§13-140-39   Criteria. In advising the department and the board, the commission may consider the following criteria in forming its recommendations for acquisitions:

1. Completeness of the acquisition application;
2. Acquisition of interests or rights in land having value as a resource to the State for the preservation of the following:
   A. Watershed protection;
   B. Coastal areas, beaches, and ocean access;
   C. Habitat protection;
   D. Cultural and historical sites;
   E. Recreational and public hunting areas;
   F. Parks;
   G. Natural areas;
   H. Agricultural production; and
   I. Open spaces and scenic resources;
3. Linkage of protected acreage of similar resources;
4. Opportunities for appropriate public access and enjoyment;
5. Presence of environmental hazards;
6. Feasibility of a project within the two-year acquisition timeframe;
7. Cost of acquisition;
8. Proportion of matching funds being leveraged;
9. Urgency of need to acquire;
10. Status and adequacy of management planning;
11. Community support for acquisition;
12. Completeness of acquisition funding;
13. Connection to regional planning and protection efforts; and