

Section II

Conservation & Recreation Fund



Overview

The Conservation and Recreation Fund is administered by the Land for Maine's Future Board. Most proposals submitted to the Land for Maine's Future Program fall under this section.

Conservation and Recreation proposals include projects of Statewide Significance and Community Conservation Projects. Applicants should select which category to apply in based on the criteria below:

Projects of Statewide Significance include lands with one or more resources that are rare and/or exceptional in Maine based on published report(s), database(s), or credible testimony and/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 the parcel.

Community Conservation Projects are projects of local or regional significance that promote one or more of the following: public outdoor recreational access to land and waters, including for underserved populations; public health; connection between conserved lands and population centers; local or regional agriculture; conservation of cultural and historical resources on undeveloped lands; protection of lakes, rivers or streams; conservation of fish or wildlife habitat; protection of public drinking water supplies; conservation of community forests; local economic development; opportunities for environmental learning; nonmotorized transportation options; or other priorities as determined by the board.

Note that neither category has any advantage in scoring; applicants should select the category that is most applicable based on the characteristics of the project.

Working & Community Forest Projects, which are a type of Conservation and Recreation Project, can be classified either as projects of Statewide Significance or Community Conservation Projects. Working & Community Forest Projects are those that maintain existing forestland and provide economic, environmental, educational, and/or recreational benefits to the public. Timber harvest is not required on Working & Community Forest projects but cannot be prohibited.

There is a separate expedited process for proposals for projects eligible for the **Public Access to Maine Waters** Fund. These proposals may be submitted at any time. See [Section III](#) for information on the process for this category.

Proposal Process

The following outlines the steps necessary to apply for Conservation and Recreation Funds. If you have any questions about your proposal or the Land for Maine's Future process, please call (207) 287-5619 and speak with a member of our staff.

Proposal Requirements for Conservation and Recreation Lands

Project Inquiries

Before submitting a proposal, applicants must submit an Inquiry Form. The Inquiry Form is used by LMF and Designated State Agency (DSA) staff to evaluate project eligibility and appropriate DSA sponsorship. The Inquiry Form is located in [Appendix A](#).

Inquiries will be accepted on a continuous basis from **November 29, 2023 to January 19, 2024**. Applicants are encouraged to submit the [Inquiry Form](#) as early as possible during the inquiry period to give themselves ample time to respond to any follow-up questions and prepare a full proposal.

Inquiry Process: LMF and DSA staff will jointly evaluate inquiries for consistency with agency priorities and LMF workbook requirements and may request additional information in order to make a final determination on eligibility and sponsorship. Applicants who believe a specific DSA is a good fit for their project based on the criteria in [Appendix B](#) or who have a preferred DSA to work with may indicate their preference as part of their inquiry, but final decisions on sponsorship will be made by the DSA.

Applicants are required to submit a Pre-Acquisition Review [from the Maine Natural Areas Program](#) of all project parcels with their Inquiry Form. It can take up to several weeks for MNAP to complete this review; applicants are responsible for contacting MNAP in a timely manner.

Sponsorship

Applicants will be notified whether a project has been selected for sponsorship by no later than two weeks after the Inquiry Form submission deadlines. DSAs may require a site visit and/or review of the final proposal as a condition of sponsorship.

In the event that your project is not selected to submit a full proposal, you will receive feedback from the committee outlining the justification for their decision.

Land for Maine's Future Workbook

Proposal Development

Applicants eligible to submit a full proposal should rely on this workbook as the primary source of information about the proposal process and program requirements but should also feel free to contact LMF and DSA staff with questions. Questions about the LMF proposal and award process, due diligence, appraisals, requirements contained in this Workbook, or other questions related to LMF funding, should be directed to LMF staff. Questions about managing natural resources and recreation on the property, and similar issues related to property use and management should be directed to the DSA.

Proposal Deadline

Electronic proposals and hard copies must be received by **5:00 PM on March 22, 2024**. Proposals must be complete with responses to all the numbered subject headings found in the **Format and Instruction Section** and any additional information listed in this section. Incomplete proposals will be returned for additional information and may not be considered further at the Board's discretion.

