

(2) THE PRESENCE OF RARE, THREATENED, OR ENDANGERED PLANTS OR ANIMALS OR DIVERSE COMMUNITIES OF PLANTS OR ANIMALS;

(3) THE THREAT TO THE LAND BY DEVELOPMENT;

(4) WHETHER THE LAND IS IN THE CHESAPEAKE BAY CRITICAL AREA;

(5) WHETHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE LAND WILL ADVERSELY IMPACT WATER QUALITY OR UNIQUE NATURAL HABITAT;

(6) WHETHER A NATURAL AREA HAS BEEN DESIGNATED BY THE STATE OR SUBMITTED BY A COUNTY FOR DESIGNATION AS AN AREA OF CRITICAL STATE CONCERN UNDER § 5-611 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE; AND

(7) WHETHER THE LAND IS FORESTLAND, NONTIDAL WETLANDS, OR TIDAL WETLANDS.

~~{C}--TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE WITH AVAILABLE FUNDING, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL MAKE GRANTS ANNUALLY TO THE MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION FUND FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROTECTING PRIME AGRICULTURAL LANDS THREATENED BY DEVELOPMENT.~~

{D} (C) THE DEPARTMENT ANNUALLY SHALL CONSULT WITH THE COUNTIES OF THE STATE:

(1) FOR SUGGESTED ACQUISITION OF LANDS; AND

(2) TO COORDINATE THE ACQUISITION PROJECTS UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

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(A) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL MANAGE LAND OR INTERESTS IN LAND ACQUIRED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE TO ASSURE:

(1) THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF ANY UNIQUE ECOLOGICAL FEATURES;

(2) THE CONTINUED SURVIVAL OF ANY RARE, THREATENED, OR ENDANGERED PLANT OR ANIMAL;

(3) THE PROTECTION OF FORESTLANDS AND WETLANDS, ALTHOUGH TIMBER HARVESTING MAY BE ALLOWED UNDER AN APPROVED FOREST CONSERVATION PLAN; AND

(4) THE PROTECTION OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY AND ITS TRIBUTARIES AND OF WATER QUALITY ANYWHERE IN THE STATE, AND .

~~{5}--THE PRESERVATION OF AGRICULTURAL LANDS.~~

(B) TO THE EXTENT COMPATIBLE WITH THE MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT