EVALUATION CRITERIA

ECOLOGICAL VALUE	20 points	15 points	10 points	5 points	0 points
Plants	Federally listed or candidate species, globally rare, or proposed state listed species documented on site or adjacent lands that may benefit from habitat protection	S1 species[1] documented on site or adjacent lands that may benefit from habitat protection	S2 species[2] documented on site or adjacent lands that may benefit from habitat protection	S3 species[3] documented on site or adjacent lands that may benefit from habitat protection	S1-S3 species not likely to benefit from habitat protection
Animals	Federally listed or candidate species, globally rare, state listed or proposed state listed species documented on site or adjacent lands that may benefit from habitat protection	S1 species documented on site or adjacent lands that may benefit from habitat protection	S2 species documented on site or adjacent lands that may benefit from habitat protection	At least 1 SGCN[4] likely to benefit from habitat protection	SGCN not likely to benefit from habitat protection
Habitat of Conservation Concern (HCC)[5]	Protects an existing HCC documented on site	Protects a corridor connecting two HCCs	Protects land adjacent to an HCC (potential for expansion of HCC through restoration)	Potential for establishing an HCC (must be in close proximity to other HCCs)	No potential for establishing a HCC
Fisheries Resource Protection Areas	Protects critical nursery or spawning habitat for anadromous fish, bivalves, and shellfish	Adjacent to critical nursery or spawning habitat for anadromous fish, bivalves, and shellfish	Potential to protect and/or improve nursery or spawning habitat for anadromous fish, bivalves, and shellfish		
Forest/ Non-forested Wetland % Cover	76-100	51-75	26-50	10-25	<10
ESH[6] % Cover		76-100	51-75	26-50	
Total (115)					

LAND USE	20 points	15 points	10 points	0 points	-10 points

[1] S1 Species- Extremely rare with typically 5 or fewer occurrences statewide.

[2] S2 Species- Very rare with typically 6 to 20 occurrences statewide.

[3] S3 Species- Rare to uncommon with approximately 21 to 100 occurrences statewide.

[4] SGCN, or Species of Greatest Conservation Need, are identified according to a set of criteria provided in the *Delaware Wildlife Action Plan*. SGCN are species indicative of the overall diversity and health of the State's wildlife resources. Some may be rare or declining, may be vital components of certain habitats, and / or may have a significant portion of their population in Delaware.

[5] HCC, or Habitat of Conservation Concern, are habitats that are rare, have special significance in Delaware, are particularly sensitive to disturbance, and/or have a high diversity of rare plants. Because of these factors, they are known – or expected – to harbor SGCN, especially insects that are often dependent on specific host plants.

[6] ESH – Early Successional Habitat, including mixed stand of grasses and forbs, old field habitat, pastureland, and shrubland.

LAND USE	20 points	15 points	10 points	0 points	-10 points
Proximity to Existing Preserved Lands	Inholding/ Adjacent to existing protected lands	Provides a corridor between existing protected lands	Potential connector or corridor between existing protected lands	Stand alone	
Development Pressure	Takes away the potential of developing >5 residences on site				Proposed / approved development on property being considered (not cost effective)
On-site Buildings			Property with no building	Property with 1 building	Property with >1 building
Size of Property	>200 acres	100 - 199 acres	25 - 99 acres	< 25 acres	
Use of Property	Primarily in a natural state (>50%)	Primarily agricultural lands (>50%)	Residential/commercial use (<25% land disturbance)	Residential/commercial use (>25% land disturbance)	Intense residential use, borrow pits, waste treatment facilities, spray irrigation, landfills etc.
Access		Access exists; no improvements necessary	Access exists but improvements necessary	Poor access	No access
Public Utilities[7]					Above ground utilities present
Sea Level Rise (SLR) Adaptation[8]	Provides for inland migration			Predicted to be under water based on current models	Currently under water at MHW[9]
Total (125)					