Project Readiness

The LMF Board is requesting proposals that meet the following criteria:

- The property is under contract, or will be under contract at the time the LMF Board meets to review proposals;
- For conservation easement projects, the applicant is able to provide a complete conservation easement or conservation plan meeting LMF's requirements;
- The applicant will have match funds secured by the time the LMF Board meets to review proposals. If match funds are not secured at the time of proposal review, the proposal should include a description of fundraising and/or grant application efforts; and
- The applicant has a plan for completing LMF's due diligence requirements.

Projects not meeting these criteria are eligible to apply, but the proposal should include an explanation of why the proposal would not be more timely in a future round. All applicants will be notified of the status of their proposal after final Board decisions. Projects not selected on the basis of readiness may be invited to reapply in a subsequent round.

Board Process for Reviewing Proposals - After your proposal has been submitted:

- LMF staff review proposals for completeness.
- LMF staff contact applicants if clarification or additional information is needed.
- LMF staff scores proposals.
- Board reviews proposals and staff scores.
- Board hears presentations from applicants and adjusts their scores accordingly.
- Board meets to review [Other Board Considerations](#) and determine the consensus Board score.
- The Board enters executive session to select finalists and makes preliminary funding allocations.
- The Board then votes in a public session to select finalists.

Scoring System for Evaluating Conservation and Recreation Land Proposals

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

| | Maximum Points |
|---|-----------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Naturalness of the Land | 10 points |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accessibility of the Land for its Intended Use | 15 points |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Proximity to Conservation Lands and/or Larger Efforts | 10 points |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project Need | 20 points |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land Assets | |
| Multiple Land Assets | 30 points |
| <i>or</i> | |
| Single Exceptional Value | 30 points |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community and Economic Impact | 10 points |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Municipal Support | <u>5 points</u> |
| | 100 points |
| BONUS | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Significant Undeveloped Archaeological Sites | 10 points |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Water Supply | 10 points |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Accessibility | 10 points |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate Change Adaptation | 10 points |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deer Wintering Area(s) | <u>10 points</u> |
| | 50 points |
| Total Possible Points: | 150 points |

Land for Maine's Future Workbook

| 1. <u>Naturalness of the Land (Max Points = 10)</u> | Points |
|---|---------------|
| The land has little or no discernible human impact | 10 |
| The land has some site disturbance but the disturbance does not negatively impede/affect the intended uses of the property | 7-9 |
| In the case of rail-to-trails projects, the site is significantly disturbed but the disturbance does not negatively impede/affect the intended uses of the property | 7-9 |
| 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 | 2-6 |
| 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 | 0-1 |
| SCORE _____ | |

| 2. <u>Accessibility of the Land for its Intended Use (Max Points = 15)</u> | |
|--|----|
| The property abuts and public access is provided by a maintained public road, access to which is not restricted or limited. | 15 |
| The property abuts and public access is provided by a private road, discontinued road, or right-of-way with documented access for all purposes of a public way, AND the proposal includes a commitment to maintain the road in a condition allowing access by passenger vehicles. | 10 |
| The property is located on an island or shoreline accessible from a nearby public boat launch, has adequate water depth to land or moor recreational boats, and it is appropriate for the purposes of the project that the primary access be by water. | 10 |
| The property abuts and will be accessed across adjacent existing conservation land held by the applicant and which is located adjacent to a public way and accessible by vehicle, and the proposal includes a commitment by the applicant to provide at least pedestrian public access across the adjacent land. | 10 |
| The property is accessed by a private road, discontinued road, easement, or right-of-way that does not allow access by passenger vehicles but allows public access by other means, or the proposal does not include a commitment to maintain the road in a condition allowing vehicular access. | 5 |
| The property is accessed by a private road that provides access for passenger vehicles and is open to the public, but public access is not guaranteed as defined by LMF in Appendix H.* | 5 |
| The proposal does not identify legal and physical public access to the property.* | 0 |
| SCORE _____ | |

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Accessibility of the Land for its Intended Use Scoring Notes:

***Note 1:** Projects that are unable to provide guaranteed public access as defined by LMF in Appendix H must receive a waiver from the LMF Board to receive LMF funding. Please refer to Appendix H for more information.

