



## **Land Resources Policy**

July 16, 2010

Androscoggin Land Trust  
Northern Service Area – Land Master Plan Resource Goals

**Mission:** The Northern Service Area conservation lands will be managed as stewardship land to reach the goals of sustainable timber production, wildlife habitat protection, low-impact recreation, historical education, and enhancement of natural beauty over a long period, while protecting soil and water resources.

These goals will be achieved by applying various land management practices based on ecological principles.

**Goals:**

- **Forest –**
  - generate income while practicing sustainable forestry
  - designate some demonstration areas for educational programs on "best management practices" and possibly "old growth" forest
  - encourage bio-diversity
  - determine possible locations for eco-reserves, where timber harvesting would be limited or prohibited
  
- **Wildlife –**
  - protect habitat, through land management plan adoption, based on inventories developed by Beginning with Habitat and other sources
  - enhance wildlife habitat
  
- **Recreation –**
  - encourage low-impact, pedestrian use (river-front land)
  - extend Androscoggin Greenways Project
  - designate day-use areas and develop view sites, towards the river, if practical
  - encourage responsible, yet limited, motorized use through education and permitting of access

- Cultural/Historical --
  - involve local historians/organizations to get information
  - inventory historical sites, land use histories, and other items of cultural importance for use in management plans in interpretive panels, kiosks, or other promotional and educational media
  - possibly develop view sites, if practical
  - practice "logging aesthetics" when possible (assess botanical resources)
  
- Financial -
  - generate income while practicing sustainable forestry
  - generate funds for allocation based on Board policy

### **Forest Management Plans**

- All decisions made by the ALT with respect to management of its forested land will be governed by a Land Management Plan and, by inclusion in that Plan, a Forest Management Plan (FMP).
- The Board may, at its discretion, choose to develop a vision for land management based on "Service Area" approach or parcel by parcel approach.
- FMP's should include recommendations in areas such as invasive species control, wildlife habitat improvements, harvest treatments, carbon sequestration, and other forest products such as maple syrup.

### **Forest Management Plan Recommendations**

- **Harvest Treatments**
  - Approval of Harvest Plan
    - All harvests on ALT fee-owned and/or managed lands should occur as part of an effort to implement recommendations from a Board-approved Forest Management Plan.
    - The Stewardship Committee should review all proposed harvest treatments and harvest plans for consistency with the FMP and recommend action to the Executive Committee. Should a proposed harvest treatment be scheduled for discussion at a Stewardship Committee meeting, the entire Board of Directors should be notified and provided copies of all documents for discussion, in advance, by the normal means of Committee communication.
    - The Executive Committee may approve the implementation of harvest plans following review of Stewardship Committee recommendations. The entire Board of Directors will be notified, by normal means of Board communication, following any decision of the Executive Committee with respect to harvest plans.
    - No harvest shall exceed recommendations of ALT's forester.
  - Selection of Contractors
    - Contractors for implementing recommendations from FMP's shall be selected by staff with input from ALT forester.

- Allocation of Funds from Harvest Treatments
  - Initial funds from any harvest treatment must first be applied to retire any debts incurred in the development of FMP's, provision of services to execute the harvest treatments, and any other service contracted for with a commitment to payment at time of harvest.
  - Remaining funds following the payment of outstanding invoices, or all funds should no debts be outstanding, shall be accounted for and dispersed through the following formula:
    - Stewardship Fund (30%) – These funds are restricted to pay for staff time in stewarding conserved land in the “Service Area” in which the harvest treatment occurs. For example, any treatment on Verso Paper conservation leased-land would result in dedicated funds to steward lands in the Northern Service Area. In addition, stewardship projects may be funded following recommendation by the Stewardship Committee and subsequent Finance and Executive Committee review and approval. This can include, but are not limited to, information kiosks, trail development and literature, invasive species control and wildlife habitat improvements.
    - Acquisition Fund (20%) – These funds are restricted to covering Project Costs associated with Board-approved land conservation projects in the “Service Area” in which the harvest treatment occurred. These costs can include any item listed as an expense in the Board-approved budget worksheet.
    - Outreach Fund (30%) – These funds are restricted for use in capacity building and community projects in the “Service Area” in which the harvest treatment occurred. These projects can include, but are not limited to, ALT literature and fundraising materials focused on that “Service Area,” community events and assisting in the local match for community supported river-oriented projects.
    - General ALT Operating Fund (20%) – These funds are transferred into ALT's general operating fund to support existing capacity and overhead.
  - These restrictions, being Board-imposed, can be suspended with Board approval.