Connects existing public holdings or private conservation lands (state, federal, town, land trust, etc.).
- Is immediately adjacent to existing State holdings or is an inholding.
- Is part of a locally adopted comprehensive plan and implementation strategies for the protection of open space, recreation, wildlife habitat and/or rural areas that are consistent with the State’s Growth Management Act.
- Serves as a stopping off point on a recognized route such as an “island trail” that includes other publicly or privately owned lands.

These attributes generate significant benefits that accrue statewide..... 12 - 16

These attributes generate significant benefits that accrue to the multi-town region surrounding the host community..... 6 - 11

These attributes generate benefits that accrue principally within the host community 0 - 5

SCORE _____

4. **Major Land Category - Significance and Need Ranking (Maximum Points = 50)**

The proposal will be scored based on the major land type under which it has been identified by the applicant. They are: 1) Recreational lands, 2) Water Access Lands, 3)

Lands Supporting Vital Ecological or Conservation Functions and Values¹, 4) Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Natural Communities, Plants or Wildlife Habitat, 5) Areas of Scenic Interest and Prime Physical Features², 6) Farmland and Open Space. The scoring will take into account two factors: the relative significance, in terms of demand from a statewide, regional, or local perspective for the value of the resource or recreational activity; and the relative need, based on a deficiency determination (i.e., the excess of demand over supply for the resource or recreational activity in that area).

Please note that while lands of state significance score higher than lands of regional and local significance and lands of regional significance score higher than those of local significance, proposals will be judged only against other proposals of like significance.

Major Land Category (Maximum Points - 50)

Significance Rating (Maximum Points = 30) & **Need Rating** (Maximum Points = 20)

Significance Rating (Maximum Points = 30)

State Significance

The land contains a resource or provides a recreational opportunity that is substantiated as being significant from a state or greater than state perspective (1) 22 - 30

Regional Significance

The land contains a resource or provides a recreational opportunity that is substantiated as being significant from a regional (sub-state) perspective (2)..... 12 - 20

¹ Among other conservation values, the Board may consider whether the proposed project provides public water supply protection when that purpose is consistent and does not conflict with the natural resource conservation and recreation purposes of this chapter. In practice this means that the protected land must be available for public recreational use.

² In 2007, the Legislature authorized the Board to consider protection of "significant, undeveloped archeological sites". Applicants claiming value under this category must have a written endorsement from the Maine Historic Preservation Commission (Arthur Spiess 287 2132) that describes the significance of the archeological resources on the site. An application for which the "Major Land Category" is based primarily on archeological values must be sponsored by the Commission.

Local Significance

The land contains a resource or provides a recreational opportunity that is substantiated as being significant from a local perspective (3)..... 0 - 10

SCORE _____

- (1) Significant from a statewide perspective means that the resource is rare and/or exceptional in Maine based on published report(s), database(s), or credible testimony or the recreational activity associated with the parcel will frequently and routinely attract users to travel to the land from across the state or even from out-of-state to avail themselves of the resource or recreational opportunity offered by the parcel.
- (2) Significant from a regional perspective means that the resource is rare and/or exceptional in a region based on published report(s), database(s), or credible testimony, or the recreational opportunity associated with the parcel will frequently and routinely attract users to travel to the land from a regional area (that is, from an area that is greater than the area included by the towns abutting the town(s) where the land is), to avail themselves of the resource or recreational opportunity offered by the parcel.
- (3) Significant from a local perspective means that the resource is rare and/or exceptional in a town or group of towns based on published report(s), database(s), or credible testimony, or the recreational opportunity associated with the parcel will attract users to travel to the land primarily from a local area (that is, from an area that is primarily encompassed by the towns abutting the town(s) where the land is), to avail themselves of the resource or recreational opportunity offered by the parcel.