Note 2: If legal access to the property is not in place at the time of the proposal but will be secured at or before closing (if a right-of-way will be granted by an abutting owner, for instance), the proposal may be scored as though access has been secured, but LMF funds will not be released until access has been secured as described in the proposal. If it is later learned that guaranteed public access cannot be secured, the applicant may request a waiver of this requirement from the LMF Board as a modification to the approved project.

Note 3: In the case of projects made up of multiple parcels that would receive different accessibility scores based on these criteria, the LMF Board may choose to award the project a score representing the average of the scores of its component parcels or a score that the Board otherwise determines best represents the accessibility of the project as a whole.

3. Proximity to Conservation Lands or Larger Conservation/Recreation Effort **(Max Points = 10)**

A. Plan Implementation (Max Points = 5)

Projects are awarded points if they implement one or more conservation or recreation plans. Acceptable plans include: 1) Adopted strategic conservation plans that address regional or statewide, multi-state or multi-country conservation needs; 2) Regional conservation efforts to protect open space, recreational opportunities or other natural resource values such as a greenbelt, trail network, recognized route, or river corridor; and/or 3) Protection strategies for open space, recreation, wildlife habitat and/or rural areas in a locally adopted comprehensive plan that are consistent with the State's Growth Management Act.

Note: Conservation initiatives that all proposals submitted to LMF would further (such as the 30x30 Conservation Initiative) are not eligible for points.

| | |
|--|---|
| The project location is specifically identified as a priority in statewide, regional, or local conservation/recreation planning. | 5 |
| The project furthers the goals of two or more conservation/recreation plans, but the plans do not identify priority areas or the project is outside of specified priority areas. | 3 |
| The project furthers the goals of a single conservation/recreation plan, but the plan does not identify priority areas or the project is outside of specified priority areas. | 1 |
| The project does not implement any conservation or recreation plans. | 0 |

Plan Implementation Score _____

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B. Connectivity (Max Points = 5)

The project builds upon or connects existing conservation holdings.

The project connects two or more significant conservation holdings (state, federal, town, land trust, etc.) and/or is surrounded or nearly surrounded by existing conservation lands. 5

The project is adjacent to existing conservation holdings (state, federal, town, land trust, etc.). 3

The project is not adjacent to existing conservation lands. 0

Connectivity Score _____

SCORE (Plan Implementation + Connectivity) _____

4. Project Need (Max Points = 20)

The need to protect the property and the land assets identified in the proposal due to the relative rarity of natural or recreational resources on the property on a local, regional, or statewide level, the threat that the resources will be lost if not protected, and/or the fact that resources on the property are underrepresented on conserved lands in Maine, as substantiated by published reports, databases, or credible testimony.

Great Need: The project will protect resources that are rare or unique, are under severe threat, are in high demand and/or are not well-represented on conserved lands in Maine. 20

Moderate Need: The project will protect resources that are uncommon, are under moderate threat, and/or are not fully represented on conserved lands. 10-15

Minor Need: Resources to be protected by the property cannot be considered rare, threatened, or underrepresented due to an abundance of similar resources. 5

SCORE _____

Land for Maine’s Future Workbook

5. Land Assets (Max Points = 30)

LMF prioritizes projects that that conserve lands with multiple outstanding resource or recreation values or a single exceptional value. Applicants are asked to determine whether their project qualifies for Multiple Land Assets **OR** Single Exceptional Value using the criteria below. Additional information is contained in the [Proposal Format and Instructions](#) section on how to determine which of these categories is appropriate for your project. See [Appendix D](#) for descriptions of each land asset.

A. Multiple Land Assets

Projects are awarded points for each land asset of minor, moderate, or major significance, up to a maximum of 30 points (if scores total more than 30 points, 30 points are awarded).

Major Significance _____ **6 points**

A resource that is rare and/or exceptional within a statewide or regional area, as substantiated by published report(s), database(s), or credible testimony, and protection of this resource will benefit communities across a large portion of the state and address statewide or regional conservation needs, including public access to recreation, wildlife and habitat conservation and open space.

Moderate Significance _____ **4 points**

A resource that is rare and/or exceptional within at least a regional area, as substantiated by published report(s), database(s), or credible testimony, and protection of this resource will benefit multiple municipalities and address regional conservation needs, including public access to recreation, wildlife and habitat conservation and open space.

