



## Steps for Land Trusts and Northeast Wilderness Trust

1. **Review welcome packet information** to get acquainted with rewilding and the Wildlands Partnership program (WP). Feel free to contact us with questions and to discuss the potential to apply WP Funding to your land protection projects: Sophie Ehrhardt, Wildlands Partnership Coordinator: [sophie@newildernesstrust.org](mailto:sophie@newildernesstrust.org), or 802.224.1000 x 103.
2. **Provide shapefiles and submit your Potential Wildland Properties sheet.** Shapefiles of the properties you would like us to consider for forever-wild CEs - either fee-owned or targeted for acquisition – will be reviewed by NEWT for a preliminary assessment of resilience, critical habitat, forest blocks, and connectivity—our criteria for project support. The Potential Wildlands Properties Sheet captures important information on the potential wildlands properties, such as existing encumbrances, current public usage and trails, known wildlife, and other conservation values.
3. **Have all key decision-makers at your land trust review the template forever-wild Conservation Easement, and other details of the Wildlands Partnership program.**
  - a. Detailed information can be found at <https://newildernesstrust.org/wilderness-conservation/wp/>, including FAQ's on the WP program.
  - b. At your request, NEWT Staff can present to your land trust on the Wildlands Partnership, and answer your Board's and Staff's questions.
4. **Execute a Letter of Intent between our organizations.** The LOI does not bind us to a project on a specific property, but indicates a good-faith effort to explore potential projects together under the WP framework, and recognizes a mutual understanding of the definition of forever-wild.
5. **Submit an Application for Funding.** In the Application you will define the scope of your project, identify the properties you want to conserve, provide two maps: topographical and conservation context, your timeline, and the portion of project costs for which you are requesting Wildlands Partnership funding. **Applications for funding are due by April 15, 2022.** Applications are limited to one per land trust, per year. (There is not a limit to the number of properties or acres for any one project Application.)
6. **Site visit** by NEWT to the properties proposed in your application.
7. **NEWT identifies the funding it can bring to your project**, and replies to your proposal with an Award Letter after obtaining project approval from NEWT's Board of Directors.
8. **Execute an Agreement to Proceed** on your project.
9. **Funding for new acquisitions may be distributed immediately** once the Agreement to Proceed is in place. **Funding for Stewardship, Staff Time, and CE Due Diligence is awarded at closing.**
10. **Draft the conservation easement(s)** for the forever-wild properties.
11. **Enroll in the Wild Carbon Aggregation Initiative** if you have chosen to participate.