

FRCC Land Protection Policies and Criteria
(Amended 10/09)

The following policies and criteria are guidelines for the FRCC in working with land trusts, other entities, and towns to conserve land that furthers the goals of the Upper Farmington River Management Plan. Please use the following as a “checklist” to evaluate the likelihood of FRCC’s interest in assisting your project:

- 1) FRCC will not own land itself but will assist others in land purchases to be held in permanent conservation by a land trust, town or other appropriate entity. Due to limited funds, FRCC will typically focus its funding on the costs associated with land acquisition (wildlife and plant surveys, title and legal fees, etc.).
- 2) FRCC primarily seeks to protect land with river frontage – especially floodplains.
- 3) FRCC will focus its support on land that:
 - is located in wild and scenic towns (Barkhamsted, Canton, Colebrook, Hartland, or New Hartford)
 - is threatened by development
 - has landowners willing to conserve their properties
 - has particular features that are important to Wild & Scenic/Outstanding Resource Values (wildlife habitat, recreational access, historic/cultural, ridgelines, scenic landscapes)
 - has high quality native species communities (plant or wildlife)
 - is currently unprotected open space
 - connects to larger parcels of protected land
 - will increase vegetated buffer between development and the river
 - has water features – tributary to Farmington River, ponds, wetlands

(The more of the above criteria your project meets, the higher the likelihood that FRCC will support your project.)

Reasons why FRCC might not participate in protecting available land:

The following circumstances may lead to FRCC’s decision not to pursue or be involved in a proposed land protection project:

- The property is small, and there is little likelihood of adjacent properties being protected.
- The landowner insists on provisions in a conservation easement that the FRCC believes would seriously diminish the property’s primary conservation values.
- The proposed open space is part of a development proposal which overall is likely to have significant adverse impacts on conservation resources.
- The proposal does not fall within the purposes of FRCC’s mission.

Budget:

Due to limited funds, most land protection support projects that FRCC can support are under \$10,000. However, in exceptional cases, the FRCC can work with you to request funding through the National Park Service. Although it may take more than a year for funding to be provided through this mechanism, it is an option. Anyone who would like to discuss the possibility of FRCC helping in a land conservation project, please call Liz Lacy, FRCC Director, at 379-0282. (Please allow a 60-day turn-around time for response to your proposal.)