



AGENDA

N.C. WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION

May 21, 2015, 9:00 a.m.

1751 Varsity Drive

NCWRC Conference Room, 5th Floor

Raleigh, North Carolina

CALL TO ORDER - *Chairman Jim Cogdell*

This meeting is being recorded as a public record and is audio streaming live at www.ncwildlife.org. As a courtesy to others please turn off all cell phones during the meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – *Commissioner David Hoyle, Jr.*

INVOCATION - *Commissioner John Coley*

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

MANDATORY ETHICS INQUIRY - North Carolina General Statute 138A-15(e) mandates that the Commission Chair shall remind all Commissioners of their duty to avoid conflicts of interest and appearances of conflict under this Chapter, and that the chair also inquire as to whether there is any known conflict of interest or appearance of conflict with respect to any matters coming before the Commission at this time. It is the duty of each Commissioner who is aware of such personal conflict of interest or of an appearance of a conflict, to notify the Chair of the same. *Chairman Cogdell*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 5, 2015 MEETING - Take action on the March 5, 2015 Wildlife Resources Commission meeting minutes as written in the exhibit and distributed to members (**EXHIBIT A**)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 18, 2015 TELEPHONIC MEETING – Take action on the March 18, 2015 WRC telephonic meeting minutes as written in the exhibit and distributed to members (**EXHIBIT B**)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 21, 2015 TELEPHONIC MEETING – Take action on the April 21, 2015 WRC telephonic meeting minutes as written in the exhibit and distributed to members (**EXHIBIT C**)

ADMINISTRATION

Financial Status Report - Receive a financial status report on the Wildlife Operating Fund and Wildlife Endowment Fund – *Cecilia Edgar, Budget Director* (**EXHIBIT D**)

Commission Meeting Date Change – Consider moving the date of the July WRC meeting from July 9 to July 16, 2015 – *Gordon Myers, Executive Director*

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Fisheries Committee Report – *Wes Seegars, Chair*

Migratory Birds/Waterfowl Committee Report – *John Coley, Chair*

Land Use and Access Committee Report – *Tom Berry, Chair*

Small Game Committee Report – *Garry Spence, Chair*

Habitat, Nongame and Endangered Species Committee Report – *Garry Spence*

Committee of the Whole Report – *Jim Cogdell, Chair*

AGENCY SPOTLIGHT – AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES: WHAT ROLE DOES THE COMMISSION PLAY? - Receive a presentation about the collaborative effort with other state agencies to develop a statewide strategy for managing aquatic nuisance species – *Christian Waters, Fisheries Program Manager*

INLAND FISHERIES DIVISION

Fisheries Update - Receive an update on activities of the Inland Fisheries Division - *Bob Curry, Inland Fisheries Division Chief*

WILDLIFE EDUCATION DIVISION

Introduction of New Division Chief – *Mallory Martin, Chief Deputy Director*

Division Update – *Kris Smith, Wildlife Education Division Chief*

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

Wildlife Management Update – Receive an update on the activities of the Division of Wildlife Management – *Dr. David Cobb, Wildlife Management Division Chief*

Chronic Wasting Disease Response Plan - Consider adoption of the revised Chronic Wasting Disease Response Plan - *David Cobb (EXHIBIT E)*

ENGINEERING AND LANDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION

Land Acquisitions and Property Matters

Phase I Land Acquisitions – Consider approval for staff to work with State Property Office and funding partners to develop acquisition plans for the following properties – *Isaac Harrold, Lands Program Manager (EXHIBITS F-1, F-2, F-3, F-4, F-5, F-6)*

- Johns River Tracts – Burke/Caldwell County
- Caldwell Tract – Haywood County
- Morrison Tract – Wilkes County
- Murphy Tract – Burke County
- Myrtle Head Tract – Brunswick County
- Stolting Tract – Richmond County

Phase II Land Acquisitions – Consider final approval to proceed with acquisition of the following properties – *Isaac Harrold (EXHIBITS G-1, G-2, G-3, G-4)*

- Phillips Tract – Ashe County
- EBH-H&V Tract – Alleghany County
- Teachey Tract – Pender County
- IP Chowan Tract – Gates County

COMMENTS BY CHAIRMAN – *Jim Cogdell*

COMMENTS BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – *Gordon Myers*

ADJOURN



MINUTES
March 5, 2015
N. C. Wildlife Resources Commission Meeting
Raleigh, North Carolina

The March 5, 2015 N. C. Wildlife Resources Commission meeting was called to order by *Commission Chairman* Jim Cogdell at 9:00 a.m. in the Commission Room at Wildlife Resources Commission Headquarters in Raleigh. Cogdell reminded everyone that the meeting audio is being streamed live and will be available on the Wildlife Resources Commission website. He requested that everyone silence electronic devices. Commissioners Wes Seegars, Joe Budd, Michell Hicks, and Richard Edwards were absent.

Commissioner John Coley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Garry Spence gave the invocation.

WELCOME AND MANDATORY ETHICS INQUIRY

Chairman Cogdell advised the Commission of the mandatory ethics inquiry as presented in the agenda. Chairman Cogdell welcomed the Commissioners and guests including members of the Lake Wylie Marine Commission, Hal Atkinson of the Boone and Crockett Club, Dr. Tom Ray, Dr. Karen Beck, and Ed Mays of NC Handicapped Sportsmen.

COMMISSIONER ATTENDANCE

Jim Cogdell
Tom Berry
Mark Craig
Ray Clifton
Neal Hanks

Nat Harris
Joe Barker
Tim Spear
Garry Spence
John Coley

Tommy Fonville
Brian White
John Litton Clark
David Hoyle, Jr.

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VISITORS

Hal Atkinson- Boone and Crockett Club	Dr. Tom Ray, DVM
Jack Metcalf – Colorado State University student	Ed Mays - NC Handicapped Sportsmen
Joe Stowe – Lake Wylie Marine Commission	Karen Beck – NCDA and CS
Mickey Brown – Lake Wylie Marine Commission	Ned Jones, NC Trout Unlimited
Andy Wood	Sandy Wood
Carson Wood	Sarah McRae
Frank Tursi	

MINUTES

On a motion by David Hoyle, Jr. and second by Garry Spence, the Commission approved the January 29, 2015 Wildlife Resources Commission minutes as presented in **Exhibit A**. The Minutes are hereby incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

EVALUATION OF 2014 STATEMENTS OF ECONOMIC INTEREST READ INTO THE MINUTES

Pursuant to the requirements of NCGS §138A-15, Betsy Haywood, *Ethics Liaison*, read relevant portions of the evaluations by the N.C. Ethics Commission of the 2014 Statements of Economic Interests for Thomas Fonville, John T. Coley, IV, and James Cogdell. The evaluations in their entirety are incorporated by reference into the minutes of the meeting.

ADMINISTRATION

Cecilia Edgar, *Budget Director*, presented in **Exhibit B** the financial report as of January 31, 2015. The Operating Fund balance is \$17,545,812.20. The Endowment Fund balance is \$117,603,833.78. Expendable interest is \$20,692,745.52.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Migratory Birds, Waterfowl Committee Report – John Coley, *Chairman*, reported that the Migratory Birds, Waterfowl Committee met on March 4, 2015. The committee received a report from Doug Howell about the Light Goose Conservation Order. The Light Goose Conservation Order is a management tool established in 2008 by the USFWS. Howell discussed implementing a season after the existing light goose hunt season to help control the population of light geese, which are considered to be overabundant. The Committee instructed staff to form a team to implement the Light Goose Conservation Order season, with a recommendation to provide free permits to licensed hunters.

Small Game Committee Report – Garry Spence, *Chairman*, reported that the Small Game Committee met on March 4, 2015. Dr. David Cobb, *Wildlife Management Division Chief*, gave the history of the Larry Diedrick Small Game Award and a short biography of Larry Diedrick. The committee recommends continuation of the award.

Mark Jones, *Wildlife Biologist*, provided an update on programs that benefit small game and habitats. Jones stated that the economics of forestry, farming and livestock management practices have reduced habitats suitable for quail, rabbits, and other small animals.

Brandon Sherrill, *Mammalogist*, and David Sawyer, *Surveys and Research Program Coordinator*, reported on small game research projects. A Mountain Region Rabbit Head survey is being conducted in the mountains in an effort to determine the distribution of the eastern cottontail rabbit and the Appalachian cottontail rabbit. Another study is the Deer Hunter Observation Survey. Still hunters record all species that they encounter while hunting, with an emphasis on fox squirrels. The Avid Rabbit Hunter Survey is ongoing.

Chris Kreh, *Upland Game Bird Biologist*, reported that samples from 250 quail from the coastal region are being studied to look for a parasitic eye worm that is thought to threaten the quail population. Working with NCSU, the WRC is conducting the Southeastern Focal Area Quail Study. Transmitters have been placed on 110 quail to track nests, hatchlings, and mortality rate of quail. The WRC has three full-time biologists working with Farm Bill programs and the USDA. The agency is engaged at the state and federal levels in Farm Bill programs for conservation of wildlife resources.

Brad Howard, *Private Lands Coordinator*, reviewed the CURE Program over the past decade. CURE is a habitat program that all species utilize.

Fisheries Committee Report – Joe Barker, *Committee Vice Chair*, reported that the Fisheries Committee met on March 4, 2015. Bob Curry, *Inland Fisheries Division Chief*, provided an overview of the ongoing work developing a statewide Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan. The plan is a collaborative effort across multiple state agencies and will be presented to the Governor for signature.

Chris Wood, *District 8 Fishery Biologist*, provided an update on the walleye fishery at Lake James after the introduction of invasive river herring. Staff will continue to evaluate stocking efforts to return the fishery to historic levels.

Amanda Bushon, *District 9 Fishery Biologist*, provided an update on the introduction of invasive blueback herring in Lake Apalachia and potential management options. Staff began stocking brown and rainbow trout into the system to take advantage of the blueback herring. Brown trout are doing exceptionally well. The project will be featured in *Wildlife in North Carolina* magazine.

Corey Oakley, *Piedmont Research Coordinator*, provided an update on the status of invasive tilapia in Lake Hyc0. The Commission is working with NCSU on a research project to determine the extent of interactions between tilapia and other sport fish. Staff has identified the possibility to create a freshwater red drum fishery in the lake. Staff will continue to explore this option, including public meetings over the next year.

Chad Thomas, *Regional Fishery Supervisor*, provided an update on Roanoke River striped bass management. Thomas reminded the committee that the Total Allowable Landings decreased to 68,750 pounds this year. Given the harvest trends over the last few years, there should be no impact to anglers, but the season could be shortened or extended by proclamation. Thomas also provided an overview of the river herring fishery on the coast which has collapsed. A complete harvest moratorium has been in effect since 2008. Staff will continue to monitor the status of river herring, but the populations are still unable to sustain harvest.

Chief Deputy Director Mallory Martin provided an update on the Mattamuskeet Collaboration Team established by Director Myers and *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Region 4 Director* Cindy Dohner. The team met in Raleigh on February 10-12, 2015 and discussed management topics. Agency legal counsel is examining opportunities for lake level management. Director Myers updated Commissioners on an effort to secure additional funding to create a business plan for the Lake Mattamuskeet Lodge which will be included in future Mattamuskeet Collaboration Team meetings.

Land Use and Access Committee Report –Tom Berry, *Land Use and Access Committee Chair*, reported that the LUAC met on March 4, 2015. Isaac Harrold, *Lands Program Manager*, presented four Phase I properties for consideration by the committee. The LUAC will recommend approval by the entire Commission for staff to work with State Property and funding partners to develop acquisition plans for:

- Deviney 2014 Tract – Rutherford County
- DOT River Bend Tract – Caswell County
- Graves Addition Tract – Caswell County
- Shelton Tract – Buncombe County

The committee received an update about an easement request by a private landowner across the Second Creek Game Land in Rowan County for purposes of providing access to private property.

Erik Christofferson, *Engineering and Lands Management Division Chief*, gave an update on shooting ranges across the state. While two years ago there was one shooting range at Cold Mountain, now there are four operational ranges with nine more in project development.

Christofferson updated the committee on the proposed Linville Tract Shooting Range. Public comments have been received at public meetings and by mail with a great deal of reaction to the proposed site, including from the Foothills Conservancy and the seller of the property. Christofferson stated that the agency has conducted sound testing which is negative for significant impacts. The agency has checked with original funding sources for the Linville Tract and there is no opposition based on their funding requirements. Christofferson continues to gather data and will present the proposal to the entire Commission at the May 21 meeting.

Due to time constraints the discussion of estimated versus actual stewardship expenditures for land acquisition projects was postponed.

Chairman Tom Berry remarked that several tracts for elk in the mountains are being considered for purchase by conservation partners.

Habitat, Nongame and Endangered Species Committee Report – Mark Craig, *Chair*, reported that the Habitat, Nongame and Endangered Species Committee met on March 4, 2015. Shannon Deaton, *Habitat Conservation Program Manager*, presented information to committee members for voting for the recipient of the Thomas L. Quay Wildlife Diversity Award.

Shannon Deaton presented an update on membership of the Nongame Wildlife Advisory Committee (NWAC), reminding the HNGES Committee that the Commission approved a resolution for the NWAC last October. The HNGES Committee approved staff's recommendation to add three years to the terms of current NWAC members.

Chris Moorman, PhD – *N.C. State University*, presented a report on a recent alligator project conducted by N.C. State University. Dr. Moorman reported that the alligator was listed in 1967 as federally endangered due to habitat loss and hunting. The alligator was delisted in 1987; however, it still is threatened. Moorman reported that North Carolina is at the northernmost limit of the alligator's range with cooler temperatures and slower growth rates. The last survey was conducted thirty years ago by the WRC and NCSU. The recent survey revealed that while alligators are plentiful in the southeastern part of the state, any harvest of adult alligators is not sustainable. Long-term monitoring will be conducted to determine information about N.C. alligator growth rates, hatchling success and sex ratio.

Committee of the Whole Report – Jim Cogdell, *Chairman*, reported that the Committee of the Whole met on March 4, 2015. Cindy Carr, *Wildlife Action Plan Coordinator*, gave an update about revisions to the Wildlife Action Plan. The Wildlife Action Plan (WAP) is a blueprint to inform and guide conservation of nongame wildlife. Staff uses the WAP as a guide for seeking State Wildlife Grants to be used for priority species and habitats. Conservation partners use the WAP as a source of information to identify greatest needs in North Carolina. The WAP has no regulatory authority. It provides recommendations only and does not mandate action. Carr stated that an Executive Summary of the Wildlife Action Plan revision will be presented to the committee on May 20, 2015.

The Committee received an update about revisions to the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Response Plan from Dr. Maria Palamar, *Veterinarian*. Dr. Palamar explained that the CWD Response Plan is flexible. Revisions to the plan are made based on science with input from staff and the public. The WRC continues preventive measures to keep CWD out of the state through increasing public awareness, regulatory actions, and monitoring and surveillance of free-ranging deer. The CWD Response Plan will provide short-term guidance if CWD appears. It will provide response to unconfirmed positives and confirmed positives in free-ranging deer and in captive cervids.

Executive Director Gordon Myers reported that the WRC has aligned rulemaking with new laws regarding deer farming in North Carolina. The agency is working with deer farmers with the objective of protecting white-tail deer and elk as public trust resources, prohibiting the importation of CWD by susceptible species, and prohibiting high fence hunting. Myers stated that a bill will be drafted to transfer oversight of the captive cervid program within the pens to the Department of Agriculture. Concerns remain, including law enforcement, a CWD Plan with the Department of Agriculture and a herd certification oversight plan.

The committee received a report on behalf of the North Carolina Wildlife Federation from Dr. Bob Brown, former Dean of Natural Resources at NCSU. Dr. Brown stated that the NCWF disagrees with the transfer of captive deer farming to the Department of Agriculture since it has resulted in problems in other states. The NCWF disagrees with issuance of new permits for deer pens until the current lawsuit is settled. Dr. Brown stated that the NCWF does want to collaborate and compromise with the WRC and deer farmers.

The Committee received reviews of comments from public hearings and overviews of proposed wildlife management rules from Dr. David Cobb; proposed inland fisheries rules from Bob Curry; game land management rules from Isaac Harrold; and water safety rules from Erica Garner.

Director Myers introduced Ashton Gordon, *Legislative Liaison*.

AGENCY SPOTLIGHT – UPDATE ON AGENCY BRANDING AND MARKETING

Jenny Harris, *Marketing Director*, presented a spotlight about the initiative on aligning the agency brand. Harris mentioned many examples of confusion in the agency's visual branding, including outdated letterhead, conflicting and unapproved Wildlife diamond logos, different uniforms, and unapproved brands and pages within social media. Harris introduced the new Wildlife diamond logo and letterhead. Trailer wrap designs will be standardized. A design team will work with social media for uniformity of brand. Harris stated that she is working with outside focus groups to get feedback and will produce an agency-wide marking plan that will be presented to the Commission.

INLAND FISHERIES

Inland Fisheries Update

Bob Curry, *Inland Fisheries Division Chief*, provided the Commissioners with fisheries and education updates. Curry reminded the Commission that hatchery supported trout waters closed on February 28 and will reopen on April 4. He stated that the striped bass season on the Roanoke River opened on March 1, with a reduction in allowable landings to 68,750 pounds this year. Curry announced that turkey hunting seminars are being conducted state-wide. The Becoming an Outdoor Woman skills workshop will be held April 17-19. Youth Hunter Skills tournaments are being held throughout the state, with winning teams advancing to the state championship tournament on April 25.

ADOPTION OF 2015-2016 INLAND FISHING RULE PROPOSALS

Bob Curry presented in **Exhibit C** a summary of comments concerning the proposed changes to inland fishing regulations received from state-wide public hearings held in January 2015 and from the WRC internet portal and correspondence. Curry announced that one letter was received from Bryson City, requesting to be added as Mountain Heritage Trout City.

