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Characteristics of a Survival Homestead

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Location and land characteristics are crucial factors when a person is considering purchasing land for a survival retreat. According to James Rawles, author of [How to Survive the End of the World As We Know It](#) ^[1], the decision to have a survival retreat should be “well-prepared and defensible redoubt with well-planned logistics.”

Location is usually contingent upon where a person is employed at. However, many people are finding that working from home has given them the freedom to be more flexible in their property selection.

Preppers are looking into a survival homestead for many reasons. Some want to make the necessary investment in order to feel more secure about being in a short or long term disaster scenario, and some have decided to make a lifestyle change and feel that a survival homestead is the natural progression to achieve this. Although, the economy has made it difficult for some families to purchase additional land, many are making an effort to scrimp and save in order to have their dreams come to fruition. In Rawles' book, he lists key characteristics to use as a guide when looking for survival property.

Ideally, a survival retreat is located in a region with most or all of the following characteristics:

- A long growing season
- Geographic isolation from major population centers
- Sufficient year-round precipitation and surface water
- Rich topsoil
- A diverse economy and agriculture
- Away from interstate freeways and other channelized areas
- Low taxes
- Non-intrusive scale of government
- Favorable zoning and inexpensive building permits
- Minimal gun laws
- No major earthquake, hurricane, or tornado risks
- No flooding risk
- No tidal-wave (at least two hundred feet above sea level)
- Minimal forest-fire risk

- A lifestyle geared toward self-sufficiency
- Plentiful local sources of wood or coal
- No restrictions on keeping livestock
- Defendable terrain
- Not near a prison or large mental institution
- Inexpensive insurance rates (home, auto, health)
- Upwind from major nuclear-weapons targets

These key characteristics are to be used as a guide to find the right land that suits you and your family. Ideally, wherever the personal retreat is located, the most important aspect of a retreat is sustainability. The land must be able to support you and your family on a permanent basis (if necessary).

Additional Information on Survival Retreats

[A great podcast by Jack Spirko on the Perfect Survivalist Homestead Retreat](#) ^[2]

[Criteria For Choosing a Retreat](#) ^[3]

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URLs in this post:

[1] How to Survive the End of the World As We Know It: <http://www.amazon.com/How-Survive-End-World-Know/dp/0452295831>

[2] A great podcast by Jack Spirko on the Perfect Survivalist Homestead Retreat: <http://www.thesurvivalpodcast.com/the-perfect-survivalist-homestead-retreat>

[3] Criteria For Choosing a Retreat: <http://www.survivalblog.com/retreatareas.html>

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