- AND -

Need Rating (Maximum Points = 20)

The need to protect the major land category addressed in the proposal and substantiated by a published report(s) data base(s), or credible testimony as being of:

Great Importance due to the relative rarity of the resource, the threat to the resource, or the deficiency of the recreational opportunity offered by the land when considered from a state or greater than state perspective 14 - 20

Moderate Importance due to the relative rarity of the resource, the threat to the resource, or the deficiency of the recreational opportunity offered by the land when considered from a or regional (sub-state) perspective 8 - 12

When a need cannot be adequately substantiated as being of state or regional significance it will be assumed that the need is of: Minor Importance due to the fact that the resource or recreational opportunity offered by the land can only considered rare, threatened, or deficient from a local perspective..... 0 - 6

SCORE _____

LAPAC Multiplier

If the proposal contains one or more of the following “focus” or “other important” areas (as identified in the Land Acquisition Priorities Advisory Committee final report), multiply the total Major Land Category Need Rating by that multiplier. If the project addresses more than one focus area, choose the highest value multiplier. Definitions of the following “focus” areas and “other important land acquisition priorities” are found in Appendix D.

	MULTIPLIER
Southern Maine Conservation Lands.....	2
Ecological Reserve.....	2
River System.....	2
Undeveloped Coastline.....	2
Northern Forest Conservation Land.....	1.5
Trail System	1.5
Island.....	1.5
Significant Mountain.....	1.5

Single Exceptional Statewide Value Scoring Procedure

If the land proposed for acquisition is thought to contain a single exceptional value that is exceptionally rare and of outstanding significance in a statewide context then it shall be evaluated to determine if it will be awarded 50 points. An award of points in this category will be infrequent. This is an “all or nothing” point score.
(Maximum Points = 50)

The land has a single exceptional value recognized as being the best or among the best in the state of its type, and this value is supported by a comprehensive published report(s), data base(s), or credible testimony..... 50

SCORE _____

5. **Multiple Land Categories (Maximum Points = 50)**

Some proposals will represent more than one land category and those proposals bring a wider range of resource values and hence a wider range of value to the public. As a response, up to 50 additional points can be awarded by offering up to 10 points each for as many as 5 land categories other than the Major Land Category under which the proposal is being submitted. 1) Recreational lands, 2) Water Access Lands, 3) Lands Supporting Vital Ecological or Conservation Functions and Values³, 4) Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Natural Communities, Plants or Wildlife Habitat, 5) Areas of Scenic Interest and Prime Physical Features⁴, 6) Farmland and Open Space. Please note that the scoring will consider the significance of each land category independent of the overall project designation as a state, regional or local project. Up to 10 points for each land category may be awarded based on the following:

The scores will be awarded on the following criteria:

The land contains a resource or provides a recreational opportunity that is substantiated as being significant from a state or greater than state perspective; or the relative rarity of the resource, or the deficiency of the recreational opportunity of the type offered by the land, is of great importance when considered from a state or greater than state perspective 8 - 10

The land contains a resource or provides a recreational opportunity that is substantiated as being significant from a regional (sub-state) perspective; or the relative rarity of the resource, or the deficiency of the recreational opportunity of the type offered by the land, is of moderate importance when considered from a statewide or regional (sub-state) perspective..... 4 - 7

³ Among other conservation values, the Board may consider whether the proposed project provides public water supply protection when that purpose is consistent and does not conflict with the natural resource conservation and recreation purposes of this chapter. In practice this means that the protected land must be available for public recreational use

⁴ In 2007, the Legislature authorized the Board to consider protection of "significant, undeveloped archeological sites". Applicants claiming value under this category must have a written endorsement from the Maine Historic Preservation Commission (Arthur Spiess 287 2132) that describes the significance of the archeological resources on the site.

The land contains a resource or provides a recreational opportunity that can only be substantiated as being significant from a local perspective; or the resource , or recreational opportunity of the type offered by the land, is only of minor importance because the resource is not considered rare or the recreational opportunity is not considered deficient, except from a local perspective

0 - 2

SCORE _____

Threshold Criteria Relating to Conservation and Recreation Proposals

The Land for Maine's Future Board follows established policies and guidelines when it makes decisions on which projects to fund. A list of other Board policies and guidelines are found in Section I on page 5.

Threshold Criteria

Threshold refers to the Board's expectation that all proposals address the following as minimum requirements. In rare cases, a proposal that does not meet these criteria will be considered.