On a motion by Joe Barker and second by David Hoyle, Jr. the Commission adopted the following changes in the 2015-2016 fishing regulations pending approval by the Rules Review Commission and codification in the North Carolina Administrative Code, presented in **Exhibit D**:

- F1) Reformat the structure of 15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters.
15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters

- F2) Designate approximately 3.6 miles of Lovills Creek in Surry County from the U.S. 52 Business bridge to the Ararat River as Public Mountain Trout Waters and classify as Hatchery Supported Trout Waters.
15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters

- F3) Designate approximately 2.2 miles of the Tuckasegee River in Swain County from the U.S. 19 bridge to the Slope Street bridge as Public Mountain Trout Waters and classify as Delayed Harvest Trout Waters.
15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters

- F4) Designate approximately 0.6 mile of the Cane River in Yancey County from Blackberry Ridge Road to the downstream boundary of Cane River County Park as Public Mountain Trout Waters and classify as Delayed Harvest Trout Waters.

15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters

- F5) Designate 6.0 miles of streams on Pond Mountain Game Land in Ashe County as Public Mountain Trout Waters and classify as Wild Trout Waters.

15A NCAC 10D .0104 Fishing on Game Lands

- F6) Clarify the boundaries of Delayed Harvest Trout Waters on South Fork New River at Todd Island Park in Ashe County. The designated reach will be from the upstream end of Todd Island to the S.R. 1351 bridge.

15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters

- F7) Modify the boundaries of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters on Stecoah Creek in Graham County, allowing 1.8 miles on game land to default to Wild Trout Waters. The designated reach will be from the upper Nantahala Game Land boundary to Lake Fontana.

15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters

- F8) Modify the upper boundary of Delayed Harvest Trout Waters on Little River in Alleghany County, removing approximately 1.0 mile of Public Mountain Trout Waters. The designated reach will be from the S.R. 1133 bridge to 275 yards downstream of the intersection of S.R. 1128 and S.R. 1129.

15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters

- F9) Modify the boundaries of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters on Big Laurel Creek in Ashe County, removing approximately 7.0 miles of Public Mountain Trout Waters. The designated reach will be from the S.R. 1315 bridge to the confluence with the North Fork New River.

15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters

- F10) Modify the boundaries of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters on Beaver Creek in Ashe County, removing approximately 2.0 miles of Public Mountain Trout Waters. The designated reach will be from N.C. 221 to the South Fork New River.

15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters

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- F11) Modify the boundaries of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters on Old Fields Creek in Ashe County, removing approximately 2.0 miles of Public Mountain Trout Waters. The designated reach will be from N.C. 221 to the South Fork New River.

15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters

- F12) Modify the upper boundary of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters on Valley River in Cherokee County, removing 3.1 miles of Public Mountain Trout Waters and allowing 0.5 mile on Nantahala Game Land to default to Wild Trout Waters. The designated reach will be from S.R. 1359 to the U.S. 19 Business bridge in Murphy.

15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters

- F13) Modify the upper boundary of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters on Tusquitee Creek in Clay County, removing 3.2 miles of Public Mountain Trout Waters and allowing 0.7 mile on Nantahala Game Land to default to Wild Trout Waters. The designated reach will be from Compass Creek to the lower S.R. 1300 bridge.

15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters

- F14) Modify the upper boundary of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters on Tulula Creek in Graham County, removing 3.1 miles of Public Mountain Trout Waters and allowing 1.0 mile on Nantahala Game Land to default to Wild Trout Waters. The designated reach will be from S.R. 1201 to the lower bridge on S.R. 1275.

15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters

- F15) Modify the upper boundary of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters on Tuckasegee River in Jackson County, removing 1.0 mile of Public Mountain Trout Waters. The designated reach will be from John Brown Branch to the downstream N.C. 107 bridge.

15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters

- F16) Modify the boundaries of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters on Scott Creek in Jackson County, removing 3.5 miles of Public Mountain Trout Waters. The designated reach will be from Dark Ridge Creek to the Tuckasegee River.

15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters

- F17) Modify the boundaries of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters on Savannah Creek in Jackson County, removing 1.0 mile of Public Mountain Trout Waters and allowing 0.4 mile on Nantahala Game Land to default to Wild Trout Waters. The designated reach will be from downstream of S.R. 1300 bridge to Cagle Branch.

15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters

- F18) Modify the upper boundary of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters on Nantahala River in Macon County, removing 2.4 miles of Public Mountain Trout Waters. The designated reach will be from Dicks Creek to Whiteoak Creek.

15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters

- F19) Modify the boundaries of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters on Meadow Fork in Madison County, removing 3.0 miles of Public Mountain Trout Waters and allowing 0.2 mile on Pisgah Game Land to default to Wild Trout Waters. The designated reach will be from S.R. 1165 to Spring Creek.

15A NCAC 10C.0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters

- F20) Modify the boundaries of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters on Middle Fork French Broad River in Transylvania County, removing 1.0 mile of Public Mountain Trout Waters. The designated reach will be from the upstream U.S. 178 bridge to the French Broad River.

15A NCAC 10C.0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters

- F21) Modify the boundaries of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters on Meat Camp Creek in Watauga County, removing 1.9 miles of Public Mountain Trout Waters. The designated reach will be from the S.R. 1340 bridge at S.R. 1384 intersection to N.C. 194.

15A NCAC 10C.0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters

- F22) Modify the boundaries of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters on Stony Fork in Watauga County, removing 2.4 miles of Public Mountain Trout Waters. The designated reach will be from the S.R. 1500 bridge at S.R. 1505 intersection to the Wilkes County line.

15A NCAC 10C.0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters

- F23) Modify the upper boundary of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters on Broad River in Henderson County, removing 0.1 mile from Public Mountain Trout Waters. The designated reach will be from the end of S.R. 1611 to the Rutherford County line.

15A NCAC 10C.0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters

- F24) Modify the boundaries of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters on Laurel Creek in Watauga County, removing 3.5 miles of Public Mountain Trout Waters. The designated reach will be from the S.R. 1123 bridge at S.R. 1157 intersection to the Watauga River.

15A NCAC 10C.0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters

- F25) Remove a 0.8 mile section of the unnamed tributary of Three Top Creek on Three Top Mountain Game Land in Ashe County from Public Mountain Trout Waters.

15A NCAC 10C.0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters

- F26) Remove 2.5 miles of Jones Creek in Avery County from Public Mountain Trout Waters.

15A NCAC 10C.0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters

- F27) Allow night fishing in Wild Trout Waters (including Catch and Release/Artificial Flies Only Trout Waters, Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters, and Wild Trout/Natural Bait Waters) and Public Mountain Trout Waters on game lands.

15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters

15A NCAC 10D .0104 Fishing on Game Lands

- F28) Allow the harvest of trout in undesignated waters from March 1 until 7 a.m. on the first Saturday in April.

15A NCAC 10C .0316 Trout

- F29) Reformat the structure of 15A NCAC 10C .0316(e) Trout.

15A NCAC 10C .0316 Trout

- F30) Remove the 8-inch minimum size limit and the 20-fish daily creel limit for crappie on the South Yadkin River downstream of Coolee Dam, Yadkin River downstream from Idols Dam, High Rock Lake, and Tuckertown Lake.

15A NCAC 10C .0306 Crappie

- F31) Modify the general statewide regulation for Striped Bass and its hybrids by increasing the minimum size limit from 16 inches to 20 inches and reducing the daily creel limit from eight fish in aggregate allowing two fish to be retained less than 16 inches to four fish with no exception. Reservoirs affected include High Rock Lake, Tuckertown Lake, Badin Lake, Lake Tillery, Blewett Falls Reservoir, Hiwassee Reservoir, and W. Kerr Scott Reservoir.

15A NCAC 10C .0314 Striped Bass

- F32) Establish an exception to the general statewide regulation for Striped Bass and its hybrids in Arrowhead Lake (Anson Co.), High Rock Pond (Caswell Co.), Moss Lake, Mountain Island Reservoir, Oak Hollow Lake, Lake Thom-A-Lex, Lake Townsend, and Salem Lake by decreasing the daily creel limit from eight fish in aggregate allowing two fish to be retained less than 16 inches to four fish with no exception. The minimum size limit will remain 16 inches.

15A NCAC 10C .0314 Striped Bass

- F33) Clarify that American Eel less than nine inches cannot be taken or possessed, regardless of origin, while boating on or fishing in any inland fishing waters.

15A NCAC 10C .0401 Manner of Taking Nongame Fishes: Purchase and Sale

15A NCAC 10C .0402 Taking Nongame Fishes for Bait or Personal Consumption

- F34) Clarify the definitions of set-hooks, jug-hooks, and trotlines. A set-hook is a fishing device consisting of a single line having no more than three hooks that is attached at one end only to a stationary object. A jug-hook is a fishing device consisting of a single line having no more than three hooks that is attached at one end only to a float. A trotline is a fishing device consisting of a horizontal common line having multiple hooks attached. The proposed change will also clarify that set-hooks, jug-hooks, and trotlines without bait or not labeled properly may be removed from the water by wildlife enforcement officers.

15A NCAC 10C .0206 Trotlines, Jug Hooks, and Set Hooks

- F35) Add bow nets to the list of equipment that can be used to take nongame fish for bait or personal consumption in inland fishing waters with an inland fishing license.

15A NCAC 10C .0402 Taking Nongame Fishes for Bait or Personal Consumption

- F36) Clarify in 15A NCAC 10C .0407 that the Neuse River is not located in Granville County.

15A NCAC 10C .0407 Permitted Special Devices and Open Seasons

Exhibits C and D, Fishing Rules Adoption, are hereby incorporated into the official record.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Wildlife Management Update

Dr. David Cobb, *Wildlife Management Division Chief*, presented an update about the activities of the Division. Dr. Cobb announced that John Stanton presented the Wildlife Resources Commission with an award by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the Wood Duck Plan. Benjy Strope, *Corporate CURE Biologist*, received the Natural Resource Enhancement Award for his work with corporate CURE.

ADOPTION OF 2015-2016 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT RULE PROPOSALS

Dr. Cobb presented **Exhibit E**, a summary of public comments concerning the proposed changes to wildlife management regulations received from state-wide public hearings held in January 2015 and from the WRC internet portal and correspondence.

On a motion by John Litton Clark and second by Tom Berry, the Commission adopted changes in wildlife management regulations for 2015-2016 presented in **Exhibit F**, subject to approval by the Rules Review Commission and codification in the North Carolina Administrative Code. **Exhibits E and F** are hereby incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

- H1) Create a Youth Deer Hunting Day to coincide with National Hunting and Fishing Day, the fourth Saturday in September. On this day, youth under the age of 16 would be able to use all legal weapons to hunt deer of either-sex on both private lands and game lands. Except as otherwise required, youth do not need an accompanying adult. Adults can hunt with or without a youth on this day, but are restricted to the legal weapon for the open season in that area. All hunters would be required to wear blaze orange on this day.

15A NCAC 10B .0202 Deer (White-tailed)

- H2) Extend the gun deer season in Cleveland, Polk and Rutherford Counties until January 1. Currently this season closes on the 5th Saturday after Thanksgiving.

15A NCAC 10B .0203 Deer (White-tailed)

- H3) Clarify that bait legal for taking bears is a grain, fruit, nut, vegetable, or other material harvested from a plant crop that is not modified from its raw components. Also clarify that bears shall not be taken with the use or aid of any processed food product, extracts of processed food products, or any legal bait that has been modified by extracts or other substances.

15A NCAC 10B .0202 Bear

- H4) Eliminate the Gaddy Goose Refuge goose zone and season in Anson County and return this area to the Southern James Bay Hunt Zone for goose hunting.

15A NCAC 10B .0105 Migratory game birds

- H5) Allow the shooting of crippled waterfowl from a motorboat under power in those areas described, delineated, and designated as a special sea duck areas.

15A NCAC 10B .0105 Migratory game birds

- H6) Increase the number of days that the public has to tag bobcat, otters and foxes from up to 10 days after the close of the applicable season to up to 30 days. Establish a time frame of 23 days after the close of the season for the Commission to mail tags to sportsmen.

15A NCAC 10B .0404 Trappers and hunters

- H7) Allow hunters to use electronic calls to take feral swine.

15A NCAC 10B .0223 Feral swine

PROPERTY MATTERS

Phase I Land Acquisitions

On a motion by Joe Barker and second by Brian White the Commission approved requests presented by Isaac Harrold, *Lands Program Manager*, for agency staff to begin working with the State Property Office and funding partners to develop acquisition plans for the following properties presented in **Exhibits G-1, G-2, G-3, G-4**:

- Deviney 2014 Tract – Rutherford County
- DOT River Bend Tract – Caswell County
- Graves Addition Tract – Caswell County
- Shelton Tract – Buncombe County

Exhibits G-1, G-2, G-3, and G-4 are hereby incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

Easement Request, Rowan County – Upon a motion by David Hoyle, Jr. and second by Nat Harris, the Commission approved an easement request presented in **Exhibit H**, from the owner of property adjacent to Second Creek Game Land in Rowan County for purposes of providing access to the private property, with the following conditions:

- WRC bears no associated expense
- the easement serves no commercial purpose
- the easement becomes null and void if the subject property is ever subdivided
- the easement includes a damage liability clause and restrictions as necessary to prevent interference with operation, maintenance and/or public use of state property.

Exhibit H is hereby incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

ADOPTION OF GAME LAND MANAGEMENT RULES FOR 2015-2016

Summary of Public Comments Pertaining to Proposed Changes in Game Land Regulations-

Isaac Harrold presented a summary of public comments received from statewide district public hearings held in January 2015 and from the WRC internet and correspondence, pertaining to proposed changes to game land regulations. **(EXHIBIT I)**

2015-2016 Game Land Management Rules – On a motion by Joe Barker and second by John Coley, the Commission adopted proposed changes in game land management regulations presented in **Exhibit J**. Regulations adopted are subject to approval by the Rules Review Commission and codification in the NC Administrative Code. **Exhibits I and J** are hereby incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

- G1) Define target shooting as “the discharge of a firearm for purposes other than hunting, trapping or self-defense.”

Adopt amendments to the following rule:

15A NCAC 10D .0102 General regulations regarding use

- G2) Prohibit the use of dogs for taking deer on those portions of game lands posted as “Restricted Deer Hunting Zones,” except as may be otherwise authorized by permit.

Adopt amendments to the following rule:

15A NCAC 10D .0102 General regulations regarding use

- G3) Prohibit target shooting on the following game lands, with the exception of designated shooting ranges:

- Angola Bay Game Land (Duplin and Pender counties)
- Cape Fear River Game Land (New Hanover and Pender counties)
- R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell (Caswell County)
- Holly Shelter Game Land (Pender County)
- Nicholson Creek Game Land (Hoke County)
- Rockfish Creek Game Land (Hoke County)
- Sampson County Game Land (Sampson County)
- Sandhills Game Land (Hoke, Moore, Richmond and Scotland counties)
- Stones Creek Game Land (Onslow County)

Adopt amendments to the following rule:

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands

- G4) Prohibit target shooting on the following game lands:

- Buckridge Game Land (Tyrrell County)
- Buxton Woods Game Land (Dare County)

Adopt amendments to the following rule:

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands

- G5) Prohibit horseback riding on Harris Game Land (Chatham, Harnett and Wake counties).

Adopt amendments to the following rule:

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands

- G6) Modify the current rule pertaining to horseback riding on Jordan Game Land (Chatham, Durham, Orange and Wake counties) such that riders, other than youth under 16 years of age, are required to possess a Game Land License or other license which includes the game lands privilege to ride horses on posted equestrian trails that lie entirely within the game land boundary.

Adopt amendments to the following rule:

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands

- G7) Regulate the use of horses on Pee Dee River Game Land (Anson, Montgomery, Richmond, and Stanly counties) by allowing equestrian use the months of June, July, August and Sundays the remainder of the year, except during the open turkey and deer seasons, on roads which are open and maintained for vehicular traffic.

Adopt amendments to the following rule:

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands

- G8) Expand the opportunity for horseback riding on Pond Mountain Game Land in Ashe County, which is currently May 16 through August 31, to also include Sundays throughout the months of September and October.

Adopt amendments to the following rule:

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands

- G9) Amend rules regarding the use of horses on R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell Game Land (Caswell County) and Thurmond Chatham Game Land (Alleghany and Wilkes counties) to exempt youth under 16 years of age from the requirement to obtain a Game Land License or other license containing the game land privilege.

Adopt amendments to the following rule:

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands

- G10) Designate Lewis Millpond on Uwharrie Game Land in Montgomery County as a managed waterfowl impoundment and limit waterfowl hunting to three days per week, holidays and opening and closing days.

Adopt amendments to the following rule:

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands

- G11) Change the opening day of the Deer Archery Season from the Monday on or nearest September 10 to the Saturday on or nearest September 10 on Buffalo Cove Game Land (Caldwell and Wilkes counties) and South Mountains Game Land (Burke, Cleveland, McDowell and Rutherford counties).

Adopt amendments to the following rule:

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands

- G12) Clarify that only people using wildlife to train or run dogs need a hunting license.

Adopt amendments to the following rule:

15A NCAC 10B .0114 Dog training and field trials

- G13) Require only active participants in field trials to possess a hunting license (and game land license for field trials taking place on game lands). For commission-sanctioned field trials, the license may be from the participant's state of residence. For all other field trials, the license must be a N.C. hunting license. Define active field trial participant as a person who handles dogs or uses firearms at a field trial.

Adopt amendments to the following rules:

15A NCAC 10B .0114 Dog training and field trials

15A NCAC 10D .0102 General regulations regarding use

- G14) Clarify that only judges of commission-sanctioned field trials are exempted from the requirement to possess a hunting license, that judges of other types of field trials must have a N.C. hunting license.

Adopt amendments to the following rules:

15A NCAC 10B .0114 Dog training and field trials

15A NCAC 10D .0102 General regulations regarding use

WATER SAFETY RULEMAKING

Adoption of Permanent Rulemaking – No Wake Zone, Currituck County – On a motion by Joe Barker and second by Nat Harris, the Commission adopted a no wake zone requested by Currituck County at the Waterview Shores Subdivision in Grandy, presented in **Exhibit K**. **Exhibit K** is hereby incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

Public Hearing Comments on Temporary Rulemaking for No Wake Zones, Lake Wylie – Erica Garner, *Rulemaking Coordinator*, presented in **Exhibit L-1** comments from a public hearing held February 19, 2015 in Charlotte, concerning proposed temporary rulemaking requested by the Lake Wylie Marine Commission for no wake zones on Lake Wylie in Gaston and Mecklenburg counties. Joe Stowe, *Executive Director of the Lake Wylie Marine Commission*, addressed the Commission and stated that extreme congestion around Sadler Island resulted in this request to mitigate hazards to boater safety.