Minor Significance _____ **2 points**

A resource that is relatively common (or where data gaps prevent rarity from being documented), and/or protection of the resource will primarily benefit only a small number of communities.

| | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| Recreation lands | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| Water Access Lands | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| Lands Supporting Vital Ecological Functions and Values | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Plants, Natural Communities, Wildlife and their habitat | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| Areas of Scenic Interest and Prime Physical Features | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| Open Space | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| Ecological Preserve | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| River or Trail System | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| Island or Undeveloped Coastline | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| Significant Mountain | 2 | 4 | 6 |

SCORE _____

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B. Single Exceptional Value (Max Points = 30)

If the land proposed for acquisition is documented to demonstrate 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 30 points. An award of points in the category will be infrequent. This is an “all or nothing” point score.

The land is documented to demonstrate 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 comprehensive published report(s), data, and credible testimony.

SCORE _____

6. Community and Economic Impact (Max Points= 10)

Points for each applicable attribute from the following list will be summed to determine the Community and Economic Impact Score:

Demonstrates a positive impact on economic development through letters of support from relevant groups such as businesses, business trade organizations, legislators, and/or community partners that describe how the proposal supports the economy. 2-4

Demonstrates inclusion of low income or otherwise disadvantaged communities² via narrative, letters of support from relevant groups or documentation of initiatives that demonstrate involvement in the project. 2

Demonstrates community health and wellness impact via narrative and letters of support from relevant groups such as community health, recreational, educational, or civic organizations that describe such impacts. 2

Provides greenspace or outdoor recreational opportunities in areas where outdoor recreation may be limited and/or increases connections between conserved lands and one or more of Maine’s Service Centers, as defined by the Municipal Planning Assistance Program . 2

SCORE _____

² In this workbook, disadvantaged communities are defined as those who have experienced historical and ongoing systemic discrimination, restricted power, and underrepresentation in state policy making This definition was borrowed from the MCC Equity Subcommittee, and per [Maine Climate Council’s Equity Subcommittee’s Initial Report](#), is inclusive of communities of color and indigenous communities, low income Mainers, rural and otherwise geographically isolated communities, older adults, LGBTQ+ people, differently abled populations, immigrants, seasonal workers, impacted industries, and other differently impacted communities.

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7. Municipal Support (Max Points = 5)

The Board will give preference to projects that demonstrate municipal support. Projects in multiple municipalities are eligible for points when evidence of support is demonstrated by at least one municipality in which the project is located.

The Board requests that projects in the Unorganized areas of Maine demonstrate support from County Commissioners.

The proposal provides evidence of substantial support from the municipality(ies) in which it is located including municipal letters of support and further evidence of support such as matching funds and/or commitments to stewardship responsibilities. 5

The proposal provides municipal letters of support from the municipality(ies) in which it is located. 3

The proposal does not provide evidence of support from the municipality(ies) in which it is located. 0

SCORE _____

BONUS:

8. Significant Undeveloped Archaeological Site (Max Points = 10)

Proposals claiming points for “significant, undeveloped archaeological sites” must have a written endorsement from the Maine Historic Preservation Commission that describes the significance of the archaeological resources on the site. A proposal for which the “Major Land Asset Category” is based primarily on archaeological values must be sponsored by the Commission.

SCORE _____

9. Public Water Supply (Max Points = 10)

Proposed projects that provide a direct benefit to a public water supply may be awarded 10 points if the following criteria are met:

- A. The protected property is located within one of the following areas mapped by the Maine Drinking Water Program – see <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/environmental-health/dwp/pws/maps.shtml>:
 - The source water protection area of a surface water body that is a Community Water System;
 - The wellhead protection area of a well that is a Community Water System;
 - Within five miles upgradient of a river or stream surface water intake or riverbank well for a Community Water System;
 - Projects in other areas may be eligible if the applicable water district provides information documenting the benefit the project will have on the public water supply;

Land for Maine's Future Workbook

- B. Proposal includes a letter of support from the applicable water district; and
- C. The protection of the property is consistent with and does not conflict with the natural resource conservation and recreation purposes of LMF. In practice this means that the protected land must be available for public recreational use.

