

## **Conserved Lands Categorization for the Community Resilience and Biodiversity Protection Act**

The following tools are intended to guide the categorization of Vermont’s conserved lands in service to the Community Resilience and Biodiversity Protection. However, there may still be case-by-case determinations on how to categorize a specific conserved interest based on the intent, management and protection of the interest.

### **Crosswalk for Conserved Lands Categorization**

<b>Interests held by the Federal Government</b>	
<b>Land Interest / Classification</b>	<b>Category</b>
<b>Green Mountain National Forest</b>	
Diverse Forest Use	Natural Resource Management Area
Wilderness	Ecological Reserve Area
Remote Backcountry Forest	Ecological Reserve Area
Diverse Backcountry	Natural Resource Management Area
Remote Wildlife Habitat	Biodiversity Conservation Area
Alpine Ski Areas	Uncategorized Conserved Lands
Appalachian National Scenic Trail	Natural Resource Management Area
Long National Recreation Trail	Natural Resource Management Area
Robert T. Stafford White Rocks National Recreation Area	Biodiversity Conservation Area
Alpine/Subalpine Special Areas	Ecological Reserve Area
Green Mountain Escarpment	Biodiversity Conservation Area
Existing and Candidate Research Natural Areas	Ecological Reserve Area
Ecological Special Areas	Ecological Reserve Area
Recreation Special Areas	Natural Resource Management Area
Moosalamoo Recreation and Education Area	Natural Resource Management Area
Alpine Ski Area Expansion	Uncategorized Conserved Lands
<b>USFWS Lands</b>	
Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge (matrix)	Biodiversity Conservation Area
Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge (matrix)	Biodiversity Conservation Area
Research Natural Areas within National Wildlife Refuges	Ecological Reserve Areas
<b>National Park Service</b>	
Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park	Natural Resource Management Area
National Park	Natural Resource Management Area
National Recreation Area	Natural Resource Management Area
National Wilderness Area	Ecological Reserve Area
<b>Department of Defense</b>	
Ethan Allen Firing Range	Uncategorized Conserved Lands
Camp Johnson	Uncategorized Conserved Lands

## Interests Held by the State of Vermont

Land Interest / Classification	Category
<b>State Land</b>	
F&W Wildlife Management Area	See LMCs below. If no LMC, Biodiversity Conservation Area
F&W Streambank Parcels	See LMCs below. If no LMC, Biodiversity Conservation Area
F&W Fish Culture Station	See LMCs below. If no LMC, Uncategorized Conserved Land.
F&W Access Area	See LMCs below. If no LMC, Uncategorized Conserved Land.
F&W Misc. Property	See LMCs below. If no LMC, Biodiversity Conservation Area.
F&W Farm Service Agency Easement	See LMCs below. If no LMC, Natural Resource Management Area.
F&W Pond Sites	See LMCs below. If no LMC, Natural Resource Management Area.
Green Mountain Conservation Camp	See LMCs below. If no LMC, Uncategorized Conserved Lands.
FPR State Park	See LMCs below. If no LMC, Natural Resource Management Area.
FPR State Forest	See LMCs below. If no LMC, Natural Resource Management Area.
State Designated Natural Area	See LMCs below. If no LMC, Ecological Reserve Area.
DEC Corrective Action Plan	Uncategorized Conserved Lands
DEC Dam	See LMCs below. If no LMC, Uncategorized Conserved Lands.
DHP State Historical Sites	Natural Resource Management Area
<b>State Land Management Classifications</b>	
1.0 Highly Sensitive Management	Ecological Reserve Area
1.1 Rare or Exemplary Natural Communities or Species	Ecological Reserve Area
1.2 Sensitive Wildlife Habitat	Ecological Reserve Area
1.3 Ecological Reserves	Ecological Reserve Area
1.4 Exceptional Cultural Resource Area	Uncategorized Conserved Land
1.5 Exceptional Geological Resource Area	Ecological Reserve Area
1.6 Exceptional Scenic Resource Area	Ecological Reserve Area
1.7 Exceptional Water Resource Area	Ecological Reserve Area
1.8 Designated Natural Areas	Ecological Reserve Area
1.9 Research Natural Areas	Ecological Reserve Area
1.10 Areas protected by deed restrictions or conservation agreements	Ecological Reserve Area