Adoption of Temporary Rulemaking for Lake Wylie – On a motion by David Hoyle, Jr. and second by Garry Spence, the Commission adopted temporary rulemaking for no wake zones around Sadler Island on Lake Wylie in Gaston and Mecklenburg counties, presented in **Exhibit L-2**. **Exhibit L-2** is hereby incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

Fiscal Note – Proposed Permanent Rulemaking for No Wake Zones on Lake Wylie – David Hoyle, Jr. made a motion to adopt in **Exhibit – M-1** the fiscal note required for permanent rulemaking for no wake zones on Lake Wylie. The motion was seconded by Joe Barker and carried. The Lake Wylie Marine Commission is responsible for marking and maintaining the no wake zones after adoption. **Exhibit M-1** is hereby incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

Approval of Notice of Text for Permanent Rulemaking for No Wake Zones on Lake Wylie – On a motion by Garry Spence and second by David Hoyle, Jr., the Commission approved **Exhibit M-2** for publication of Notice of Text in the *N.C. Register* with a public hearing and open comment period for two permanent no wake zones requested by the Lake Wylie Marine Commission, as required by the Administrative Procedure Act. **Exhibit M-2** is hereby incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

COMMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN

Chairman Jim Cogdell thanked Commissioners for their hours of dedication and attendance at state-wide public hearings preceding today's vote on rules proposals. He reminded the assembly that the next meeting of the Wildlife Resources Commission will be on May 21, 2015. He asked the Commissioners to understand and adhere to the meeting attendance requirements of Wildlife Resources Commissioners.

COMMENTS BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Executive Director Gordon Myers thanked agency and partners for their many hours of work on the management of captive cervids. He stated that the Governor's budget will be presented today and that the agency has worked with the Governor's Office toward a targeted 2 percent reduction. He reminded Commissioners that there will be a meeting with legislators on Monday, March 9 to discuss possible legislative changes to preserve outdoor heritage in North Carolina. Discussion will include removal of barriers to the enjoyment of the outdoors, reduction of liability for landowners to provide access, and schedules and notification about prescribed burns, among other topics.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Jim Cogdell at 10:40 am.

All exhibits are incorporated into the official record of this meeting by reference and are filed with the minutes.

Jim Cogdell, Chairman

Date

Gordon Myers, Executive Director

Date

May 21, 2015



**MINUTES
TELEPHONIC MEETING
N.C. WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION
March 18, 2015 9:00 am
Commission Room 5th Floor
1751 Varsity Drive
Raleigh, NC 27606**

CALL TO ORDER –*Chairman* Jim Cogdell called the telephonic meeting of the Wildlife Resources Commission to order at 9:00 am. A speaker phone was available for visitors to hear the proceedings.

ROLL CALL – Betsy Haywood, *Executive Officer*, called the roll and announced staff and visitors present in the room. Commissioner John Coley was present in person. Commissioners Brian White, John Litton Clark, Michell Hicks, Richard Edwards, Joe Budd, and Ray Clifton were absent.

COMMISSION ATTENDANCE

Jim Cogdell	Nat Harris
Tom Berry	Joe Barker
Wes Seegars	Neal Hanks
Mark Craig	Tommy Fonville
David Hoyle, Jr.	Garry Spence
Tim Spear	John Coley

STAFF ATTENDANCE

Gordon Myers	Mallory Martin
Betsy Haywood	Erica Garner
Chris Huebner	Isaac Harrold
Geoff Cantrell	Carolina Medina
Kate Pipkin	

VISITOR ATTENDANCE

Dick Hamilton – NC Wildlife Federation

ELECTRONIC MEETINGS – Jim Cogdell, *Chairman*, read the statute pertaining to an electronic meeting of a public body:

North Carolina General Statute 143-318.13 mandates that if a public body holds an official meeting by use of conference telephone or other electronic means, it shall provide a location and means whereby members of the public may listen to the meeting and the notice of the meeting required by this Article shall specify that location. A public body may not vote by secret or written ballot. The members of a public body shall not deliberate, vote, or otherwise take action upon any matter by reference to a letter, number or other designation, or other secret device or method, with the intention of making it impossible for persons attending a meeting of the public body to understand what is being deliberated, voted, or acted upon.

MANDATORY ETHICS INQUIRY

Chairman Cogdell read the mandatory ethics inquiry:

North Carolina General Statute 138A-15(e) mandates that the Commission Chair shall remind all Commissioners of their duty to avoid conflicts of interest and appearances of conflict under this Chapter, and that the chair also inquire as to whether there is any known conflict of interest or appearance of conflict with respect to any matters coming before the Commission at this time. It is the duty of each Commissioner who is aware of such personal conflict of interest or of an appearance of a conflict, to notify the Chair of the same.

TEMPORARY RULEMAKING

Temporary Rulemaking for No Wake Zones on Lake Wylie

Erica Garner, *Rulemaking Coordinator*, informed the Commissioners that they received comments and adopted the temporary rule for no wake zones on Lake Wylie at the March 5, 2015 meeting. However, a technical correction by the Office of Administrative Hearings concerning the length of the open comment period requires that the Commission again consider this temporary rule for a vote.

Garner presented **Exhibit A-1**, a summary of comments and correspondence from a public hearing to consider temporary rulemaking for no wake zones on Lake Wylie in Gaston and Mecklenburg counties. On a motion by John Coley and second by Tom Berry, the Commission adopted **Exhibit A-2**, temporary rulemaking for two no wake zones at Sadler Island on Lake Wylie.

Exhibits A-1 and A-2, Temporary Rulemaking for Lake Wylie, are hereby incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

PERMANENT RULEMAKING

Permanent Rulemaking for Taking Coyotes by Hunting and Depredation Permit in Five Counties, and for Designating the Red Wolf as a State-Listed Threatened Species

Erica Garner presented **Exhibit B-1**, a summary of public comments and correspondence concerning permanent rulemaking for taking coyotes by hunting and depredation permit in Washington, Hyde, Beaufort, Dare, and Tyrrell counties; and for designating the red wolf as a state-listed threatened species. These permanent rules are necessary to fulfill requirements of a court order, 2:13-cv-00060-BO, and will replace temporary rules adopted by the Wildlife Resources Commission on January 29, 2015.

Prior to consideration of the permanent rules presented in **Exhibit B-2** Executive Director Gordon Myers addressed the Commission. Myers stated that he met in Nebraska with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and Assistant Secretary of the Interior to discuss the red wolf program. The Assistant Secretary of the Interior and USFWS have agreed to not release any more wolves onto the landscape. On a motion by Joe Barker and second by Nat Harris, the Commission adopted the permanent rules. **Exhibit B-2** is hereby incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Executive Director Gordon Myers provided a legislative update.

Executive Director Gordon Myers reported that Representative Jimmy Dixon invited twenty-six stakeholder groups including the Christian Action League, fox hunters, the WRC and others to a meeting to gather information about preserving and enhancing outdoor heritage for the future. Representative Dixon has asked for suggestions for three or four ideas for legislation. Myers stated that the WRC will suggest seven-day hunting, reduction of liability for private landowners to open property to the public, and establishment of an Outdoor Heritage Advisory Council to advocate for future legislation.

Myers reported that there has been no action on the budget.

Myers stated that the agency has been working for several weeks with the NC Department of Agriculture about a possible bill to transfer management of farmed cervids to Agriculture. Both agencies have agreed that if transferred, WRC will retain inspection authority. Myers stated that high fence hunting will be prohibited.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Cogdell adjourned the telephonic meeting at 9:30 am.

Minutes
Telephonic meeting of the NCWRC
March 18, 2015

All exhibits are incorporated into the official record of this meeting by reference and are filed with the minutes.

Jim Cogdell, Chairman

Date

Gordon Myers, Executive Director

Date

EXHIBIT C

May 21, 2015



MINUTES
TELEPHONIC MEETING
N.C. WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION
April 21, 2015 9:00 am
Commission Room 5th Floor
1751 Varsity Drive
Raleigh, NC 27606

Chairman Jim Cogdell called the telephonic meeting of the Wildlife Resources Commission to order at 9:00 am. A speaker phone was available for visitors to hear the proceedings. No visitors were present in the room.

ROLL CALL – Betsy Haywood, *Executive Officer*, called the roll. Commissioners John Coley and Tommy Fonville were present in person. Commissioners David Hoyle, Jr., Garry Spence, and Michell Hicks were absent.

COMMISSION ATTENDANCE

Jim Cogdell	Brian White
Joe Barker	Wes Seegars
John Litton Clark	Nat Harris
Joe Budd	Neal Hanks
Ray Clifton	Mark Craig
Richard Edwards	John Coley
Tommy Fonville	Tom Berry
Tim Spear	

STAFF ATTENDANCE

Gordon Myers	Mallory Martin
Betsy Haywood	Erica Garner
Bob Curry	David Cobb
Lisa Hocutt	Ashton Godwin
Kris Smith	

ELECTRONIC MEETINGS – Betsy Haywood read the statute pertaining to an electronic meeting of a public body:

North Carolina General Statute 143-318.13 mandates that if a public body holds an official meeting by use of conference telephone or other electronic means, it shall provide a location and means whereby members of the public may listen to the meeting and the notice of the meeting required by this Article shall specify that location. A public body may not vote by secret or written ballot. The members of a public body shall not deliberate, vote, or otherwise take action upon any matter by reference to a letter, number or other designation, or other secret device or method, with the intention of making it impossible for persons attending a meeting of the public body to understand what is being deliberated, voted, or acted upon.

MANDATORY ETHICS INQUIRY

Betsy Haywood read the mandatory ethics inquiry:

North Carolina General Statute 138A-15(e) mandates that the Commission Chair shall remind all Commissioners of their duty to avoid conflicts of interest and appearances of conflict under this Chapter, and that the chair also inquire as to whether there is any known conflict of interest or appearance of conflict with respect to any matters coming before the Commission at this time. It is the duty of each Commissioner who is aware of such personal conflict of interest or of an appearance of a conflict, to notify the Chair of the same.

RESOLUTION

Gordon Myers, *Executive Director*, introduced a Resolution supporting the Outdoor Heritage Act (House Bill 640) of the 2015 Session of the North Carolina General Assembly. Myers stated that the Resolution is an affirmation of WRC support of proposed legislation sponsored by Representative Jimmy Dixon for preserving and enhancing outdoor heritage for the future. The Outdoor Heritage Act aligns with the agency's Strategic Plan for investments in recruitment and retention of youth and adults for enjoyment of the outdoors, providing access to lands and waterways, and expanding opportunities for people to enjoy outdoor sports and recreation.

Myers stated that a significant part of HB640 is to allow hunting on Sunday on private lands. Additional opportunities for hunting would be open to youth and to adults who work on week days. He stated that this legislation would prohibit hunting deer with hounds on private land on Sunday. Myers discussed the compensatory days for waterfowl hunting currently provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service due to prohibition on Sunday hunting in North Carolina. The USFWS position now is that hunting any migratory bird, not just waterfowl, will cause a loss of compensatory days. Myers will meet with the Assistant Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Washington, D.C. next week. If the USFWS remains unwilling to allow compensatory days the bill sponsor will change the statute to include a prohibition against hunting any migratory birds on Sunday on private lands.

Commissioner Tim Spear stated that twenty-five counties oppose the Sunday hunting portion of HB 640, including the northeastern counties of the state. Spear believes that the Resolution should place greater emphasis on other important components of HB640 instead of focusing on Sunday hunting on private lands. Myers stated that he recognizes the controversy surrounding Sunday hunting and appreciates Commissioner Spear's comments.

Commissioner Neal Hanks stated that constituents have asked why hunting on Sunday on public land is not under consideration. Hanks said that there are more hunting opportunities on public lands in the mountains. Vice Chairman John Clark replied that allowing hunting on Sunday on private lands is an issue of private property rights.

On a motion by Tom Berry and second by Joe Barker, the Resolution was adopted. Commissioner Tim Spear voted no.

The Resolution is hereby incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Executive Director Gordon Myers provided a legislative update. He stated that Senate Bill 647, a trapping bill, will be considered on April 22. Myers stated that several years ago the use of Conibear traps was controversial. SB 647 prohibits certain uses of body-gripping traps. He will continue to work with the Legislature regarding this bill.

Myers told the Commission about House Bill 736, North Carolina American Indian Hunting and Fishing Rights. The bill would allow any federally recognized American Indian to hunt and fish without purchasing a North Carolina license. The economic impact has been estimated to be at least \$170,000.00 in lost license sales and fewer federal funds allocated.

Myers reported about the Regulatory Reform Act of 2015, a provision of which would limit Wildlife Enforcement Officers' authority while making inspections. Under this Act an officer would not be allowed to inspect equipment used in hunting or fishing without reasonable suspicion of a crime. Myers stated that this restriction would be detrimental to the WRC mission for protection and safety of the resources and license holders.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Cogdell adjourned the telephonic meeting at 9:35 am.

Jim Cogdell, Chairman

Date

Gordon Myers, Executive Director

Date

NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION

EXHIBIT D

Summary and Analysis of Agency Operating Cash Balance - Code 14350, 24350, 24351 and 24352

May 21, 2015

	Mar-14		
Cash Balance July 1		\$ 21,922,571.86	
	2013-2014		
Appropriations	Authorized Budget	Actual	% of Budget
Appropriations	\$ 12,588,531.00	\$ 9,469,378.00	75.22%
Total	\$ 12,588,531.00	\$ 9,469,378.00	75.22%
Receipts			
License Receipts	\$ 18,712,126.00	\$ 12,439,716.75	
Vessel Receipts	10,010,315.00	4,293,420.00	
Federal Funds	21,582,285.00	16,790,427.92	
Publications	345,437.00	348,020.51	
Professional Services	6,354,105.00	4,769,585.84	
Agency Reimbursements	3,932,934.00	3,082,623.88	
Other Receipts	1,156,671.00	1,363,441.35	
Total	\$ 62,093,873.00	\$ 43,087,236.25	69.39%
Expenditures			
2100 Administration	\$ 7,936,843.00	\$ 5,802,216.05	
2120 Enforcement	20,235,441.00	15,801,375.97	
2130 Education	4,018,825.00	2,414,091.75	
2140 Inland Fisheries	9,620,622.00	5,821,790.36	
2150 Management	9,005,311.00	6,148,964.85	
2160 Engineering Services	18,603,442.00	14,774,945.48	
2170 W/Life Fund Receipts	8,925,557.00	6,128,198.84	
Total	\$ 78,346,041.00	\$ 56,891,583.30	72.62%
Cash Balance March 31		\$ 17,587,602.81	

	Mar-15		
Cash Balance July 1		\$ 17,507,785.09	
	2014-2015		
Appropriations	Authorized Budget	Actual	% of Budget
Appropriations	\$ 11,332,557.00	\$ 8,476,781.00	74.80%
Total	\$ 11,332,557.00	\$ 8,476,781.00	74.80%
Receipts			
License Receipts	\$ 19,018,349.00	\$ 14,665,430.40	
Vessel Receipts	11,296,581.00	5,682,320.00	
Federal Funds	27,913,331.00	19,022,132.73	
Publications	345,432.00	348,019.61	
Professional Services	8,571,485.00	7,105,793.50	
Agency Reimbursements	3,936,010.00	3,135,977.92	
Other Receipts	661,664.00	781,555.79	
Total	\$ 71,742,852.00	\$ 50,741,229.95	70.73%
Expenditures			
2100 Administration	\$ 8,023,098.00	\$ 5,780,769.40	
2120 Enforcement	21,820,488.00	15,232,054.06	
2130 Education	3,837,363.00	2,485,729.42	
2140 Inland Fisheries	9,826,054.00	6,684,129.36	
2150 Management	10,602,571.00	6,138,645.91	
2160 Engineering Services	25,966,089.00	20,687,726.64	
2170 W/Life Fund Receipts	9,752,135.00	5,146,274.50	
Total	\$ 89,827,798.00	\$ 62,155,329.29	69.19%
Cash Balance March 31		\$ 14,570,466.75	

NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION

ENDOWMENT FUND YEAR-TO-DATE

	<u>Mar-14</u>	<u>Mar-15</u>
Balance March 1	\$ 101,661,738.01	\$ 112,094,620.96
Plus: Revenues from Sales	203,140.00	216,097.71
Return on Investment	451,430.15	375,747.59
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	102,316,308.16	112,686,466.26
Less: Transfers Out	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-	-
Balance March 31	<u>\$ 102,316,308.16</u>	<u>\$ 112,686,466.26</u>
Market Value	\$ 105,503,827.47	\$ 116,282,144.82

Endowment Fund Interest

<u>Sources of Interest Available</u>	<u>Expendable</u>	<u>Non Expendable</u>	<u>Transferred to Operations</u>	<u>Transferred to Capital Projects</u>
ADULT Licenses	\$ 19,646,691.67	\$ -	\$ 184,668.32	\$ 650,000.00
INFANT Licenses	-	9,707,523.11		
YOUTH Licenses	-	787,597.42		
Magazine Subscriptions	266,112.99	-		
Contributions - General	771,978.62	-		
Contributions - Diversity	767.53			
TOTAL	<u>\$ 20,685,550.81</u>	<u>\$ 10,495,120.53</u>	<u>\$ 184,668.32</u>	<u>\$ 650,000.00</u>

2014-15 Budgeted Obligated

Allocation of Endowment Interest - Sportsman Fund	4,718,554.87
Allocation of Endowment Interest - Magazine Fund	184,668.32
	<hr/>
	<u>\$ 4,903,223.19</u>

2014-15 Transferred To Date

To Sportsman Fund	-
To Magazine Fund	184,668.32
To Capital Projects	650,000.00
	<hr/>
	<u>\$ 834,668.32</u>



EXHIBIT E

May 21, 2015

CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE RESPONSE PLAN



Division of Wildlife Management

Revised 2015

Submit Comments to: Dr. Maria Palamar, NCWRC Wildlife Veterinarian, maria.palamar@ncwildlife.org

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ACRONYMS

APHIS	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
CWD	Chronic Wasting Disease
DENR	Department of Environment and Natural Resources
GIS	Geographic Information System
G.S.	General Statute
NCAC	North Carolina Administrative Code
NCDA&CS	North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
NCWRC	North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
PSA	Primary CWD Surveillance Area
SCWDS	Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study
SEAFWA	Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
SSA	Secondary CWD Surveillance Area
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture

INTRODUCTION

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a contagious neurological disease specific to species within the deer (Cervidae) family, including white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), Rocky Mountain elk (*Cervus elaphus*), and others. The disease is a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy and is characterized by spongy degeneration of brain tissue resulting in emaciation, abnormal behavior, loss of bodily functions, and ultimately death. CWD was first observed in the 1960s at a research facility in Colorado. While CWD poses a serious threat to cervid populations, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization have indicated there is no evidence CWD can be transmitted to humans or is linked to any neurological diseases of humans.

