



Steps for Land Trusts and Northeast Wilderness Trust

1. **Initial phone conversation:** Usually this will be between your Executive Director and the Wildlands Partnership Coordinator. Northeast Wilderness Trust (NEWT) will answer your questions about the Wildlands Partnership to help you assess if it might be a good fit for you.
2. **Review of shapefiles and maps:** your land trust will provide shapefiles (or, where not possible, maps) of the properties you would like us to consider for forever-wild CEs, both properties you already own in fee, and properties you have targeted for acquisition. All information is kept confidential. NEWT uses these shapefiles to conduct a landscape analysis of the properties to assess resilience, critical habitat, forest blocks, and connectivity.
3. **Intake Form:** Assuming the landscape analysis indicates that your landscape falls within our funding capacity for the WP, you will complete our Intake Form which captures important information on the properties you wish to explore conserving as forever wild, such as existing encumbrances, current public usage and trails, known wildlife, and other conservation values.
4. **Have all key decision-makers at your land trust read our sample forever-wild conservation easement and the Wildlands Partnership and Wild Carbon F.A.Q.s on our website.** This may include your Executive Director, Land Protection Director, Board members, a Financial Committee Chair, or Stewardship Director. F.A.Q.s may be reviewed at www.newildernesstrust.org/wilderness-conservation/wp/.
 - a. **At your request, NEWT Staff can do a WP Presentation and Q&A** for your organization, to answer your Board and staff's questions about the Wildlands Partnership Program.
5. Execute a **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** between our organizations, to state our mutual intent to pursue forever-wild conservation projects together. The MOU does not bind us to any particular project or conservation easement, but indicates a good-faith effort on both our parts to explore potential projects under the WP framework.
6. **Submit an Application for Funding.** In the Application you will define the scope of your project, identify the properties you want to conserve, your timeline, and the portion of project costs for which you are requesting Wildlands Partnership funding. **We are currently accepting applications on a rolling basis. Applications from any one land trust are limited to one Application per year.** (There is no limit to the number of properties or acres for any one project Application.)
7. **NEWT identifies the funding it can bring to your project,** and replies to your proposal.
8. **Execute an Agreement to Proceed** on your project.
9. **Draft the conservation easement(s)** for the forever-wild properties.
10. **Pursue enrollment in WP Carbon Initiative** if you have chosen to participate.