1.11 District designation area: Physical conditions	Ecological Reserve Area
2.0 Special Management	Biodiversity Conservation Area
2.1 Biological, cultural and geological resources	Biodiversity Conservation Area
2.2 Critical plant and wildlife habitat	Biodiversity Conservation Area
2.3 Long Trail / Appalachian Trail Corridors	Natural Resource Management Area
2.4 Wildlife and forestry demonstration areas	Biodiversity Conservation Area
2.5 Special Protection Areas	Natural Resource Management Area
2.6 Research Monitoring Areas	Natural Resource Management Area
2.7 Wellhead Protection Areas	Natural Resource Management Area
2.8 Agricultural Land	Natural Resource Management Area
2.9 Special Recreation Area	Natural Resource Management Area
2.10 Special Viewshed Area	Natural Resource Management Area
2.11 District Designation Area	Biodiversity Conservation Area
3.0 General Management	Natural Resource Management Area
4.0 Intensive Management	Natural Resource Management Area
4.1 Ski areas	Uncategorized Conserved Land
4.2 Campgrounds	Uncategorized Conserved Land
4.3 Day-use areas	Uncategorized Conserved Land
4.4 Trailhead and boat launch parking areas	Uncategorized Conserved Land
4.5 Electronic Communication Sites	Uncategorized Conserved Land
4.6 Facilities Area	Uncategorized Conserved Land
4.7 Railroad Right-of-Way Area	Uncategorized Conserved Land
4.8 Utility Right-of-Way Area	Uncategorized Conserved Land
5.0 Fee Ownership, timber reserved	Natural Resource Management Area
6.0 Non-fee, hunting rights	Uncategorized Conserved Lands
9.2 Not defined	Natural Resource Management Area
Unplanned (lands lacking LMC data)	Natural Resource Management Area
<b>State-held Easements</b>	
Forest Legacy Program / FPR easements	Natural Resource Management Area
DEC River Corridor Easements / Other easements	Biodiversity Conservation Area
F&W wildlife / habitat / mitigation easements	Biodiversity Conservation Area
F&W Landowner Incentive Program	Biodiversity Conservation Area

### Interests Held by Municipalities

If a property is municipally owned and managed for conservation purposes / values, it will be considered conserved for the purpose of the CRBPA. Municipally owned conservation interests will default to the NRMA category, unless another conservation mechanism informs categorization. If municipally owned land is not designated as a conservation area, or managed for conservation purposes, it will not be considered protected under the CRBPA.

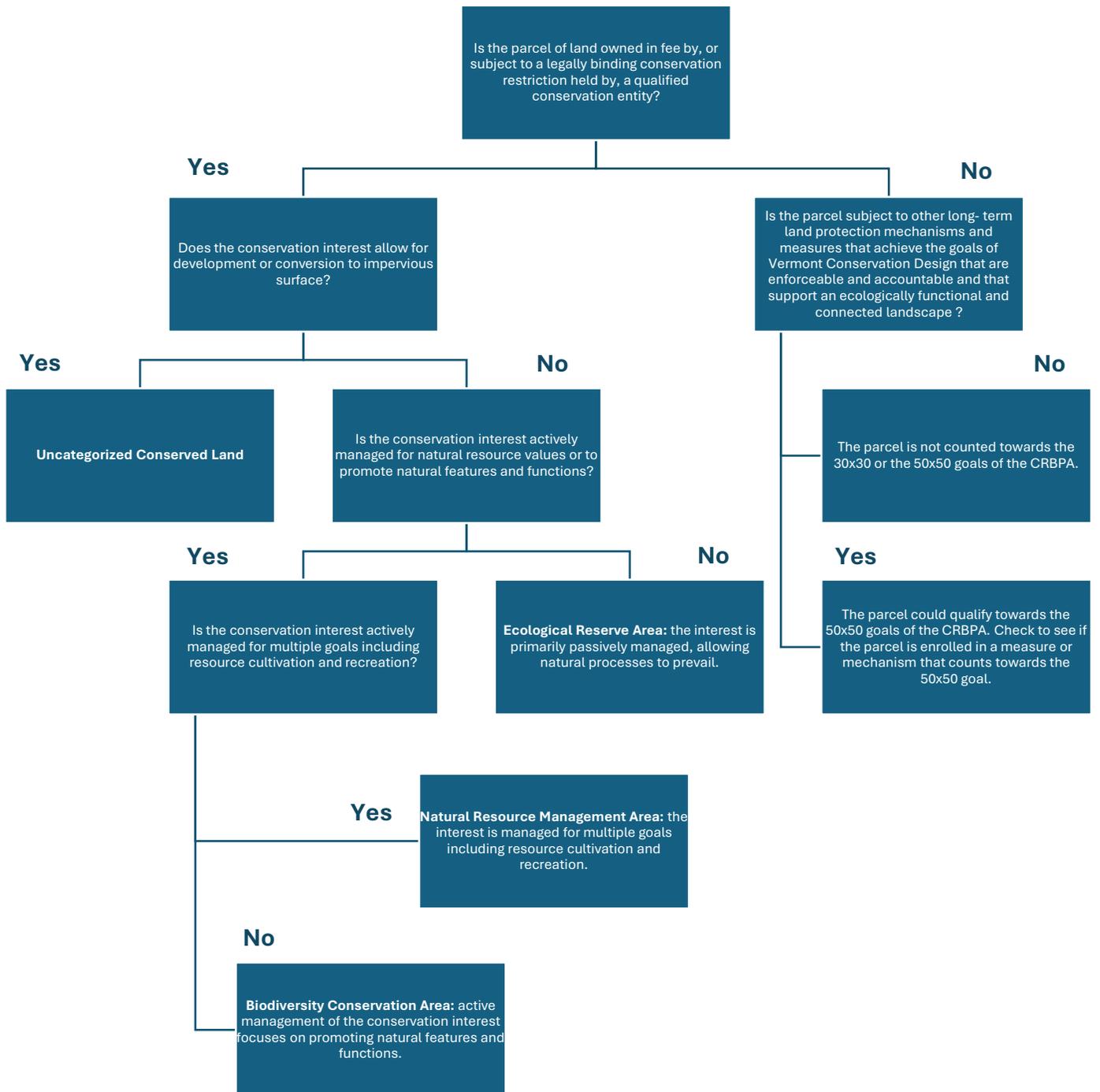
Town Forests, Conservation Areas, Natural Areas (can be elevated with additional protections)	Natural Resource Management Area
Municipal Parks	Uncategorized Conserved Lands
Municipal Easements	Uncategorized Conserved Lands

