

Land Exchange - Net Benefit

Alberta Environment and Parks shall give full consideration to land exchange proposals that meet the objective of providing a net benefit to the province.

To demonstrate a net benefit, a proposed land exchange needs to:

1. Align with all applicable regional plans that have been enacted under the *Alberta Land Stewardship Act*.
 - [Land-use Framework](#)
2. Do one or more of the following:
 - a. Realize higher natural resource values, to promote conservation and sustainability of the ecosystem, such as:
 - Contribution to the maintenance of ecologically important habitat patches, landscape corridors, connectors, and/or stepping stones at a regional or sub-regional scale;
 - Alignment with one or more of the following conservation values:
 - Watershed conservation;
 - Candidate conservation areas identified in Regional Plans;
 - Species at risk recovery plans;
 - Habitat for species of special concern;
 - Ecological integrity of the native plant communities;
 - Adjacency to existing conservation easements and/or projects;
 - Protection of fish and wildlife habitats;
 - Protection of native landscapes that are rare and limited in remaining extent or vulnerable to loss from competing land-use practices.
 - b. Consolidate public land, thereby facilitating efficient management of public lands.
 - c. Present no significant risks of ownership and effective management, such as :
 - Prevalence of invasive species;
 - Presence of built infrastructure;
 - Soil or water contamination from previous or historical land use activities;
 - Isolation from other public land or access issues.
 - d. Support Government of Alberta objectives such as:
 - Cultural and historical resources and aesthetic values
 - Conserving, restoring, protecting and managing Alberta's wetlands;
 - Enhancement of recreational opportunities and public access;
 - Supporting the growth and development needs of communities.
 - Promotion of multiple use values and fulfillment of public needs.
3. The market land values must be equal in the exchange. If the values of the private lands are not equal to the public lands, then the difference must be reconciled through a monetary payment to the Province of Alberta or by adjusting the amounts of land involved in the exchange. If the values of the private lands exceed that of the public lands, the province does not pay the difference.