SCORE _____

10. Community Accessibility (Max Points = 10)

Projects that will improve the connection between population centers and conservation that provides increased access to open space and outdoor recreation will receive up to 10 bonus points based on the following criteria:

- A. The project is located within ½ mile of, and accessible on foot from, a residential neighborhood, public school, downtown area, public transportation stop, or will otherwise be accessible on foot for a large number of Maine residents. 10

OR

- B. The project is accessible by vehicle and has a trailhead within approximately 10 miles of one or more of Maine's Service Centers, as defined by the Municipal Planning Assistance Program. 5

SCORE _____

11. Climate Change Adaptations (Max Points = 10)

Please note the information used to determine eligibility in the following subcategories is contained in the Maine Natural Areas Program Pre-Acquisition Review, which is required to be submitted with a project's inquiry form. If you feel your property provides important contributions to climate resiliency that are not represented, please provide a brief narrative explaining those attributes.

A. Climate Resilience (5 points)

LMF rewards projects where land conservation has the potential to increase the resiliency of our plant and wildlife communities to persist in the face of a changing climate.

More Resilient (>1 SD), 5

Marsh Migration: marsh migration modeling suggests the project could support 2 or more acres of new saltmarsh under MNAP's 6.1-foot sea level rise scenario, OR; 5

Slightly More Resilient (0.5 to 1.0 SD) 3

SCORE _____

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B. Underrepresented Geophysical Settings (5 points)

Geophysical settings are defined by the geology, soil, and elevation that underpin the differences in the plants and animals they support. Some geophysical settings such as granitic rocky outcrops on mountain summits and open wetlands have been well protected in Maine's conservation portfolio. Others such as calcareous bedrock and silt floodplains are not well represented. Ensuring the representation of all geophysical settings in our State's suite of conservation lands increases the likelihood that all plants and animals will have the habitat they need to adapt to a changing climate.

The property contains at least one geophysical setting that is underrepresented within the biophysical region in which it is located and;

The underrepresented geophysical setting(s) is 100 acres or larger in size or covers at least 50% of the property

SCORE _____

SCORE (Climate Resilience+ Underrepresented Geophysical Settings) _____

12. Deer Wintering Area (Max Points = 10)

A total of 10 bonus points will be awarded to projects that include conservation of deer wintering areas and meet all of the following:

- Holder of fee or easement interest will be the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. (yes/no)
- Lands will be managed by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife as a Wildlife Management Area with deer as the highest management priority. (yes/no)
- Lands identified as priority deer wintering areas by Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. (yes/no)

SCORE _____

Note: LMF may fund other projects protecting deer habitat but only projects meeting the above criteria will be considered for bonus points.

Proposal Format and Instructions for Conservation & Recreational Land Proposals

All applicants are required to provide maps, visual aids (e.g. photos) and as much supporting information as necessary for the Board to better understand the project and the values it addresses. Carefully read this section to learn what the Board wishes to see in a well-developed proposal. Program staff can make available examples of successful proposals that may provide useful models.

All applicants are required to use the following proposal structure and numbering sequence and to provide complete information. If not applicable, indicate so by placing a N/A.

Submit an electronic PDF and one printed copy of your proposal to:

Land for Maine's Future

22 SHS / 18 Elkins Ln. / Harlow Building Augusta, ME 04333-0022

LMFSubmissions.DACF@maine.gov

1) Proposal Summary page

- a) **Project Title:** This is the title by which your proposal will be catalogued by Program staff.
- b) **Proposal Category:** Indicate whether your project is a Community Conservation Project or a Project of Statewide Significance (see description in "[Overview](#)" for guidance). If your project is a Working Forest Project, please indicate so here.
- c) **Applicant Name & Contact Information:** Provide the applicant's name, address, email, and phone number of the primary contact person. The entity that will hold the property in fee or easement must be listed as an applicant or co-applicant on the proposal.
- d) **Location of Project:** Provide the name of the municipality/township and county. Include the district number of the Senate and House Districts where the property is located. For this section, please include 1 map depicting the property and regional context. Additional maps are required in subsequent sections.
- e) **Size:** Indicate how many acres your project encompasses and identify fee acres vs. easement acres.
- f) **Status of Title:** Clear title is required prior to closing. Provide a brief status of title and documentation if available. Include a copy of the recorded deed, including book and page reference of subject property.