Willing Seller: The owner(s) has agreed in writing to allow the sponsoring agency or cooperating entity to consider the purchase of his/her property.

Appraised Value: The owner is willing to accept an offer at or below fair market value based on an appraisal that conforms to Land for Maine's Future appraisal standards (see Appendices E and F).

Match : A proposal is expected to have matching funds greater than or equal to 1/3 of the total eligible project costs. This means that for every \$2 of LMF funds, there must be \$1 of match funds. Furthermore, of the total match, the ratios of match type must be the following:

- no more than 30% of the match can be the value of services customarily associated with land or interest in land acquisition (e.g. appraisal, survey, title work, legal work, ecological and archeological inventory)⁵; and
- 70% must be in the form of land, cash or other tangible assets. When considering land in fee or easement as match, it is the responsibility of the applicant to document the value to be used as match. To qualify as LMF match, the sponsoring state agency must hold the real estate interest or, if the interest is held by, the cooperating entity, the interest must be covered by a project agreement with the sponsoring state agency.

⁵ Services conducted by applicant staff and members, whether paid or volunteer, are not eligible to be included within match calculations.

For example, if a proposed property has an estimated total project cost of \$150,000 (including land and all other eligible costs), it would be eligible for up to \$100,000 in LMF funds, and there would have to be a match of at least \$50,000. Of this \$50,000 match, up to 30% or \$15,000 could be services needed for the land acquisition, and at least 70% or \$35,000 would have to be in donated land value, cash, or other tangible asset. The value of lands or interest in lands acquired within 2 years of the date of project application may be used as tangible match when the property interests have a direct relationship to the project.

If a project proposal includes a contribution to a dedicated stewardship/management endowment of the state agency or cooperating entity that will hold title (or easement) on the property, this may be considered a tangible asset. Use of contributions to a qualifying stewardship account as match is statutorily capped at 20% of land's appraised value. Likewise, access improvements may be considered as tangible assets with a cap at 5% of appraised land value. Engineering, permitting, and wetland delineation can also be considered as match under the 5% access improvement allowance.

With the exception of the caps relative to the stewardship/management endowment and access improvement allowance, all other match percentages are calculated based on total project costs which are the combined land cost and all other costs customarily associated with a land or interest in land acquisition.

Ownership & Sponsorship: An applicant is required to have sponsorship of a State agency (Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, Department of Conservation, Maine Historic Preservation Commission or Department of Marine Resources/Atlantic Salmon Commission) and, in the case of projects of regional/local significance, to have reached agreement with the sponsor regarding ownership and management. Applicants must contact the appropriate sponsoring state agency **well in advance** of submitting an application.

Applicant's Capacity: An applicant must demonstrate the capacity to undertake the project with a reasonable prospect of bringing it to a successful conclusion. The Board may consider all relevant factors including without limitation level of debt, fund raising ability, past land conservation activity and transactions, organizational history, scope of conservation vision, and evidence of success in building and sustaining land protection campaigns.

In addition, the Board will consider whether or not the proposed title or easement holder has the ability, experience, and resources to manage the property appropriately.

Relationship to local comprehensive planning efforts:

For locally significant projects, the project must be consistent with an adopted comprehensive plan meeting the standards of the Growth Management Act (30-A MRSA sections 4301-4349) with evidence that the municipality had adopted strategies to implement

the plan. For strongest Board consideration, a project should be an explicit component of a larger integrated effort by the applicant and municipality to achieve the conservation, recreation, and other goals of the comprehensive plan.

A project proposed for a locally designated growth area should be able to demonstrate either that the project doesn't frustrate the intent of the designation or that the project affirmatively supports the open space and/or recreation objectives of the local comprehensive plan.

Other criteria to be weighed by the LMFB:

Availability and price of the property.

Suitability of alternate protection techniques.

The potential for this project to support economic activity in the town or region hosting the project. For example, a trail corridor may provide or protect recreational opportunities in an area to which tourism is vital. Similarly, conserved working farms and forest land provide important economic benefits in addition to open space and wildlife habitat.

Defensibility against future degradation of the property's conservation values.

Intensity and expense of management activities needed to maintain the property's value.

