



**VOLUSIA FOREVER LAND ACQUISITION
Working Forests and Farmlands
Property Evaluation Criteria**



The purpose of the following criteria is to inform the evaluation of working forest and farmland property nominated for acquisition by willing sellers. To be eligible for consideration, a property must meet 7 of 12 criteria for less than fee (i.e., easement) purchase.

PROXIMITY AND CONNECTIVITY

1. Is the property within 1 mile of other protected land whose purpose is to protect agricultural use or conservation?
2. Is the parcel within 1 mile of other agricultural operations and agricultural infrastructure?
3. Will the acquisition maintain the ecological link or habitat corridor between two or more otherwise unconnected existing conservation lands (conservation easement or public ownership)?

FURTHERANCE OF ACQUISITION EFFORTS

4. Will the acquisition further a project begun under previous or existing governmental land acquisition programs?
5. Based upon preliminary assessment (i.e., partnership experience, property size, location and features), is there a reasonable expectation of matching funds from other sources to assist in the acquisition of the agricultural easement?

ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE LAND

6. Will the easement area protect native habitat?
7. Does the property have known populations of State or Federal threatened (T) and endangered (E) animal species or State species of concern, or the parcel is located within Federal T & E designated Critical Habitat for a T& E species.

PROVIDE FOR PRESERVATION OF FARMLAND

8. Will the acquisition protect prime, unique, and important soils as defined by USDA/NRCS?
9. Will greater than 50% percent of cropland, pastureland, grassland, and/or rangeland in the parcel be protected?
10. Does the parcel contain historical or archaeological resources that will be protected by the easement area?



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MANAGEMENT

11. Does a farm or ranch succession plan or similar plan exist to address farm viability for future generations?

12. Is the farm currently enrolled in a Best Management Practices program?