Land for Maine's Future Workbook

g) Funding request for acquisition: Indicate the amount of LMF funding you are requesting for the fee or interest acquisition of the (See full budget information below).

h) Agency Sponsor & Proposed Ownership: Possible agency sponsors for Conservation and Recreation Projects are the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, the Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, or the Maine Historic Preservation Commission. A letter of agreement from the sponsoring agency must be included in the proposal. 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.

i) Current landowner(s): Include name and address 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 proposal.

j) Partners: Other entities supporting this project. Include names of individuals, address, phone number, and e-mail address.

k) Date of Proposal: Indicate the date you submitted your proposal.

l) Proposal Budget: Use the form in [Appendix C](#). Note: the Board will not consider a proposal with an incomplete budget.

2) Summary Project Description

Include a brief narrative description of the project and its context. The summary description should describe whether the proposed acquisition is fee, easement, or a combined strategy. Provide the Project's objectives and the benefits. Please discuss the conservation and/or recreational assets that the project seeks to protect and other potential benefits. Subsequent sections of the proposal provide opportunity for more detailed discussion of specific aspects of the project that correspond to the scoring criteria.

Photographs of the property are required.

*NOTE: Applicants should review the [Board Policies and Guidelines](#), and the previous section on "[Threshold Criteria](#)" including the list of "[Other Board Considerations](#)". Use the summary project description to address any of these criteria that are not part of other sections of the proposal, including if there are municipal ordinances that limit or prohibit hunting, trapping or other traditional uses of the property.

3) Location Information

Project boundaries of all parcels included in the proposal must be delineated on:

- 1) A map showing project location and regional perspective
- 2) A USGS Topographic Base Map showing entire boundary of proposed project, legal access and adjacency of other conservation lands

Land for Maine's Future Workbook

3) Aerial Photo(s) - showing project location and boundaries

4) 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. Data and maps related to fish, wildlife and plants is available through the Beginning with Habitat Program housed at IFW and is a resource that may help applicants satisfy this requirement. BWH Map Viewer: <https://webapps2.cgis-solutions.com/beginningwithhabitat/mapviewer/>

5) Please also include a GIS-compatible shapefile of project boundaries if your project area changed after submitting your inquiry form.

4) Project Readiness

Describe whether your project is ready to proceed rapidly to closing if selected as a finalist, based on the following criteria:

- The property is under contract, or will be under contract at the time the LMF Board meets to review proposals;
- For conservation easement projects, the applicant is able to provide a complete conservation easement or conservation plan meeting LMF's requirements;
- The applicant will have match funds secured by the time the LMF Board meets to review proposals. If match funds are not secured at the time of the proposal, the proposal should include a description of fundraising and/or grant application efforts; and
- The applicant has a plan for completing LMF's due diligence requirements.

If your project does not meet all of the above criteria, describe the current status of the project and the timeline for completion of these criteria, and explain why your proposal is timely now and/or the harm that would result from waiting to apply in a future round.

5) Naturalness of the Land

Please provide a complete description of the physical and natural features of the proposed property and comment on all evidence of all existing disturbance. Based upon your evidence provided please identify which of the [scoring criteria](#) best represents your project and why.

6) Accessibility of the Land for its Intended Use

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. Identify which of the [scoring criteria](#) best represents access to your property and supplement with specific descriptions and evidence supporting this.

7) Proximity to Conservation Lands or Larger Conservation/Recreation Effort

The narrative for this section should demonstrate how the project implements existing conservation/recreation planning, will address regional conservation needs, and enhances the connectivity of existing conservation holdings. Responses should provide evidence and be structured by referring to the [scoring criteria](#).

Land for Maine's Future Workbook

Note: If your project serves as an anchor parcel in an area of the state without existing conservation lands, or increases LMF investments to a part of the state that has had no or minimal investment, please provide a detailed description of how your project will address regional conservation needs and whether the project will serve as a catalyst for additional conservation and recreation opportunities.

8) Project Need

Using the definitions provided in the [Project Need section](#), identify the associated level of need to protect the property and the land assets identified in the proposal. This need must be substantiated by a published report(s) data base(s), or credible testimony.