### Interests Held By Non-Governmental Organizations

Conservation Easements (and other restrictive measures, such as Deed Restrictions, held by qualified conservation entities)

Agricultural Easements	Natural Resource Management Area
Working Forest Easements	Natural Resource Management Area
Recreation Focused Easements	Natural Resource Management Area
Wildlife / Habitat Focused Easements	Biodiversity Conservation Area
Wilderness Easements	Ecological Reserve Area
Zones within Conservation Easements	
Recreation Zones	Natural Resource Management Area
Ecological Protection Zones	Biodiversity Conservation Area
Water Protection / Buffer Zone	Biodiversity Conservation Area
Core / No-Management Zones	Ecological Reserve Area
Development / Building / Farmstead Complex	Uncategorized Conserved Land
Fee Interests	
Nature Area / Reserve / Preserve / Sanctuary	Biodiversity Conservation Area
Areas managed for multiple values	Natural Resource Management Area
Recreation Areas	Natural Resource Management Area
Wilderness Areas	Ecological Reserve Area

# Decision tree for conserved land categorization under the Community Resilience and Biodiversity Protection Act



## **Methodology used for the Initial Conserved Lands Inventory, June 2024**

### **Ecological Reserve Area**

“An area having permanent protection from conversion and that is managed to maintain a natural state within which natural ecological processes and disturbance events are allowed to proceed with minimal interference.”

- Categorized consistent with Conservation Categories Workgroup Report
- Lands generally align with lands identified as GAP Status 1, and with lands identified by Foster et al. (2023) in [Wildlands.in.New.England;Past?Present?and.Future.](#)

### **Biodiversity Conservation Area**

“An area having permanent protection from conversion for the majority of the area and that is managed for the primary goal of sustaining species or habitats. These areas may include regular, active interventions to address the needs of particular species or to maintain or restore habitats.”

- Categorized consistent with Conservation Categories Workgroup Report
- Lands generally align with lands identified as GAP Status 2 as applied in the most recent version of the TNC-maintained Secured Areas Database prepared for the Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (NEAFWA).

### **Natural Resource Management Area**

“An area having permanent protection from conversion for the majority of the area but that is subject to long-term, sustainable land management.”

- Lands that did not meet the criteria of an Ecological Reserve Area or a Biodiversity Conservation Area.
- Lands that were not identified as Gap 4 in the Secured Lands Database

### **Uncategorized Conserved Lands**

- Lands identified as Gap 4 in the Secured Lands Database
- To be further reviewed and considered in Phase II