

## LAND ACQUISITION

A. Enabling Acts:

Act 193, P.A. 1911  
 Act 17, P.A. 1921  
 Act 241, P.A. 1972  
 Act 231, P.A. 1970

Act 17 of the Public Acts of 1921 gives the Department the authority "to buy, sell, exchange or condemn land and other property for any of the purposes contemplated" by Act 17. Additionally, the Department has the authority to "accept gifts and grants of land and other property".

Some of the "purposes contemplated" by Act 17 would be: "To provide for the protection and conservation of the natural resources of the State; to provide and develop facilities for outdoor recreation; and to prevent and guard against the pollution of lakes and streams".

The Wilderness and Natural Areas Act, Act 241 of the Public Acts of 1972, gives the Department the authority to acquire land by purchase, gift or bequest for inclusion in a wilderness area, wild area, or natural area.

Act 193 of the Public Acts of 1911, gives the Department the authority to exchange land (refer to Policy 221, Land Exchange).

The Natural Rivers Act, Act 231 of the Public Acts of 1970 authorizes the Department to protect designated natural rivers by acquisition, lease, easement or other means.

B. Policy

Recognizing the department's long standing history of acquiring unique and valuable lands for inclusion within the State Forest System, Forest Management Division shall have a formal land acquisition program. Nomination and acquisition of lands for inclusion within the State Forest System shall be based on the following six primary criteria.

1. Access to Adjacent State Forest Lands:

The creation or improvement of access contributes to management activities, protection activities and facilitates public use. Management activities include cultural treatments such as harvesting, thinning, pruning, planting, timber stand improvement, and road building. Protection activities include fire suppression and insect and pest surveys and controls. Use activities include hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, berry picking, and all manner of similar intensive and disbursed recreational uses.

2. Blocking in Ownership:

Provides for a continuity of administration and management throughout a given management unit, reduces and forestalls trespass from competing and conflicting private land uses, forestalls need for public utilities, road service and other similar services to individual private owners. Reduces impact of management activities on private land owners.

3. Special Use Areas:

Provides for and protects special use areas or features such as natural rivers, quiet areas, and opportunity for private and public joint projects.

4. Natural Features:

Provides opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined type recreation. Creates or preserves existing natural features such as unique or unusual ecological, geological, or landscape character or other features of scientific, scenic or historical value. It may also include areas commonly referred to as wetlands.

5. Water Bodies and Associated Wetlands:

Provides opportunity for access (developed or undeveloped) to Great lakes, inland lakes and streams. Preserves water frontage in its natural state and protects head waters of prime fishing streams.

6. Recreational Facilities:

Provides space for necessary facilities for special recreation uses such as; rustic camping, boat and canoe access, parking and toilet facilities at trail heads and junctions.

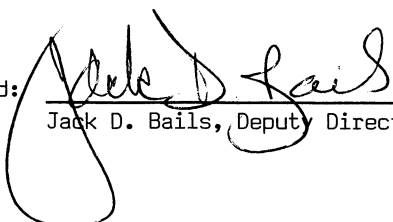
Land satisfying one, some, or all of these criteria normally will make it desirable for acquisition. The degree to which the land meets the requirements of a criteria or several criteria will determine the priority for acquisition. Acquisition shall be by purchase, three-way exchange, direct exchange, or by gift or grant.

C. Explanation

The continued acquisition of lands for the State Forest System is both desirable and necessary. The establishment of a formal acquisition program within Forest Management Division will complement and enhance similar programs in other divisions within the department. A variety of funding sources including three way exchange (easement) monies and The Natural Resources Trust Fund will be utilized to make acquisitions. Lands nominated for acquisition will continue to be

reviewed by the department as a whole just as The Natural Resources Trust Fund nominated land, three way exchange lands, and direct exchange lands are presently reviewed. For lands being considered for inclusion in the State Forest System, the reviews will be based on the six criteria as stated in the above policy statement in addition to predetermined criteria (i.e., Trust Fund). Acquired lands will be managed as part of the State Forest System subject to the requirements of any protecting act such as the Natural Rivers Act or the Wilderness and Natural Areas Act.

Approved:

  
Jack D. Bails, Deputy Director

12-30-87  
Date

