

## APPENDIX D-LAND ACQUISITION CRITERIA

**Lands acquired through purchase, exchange, or donation will be guided by the following criteria (not listed in any order of priority):**

- ▶ Lands and associated riparian ecosystems on water frontage such as lakes and major streams.
- ▶ Critical habitat lands needed for the protection of federally listed endangered or threatened fish, wildlife, or plant species.
- ▶ Lands needed for the protection of significant historical or cultural resources when these resources are threatened or when management may be enhanced by public ownership.
- ▶ Lands that enhance recreation opportunities, public access, and protection of aesthetic values.
- ▶ Lands needed to protect and manage administrative and congressionally designated areas.
- ▶ Lands needed to enhance or protect watershed improvements that affect National Forest riparian area management.
- ▶ Environmentally sensitive lands such as wetlands and old growth.
- ▶ Buffer areas needed to protect lands acquired for specific purposes listed.
- ▶ Key tracts of an ecosystem, which promote more effective management of that ecosystem and meet specific needs for vegetative and watershed management, research, public recreation, or other defined management objectives. (Generally, lands that will support consolidation objectives.)
- ▶ Lands needed to protect resource values by eliminating or reducing fire risks, soil erosion, and occupancy trespass.
- ▶ Lands needed to reduce administration and utilization expenses of both the Forest Service and the public.
- ▶ Consolidation of split estates.
- ▶ Other lands desirable for inclusion in the National Forest System.

Only lands offered by a willing seller, exchange proponent or donor will be considered.

Lands conveyed from Forest Service ownership by exchanging away, or granting through the Small Tracts Act, Title Claims, or other law will be guided by the following criteria: (not listed in any order of priority):

- ▶ Lands inside or adjacent to communities or intensively developed private land, which are determined by the Forest Service to be chiefly valuable for non-National Forest System purposes.
- ▶ Parcels that will serve a greater public need in state, county, city, or other federal agency ownership.
- ▶ Inaccessible parcels isolated from other National Forest System lands. Parcels surrounded by or intermingled with private lands which are judged by the Forest Service to be suitable for exchange.
- ▶ Parcels within major blocks of private land, the use of which is substantially for non-National Forest System purposes.
- ▶ Parcels having boundaries, or portions of boundaries, which cannot be efficiently managed (examples: projecting necks or long, narrow strips of land, etc.).
- ▶ A site-specific analysis will be conducted, and must clearly show that any proposed conveyance meets the laws and regulations governing such conveyance, and that it is in the public interest.