9) Land Assets

Please describe either the project's A) Multiple Land Assets or B) Single Exceptional Value. To determine which of these options is most appropriate for your project, please refer to the [scoring criteria](#) and to [Appendix D: Land Assets](#) to review the eligible land asset categories. Projects with Single Exceptional Value are recognized as being the best or among the best in the state of their type, and because of this, Multiple Land Assets will be the most appropriate choice for most projects.

Notes:

- Applicants considering Single Exceptional Value scoring should consult with LMF and DSA staff prior to making this selection.
- If the LMF Board determines that a project seeking Single Exceptional Value scoring does not meet the criteria for this scoring, the proposal will be scored on Multiple Land Assets based on the information provided in the proposal.

A) Multiple Land Assets

Identify each land asset that your project demonstrates, and determine the level of significance of each land asset using the definitions of significance provided in the [scoring section](#). Be sure that you provide information (reports, database information, credible testimony, etc.) that supports your selection.

OR

B) Single Exceptional Value

Describe the project's documented single exceptional value that is exceptionally rare and of outstanding significance in a statewide context. Be sure that you provide information (reports, database information, credible testimony, etc.) that supports your selection.

10) Community and Economic Impact

The Board seeks to cultivate and support closer working relationships between land conservation efforts, businesses, and the community. Please review the community and economic impact attributes outlined in the [Community and Economic Impact section](#) and describe the impact of your project via all applicable attributes.

Land for Maine's Future Workbook

11) Municipal Support

Please describe what efforts have been made to partner with the municipality(ies) where your project is located and provide evidence of municipal support for the project, such as matching funds, stewardship commitments, and/or letters of support. The Board requests that projects in the Unorganized areas of Maine demonstrate support from County Commissioners.

BONUS:

12) Significant Undeveloped Archaeological Site

Proposals claiming points for “significant, undeveloped archaeological sites” must have a written endorsement from the Maine Historic Preservation Commission that describes the significance of the archaeological resources on the site. Please also include a description of the archaeological resources in your proposal.

13) Public Water Supply

Using the criteria provided in the [Public Water Supply section](#), describe whether your proposal is located within an area eligible for public water supply bonus points, and if so, describe how the intended use and management of the property is consistent with the protection of the public water supply. Please remember to include a letter of support from the water district.

14) Community Accessibility

Determine if the proposal is eligible for Community Accessibility bonus points by referring to the [scoring criteria](#). In this section, please describe this eligibility, along with how the project will improve the ability of Maine residents to access open space and outdoor recreation.

15) Climate Change Adaptations

Describe how your proposal supports climate change adaptations using the criteria provided in the [Climate Change Adaptations section](#) and referencing information provided in the project's [Maine Natural Areas Program](#) pre-acquisition review.

16) Deer Wintering Area

See criteria provided in [Deer Wintering Areas](#). These bonus points are available for DIFW proposals only, other applicants should describe protection of deer wintering areas in their Proposal, as appropriate.

17) Estimate of monitoring and management costs

Every applicant submitting a proposal to acquire property or an interest in property shall provide:

- A description of the management envisioned for the property for the first 10 years following acquisition. The proposal must provide a description of the anticipated management responsibilities retained by the landowner and those to be assumed by the State and/or the cooperating entity;

- Estimates of the costs to the State and/or the cooperating entity of managing the land for the uses proposed in the proposal. Please indicate if you are applying for a LMF Stewardship Award as part of the proposal (if yes, Stewardship Award request information must be entered in the [Project Budget](#)); and
- Estimates of the costs associated with monitoring for compliance when an easement is acquired.

18) 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, fundraising ability, past land conservation activity and transactions, organizational history, scope of conservation vision, and evidence of success in building and sustaining land protection campaigns. Land trusts that have been accredited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission may submit proof of accreditation as proof of capacity. Non-profit applicants without proof of accreditation must submit their most recent financial audit if one exists and the most recent financial statement that represents the organization's current financial condition. Describe the proposed title or easement holder's ability, experience, and resources to manage the property appropriately.

19) Easement Projects

Easement projects must include a draft of the easement or a conservation plan. Working Forest Projects should 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 G](#) for a discussion of these easements). The easement will be subject to a separate LMF review.