

- (3) Through local land use ordinances, require subdivision or non-residential property developers to look for and identify critical natural resources that may be on site and to take appropriate measures to protect those resources, including but not limited to, modification of the proposed site design, construction timing, and/or extent of excavation.
- (4) Through local land use ordinances, require the planning board (or other designated review authority) to include as part of the review process, consideration of pertinent BwH maps and information regarding critical natural resources.
- (5) Initiate and/or participate in interlocal and/or regional planning, management, and/or regulatory efforts around shared critical and important natural resources.
- (6) Pursue public/private partnerships to protect critical and important natural resources such as through purchase of land or easements from willing sellers.
- (7) Distribute or make available information to those living in or near critical or important natural resources about current use tax programs and applicable local, state, or federal regulations.

4. **Agricultural and Forest Resources**

A. **State Goal**

To safeguard the State's agricultural and forest resources from development which threatens those resources.

B. **Analyses**

To generate minimum analyses to address state goals; use Conditions and Trends data in Section 3.4(C) to answer the following questions.

- (1) How important is agriculture and/or forestry and are these activities growing, stable, or declining?
- (2) Is the community currently taking regulatory and/or non-regulatory steps to protect productive farming and forestry lands? Are there local or regional land trusts actively working to protect farms or forest lands in the community?
- (3) Are farm and forest land owners taking advantage of the state's current use tax laws?
- (4) Has proximity of new homes or other incompatible uses affected the normal farming and logging operations?
- (5) Are there large tracts of agricultural or industrial forest land that have been or may be sold for development in the foreseeable future? If so, what impact would this have on the community?

- (6) Does the community support community forestry or agriculture (i.e. small woodlots, community forests, tree farms, community gardens, farmers' markets, or community-supported agriculture)? If so, how?
- (7) Does the community have town or public woodlands under management, or that would benefit from forest management?

C. Conditions and Trends

Minimum data required to address Analyses:

- (1) The community's Comprehensive Planning Agriculture and Forestry Data Set prepared and provided to the community by the Department of Agriculture, the Maine Forest Service, and the Office, or their designees.
- (2) A map and/or description of the community's farms, farmland, and managed forest lands and a brief description of any that are under threat.
- (3) Information on the number of parcels and acres of farmland, tree growth, and open space enrolled in the state's farm, tree growth, and open space law taxation programs, including changes in enrollment over the past 10 years.
- (4) A description of any community farming and forestry activities (e.g. community garden, farmer's market, or community forest).

D. Policies

Minimum policies required to address state goals:

- (1) To safeguard lands identified as prime farmland or capable of supporting commercial forestry.
- (2) To support farming and forestry and encourage their economic viability.

E. Strategies

- (1) Minimum strategies required to address state goals: Consult with the Maine Forest Service district forester when developing any land use regulations pertaining to forest management practices as required by 12 M.R.S.A. §8869.
- (2) Consult with Soil and Water Conservation District staff when developing any land use regulations pertaining to agricultural management practices.
- (3) Amend land use ordinances to require commercial or subdivision developments in critical rural areas, if applicable, maintain areas with prime farmland soils as open space to the greatest extent practicable.
- (4) Limit non-residential development in critical rural areas (if the town designates critical rural areas) to natural resource-based businesses and services, nature tourism/outdoor recreation businesses, farmers' markets, and home occupations.

- (5) Encourage owners of productive farm and forest land to enroll in the current use taxation programs.
- (6) Permit land use activities that support productive agriculture and forestry operations, such as roadside stands, greenhouses, firewood operations, sawmills, log buying yards, and pick-your-own operations.
- (7) Include agriculture, commercial forestry operations, and land conservation that supports them in local or regional economic development plans.

5. Marine Resources (if applicable)

A. State Goal and State Coastal Policies

- (1) To protect the State's marine resources industry, ports and harbors from incompatible development and to promote access to the shore for commercial fishermen and the public.
- (2) For coastal communities, the *Growth Management Act* requires that a local comprehensive plan address the state coastal management policies (38 M.R.S.A. §1801). These are:
 - a. To promote the maintenance, development, and revitalization of the State's ports and harbors for fishing, transportation and recreation;
 - b. To manage the marine environment and its related resources to preserve and improve the ecological integrity and diversity of marine communities and habitats, to expand our understanding of the productivity of the Gulf of Maine and coastal waters and to enhance the economic value of the State's renewable marine resources;
 - c. To support shoreline management that gives preference to water-dependent uses over other uses, that promotes public access to the shoreline and that considers the cumulative effects of development on coastal resources;
 - d. To discourage growth and new development in coastal areas where, because of coastal storms, flooding, landslides or sea-level rise, it is hazardous to human health and safety;
 - e. To encourage and support cooperative state and municipal management of coastal resources;
 - f. To protect and manage critical habitat and natural areas of state and national significance and maintain the scenic beauty and character of the coast even in areas where development occurs;
 - g. To expand the opportunities for outdoor recreation and to encourage appropriate coastal tourist activities and development;