Purpose of North Carolina CWD Response Plan

The North Carolina Wildlife Resources commission has created a CWD Response Plan to identify and guide initial short-term (~ 12 months) efforts if CWD is detected in elk or deer in North Carolina or within 30 miles of its borders in any of its adjacent states. The plan outlines a general strategy for collecting prevalence and distribution information after the initial (index) case has been reported and it is a dynamic document that can be adapted to different epidemiologic scenarios.

CWD would have significant biologic, economic, and sociologic ramifications if discovered in N.C. CWD has not been detected in North Carolina. Discovery of CWD in Wisconsin prompted the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) to develop a preventative disease management strategy in May 2002. Revisions to administrative rules pertaining to captive

cervids were implemented, including testing, tagging, and inspection requirements as well limiting the importation of hunter killed cervids from CWD positive states to caped out and boned or quartered carcasses. A short-term buyout program was established to provide monetary compensation to licensees voluntarily relinquishing their cervid herds and captivity licenses to the NCWRC. Additional actions included increased efforts to minimize the occurrence of illegally-held cervids. Monitoring and surveillance for CWD were expanded for free-ranging white-tailed deer, including statewide systematic sampling of hunter- and vehicle-killed deer and sampling in the vicinity of captive cervid facilities known to have imported cervids into North Carolina. CWD surveillance and management actions for both captive and free-ranging cervids were initiated in 1999 and continue. Information has and continues to be disseminated to increase public awareness of CWD and disease management actions implemented by the NCWRC.

All management actions implemented by the NCWRC have been designed to prevent introduction or spread of CWD into North Carolina, or to increase the likelihood of disease detection should it already occur. Previous management actions related to CWD and the development of this plan were conducted in cooperation with the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (NCDA&CS) and the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (SCWDS). SCWDS has also provided technical guidance relative to surveillance schemes and disease management actions. Annual surveillance will continue to include testing of all cervids exhibiting clinical symptoms characteristic of CWD. Herein, we outline the immediate and long-term responses the NCWRC will implement should CWD be detected

within or proximate to North Carolina. In the event of a positive diagnosis, the initial objective will be to identify the baseline prevalence and distribution of the disease.

To ensure maximum effectiveness of the NCWRC's response to a positive diagnosis of CWD, the CWD Response Plan is subject to revision as new information concerning CWD and appropriate disease management strategies become available. Any changes to the CWD Response Plan will be available on the NCWRC website (www.ncwildlife.org).

Goals and Objectives

Goal: Minimize occurrence and spatial distribution of CWD within North Carolina's free-ranging and captive cervid populations.

Objectives:

1. Implementation of a sampling strategy that will inform the NCWRC on the prevalence and spatial distribution of CWD in North Carolina.
2. Development of a CWD management plan to guide disease management activities in the area/s where the disease is found to be endemic.

GENERAL RESPONSE IF AN UNCONFIRMED POSITIVE IS DETECTED WITHIN NORTH CAROLINA OR WITHIN 30 MILES OF ITS BORDERS IN AN ADJACENT STATE

Upon notification of a CWD-positive sample from a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)-approved laboratory using immunohistochemistry testing, the NCWRC will immediately advise all agency personnel, the Governor's Office, North Carolina Department of Environment and

Natural Resources (DENR), NCDA&CS, USDA Wildlife Services, SCWDS, and all member states of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) that a preliminary positive case of CWD has been found and that confirmation is being sought from a second, independent USDA-approved laboratory.

The following actions will immediately occur:

- Suspected positive samples will be sent to a second USDA-approved laboratory for confirmatory testing.
- The Chief of the Division of Wildlife Management will establish a Field Response Team and a Logistical Response Team. The Field Response Team will consist of the regional Private Lands Program Supervisor, District Wildlife Biologist, regional Engineering and Lands Management Supervisor, Deer Biologist, Wildlife Veterinarian, Permits Biologist, district Wildlife Enforcement Captain, and/or other individuals as deemed necessary to coordinate and conduct field response activities. The regional Private Lands Program Supervisor will serve as the Field Response Team Leader. The Logistical Response Team will include individuals in or near the NCWRC's headquarters in Raleigh and will consist of the Division Chief, Wildlife Veterinarian, Surveys and Research and Wildlife Diversity programs Supervisor, Administration and Planning Section Manager, Public Information Officer and/or other agency spokesperson to serve as media contact, Information Technology representative, Division of Law Enforcement representative, Raleigh Office administrative assistant, and/or other individuals from the NCWRC or other agencies as determined necessary to provide support for the Field Response Team. The Division Chief will serve as the Logistical Response Team Leader.

- The Field Response Team will determine the location of the unconfirmed CWD-positive sample (index sample) and will forward that information to all DWM senior staff. A map utilizing land ownership patterns, roads, waterways, and/or other land features to best delineate an approximate 5-mile (8-km) radius circle around the index sample will be prepared. Agency staff also will prepare maps indicating the cervid density distribution, captive cervid facility locations, previous CWD sample locations, and land parcel ownership information within the approximate 5-mile (8-km) radius circle around the index location called the Primary CWD Surveillance Area (PSA). A secondary 30-mile radius area will also be delineated surrounding the index location, and the 5- to 30-mile radius area will be called the Secondary CWD Surveillance Area (SSA). The PSA is calculated based on the estimated average dispersal distance for yearling males in North Carolina, and the SSA is based on the estimated maximum dispersal distance for yearling males in North Carolina.
- The Field Response Team Leader will determine the best location for a CWD operations facility, preferably a currently existing NCWRC facility. The Field Response Team and/or a local Division of Engineering and Lands Management crew will begin making necessary modifications to the facility that will enhance its function as an operations facility. Such modifications may include the establishment of an area for storing supplies and processing samples as well as an area to properly dispose of animal tissue.
- The Field Response Team Leader will appoint a data coordinator responsible for managing all data and samples that are collected. The CWD Data Coordinator, Deer Biologist, Wildlife Veterinarian, and a NCWRC Information Technology representative will collaborate to develop a data collection and management system. The data management system will

include an online component that allows hunters to check the testing status of harvested deer. The Wildlife Veterinarian will be responsible for ensuring that appropriate tissue samples are collected, datasheets are properly completed, all data are entered into an electronic database, and all samples are submitted for testing in a timely manner.

- The Field Response Team will finalize a list of all supplies and materials needed to conduct field activities and collect appropriate CWD samples from a minimum of 1,500 animals (estimated to be 50% of the deer population in a PSA with average statewide deer density). The supply list will be forwarded to the Deer Biologist and the Logistical Response Team, and a source for all items will be identified.
- The Logistical Response Team will establish a list of appropriate media contacts, draft a press release, develop an information section for the NCWRC website, identify stakeholders, and begin preparations for a public information meeting. Staff will be informed immediately of the positive test result, and informed to refer media/public questions to Public Information Officer.
- The Logistical Response Team will prepare a contact list with names and addresses of private landowners, captive cervid facility operators, and fawn rehabilitators adjacent to the index location.
- The Logistical Response Team will review and report on General Statutes, Session Laws, and other local laws that may affect the ability to discharge firearms for the purpose of collecting animals for CWD testing and/or the ability for lawful hunting to occur in the PSA and SSA.
- The Logistical Response Team will coordinate with a landfill close to the index location and the North Carolina Department of Waste Management to secure access to a disposal location

for carcasses, tissues, and other contaminated materials. If a cooperating landfill cannot be located in a location convenient for the Field Response Team, the Logistical Response Team will determine other appropriate means for disposal of materials associated with CWD sampling activities.

- The Logistical Response Team will identify options for carcass processing and disposal of carcass parts for hunter-killed deer harvested within the PSA and SSA.
- The Logistical Response Team will coordinate with North Carolina Department of Transportation to obtain permission to post notification signs along roadways entering the area delineated by the PSA and SSA.
- The Logistical Response Team will coordinate with appropriate USDA representatives and keep them apprised of all actions taken.

In the event the positive diagnosis is not confirmed, all previously-mentioned entities will be notified and a press release will be prepared and distributed. No further actions will be taken.

**GENERAL RESPONSE IN THE EVENT A CWD-POSITIVE DIAGNOSIS IS
CONFIRMED BY A SECOND, INDEPENDENT, USDA-APPROVED LABORATORY**

- The NCWRC will immediately advise all agency personnel, the Governor's Office, DENR, NCDA&CS, USDA-Wildlife Services, SCWDS, and all member states of the SEAFWA that the positive case of CWD has been confirmed.
- The public will be informed of the confirmed positive CWD case in North Carolina, by the following means:

- Within 8 hours of a confirmed case of CWD in North Carolina, the Logistical Response Team will identify a staff member to finalize the drafted press release and coordinate information distribution, most likely the Wildlife Management Public Information Officer. The CWD information section will also be placed on the NCWRC website.
- Within 48 hours of confirmation of a case of CWD in North Carolina, the media will be advised, via press release, of the case. The press release will identify a spokesperson for media interviews and questions. The press release will be distributed on www.ncwildlife.org, via e-mail, via e-mail newsletters and posted on social media outlets.
- Within 48 hours, a public information meeting will be set, organized by the Logistical Response Team. Details of the public meeting will be shared via a second press release and social media outlets.
- The Wildlife Veterinarian and the Logistical Response Team will immediately procure the items requested by the Field Response Team and have them delivered to the CWD Operations Facility.
- The Wildlife Veterinarian and Deer Biologist will determine necessary sample collection sizes for the PSA and SSA based on estimated regional deer abundances.

- The Logistical Response Team will contact PSA landowners and stakeholders and conduct a public information meeting within or near the PSA within 15 days of receiving confirmation of the positive test.
- The Logistical Response Team will send notification via mail to all captive cervid facility operators and fawn rehabilitators alerting them to the change in North Carolina's CWD status and the disease management actions our agency will be implementing.

FIELD RESPONSE IF CWD IS CONFIRMED IN A FREE-RANGING CERVID

Objectives:

1. Obtain tissue samples from 50% of the deer present in the PSA to determine CWD prevalence and distribution and to minimize disease transmission risk. Samples will be obtained through passive and active surveillance methods.
 2. Obtain a sufficient number of samples to detect at least 1 positive animal at 95% C.L when assuming a minimum of 100 positive animals within the SSA. This objective is designed to determine, as feasibly as possible, if CWD occurs outside of the PSA.
 3. Develop CWD Monitoring and Management Plans and long-term goals after initial response efforts have identified disease prevalence and distribution within the PSA.
- Wildlife Enforcement Officers will immediately begin securing access to private and public lands within the PSA.

- The Field Response Team Leader will secure additional tissue sampling sources such as voluntary hunter submissions, hunt clubs, deer processors, taxidermists, depredation permits and other miscellaneous sources within both the PSA and SSA.
- If permission is granted by the North Carolina Department of Transportation, notification signs will be posted along roadways entering the PSA.
- The Field Response Team Leader and the Permits Coordinator will coordinate the immediate inspection of all captive cervid facilities within the PSA. The inspection will include a herd inventory, evaluation of the perimeter fence, and a visual evaluation of all captive animals to ensure no individuals are exhibiting symptoms characteristic of CWD.
- If confirmation of a positive occurs outside of the muzzleloader/gun deer season, an appropriate number of sampling teams consisting of a driver, spotters, shooters and carcass/data collection personnel will be assembled within 2 weeks to begin the collection of animals for CWD testing. At least one individual of each sampling team should be qualified as a shooter according to NCWRC guidelines. Sampling teams will begin operation after the public information meeting is held and will continue until the next muzzleloader deer season opens in the PSA. Sampling teams will not continue collecting animals for CWD evaluation during the muzzleloader and firearm deer seasons unless it is determined the PSA cannot be effectively hunted by licensed hunters, as determined by land ownership and use characteristics, local law restrictions, or other factors within the PSA and SSA.
- Sampling teams will not be activated if confirmation of a positive CWD diagnosis coincides with the muzzleloader/gun deer season unless, as mentioned above, it is determined the PSA cannot be effectively hunted by licensed hunters. Contacts will also be made with various enforcement agencies (state, county, local), North Carolina Department of Transportation,

and other cooperating entities to establish a network of individuals to report vehicle-killed deer for testing.

- A mandatory hunter check station will be established by the Executive Director near the center of the PSA, and multiple mandatory hunter check stations will be established within the SSA, during the muzzleloader/gun deer season following or coinciding with the confirmation of a positive CWD diagnosis. The mandatory hunter check stations will be operated during a minimum of one full muzzleloader/gun deer season, plus the remaining partial season in the event confirmation of the index sample diagnosis coincides with an ongoing muzzleloader/gun deer season. The Field Response Team Leader will assign NCWRC permanent, contract, or temporary employees to operate the check stations. All hunters checking a deer will receive a harvest authorization number, and each deer will be affixed with a numbered identification tag. The initial objective within the PSA will be to sample all deer that are harvested throughout the duration of one full muzzleloader/gun deer season, including any partial season from the previous year if CWD was confirmed while that season was ongoing. The initial objective within the SSA will be to sample enough deer to meet the established sampling objective. Check stations within the SSA will be closed if/when the sampling objective is achieved. Samples collected by the sampling teams or at the mandatory check station will be processed and forwarded weekly to the Wildlife Veterinarian. The Wildlife Veterinarian will ensure all data are entered into an electronic database and forward the samples to a USDA-approved laboratory for CWD evaluation. Testing results will be available to hunters through the NCWRC website or by calling a dedicated telephone number.

If additional cervids are found to be CWD-positive, the PSA and SSA will be enlarged to accommodate the new positives and the sampling strategy will be adapted to the increased size of the surveillance areas. If a CWD positive occurs outside the primary and secondary areas, it will be treated as a new outbreak and the response plan will be initiated for that outbreak.

- Hunters harvesting deer outside of the established PSA and SSA, and hunters harvesting deer during archery season or after closure of mandatory check stations, can transport a harvested deer carcass or head to any NCWRC depot or other designated testing site for CWD testing. The location of NCWRC depots and other testing sites will be listed on the NCWRC website (www.ncwildlife.org) in the event the CWD Response Plan is implemented.

FIELD RESPONSE IF CWD IS CONFIRMED IN A CAPTIVE CERVID

The following response actions will be implemented if CWD is detected in a captive cervid facility within North Carolina, or if a captive cervid facility within North Carolina has within the past 5 years transferred cervids to or received cervids from an out-of-state captive facility in which CWD has been detected.

- A meeting will immediately be held with representatives of the NCDA&CS and the Logistical Response Team, including the State Veterinarian, to coordinate all actions that will affect captive cervid facilities.
- The CWD-positive captive cervid facility may be quarantined immediately by NCDA&CS, and all cervids may be euthanized and tested for CWD. At the discretion of the USDA and

contingent upon the availability of USDA funding, the captivity licensee may receive indemnity for all cervids removed. No state funds will be used to indemnify captivity licensees.

- Traces of cervids moved to and from the CWD-positive facility will be conducted to include a time span of at least 5 years. Captive facilities within North Carolina that transferred cervids to or received cervids from the index facility may be quarantined, inspected, and when deemed necessary by the State Veterinarian and NCWRC Executive Director, depopulated. At the discretion of the USDA and contingent upon the availability of USDA funding, the captivity licensee for any depopulated facilities may receive indemnity for all cervids removed. The indemnity cost will be based on the average market value for the species held in captivity, or based on value as determined by the USDA. No state funds will be used to indemnify captivity licensees.
- The owner of a captive cervid facility in which an animal tests positive for CWD will be required to develop a NCDA&CS- and NCWRC-approved facility management plan to minimize the potential for free-ranging cervids to come in contact with infectious materials and locations that may exist within the facility after depopulation. The facility management plan shall include provisions for disinfecting the facility and maintaining the perimeter fence.
- Field response activities for free-ranging cervids in the area of a CWD-positive captive cervid facility will occur just as if the captive facility represented a confirmed positive diagnosis in a free-ranging cervid. A PSA and SSA will be established and all of the field response activities described previously for free-ranging cervids will be implemented.

- If CWD is confirmed in a free-ranging cervid that is traceable to a captive cervid facility, a PSA and SSA will be established around the location of the CWD-positive animal and all cervids within the captive facility may be euthanized and tested for CWD. If CWD is confirmed within the facility, a PSA and SSA will also be established around the affected facility and the management actions described previously pertaining to confirmation of CWD within a captive cervid facility will be implemented.

FIELD RESPONSE IF ILLEGAL CERVID CARCASS PARTS OR CARCASS PARTS FROM A CERVID KNOWN TO HAVE CWD ARE IMPORTED INTO THE STATE

In 2007 the NCWRC implemented a carcass importation rule that restricts the importation of cervid carcasses and certain cervid carcass parts from states or provinces with CWD (15A NCAC 10B .0124). In the event the NCWRC becomes aware of the importation of illegal cervid carcass parts, or the importation of carcass parts from a cervid known to have CWD, the Divisions of Wildlife Management and Law Enforcement will investigate the circumstances of the importation and, if determined to be warranted, all carcass parts will be confiscated and properly disposed of. An evaluation of possible environmental contamination will be conducted and, if determined to be necessary and possible, efforts will be taken to minimize the likelihood that cervids will acquire CWD from the affected environment.

**FIELD RESPONSE IF CWD IS DETECTED WITHIN 30 MILES OF NORTH
CAROLINAS' BORDERS IN AN ADJACENT STATE**

- The NCWRC will coordinate with the state wildlife and/or agriculture agency in the adjoining state where CWD has been detected. An attempt will be made to obtain the following information from the adjacent state: location of the index animal, the state's planned management and surveillance response, the location of all captive cervid facilities, the location of all previously-collected CWD samples, and information concerning deer density and distribution in the area of the index animal.

If the index location is within 30 miles of the North Carolina border, a PSA and SSA will be established. Coordination will occur with the adjacent state to determine how application of the previously-mentioned field responses should be applied to the portion of the PSA and SSA located within North Carolina and adjoining States.

**REGULATORY ACTIONS INITIATED IF CWD IS CONFIRMED FROM A FREE-
RANGING OR CAPTIVE CERVID WITHIN OR PROXIMATE TO NORTH
CAROLINA**

- The Executive Director, under authority of North Carolina General Statutes and Administrative Code or as delegated to him by the Wildlife Resources Commission or the Governor by virtue of an Executive Order, may initiate actions, regulatory and otherwise, within both the PSA and SSA to:

- Prohibit the rehabilitation or transfer of fawns or elk calves.
- Regulate supplemental feeding and baiting of wildlife.
- Establish mandatory harvest reporting at a check station during the muzzleloader/gun deer seasons.
- Establish mandatory CWD testing of all legally-harvested deer.
- Liberalize season lengths and bag limits, or otherwise implement modifications to season frameworks and regulations, as determined to be necessary to facilitate sample collections and population reduction.
- Regulate exportation of cervid carcasses or carcass parts from PSA and SSA to reduce the potential of spreading infectious tissues outside said areas. Facilitate and enforce proper disposal of carcasses and carcass parts to reduce the potential for further infections within the surveillance areas.
- Prohibit all transportation of captive cervids, regardless of any herd certification program implemented by the NCWRC, NCDA&CS, and/or USDA.
- Increase wildlife enforcement presence to ensure the above regulatory actions, as well as all other wildlife-related laws, are strictly enforced.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Funding for CWD-related activities has been provided by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission through Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Project W-57 and the Wildlife Endowment Fund. Funding was also provided by the United States Department of Agriculture,

Animal Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (Grant Agreement Nos. 03-9637-0141CA, 04-9637-0384CA, 04-9637-0141CA, and 08-9637-0887CA).

NCWRC personnel contributing to this revision of the CWD Response Plan include Evin Stanford, Kelly Douglass, David Cobb, Brad Gunn, Brad Howard, Ken Knight, Chris Kreh, Robbie Norville, David Sawyer, Ryan Myers, Jonathan Shaw, Daron Barnes, Kate Pipkin, Tommy Hughes, and Maria Palamar.

DRAFT

EXHIBIT F-1

May 21, 2015

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Land Acquisition Investigation Form

-PHASE I: INITIAL INVESTIGATION-

WRC Staff Contact: Chris Goudreau/Gordon Warburton/Kip Hollifield

Date First Presented to WRC: May 21, 2015

Tract Name: Johns River FERC Tracts

Acreage:

TRACT	ACRES
2121.02	33
2121.06	39
2122	767
2131.02	102
2134.01	614
2168.04	26
2168.03	20
2123	989
TOTAL	2,590

County: Burke/Caldwell

Value: Estimated \$7,770,000 (\$3,000/acre)

*Per the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing agreement with Duke Energy, the negotiated purchase price will be reduced by \$1,350/acre

Estimated Purchase Price with Discount): **\$4,273,500** (\$1,650/acre)

The subject tracts were appraised in January 2009 for a total fair market value of \$9,568,000 by Carter Valuation Services, Inc. That appraisal is outdated and current fair market value (FMV) needs to be determined. The current value of the tracts is likely in the \$3,000/acre range, but could be lower. Current FMV can only be determined through reappraisal and it is recommended that reappraisal be conducted as soon as possible.

Per the FERC relicensing agreement, the State will have a 2 year option period to purchase the tracts after the new FERC license is signed. It is anticipated that the new license will be signed in mid to late 2015. It should be noted that for tract 2123 only, the option to purchase period is 3 years from the time the new license is signed.

Property Owner or Representative:

DUKE VENTURES REAL ESTATE LLC
C/O DUKE ENERGY CORP
526 SOUTH CHURCH ST
CHARLOTTE, NC 28202

Status: High Interest Moderate Interest Low Interest No
Interest

Funding- potential funding sources are detailed below:

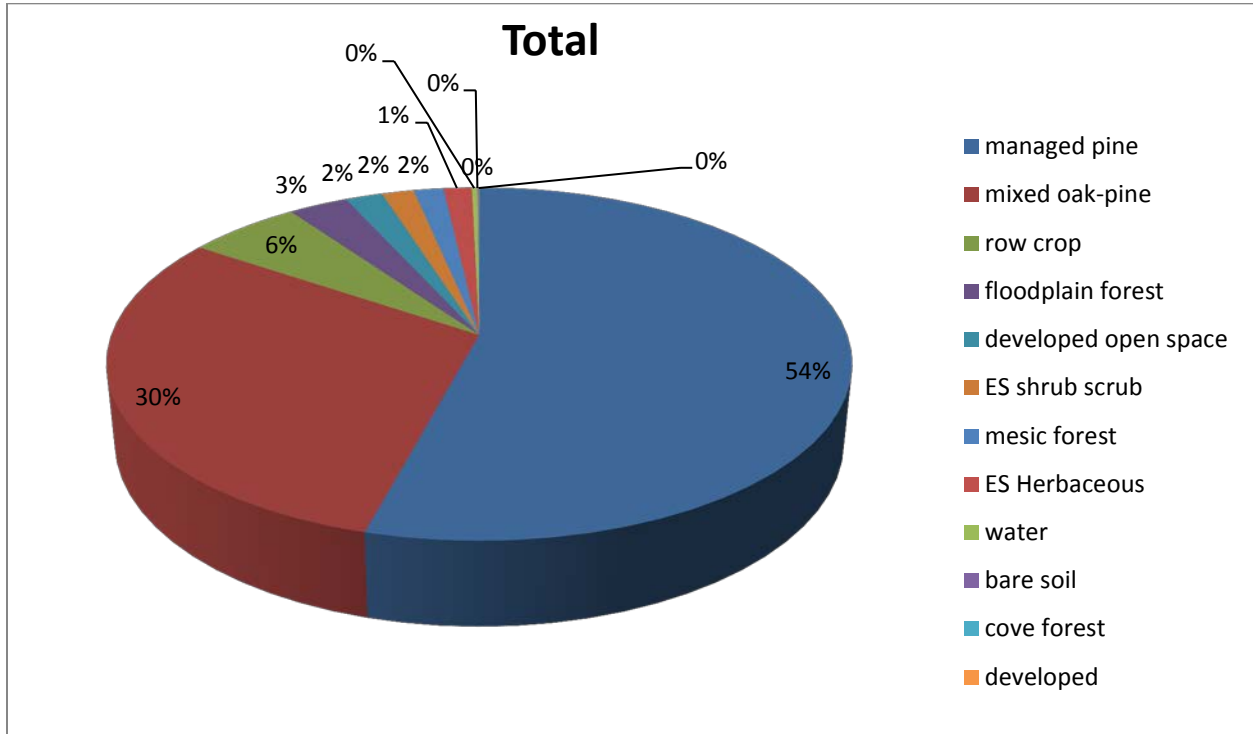
- Duke Comprehensive Relicensing Agreement (CRA) Escrow
- Duke Energy Habitat Enhancement Program (HEP) Grant
- NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund
- WRC Wildlife Endowment Fund
- Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Grant
- Federal State Wildlife Grant
- Special State Budget Appropriation
- Proposed Catawba Water Fund
- NC Environmental Enhancement Program

Resources Assessment and Biological Benefits (brief):

Acquisition of the Johns River FERC tracts is highly significant as part of the total conservation and public access project planned for the Johns River corridor and will likely be the last opportunity to place significant additional land in this area into public ownership. Acquisition of these tracts is critically important in providing protection for the Johns River corridor and will result in the addition of 2,540 acres to Johns River Game Land. Two smaller tracts totaling 46 acres, while not suitable as game lands, offer the opportunity to establish 2 new public fishing access areas near the confluence of Johns River and Wilson Creek. The tracts applicable for addition to Johns River Game Land, except Tract 2123, have direct access to DOT maintained roads, with approximately 4 miles of road frontage. Legal access to Tract 2123 will need to be confirmed before acquisition. The 2 smaller tracts (2168.03 and 2168.04), which would serve as public fishing access areas, both have direct access to DOT maintained roads.

The tracts are mostly forested with managed pine forest predominant. Habitat conditions found on the tracts based on SEGAP analysis and 2010 aerial photography review are shown in Figure 1 below. Some of the managed pine has been established within the past 10 years, while some is nearer harvest age. Approximately 140 acres of agricultural fields (row crops) are located on the tracts and are tended by local farmers under lease agreements. It's likely that some of these lease agreements would continue in the near future.

Figure 1. Habitat types on the Johns River FERC tracts based on SEGAP data and review of 2010 aerial photography.



Management objectives will include restoring managed pines to more diverse mixed pine-hardwood stands, which most likely occurred prior to plantation establishment, through a combination of timber harvest and prescribed burning. The acreage currently in row crop production will be restored to more desirable herbaceous early successional habitat in phases as manpower and budgets allow.

Common game species found on the tract include wild turkey, white-tailed deer, raccoon, mourning dove, and gray squirrel. Waterfowl are found seasonally along Johns River and at times will offer some hunting opportunity. Johns River is the longest free flowing river remaining in the NC Catawba River Basin and harbors approximately 70 aquatic species. There are excellent fishing opportunities for smallmouth bass, trout, rockbass, bluegill, and redbreast sunfish. Wildlife Action Plan priority species, both aquatic and terrestrial, are listed in the attached table:

Public recreational opportunities will include hunting, fishing, hiking, canoeing, bird watching, photography, and general nature study.

Additional Comments: Five-year stewardship expenditures are estimated at approximately \$335,000. Revenue is estimated at \$75,000. See attached tables for details.

Program Potential: Game Land (Johns River) Wildlife Conservation Area
 Fishing Access Area None

Potential Source(s) of Stewardship Funds (indicate federal:state match rates): Pittman-Robertson Federal Assistance Grant (75% federal: 25% state)

Relative Priority Evaluation Score (attach worksheet):

Recommendation: Pursue Acquisition Defer Do not Pursue Acquisition

Map Attached: Yes No

Johns River FERC Tracts (Burke& Caldwell County) - Wildlife Action Plan Priority Species			
SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FED LISTED	STATE LISTED
MUSSELS			
<i>Alasmidonta varicosa</i>	Brook Floater		E
<i>Villosa constricta</i>	Notched Rainbow		SC
NONGAME FISH			
<i>Cambarus (Puncticambarus) johni</i>	Carolina Foothills Crayfish		
<i>Etheostoma thalassinum</i>	Seagreen Darter		
<i>Moxostoma pappillosum</i>	V-lip Redhorse		
BIRDS			
<i>Scolopax minor</i>	American Woodcock		
<i>Setophaga citrina</i>	Hooded Warbler		
<i>Contopus virens</i>	Eastern Wood-Pee-wee,		
<i>Sitta pusilla</i>	Brown-Headed Nuthatch		
<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	Wood Thrush		
<i>Antrostomus vociferus</i>	Eastern Whip-Poor-Will		
<i>Antrostomus carolinensis</i>	Chuck-Will's-Widow		
<i>Picoides villosus</i>	Hairy Woodpecker		
<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	Northern Flicker		
<i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i>	Red-Headed Woodpecker		
<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	Yellow-Billed Cuckoo		
<i>Falco sparverius</i>	American Kestrel		
<i>Spizella pusilla</i>	Field Sparrow		
<i>Dendroica discolor</i>	Prairie Warbler		
<i>Icteria virens</i>	Yellow-Breasted Chat		
<i>Geothlypis formosa</i>	Kentucky Warbler		
MAMMALS			
<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>	Hoary Bat		
AMPHIBIANS			
<i>Ambystoma maculatum</i>	Spotted Salamander,		
<i>Ambystoma opacum</i>	Marbled Salamander		
<i>Eurycea guttolineata</i>	Three-Lined Salamander		
REPTILES			
<i>Terrapene carolina carolina</i>	Eastern Box Turtle		
<i>Virginia valeriae</i>	Smooth Earth Snake		
<i>Lampropeltis calligaster</i>	Mole Kingnake		
<i>Lampropeltis getula</i>	Eastern Kingsnake		

WORKSHEET
Five Year Stewardship Costs and Revenue Projections
(Five Years Post Acquisition)

STEWARDSHIP					
		Estimated Stewardship Expenditures			
Tract Name	Activity	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost
Johns River FERC Tracts	Boundary Establishment (Contracted)				
	*Duke property boundaries are usually painted. If some portions are unpainted, then surveying at approximately \$1.25 per foot will be required for those portions only	102825	ft.	\$0.15	\$15,424
	Establish parking areas (game land portion)	9	ea.	\$10,000	\$90,000
	Erect gates (game land portion)	9	ea.	\$500	\$4,500
	Road upgrade (public access)	.6	mi.	\$100,000	\$60,000
	Grade/Spot Gravel (administrative access)	2	mi.	\$25,000	\$50,000
	Establish/Maintain Wildlife Openings (each acre maintained annually for 5 years)	15	ac.	\$200	\$15,000
	Establish 2 Public Fishing Access Areas	2	ea.	\$50,000	\$100,000
	Total				\$334,924.00

REVENUE

Estimated Revenue Projections					
Tract Name	Source	Quantity	Unit	Unit Revenue	Total Revenue
Johns River FERC Tracts	Timber Sales (1 approximately 75 acre sale within first 5 years after acquisition)	75	ac.	\$1,000	\$75,000
	Total				\$75,000.00

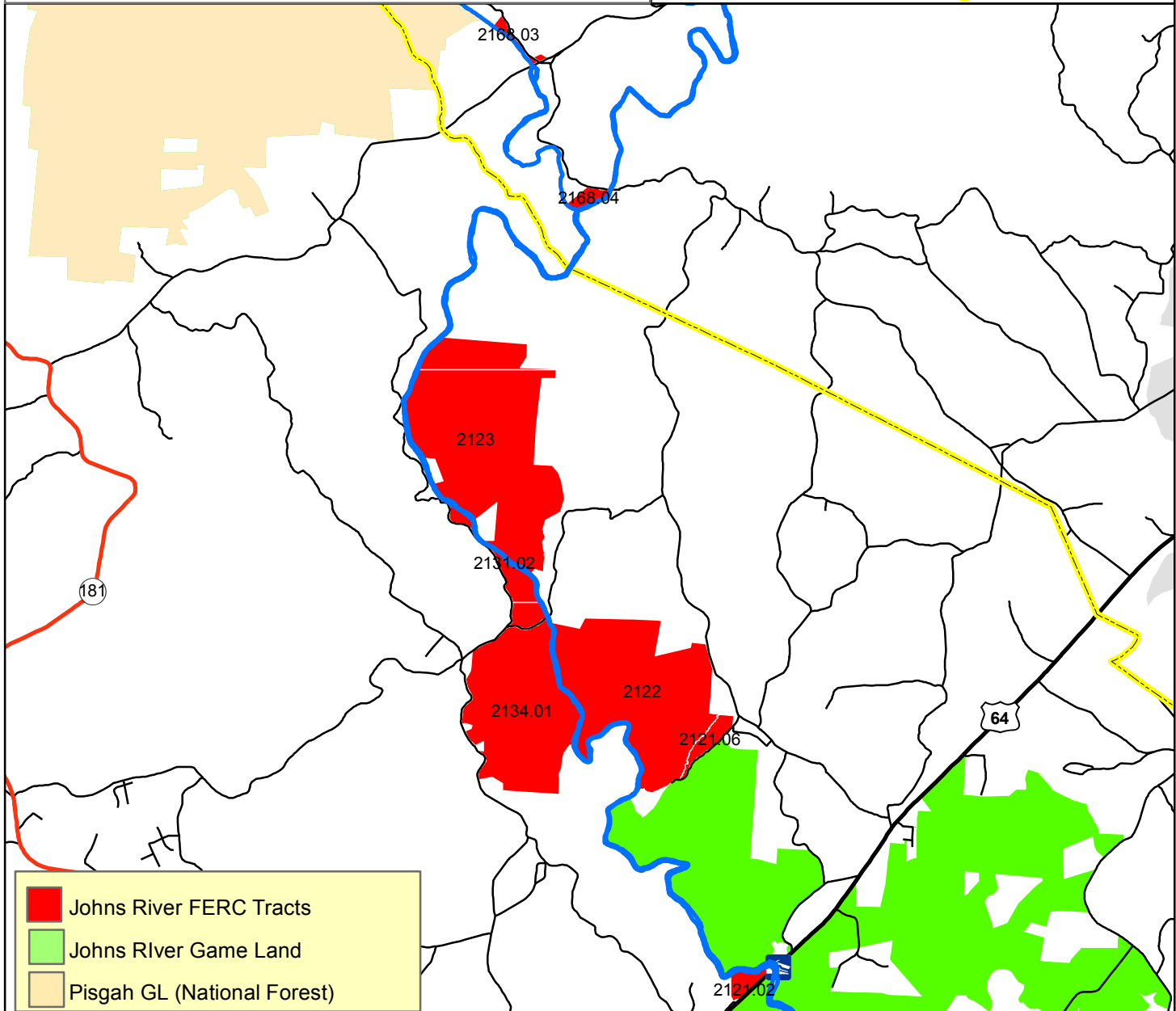
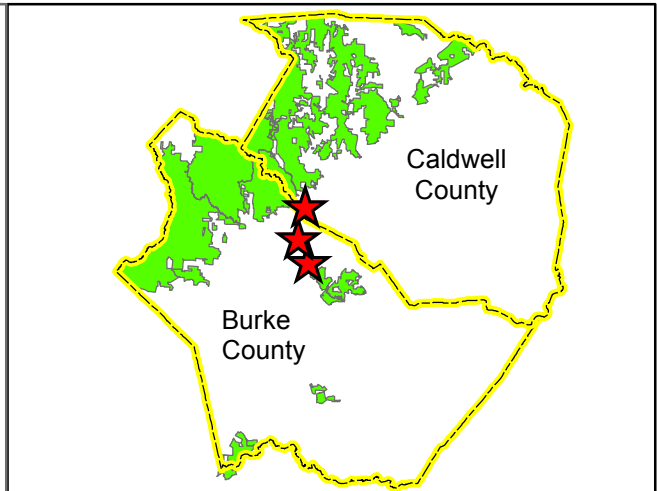
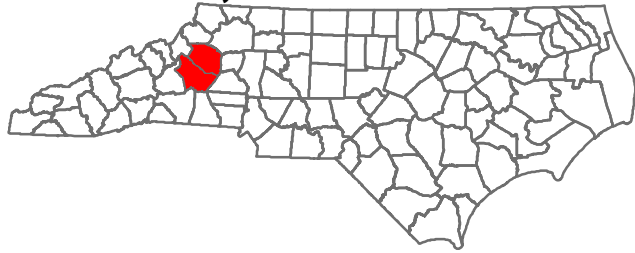
WORKSHEET