In the case of conservation easements, availability of sufficient matching funds to monitor and enforce the easement or a contribution to the State's conservation stewardship or easement monitoring endowment.

Status of fund-raising efforts for match funds.

Project Readiness is a criterion that reflects the degree of due diligence applied and the certainty of a successful LMF project. It is intended to be a guide to project selection decisions. The readiness level is determined by the cumulative progression of items completed.

A graduated scale indicating the level of commitment and likelihood a project will be completed in a predictable timelines.

- Level 1 - 4 items completed
- Level 2 - 3 items completed
- Level 3 - 2 items completed
- Level 4 - 1 item completed
- Level 5 - 0 items completed

Items to be completed include:

Current, completed appraisal

Final easement or fee acquisition conditions completed

Cost Share commitment established

Signed option or purchase and sales agreement

Preacquired and held by a third party at the request of the State

Application Format and Instructions for Conservation and Recreational Land Proposals

General Guidelines for Applicants - All applicants are required to provide good maps (Delorme or USGS), visual aids (e.g. photos) and as much supporting information as they feel is necessary for the Board to better understand the project and the values it addresses. Digital copies of any maps and photos are greatly appreciated. Carefully read through this section to learn what the Board wishes to see in a well-rounded proposal. Program staff can make available examples of successful applications that may provide useful models. **All applicants are required to use the following application structure and numbering sequence and to provide complete information. If not applicable, indicate so by placing a N/A.**

Eight copies of your proposal should be sent to:

*Land for Maine's Future Program
State Planning Office
38 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0038
Telephone #: (207) 287-1485*

One additional copy of your proposal should be sent to your sponsoring agency.

1) **Application Summary page**

a) Project Title/Name of Project: This is the name by which your proposal will be catalogued by Program staff.

b) Significance: Indicate whether your project is of statewide, regional, or local significance (see description of #8 on page 43 for guidance)

c) Applicant Name: Provide the applicant's name, address, email, and phone number of the primary contact person.

d) Location of Project: Provide us with the name of the township and county.

e) Size: Indicate how many acres your project encompasses and identify fee vs. easement acres if appropriate.

f) Funding request: Indicate the amount of your request for LMF funding (full budget in section 16 below)

g) Agency Sponsor & Proposed Ownership: Possible agency sponsors are the Department of Conservation, the Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, or the Atlantic Salmon Commission. Please be sure that you have contacted the agency and it supports your proposal (see page 37). A letter to this effect from the sponsoring agency must be included in the application. The letter must state that the sponsoring agency is prepared to hold the real estate interest proposed for protection either directly or via a project agreement.

h) Current landowner(s): Include address, phone number, fax and e-mail (if available) of the current landowner(s). A letter from the landowner(s) indicating their willingness to be considered in the project must be included in the application.

i) Partners: Other entities supporting this project. Include address, phone number, fax and e-mail (if available).

j) Date of Application: Indicate the date you submitted your application.

2) **Project Description**

Include a narrative description that provides a clear understanding of the entire project, as well as the context surrounding it. Use this section to provide a broad overview of the Project's objectives and the benefits it will provide. Please discuss the conservation and/or recreational assets that the project seeks to protect, along with the other potential benefits to the community which may include economic activity in the town or region hosting the project. For example, a trail corridor may provide or protect recreational opportunities in an area to which tourism is vital. Similarly, conserved working farms and forest land provide important economic benefits to the surrounding community in addition to open space and wildlife habitat. Subsequent sections provide opportunity for more detailed discussion of specific aspects of the project that correspond to the scoring criteria.

The narrative should identify whether the project intends to acquire fee or easement interests in the property, identify who will hold the ownership interest, and describe why that interest is the most appropriate to conserve the public conservation values on the property.

Photographs of the property can be very effective. If these are incorporated in the text electronically, please provide the images on a floppy disk or CD in JPEG or TIFF format.

If the project is proposed as a working forest easement, the project description must include an easement plan. **The applicant is strongly encouraged to refer to the**

Guidelines for Working Forest Conservation Easements published in July 2002 by LMF and available on the LMF website and from LMF staff (see appendix I for a discussion of these easements).