CULTURAL/ HISTORICAL RESOURCES	40 points	20 points	10 points
Cultural / Historical Resources[10]	Listed on National Register of Historic Places	Eligible for listing on National Register	Some cultural/ historic interest
Threat to Cultural Resources	Immediate – approved subdivision	Potential – submitted subdivision	
Total (80)			

WATER FEATURES	25 points	15 points	5 points	0 points
Water Features Present	Unchannelized, buffered	Unchannelized, unbuffered	Channelized, buffered	Channelized, unbuffered
Waterway Frontage	>1000 linear feet	500-999 linear feet	250-499 linear feet	0-249 linear feet

[7] Utilities – aboveground public utilities that serve more than one entity (e.g. electric transmission/distribution lines, fiber optic/cable lines, cell tower, solar panel array).

[8] DNREC Sea Level Rise Scenarios. Adaptations allow for landward migration of resource or loss of land due to sea level rise.

[9] MHW = Mean High Water

[10] Cultural/Historic resources means those structures, improvements, sites or lands that are listed as significant in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, either as individual listings or as contribution elements in listed or eligible historic districts (30 Del Code §1803).

WATER FEATURES	25 points	15 points	5 points	0 points
Buffer Size	>200'	100-199'	50-100'	0-50'
Wetlands on Site	Freshwater	Other		
Water Quality Improvement Potential	Potential for wetland restoration	Potential to restore degraded streams	Potential for enhancement and/or buffering	
Nutrient Management Critical Priority Areas	Low	Medium		High
ERES[11] Waters	Within ERES waters		Adjacent to ERES waters	Outside ERES waters
Watershed Impairment	0-50%	50-74%	75-99%	100%
Total (200)				

RECREATION **(Must not adversely affect ecological resources to receive points)**	**20 points**	**15 points**
Potential for High Priority Outdoor Recreation Needs as Defined in the SCORP[12]	3+	1-2
Recreational Uses (see below)	3+	1-2
Proximity to Population Base[13]	Level 1	Level 2
Within a Fisheries Access Area (shoreline, piers, boat access)	Yes	
Total (80)		

RECREATIONAL USES **(Must not adversely affect ecological resources to receive points)**	**Check All That Apply**
Hunting	
Fishing	
Wildlife viewing (unique species or habitat)	
Boating/kayak access (ramps and / or parking)	
Walking, jogging or bike paths / ATV, hiking, mountain biking or equestrian trails	
Sport courts	
Multi-purpose fields	
Water park/ swimming pool	
Dog park/ dog training areas	
Beach access	
Access to historic sites	
Disc golf courses	
Golf courses	
Playgrounds	
Picnic areas	
Camping areas	

[11] ERES – waters of exceptional recreational or ecological significance.

[12] SCORP – Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

[13] Strategies for State Policies and Spending 2010 update - Level 1 and Level 2 Areas of Investment

Rollerblading, roller skating or roller hockey areas / skate parks	
Total Number of Recreational Uses	

Total Points For All Categories	Total Points
Ecological Value (/115)	
Land Use (/125)	
Cultural / Historical (/80)	
Water Features (/200)	
Recreation (/80)	

DESCRIPTIVE EVALUATION / PROJECT-SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

Does the acquisition support state or regional preservation and restoration priorities or management plan goals? (e.g., Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Council's Interstate Fisheries Management Plans, Bayshore Initiative, Bird Conservation Region 30, Blackbird-Millington Corridor Plan, Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, Chesapeake Watershed Implementation Plan, , Delaware Forest Action Plan, Delaware Bayshore Initiative, Delaware Wildlife Action Plan, Forest Action Plan, Inland Bays Watershed Restoration Plan, Nanticoke Watershed Restoration Plan, North American Wetlands Conservation Act, Partners in Flight Priority Species, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, SCORP, Wildlife Action Plan) **List Regional Priorities and / or Management Plan Goals here:**
Describe why the property is considered for preservation. (e.g., critical wildlife habitat, water quality protection, recreational opportunities, cultural resource preservation)
Are preservation / management goals best achieved through fee title or easement, and why?
Is there a discount offered on the purchase price?
Are there opportunities to leverage non-Open Space funds? If so, identify the funding sources and percentages.
Describe any potential management challenges and / or costs.
Is there a near term plan for development?
For stand-alone sites, are the resources on the property significant enough to justify preservation?
Describe geological features of interest on site?
Will preserving this property protect a viewshed? If so, describe the viewshed?