Relative Priority Evaluation for Conservation Lands

Tract Name (Johns River) Johns River FERC Tracts (Burke & Caldwell Counties)

Criterion	Score (1-5) 5=Excellent 1=Poor
1. Augments existing protected lands by addressing an inholding or adjacent tract, provides key access, buffers or connects existing WRC-managed lands.	<u>5</u>
2. Represents good hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, and other resource-based recreational opportunities.	<u>5</u>
3. No conflicting surrounding land uses.	<u>4</u>
4. Serves as a wildlife corridor between areas already protected for conservation purposes and provides connectivity to priority Wildlife Action Plan habitats.	<u>5</u>
5. Augments land conservation efforts on a landscape scale by providing nuclei (“anchors”) for regional conservation efforts, corridors, key linkages between conservation areas, or keystone tracts.	<u>5</u>
6. Fills a need identified by the Wildlife Action Plan, such as critical, rare or unique habitats; natural heritage elements; or significant aquatic/terrestrial resources.	<u>5</u>
7. Is this an area in which we would like to establish a new game land, wildlife conservation area, or fishing access?	<u>Yes</u>
8. Is it large enough to be a new game land, and if not, are there possibilities for expansion (goal 3,000-5,000 acre minimum)?	<u>NA</u>
9. Is area adequate for fishing access development with suitable parking, and if not, are there possibilities for expansion?	<u>Yes</u>
TOTAL SCORE	<u><u>29</u></u>

Johns River FERC Tracts Johns River Game Land Burke & Cladwell Counties 2,590 Acres



April 21, 2015

0 1.25 2.5 Miles



EXHIBIT F-2

May 21, 2015

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Land Acquisition Investigation Form

-PHASE I: INITIAL INVESTIGATION-

WRC Staff Contact: Gordon Warburton/David Stewart

Date First Presented to WRC: March 5, 2015 (staff first investigated tract in 2001)

Tract Name: Caldwell Tract (PIN: 8632-97-4495)

Acreage: 60

County: Haywood

Estimate Value: \$350,000 Asking Price

Property Owner or Representative: Wade Caldwell (Owner)

Phone: (828) 242-1041(Daughter, Joy Penland)

Address: 15 Old 19-23 Hwy Candler, NC 28715

Status: High Interest Moderate Interest Low Interest No Interest

Grant Potential: CWMTF

OTHER (explain): Pittman Robertson Land Acquisition Grant, Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy (SAHC)

Resources Assessment and Biological Benefits (brief): Acquisition of this property is significant as part of the total management project being carried out in the Cold Mountain area. In a broader sense, WRC ownership of the tract will help ensure ecosystem integrity at the landscape level by increasing connectivity of lands in conservation ownership such as Pisgah National Forest, Cold Mountain Game Land (WRC holdings), Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy (SAHC) lands and various private holdings that have conservation easements that are located in the vicinity. The property directly borders the Cold Mountain Game Lands. WRC ownership will help reduce land fragmentation and will help ensure that this area is protected and managed properly.

The tract lies adjacent to significant Natural Heritage Areas and consists primarily of upland/cove hardwoods with 15-20 acres of open pastureland. The timber on the property appears to be of very high quality with large yellow poplar, oak, and black cherry being the most valuable timber species. Common wildlife species found on the tract include wild turkey, white-tailed deer and black bear. Priority species likely to occur on the tract are identified in the attached table. Public recreational opportunities will include hunting, hiking,

bird watching, photography and general nature study. Educational opportunities may exist as priority wildlife habitats are managed for or maintained.

Additional Comments: The total area of the Caldwell Tract is 70.62 acres. Mr. Caldwell is keeping his small cabin and approximately 10 acres.

Preliminary estimates of five-year stewardship expenditures include marking and maintaining approximately 1 mile of property boundary. Total estimate of five-year expenditures is \$810.

No short-term revenue is projected from the tract.

Program Potential: Game Land (Cold Mountain) Wildlife Conservation Area
 Fishing Access Area None

Potential Source(s) of Stewardship Funds (indicate federal:state match rates): Pittman-Robertson Federal Assistance Grant (75% federal: 25% state)

Relative Priority Evaluation Score (attach worksheet):

Recommendation: Pursue Acquisition Defer Do not Pursue Acquisition

Map Attached: Yes No

Caldwell Tract (Haywood County) - Wildlife Action Plan Priority Species

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FED LISTED	STATE LISTED
AMPHIBIANS			
<i>Plethodon glutinosus</i>	Slimy Salamander		
<i>Plethodon ventralis</i>	Southern Zigzag Salamander		SC
<i>Desmognathus wrighti</i>	Pygmy Salamander		SR
<i>Hemidactylium scutatum</i>	Four-toed Salamander		SC
BIRDS			
<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	Sharp-shinned Hawk		SR
<i>Falco sparverius</i>	American Kestrel		
<i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i>	Black-billed Cuckoo		SR
<i>Tyto alba</i>	Barn Owl		SR
<i>Empidonax alnorum</i>	Alder Flycatcher		SR
<i>Certhia americana</i>	Brown Creeper		SC
<i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i>	Golden-winged Warbler		SC
<i>Dendroica cerulea</i>	Cerulean Warbler		SC
<i>Limnothlypis swainsonii</i>	Swainson's Warbler		
<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	Grasshopper Sparrow		
MAMMALS			
<i>Sorex hoyi</i>	Pygmy Shrew		
<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>	Hoary Bat		
<i>Sylvilagus obscurus</i>	Appalachian Cottontail		SR
<i>Zapus hudsonius</i>	Meadow Jumping Mouse		
<i>Mustela nivalis</i>	Least Weasel		SR
REPTILES			
<i>Eumeces anthracinus</i>	Coal Skink		SR
<i>Virginia valeriae</i>	Smooth Earth Snake		

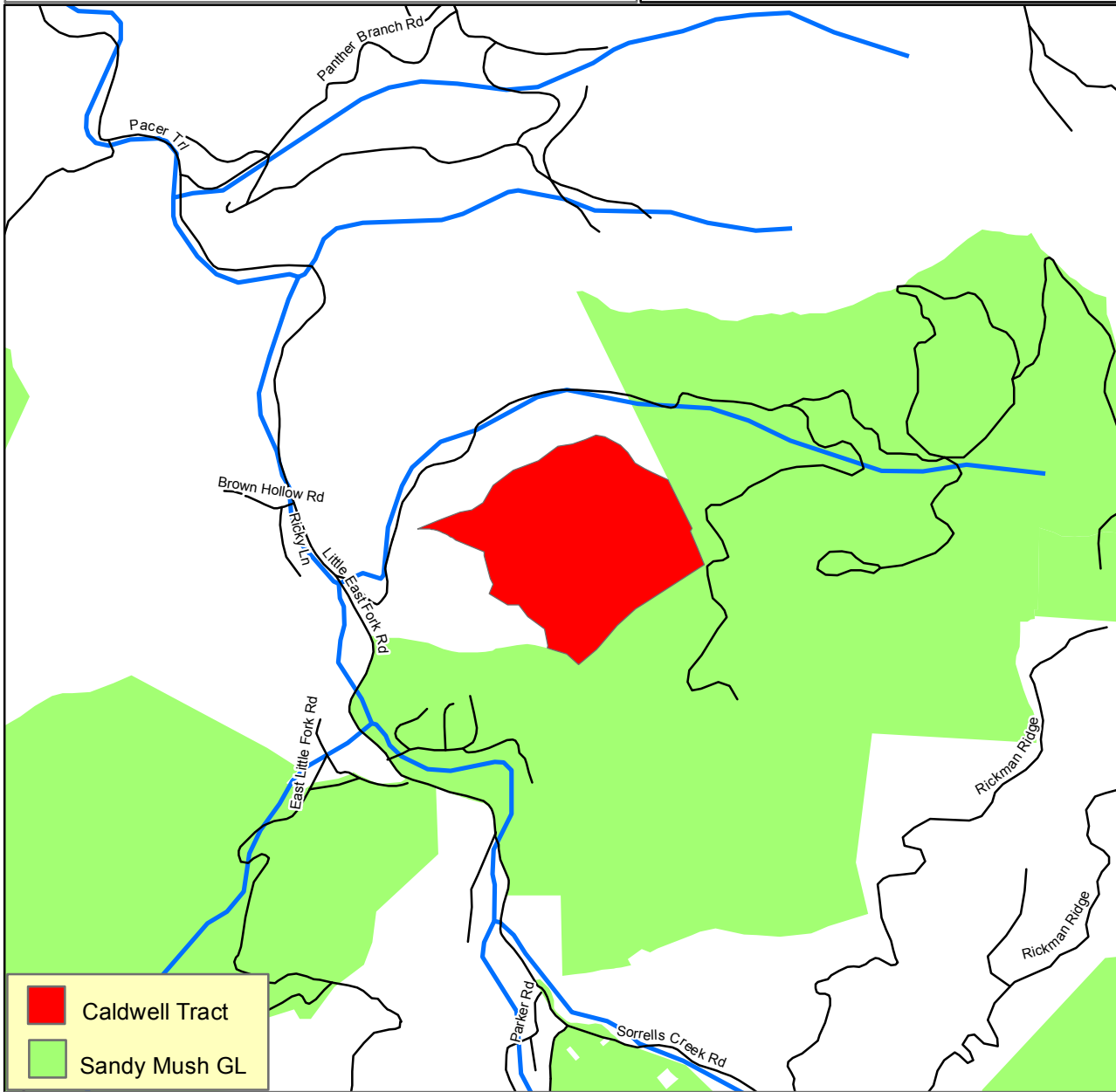
WORKSHEET

Relative Priority Evaluation for Conservation Lands

Tract Name (Cold Mountain GL) Caldwell Tract (Haywood County)

Criterion	Score (1-5) 5=Excellent 1=Poor
1. Augments existing protected lands by addressing an inholding or adjacent tract, provides key access, buffers or connects existing WRC-managed lands.	<u>5</u>
2. Represents good hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, and other resource-based recreational opportunities.	<u>5</u>
3. No conflicting surrounding land uses.	<u>5</u>
4. Serves as a wildlife corridor between areas already protected for conservation purposes and provides connectivity to priority Wildlife Action Plan habitats.	<u>5</u>
5. Augments land conservation efforts on a landscape scale by providing nuclei (“anchors”) for regional conservation efforts, corridors, key linkages between conservation areas, or keystone tracts.	<u>5</u>
6. Fills a need identified by the Wildlife Action Plan, such as critical, rare or unique habitats; natural heritage elements; or significant aquatic/terrestrial resources.	<u>5</u>
7. Is this an area in which we would like to establish a new game land, wildlife conservation area, or fishing access?	<u>NA</u>
8. Is it large enough to be a new game land, and if not, are there possibilities for expansion (goal 3,000-5,000 acre minimum)?	<u>NA</u>
9. Is area adequate for fishing access development with suitable parking, and if not, are there possibilities for expansion?	<u>NA</u>
TOTAL SCORE	<u><u>30</u></u>

Caldwell Tract Cold Mountain GL Haywood County 60 Acres



February 8, 2015

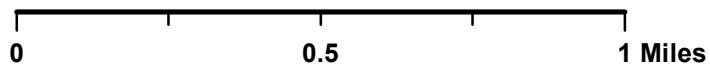


EXHIBIT F-3

May 21, 2015

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Land Acquisition Investigation Form

-PHASE I: INITIAL INVESTIGATION-

WRC Staff Contact: Gordon Warburton/Kip Hollifield

Date First Presented to WRC: May 21, 2015

Tract Name: Morrison Tract (PIN 1200413)

Acreage: +/- 19 acres

County: Wilkes

Estimated Value: \$57,000

Property Owner or Representative: Robert Morrison
c/o Chris Smith
csmith@progressiveforestry.com
Vice President of Operations
Dougherty & Dougherty Forestry Services, Inc
Progressive Realty Services, LLC

Phone: (919) 435-0365 (office/fax)
(919) 495-2187 (mobile)

Address: PO Box 807
Wake Forest, NC 27588

Status: High Interest Moderate Interest Low Interest No Interest

Grant Potential: CWMTF
 OTHER (explain): Pittman Robertson Land Acquisition Grant, WRC Funds

Resources Assessment and Biological Benefits (brief): This property lays immediately adjacent to Thurmond Chatham GL. Acquisition is significant as part of the total management project being carried out at Thurmond Chatham Game Land. Acquisition of the Morrison tract is particularly significant since it would provide clear public access to the Joshua Creek entrance of Thurmond Chatham GL. Access at this location is currently via a short gravel access road that connects to Old NC 18 (S.R. 1729). The State does not hold a deeded ROW easement across this access road and current access is by prescriptive easement only. Acquisition would rectify this situation and allow direct access to the game land from both Old NC 18 and NC 18 at this location.

Primary habitats are Appalachian oak and low mountain pine forests. Common game species include bear, deer, turkey and squirrel. Priority species likely to occur on the tract are identified in the attached table.

Management objectives will include protecting water quality, maintaining/restoring priority wildlife habitats, and providing improved public access and opportunity for hunting and other outdoor recreational activities.

Additional Comments: Preliminary estimates of five-year stewardship expenditures include surveying and marking 5,107 feet of property boundary @ \$1.30/foot. Total estimate of five-year expenditures is \$6,640.

Program Potential: Game Land (Thurmond Chatham) Wildlife Conservation Area
 Fishing Access Area None

Potential Source(s) of Stewardship Funds (indicate federal:state match rates): Pittman-Robertson Federal Assistance Grant (75% federal: 25% state)

Relative Priority Evaluation Score (attach worksheet):

Recommendation: Pursue Acquisition Defer Do not Pursue Acquisition

Map Attached: Yes No

Morrison Tract (Wilkes County) - Wildlife Action Plan Priority Species

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FED LISTED	STATE LISTED
AMPHIBIANS			
Plethodon glutinosus	Slimy Salamander		
Plethodon richmondi	Ravine Salamander		
Hemidactylium scutatum	Four-toed Salamander		SC
BIRDS			
Accipiter striatus	Sharp-shinned Hawk		SR
Coccyzus erythrophthalmus	Black-billed Cuckoo		SR
Sphyrapicus varius	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		
Certhia americana	Brown Creeper		SC
Vermivora chrysoptera	Golden-winged Warbler		SC
Dendroica cerulea	Cerulean Warbler		SC
MAMMALS			
Sorex hoyi	Pygmy Shrew		
Lasiurus cinereus	Hoary Bat		
Myotis septentrionalis	Northern Myotis		
Myotis leibii	Eastern Small-footed Myotis		SC
Mustela nivalis	Least Weasel		SR
Spilogale putorius	Eastern Spotted Skunk		
REPTILES			
Virginia valeriae	Smooth Earth Snake		

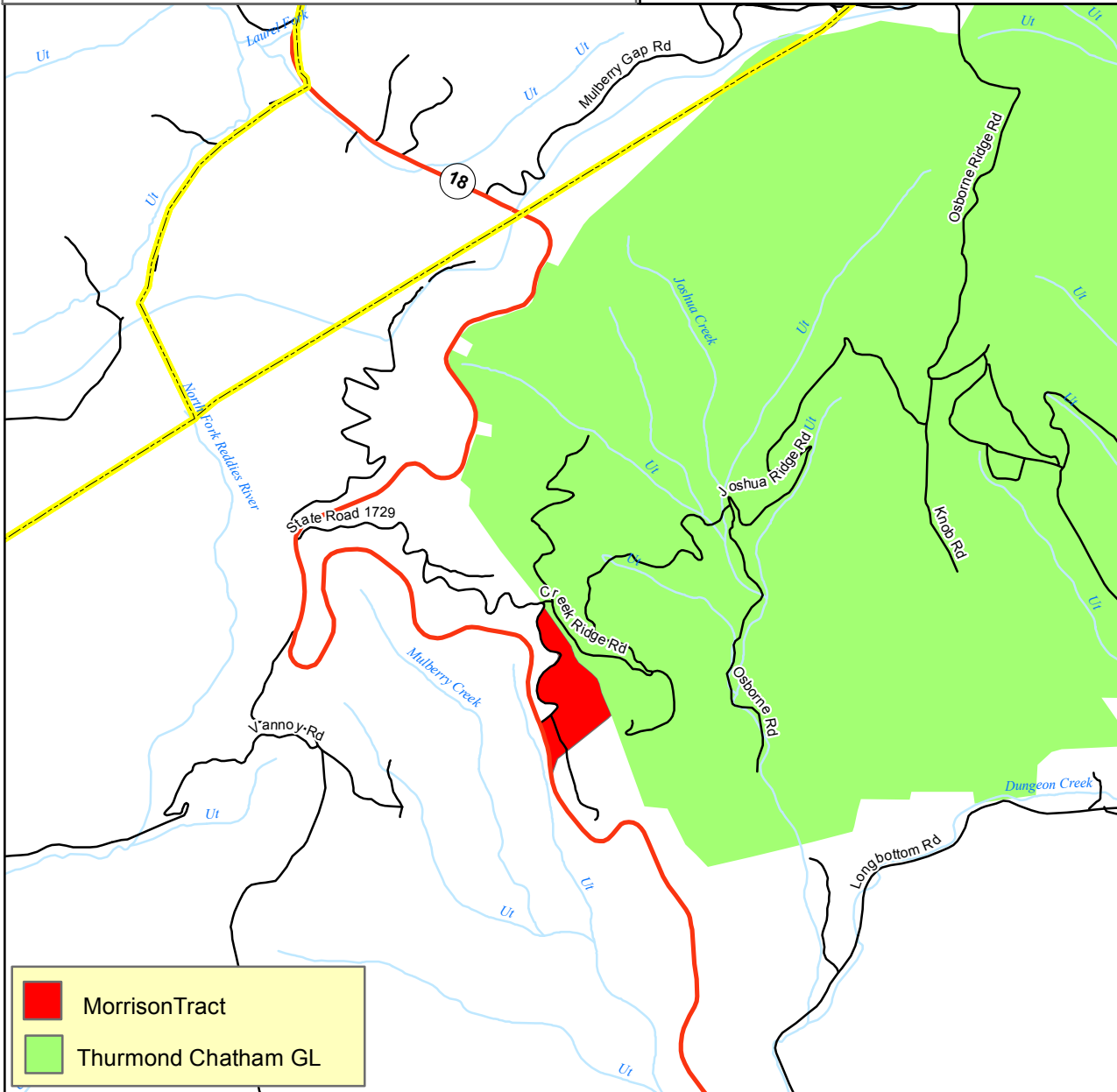
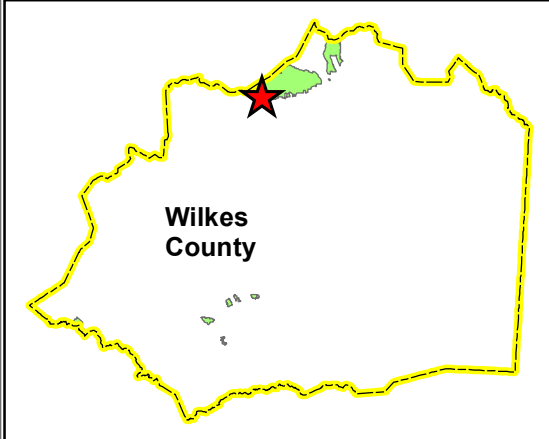
WORKSHEET