3) Location Information

Delineate approximate project boundaries on:

Maine Atlas Base Map - showing project location and regional perspective

USGS Topographic Base Map - showing entire boundary of proposed project, legal access and adjacency of other public and private conservation lands.

Aerial Photo (if available)- showing project location and boundaries

Other Maps as Appropriate - showing endangered species, significant natural communities soils, outstanding physical features, proposed public access, trails, camping sites, etc., context of the project within a greenbelt plan, trail system, river corridor, comprehensive plan, etc.

Note: Please no maps larger than 11” by 17”.

If possible, please include a base map in electronic format (e.g. a GIS-compatible “shape” file)

4) Naturalness

Describe how natural or disturbed the land is and comment on disturbance by using one of the following categories:

The land is entirely natural with little or no discernable human impact.

The land is moderately natural, with some site disturbance but the disturbance does not negatively impede/affect the intended uses of the property.

The land has been significantly disturbed by human activity and restoration (or time) will be required to return the site to a more natural condition.

The property has extensive site disturbance or improvements that will severely impede the use of the property for its intended purposes, or the site does not have a high probability of being successfully restored.

5) Accessibility of the Land

Describe the plans for public use of the property and the degree to which access to the proposed property is currently available, is suitable for the intended use, or needs to be developed to accommodate the intended use, using the categories below and supplementing them with specific descriptions.

Access roads can accommodate, without substantial improvement, the traffic that will be associated with the intended use of the property;

or

Access is by water to an island and there is adequate water depth to land or moor recreational boats;

or

The parcel is inaccessible by vehicles; however, because of the intended use of the property this is not a limitation or may be an advantage in protecting the resource values of the property;

or

Access to the parcel will require modest improvements to existing roads, which will be a minor cost factor in developing the property for its intended use;

or

Access to the parcel will require substantial improvements to existing roads, which will be a major cost factor in developing the property for its intended use.

6) Regional Benefits, Proximity to Other Public Lands or Component of Larger Plan

The narrative for this section should demonstrate how the applicant is affirmatively working to connect the proposed project to larger local and regional (multi-town) conservation efforts. Describe how the proposed land has one or more of the following attributes:

- Is linked to a regional conservation effort to protect open space, recreational opportunities or other natural resource values such as a greenbelt, regional public water supply protection, trail hub or river corridor. This may include a regional

economic development plan: e.g. undeveloped lands essential for the success of regional tourism efforts.

- Connects two or more existing public holdings or private conservation lands (state, federal, town, land trust, etc.).
- Is immediately adjacent to existing State holdings or is an inholding.
- Is part of a locally adopted comprehensive plan and implementation strategies to protect open space and/or rural areas that are consistent with the State's Growth Management Act.
- Serves as a stopping off point on a recognized route such as an "island trail" that includes other publicly or privately owned lands.

7) Major Land Types

Which single land type does the proposed area have as its major value? (see Appendix C)⁶ Describe why.

- Recreation lands
- Water access lands (Note: See Section III. Your proposal may be appropriate for the Public Access to Maine Waters Fund if the primary feature of your proposal is to provide water access for fishing, boating or swimming.)
- Lands supporting vital ecological or conservation functions and values
- Rare, threatened or endangered natural communities, plants or wildlife habitat
- Areas of scenic interest and prime physical features
- Farmland and open space (Note: If the primary objective of your proposal is to protect farmland see Section IV.)

8) Significance

Using the Major Land Type you chose above, identify the level of significance of this Major Land Type using the definitions provided below. Be sure that you provide information (reports, database information, credible testimony, etc.) that supports your selection. Be consistent with your Project Category identified in #1(b).

- Significant from a **statewide perspective** means that the resource is rare and/or exceptional in Maine based on published report(s), database(s), or credible testimony or the recreational activities associated with the parcel will frequently and routinely attract users to travel to the land from across the state or even from out-of-state to avail themselves of the resource or recreational opportunity offered by the parcel.
- Significant from a **regional perspective** means that the resource is rare and/or exceptional in a region based on published report(s), database(s), or credible testimony, or the recreational activities associated with the parcel will frequently and

⁶ Note additions to Appendix C to accommodate 2007 legislative enactments adding "significant, undeveloped archeological sites" and some public water supply protection lands under certain conditions.

routinely attract users to travel to the land from a regional area (that is, from an area that is greater than the area included by the towns abutting the town(s) where the land is), to avail themselves of the resource or recreational opportunity offered by the parcel.