Is this property on the State Registry of Natural Areas?
Is there public interest in acquiring the property?
Is the owner requesting provisions in the contract / easement that would reduce the property's primary conservation values or appropriate management?
Is the property a potential restoration site?
Does the property contain a floodway? Is it in the 100 year floodplain?
Other comments:

PROJECT SUMMARY

GENERAL PROPERTY INFORMATION

Owner Contact Information:

Tax Parcel:

Acreage:

Uplands: **Wetlands:**

Watershed:

Agency Contact:

Ranking Score:

ACQUISITION DATA

Full Fair Market Purchase: _____ Bargain Sale: _____ Donation: _____

Leveraged Funds:

Endowment/Monitoring Contribution:

Contract Price:

Comments:

APPRAISAL DATA

Appraiser:

Date of Appraisal:

Appraised Value:

Per Acre Value:

Uplands:

Wetlands:

Landowner Permission to Access Land/ Limitations on Use and Disclosure of Data

Agreement

As required by 7 Del. Code § 7507B, a representative of the State agency may access land being considered for permanent protection only after the landowner executes a written permission form granting State agency representative permission to access the land. This form shall serve as that written permission.

Any data collected during this visit shall not be used for any of the following purposes:

(1) To incorporate the data into a comprehensive plan; overlay zoning ordinance; guideline; specific or technically-based performance standard, design criterion, or mitigation requirement; or for any other restrictions on land use.

(2) To deny, delay, or recommend the denial or delay of a permit or license.

(3) To place any condition or restriction on a permit or license.

(4) To charge additional fees on a permit or license.

Nothing shall prohibit the State agency representative from reporting to the proper authorities any information or data obtained about the property concerning a violation of any environmental, public health, or safety laws or regulations or information that is otherwise required to be reported.

Data collected under this section related to negotiations that do not result in the permanent protection of land are not public records and may not be disclosed under Chapter 100, Title 29.

Name and agency of representative: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Landowner Permission Form (Agency representative to retain)

This certifies that _____ (and _____ additional staff) is/are authorized to enter

Name of agency representative

upon the property of _____ located at:

_____

Landowner's full name

Property address or description

for the purpose of examining the property for its suitability for permanent protection by the State of Delaware.

Name of Landowner: _____

Signature: _____

Mark any criteria that apply (§ 7507A Open space: criteria, evaluation, and permanent protection)

- ○ Contains rare species, as determined by on-site verification conducted with landowner permission which is provided in writing.
- ○ Has significant potential to support rare species.
- ○ Is a cultural resource site or near a cultural resource site.
- ○ Includes or enhances important wildlife habitat or migration corridors, or potential wildlife habitat or migration corridors.
- ○ Has significant forest resources.
- ○ Has wetlands, floodplains, or other lands necessary for the protection of water resources.
- ○ Contains significant or unique ecosystems, natural features, or geological features.
- ○ Is an inholding, contiguous to or near lands that are already preserved or protected, or planned to be preserved or protected, by federal, state, local, or other conservation agencies, groups, or entities.
- ○ Provides for public outdoor recreation.
- ○ Allows natural systems or plants and animals to accommodate or adapt to climate change or other large-scale changes in ecosystem processes.
- ○ Possesses other characteristics that would make its acquisition consistent with and promote 1 or more of the purposes of this chapter.