Relative Priority Evaluation for Conservation Lands

Tract Name (Thurmond Chatham GL) Morrison Tract (Wilkes County)

Criterion	Score (1-5) 5=Excellent 1=Poor
1. Augments existing protected lands by addressing an inholding or adjacent tract, provides key access, buffers or connects existing WRC-managed lands.	<u>5</u>
2. Represents good hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, and other resource-based recreational opportunities.	<u>4</u>
3. No conflicting surrounding land uses.	<u>5</u>
4. Serves as a wildlife corridor between areas already protected for conservation purposes and provides connectivity to priority Wildlife Action Plan habitats.	<u>5</u>
5. Augments land conservation efforts on a landscape scale by providing nuclei (“anchors”) for regional conservation efforts, corridors, key linkages between conservation areas, or keystone tracts.	<u>5</u>
6. Fills a need identified by the Wildlife Action Plan, such as critical, rare or unique habitats; natural heritage elements; or significant aquatic/terrestrial resources.	<u>4</u>
7. Is this an area in which we would like to establish a new game land, wildlife conservation area, or fishing access?	<u>NA</u>
8. Is it large enough to be a new game land, and if not, are there possibilities for expansion (goal 3,000-5,000 acre minimum)?	<u>NA</u>
9. Is area adequate for fishing access development with suitable parking, and if not, are there possibilities for expansion?	<u>NA</u>
TOTAL SCORE	<u><u>28</u></u>

**Morrison Tract
Thurmond Chatham GL
Wilkes County
19 Acres**



April 12, 2015

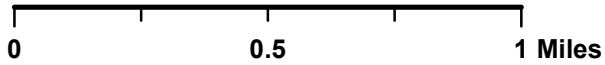


EXHIBIT F-4

May 21, 2015

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Land Acquisition Investigation Form

-PHASE I: INITIAL INVESTIGATION-

WRC Staff Contact: Kip Hollifield

Date First Presented to WRC: May 21, 2015

Tract Name: Murphy Tract - Pisgah Game Land (Linville River Tract)
(PIN 1756027851)

Acreage: +/- 24.19 acres

County: Burke

Estimated Value: \$72,000 (Appraisal Needed)

Property Owner or Representative: Richard Murphy

Phone: (828) 443-0100 Mobile

Address: PO Box 845
Glen Alpine, NC 28628

Status: High Interest Moderate Interest Low Interest No Interest

Grant Potential: CWMTF

OTHER (explain): Pittman Robertson Land Acquisition Grant, WRC Funds

Resources Assessment and Biological Benefits (brief): Acquisition of the Murphy Tract is significant as part of the total management project being carried out on the Linville River Tract, Pisgah Game Land. Acquisition of this tract is particularly significant since it would solidify State ownership along an administrative access road that serves this portion of the Linville River Tract. Mr. Murphy currently accesses his property through a prescriptive easement that is approximately 1.0 mile in length and that follows the administrative access road that crosses the game land. This prescriptive easement was granted to Mr. Murphy by the former owner of the game land (Crescent Resources) and has been honored since the property was acquired by WRC. The administrative access road then crosses Mr. Murphy's property for approximately 0.33 mile before re-entering the game land. WRC access across Mr. Murphy's property is by prescriptive easement as well. Public access is not allowed through Mr. Murphy's property. Acquisition of the Murphy tract would rectify this situation, solidifying both public and administrative access to this portion of the game land.

Management objectives will include restoring the tract to dry oak-pine forest. Common game species found on the tract include wild turkey, white-tailed deer, raccoon and gray squirrel. Priority species likely

to occur on the tract are identified in the attached table. Public recreational opportunities will include hunting, hiking, bird watching, photography, and general nature study.

Additional Comments: Preliminary estimates of five-year stewardship expenditures include surveying and marking 2,975 feet of property boundary @ \$1.25/foot (\$3,719) and maintaining 0.33 miles of access road (\$2,500). Total estimate of five-year expenditures is \$6,219.

No short-term revenue is projected from the tract. However, acquisition of the tract and elimination of the prescriptive easement scenario will facilitate harvest of surplus timber on existing adjacent state ownership that is anticipated to generate a minimum of \$30,000.

Program Potential: Game Land (WRC Pisgah GL) Wildlife Conservation Area
 Fishing Access Area None

Potential Source(s) of Stewardship Funds (indicate federal:state match rates): Pittman-Robertson Federal Assistance Grant (75% federal: 25% state)

Relative Priority Evaluation Score (attach worksheet):

27 of 30

Recommendation: Pursue Acquisition Defer Do not Pursue Acquisition

Map Attached: Yes No

Murphy Tract (Burke County) - Wildlife Action Plan Priority Species

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FED LISTED	STATE LISTED
AMPHIBIANS			
<i>Plethodon glutinosus</i>	Slimy Salamander		
<i>Hemidactylium scutatum</i>	Four-toed Salamander		SC
BIRDS			
<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	Sharp-shinned Hawk		SR
<i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i>	Black-billed Cuckoo		SR
<i>Certhia americana</i>	Brown Creeper		SC
<i>Dendroica cerulea</i>	Cerulean Warbler		SC
MAMMALS			
<i>Sorex hoyi</i>	Pygmy Shrew		
<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>	Hoary Bat		
REPTILES			
<i>Virginia valeriae</i>	Smooth Earth Snake		

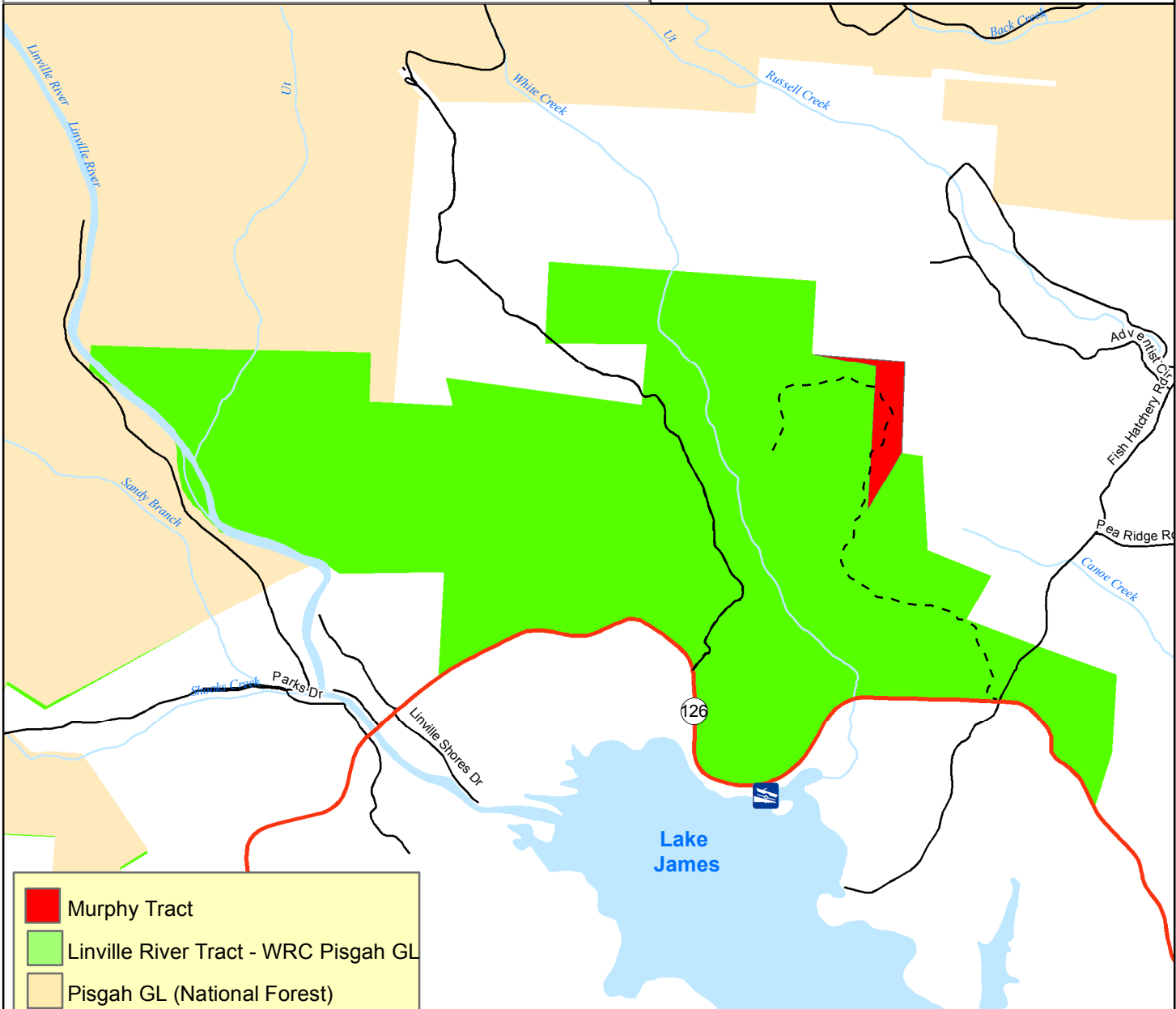
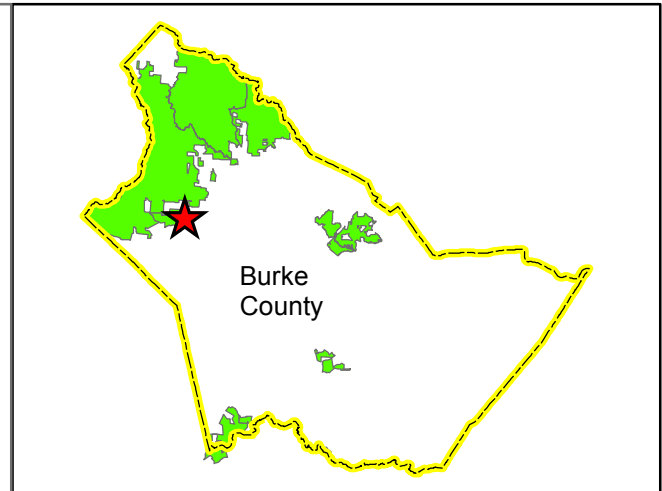
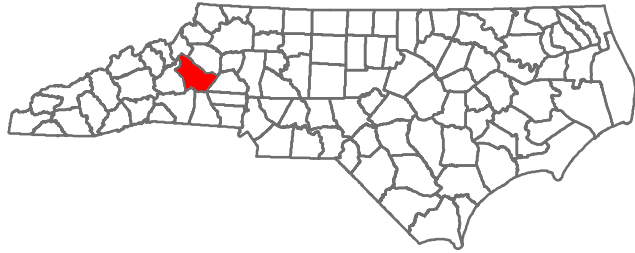
WORKSHEET

Relative Priority Evaluation for Conservation Lands

Tract Name (WRC Pisgah GL) Murphy Tract

Criterion	Score (1-5) 5=Excellent 1=Poor
1. Augments existing protected lands by addressing an inholding or adjacent tract, provides key access, buffers or connects existing WRC-managed lands.	<u>5</u>
2. Represents good hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, and other resource-based recreational opportunities.	<u>5</u>
3. No conflicting surrounding land uses.	<u>5</u>
4. Serves as a wildlife corridor between areas already protected for conservation purposes and provides connectivity to priority Wildlife Action Plan habitats.	<u>4</u>
5. Augments land conservation efforts on a landscape scale by providing nuclei (“anchors”) for regional conservation efforts, corridors, key linkages between conservation areas, or keystone tracts.	<u>4</u>
6. Fills a need identified by the Wildlife Action Plan, such as critical, rare or unique habitats; natural heritage elements; or significant aquatic/terrestrial resources.	<u>4</u>
7. Is this an area in which we would like to establish a new game land, wildlife conservation area, or fishing access?	<u>NA</u>
8. Is it large enough to be a new game land, and if not, are there possibilities for expansion (goal 3,000-5,000 acre minimum)?	<u>NA</u>
9. Is area adequate for fishing access development with suitable parking, and if not, are there possibilities for expansion? *	<u>NA</u>
TOTAL SCORE	<u><u>27</u></u>

Murphy Tract Pisgah GL (Linville River Tract) Burke County 24.19 Acres



- Murphy Tract
- Linville River Tract - WRC Pisgah GL
- Pisgah GL (National Forest)

April 21, 2015

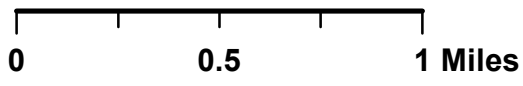


EXHIBIT F-5

May 21, 2015

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Land Acquisition Investigation Form

-PHASE I: INITIAL INVESTIGATION-

WRC Staff Contact: Tommy Hughes

Date First Presented to WRC: May 21, 2015

Tract Name: Myrtle Head Tract (PIN: 16300476708)

Acreage: 977.00

County: Brunswick

Estimated Value: \$ 1,709,750

Property Owner or Representative: Bud Cook, Mossy Oak Properties NC Land & Farms

Phone: (910) 640-8784 Mobile

Address: 604 Myrtle Drive, Lake Waccamaw, NC 28450

Status: High Interest Moderate Interest Low Interest No Interest

Grant Potential: Clean Water Management Trust Fund

OTHER (explain): Pittman Robertson Land Acquisition Grant

Resources Assessment and Biological Benefits (brief): Property shares approximate 1.2 miles of common boundary with Juniper Creek Game Land on the most northern edge. It consists of approximately 514 acres of upland pine stands of various ages, 312 acres of recent upland pine clearcuts, 115 acres of bottomland hardwoods and blackwater cypress-gum swamp and 18 acres of power line right-of-way within the Juniper Creek Floodplain. Approximately 313 acres of loblolly pine stands are in need of thinning and burning to release the stands from over-competition of sunlight, nutrients, and water. The remaining 201 acres of pines will not require treatment within the next five years. The 18-acre power line right-of-way currently includes 13 acres of wildlife openings and provides critical early successional habitat within this otherwise heavily forested landscape.

The tract supports NCWRC Wildlife Action Plan Priority habitats and species and will provide valuable habitat for, reptiles and amphibians, neotropical migrants, whitetail deer, wild turkey, black bear, small game, and furbearers. Priority species likely to occur on the tract are identified in the attached table.

Based upon data found in the NC Conservation Planning Tool, the Myrtle Head Tract's Biodiversity index has an estimated averaged score of 7 out of 10. Approximately 279 acres

(28%) of the tract scored of 9-10 and 565 acres (58%) scored 6. The Biodiversity/Wildlife Habitat Index prioritizes aquatic and terrestrial habitat, landscape function, and connectivity.

Additional Comments: This tract will provide additional public and administrative access to portions of Juniper Creek Game Land that are otherwise inaccessible without adjacent private landowner permission. Current access to said portions of Juniper Creek Game Land requires arduous foot travel through seasonally flooded bottomland habitat. This tract has an extensive road system that will provide access to a greater portion of Juniper Creek Game Land.

