



PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA

Proposed projects will be evaluated for enrollment in the Wildlands Partnership according to Northeast Wilderness Trust's Land Protection criteria, with an emphasis on:

- **Size:** Northeast Wilderness Trust (NEWT) favors projects with 500 acres or more of contiguous forestland. NEWT will also consider non-contiguous acres that are aggregated under one application. For example: If the land trust has three preserves that total 500 acres or more that would be considered for the partnership. However, smaller parcels may still be priorities for forever-wild conservation when they are exceptionally resilient to climate change, important for wildlife, in a core forested area, or adjacent to already-conserved lands.
- **Resilience to Climate Change:** Using [The Nature Conservancy's Resilient Land Mapping Tool](#), we will rate the property's contribution to maintaining species diversity and ecological function as the climate changes.
- **Context:** Projects have higher conservation value if they are near or adjacent to important forest blocks or conserved land, for their potential to help create and expand healthy, connected wildlife habitat and corridors.
- **Geographic Diversity:** Northeast Wilderness Trust is a regional conservation organization and recognizes that lands within our service area are diverse. We want to broaden our work in each state to support more wildland protection across the Northeast.
- **New Acquisitions:** Requests to help fund new land acquisition will be prioritized if they meet the primary criteria described above.
- **Carbon:** Forest carbon storage potential is above average.
- **Financial Feasibility:** Land Trust must demonstrate their financial ability to execute the transaction and ensure long-term stewardship of the property.