- Significant from a **local perspective** means that the resource is rare and/or exceptional in a town or group of towns based on published report(s), database(s), or credible testimony, or the recreational activities associated with the parcel will attract users to travel to the land primarily from a local area (that is, from an area that is primarily encompassed by the towns abutting the town(s) where the land is), to avail themselves of the resource or recreational opportunity offered by the parcel.

9) **Need**

Using the Major Land Type you chose above, identify the associated level of need for this Major Land Type using the definitions provided below. This need must be substantiated by a published report(s) data base(s), or credible testimony as being of:

Great Importance due to the relative rarity of the resource, the threat to the resource, or the deficiency of the recreational opportunity offered by the land when considered from a state or greater than state perspective

Moderate Importance due to the relative rarity of the resource, the threat to the resource, or the deficiency of the recreational opportunity offered by the land when considered from a or regional (sub-state) perspective

When a need cannot be adequately substantiated as being of state or regional significance it will be assumed that the need is of:

Minor Importance due to the fact that the resource or recreational opportunity offered by the land is only considered rare, threatened, or deficient from a local Perspective

10) **LAPAC**

Identify the LAPAC “focus areas” / “other important areas” addressed in your proposal using the definitions found in Appendix D. Please be sure to state clearly your justification for those included and provide documentation as appropriate.

11) Single Exceptional Value

Indicate whether the land proposed supports a single exceptional value recognized as being the best or among the best in the state of its type, and provide citations for the comprehensive published report(s), data base(s), or credible testimony that support this conclusion.

12) Multiple Land Type

List every land type you feel is reflected in your proposal (see Appendix C). Please be sure to state clearly the basis for your choice(s).

13) Estimate of monitoring and management costs

Every applicant submitting a proposal to acquire property or an interest in property with funding from the Land for Maine's Future Fund shall provide:

- A description of the management envisioned for the property for the first 10 years following acquisition. When the application proposes acquiring an interest in property, the application must provide a description of the anticipated management responsibilities retained by the landowner and those to be assumed by the State and/or a cooperating entity;
- Preliminary estimates of the costs to the State and/or a cooperating entity of managing the land for the uses proposed in the application; and
- Preliminary estimates of the costs associated with monitoring compliance with an easement when an interest in land is acquired.

14) Project Readiness

Project readiness is a criterion that reflects the degree of due diligence applied and the certainty of a successful LMF project. It is intended to be a guide to project selection decisions. The readiness level is determined by the cumulative progression of items completed.

A graduated scale indicating the level of commitment and likelihood a project will be completed in a predictable timeline.

- Level 1 – 4 items completed
- Level 2 – 3 items completed
- Level 3 – 2 items completed
- Level 4 – 1 item completed
- Level 5 – 0 items completed

Readiness items include:

- Completed appraisal
- Final easement or fee acquisition conditions completed
- Cost Share commitment established
- Signed option or purchase and sales agreement
- Preacquired and held by a third party at the request of the State

Also include a description of the plan for and status of fund-raising efforts for matching funds.

15) Organizational capacity

Describe the applicant's capacity to undertake the project with a reasonable prospect of bringing it to a successful conclusion. The Board will consider all relevant factors including without limitation level of debt, fund raising ability, past land conservation activity and transactions, organizational history, scope of conservation vision, and evidence of success in building and sustaining land protection campaigns.

Be sure to describe the proposed title or easement holder's ability, experience, and resources to manage the property appropriately.

16) Total Financial Summary

Use the form in Appendix G. Note: the Board will not consider an application with an incomplete budget.

17) Names of Individuals Knowledgeable about the Site/Proposal

List the names of individuals who can speak directly to the various values which your proposal will protect and include a telephone number at which they can be reached.