5- Year Estimated Stewardship Costs

Description	Quantity	Unit	Unit/Cost	Total
Maintain ROW Road – yr. 1 - 5	0.10	mi	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,250.00
Maintain Roads/Trails – yr. 1 - 5	6.5	mi	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 81,250.00
Establish Gate – yr. 1	4	ea	\$ 750.00	\$ 3,000.00
Maintain Gate – yr. 2 - 5	4	ea	\$ 100.00	\$ 1,600.00
Prescribed Burning – yr. 1 and 4	514	ac	\$ 30.00	\$ 30,840.00
Boundary Establishment – yr. 1	4.4	mi	\$ 550.00	\$ 2,420.00
Boundary Removal – yr. 1	1.2	mi	\$ 100.00	\$ 120.00
Boundary Maintenance- yr. 4	4.4	mi	\$ 135.00	\$ 594.00
Longleaf & Loblolly Pine Reforestation and Groundcover Restoration (Site-prep Burning, Planting of Trees and NWSG's) – yr. 1	312	ac	\$ 400.00	\$ 124,800.00
Seed/Maintain Openings – yr. 1 - 5	13	ac	\$ 175.00	\$ 11,375.00
			Total	\$257,249.00

5-Year Anticipated Revenue

			Value	Total
Thin Loblolly Pine Stands – yr. 2	313	ac	\$ 700.00	\$ 219,100.00
			Total	\$ 219,100.00

Program Potential: Game Land (Juniper Creek) Wildlife Conservation Area
 Fishing Access Area None

Potential Source(s) of Stewardship Funds (indicate federal:state match rates): Pittman-Robertson Federal Assistance Grant (75% federal: 25% state)

Relative Priority Evaluation Score (attach worksheet): 28 of 30

Recommendation: Pursue Acquisition Defer Do not Pursue Acquisition

Map Attached: Yes No

Myrtle Head Tract - Wildlife Action Plan Priority Habitats & Species

		HABITATS			State Status (Federal Status)
		Floodplain Forest	Early Successional	Dry Coniferous Woodlands (Plantation)	
SPECIES	BIRDS				
	Anhinga	X			SR
	Bachman's Sparrow		X	X	SC
	Brown-headed Nuthatch			X	
	Chimney Swift	X			
	Common Nighthawk		X	X	
	Cooper's Hawk			X	SC
	Chuck-will's-widow		X	X	
	Eastern Kingbird		X		
	Eastern Meadowlark		X		
	Eastern Painted Bunting		X		
	Eastern Wood-pewee	X		X	
	Hairy Woodpecker	X			
	Henslow's Sparrow		X		SR
	Hooded Warbler	X			
	Loggerhead Shrike		X		SC
	Northern Bobwhite		X	X	
	Northern Flicker			X	
	Orchard Oriole		X		
	Prairie Warbler		X		
	Red-cockaded Woodpecker			X	E (E)
	Red-headed Woodpecker	X		X	
	Swainson's Warbler	X			
	Wayne's Black-throated Green Warbler	X			
	Wood Thrush	X			
	Whip-poor-will		X	X	
	Worm-eating Warbler	X		X	
	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	X			
	Yellow-crowned Night-heron	X			
	MAMMALS				
	Cotton Mouse	X			
	Eastern Mole		X		
	Least Shrew		X		
	Long-tailed Weasel		X		
	Northern Yellow Bat	X			SR
	Rafinesque's Big-eared Bat	X			T
	Star-nosed Mole	X	X		SC
	AMPHIBIANS				
	Dwarf Salamander	X			SC
	Eastern Spadefoot	X			
	Mabee's Salamander	X			SR
	Marbled Salamander	X			
	Southern Dusky Salamander	X			
	REPTILES				
	Broad-headed Skink	X			
Common Ribbonsnake	X				
Corn Snake	X				
Eastern Box Turtle	X	X			
Eastern Coachwhip		X		SR	
Eastern Diamond-backed Rattlesnake		X		E	
Eastern Hog-nosed Snake			X		
Eastern Kingsnake	X	X			
Eastern Slender Glass Lizard		X			
Mole Kingsnake		X			
Northern Pinesnake		X		SC	
Pigmy Rattlesnake			X	SC	
Southeastern Crowned Snake			X		
Spotted Turtle	X				
Timber (Canebrake) Rattlesnake	X		X	SC	

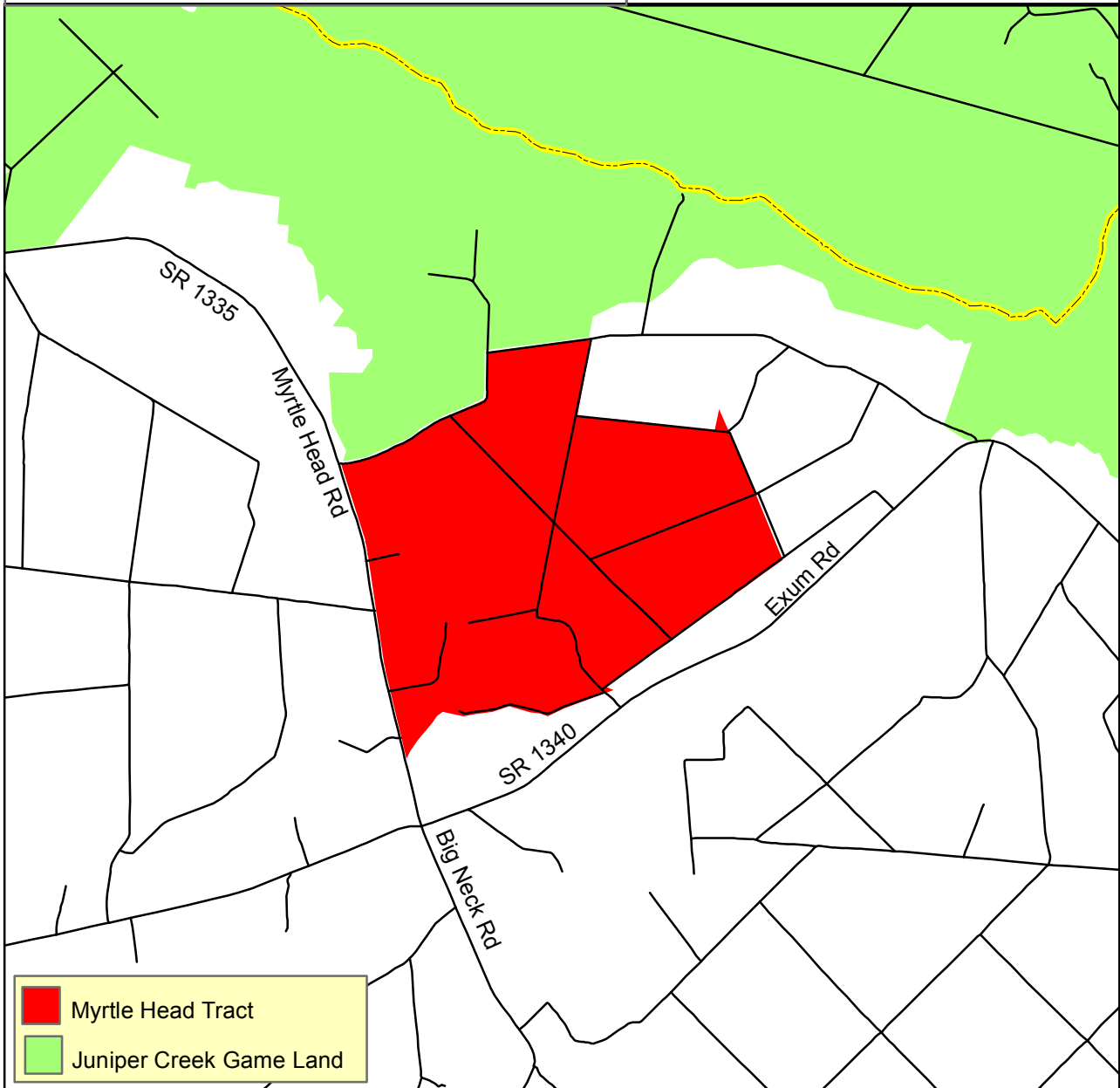
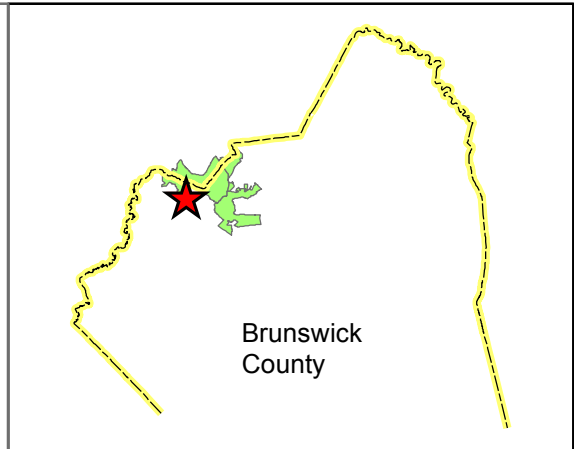
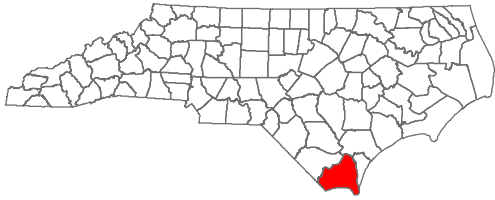
WORKSHEET



Relative Priority Evaluation for Conservation Lands

Tract Name (Juniper Creek GL) Myrtle Head Tract (Brunswick County)

Criterion	Score (1-5) 5=Excellent 1=Poor
1. Augments existing protected lands by addressing an inholding or adjacent tract, provides key access, buffers or connects existing WRC-managed lands.	<u>5</u>
2. Represents good hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, and other resource-based recreational opportunities.	<u>5</u>
3. No conflicting surrounding land uses.	<u>5</u>
4. Serves as a wildlife corridor between areas already protected for conservation purposes and provides connectivity to priority Wildlife Action Plan habitats.	<u>4</u>
5. Augments land conservation efforts on a landscape scale by providing nuclei (“anchors”) for regional conservation efforts, corridors, key linkages between conservation areas, or keystone tracts.	<u>4</u>
6. Fills a need identified by the Wildlife Action Plan, such as critical, rare or unique habitats; natural heritage elements; or significant aquatic/terrestrial resources.	<u>5</u>
7. Is this an area in which we would like to establish a new game land, wildlife conservation area, or fishing access?	<u>NA</u>
8. Is it large enough to be a new game land, and if not, are there possibilities for expansion (goal 3,000-5,000 acre minimum)?	<u>NA</u>
9. Is area adequate for fishing access development with suitable parking, and if not, are there possibilities for expansion?	<u>NA</u>
TOTAL SCORE	<u>28</u>

**Myrtle Head Tract
Juniper Creek GL
Brunswick County
977 Acres**



 Myrtle Head Tract
 Juniper Creek Game Land

April 19, 2015

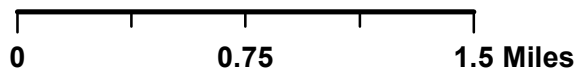


EXHIBIT F-6

May 21, 2015

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Land Acquisition Investigation Form

-PHASE I: INITIAL INVESTIGATION-

WRC Staff Contact: Brooke Massa/Kacy Cook

Date First Presented to WRC: May 21, 2015

Tract Name: Stolting Tract
(PIN 749900605363)

Acreage: 20 acres

County: Richmond

Estimated Value: \$ 60,000 (asking price)

Property Owner or Representative: Roger and Ruth Stolting (owners)
Wildlife Habitat Realty c/o Joe McDonald

Address: 2010 McDonald Church Rd., Hoffman, NC 28347

Phone: (910) 281-5271

Status: High Interest Moderate Interest Low Interest No Interest

Grant Potential: CWMTF

OTHER (explain): Pittman Robertson Land Acquisition Grant, USFW Section 6 Endangered Species Grant, The Nature Conservancy, WRC funds

Resources Assessment and Biological Benefits (brief): The Stolting property is a mature longleaf pine forest that has been managed with prescribed burning and provides good foraging habitat for red cockaded woodpeckers (RCWs). It is adjacent to active clusters and the property is currently under a Safe Harbor agreement. The property shares 1,288 feet of common boundary with Block A of Sandhills Game Lands and includes 1,700 feet of Paradise Creek. Game species include fox squirrel, bobwhite quail, deer and turkey. Priority habitats include a perennial stream and longleaf forest. Priority species likely to occur on the tract are identified in the attached table.

Additional Comments: The tract borders existing game land and is easily accessed by existing game lands and a state maintained road (Fire Tower Road).

Preliminary estimates of five-year stewardship expenditures are limited to initial marking and maintaining 3,150 feet of property boundary @ \$135/mile and prescribe burning 20 acres @ \$30/acre. Total estimate of five-year expenditures is \$ 1,280.

No short-term revenue is projected from the tract.

Program Potential: Game Land (Sandhills GL) Wildlife Conservation Area
 Fishing Access Area None

Potential Source(s) of Stewardship Funds (indicate federal:state match rates): Pittman-Robertson Federal Assistance Grant (75% federal: 25% state)

Relative Priority Evaluation Score (attach worksheet):

Recommendation: Pursue Acquisition Defer Do not Pursue Acquisition

Map Attached: Yes No

Stolting Tract (Richmond County) - Wildlife Action Plan Priority Species

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FED LISTED	STATE LISTED
AMPHIBIANS			
<i>Plethodon glutinosus</i>	Slimy Salamander		
<i>Ambystoma tigrinum</i>	Tiger Salamander		T
<i>Bufo quercicus</i>	Oak Toad		SR
<i>Hyla andersonii</i>	Pine Barrens Treefrog		SR
<i>Rana capito</i>	Gopher Frog		T
BIRDS			
<i>Picoides borealis</i>	Red-cockaded Woodpecker	E	E
<i>Aimophila aestivalis</i>	Bachman's Sparrow		SC
MAMMALS			
<i>Lasiurus seminolus</i>	Seminole Bat		
<i>Sciurus niger</i>	Eastern Fox Squirrel		SR
REPTILES			
<i>Ophisaurus attenuatus</i>	Slender Glass Lizard		SR
<i>Cemophora coccinea</i>	Scarlet Snake		
<i>Heterodon simus</i>	Southern Hognose Snake		SC
<i>Lampropeltis triangulum elapsoides</i>	Scarlet Kingsnake		
<i>Masticophis flagellum</i>	Coachwhip		SR
<i>Pituophis melanoleucus melanoleucus</i>	Northern Pine Snake		SC
<i>Micrurus fulvius</i>	Eastern Coral Snake		E
<i>Sistrurus miliarius</i>	Pygmy Rattlesnake		SC

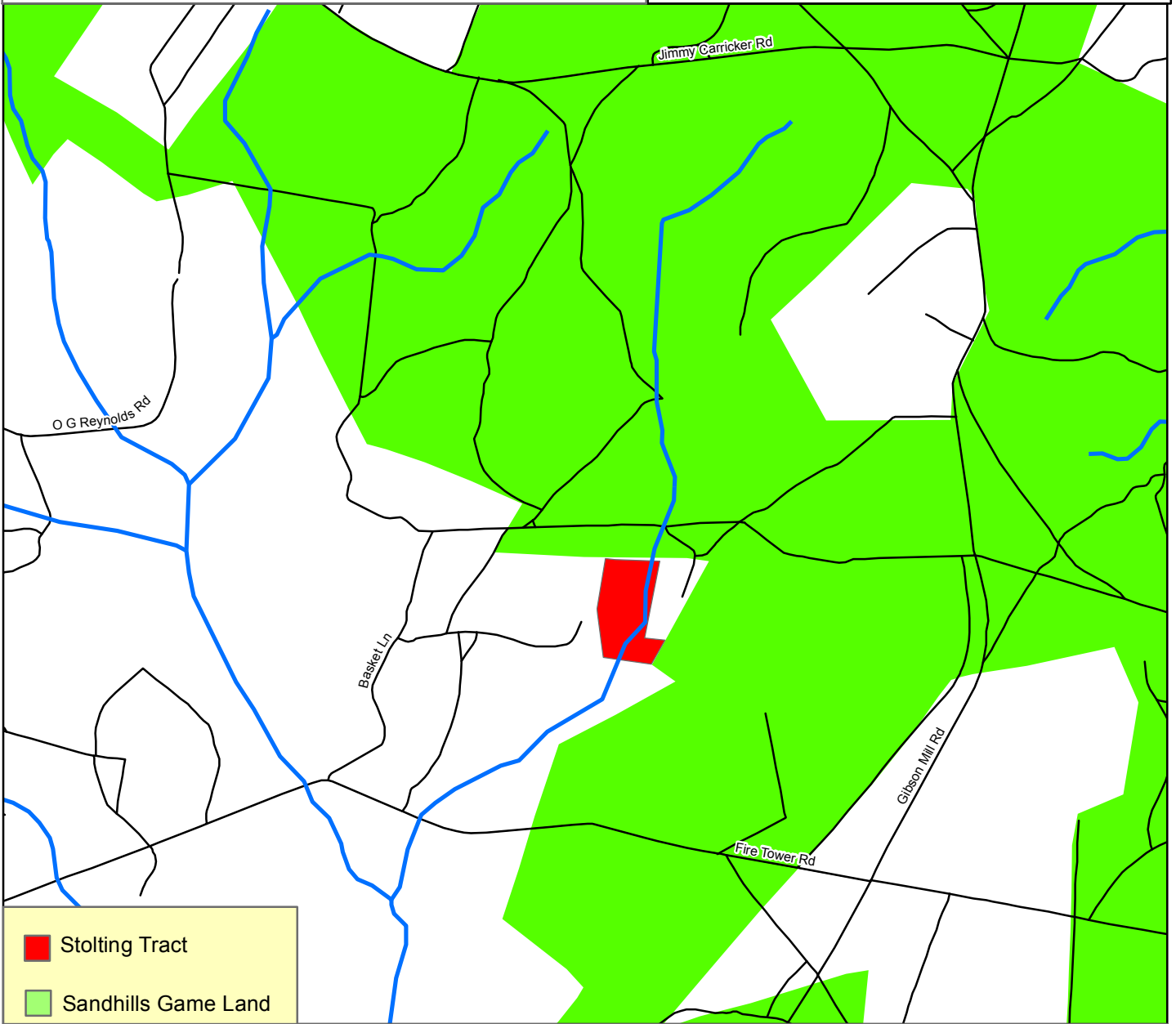
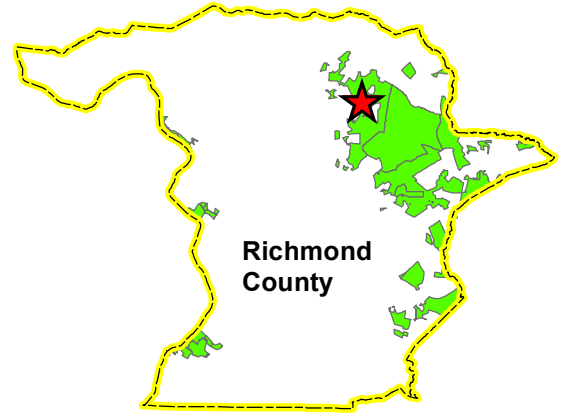
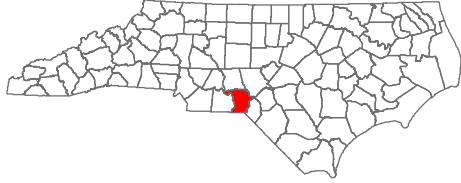
WORKSHEET



Relative Priority Evaluation for Conservation Lands

Tract Name (Sandhills GL) Stolting Tract (Richmond County)

Criterion	Score (1-5) 5=Excellent 1=Poor
1. Augments existing protected lands by addressing an inholding or adjacent tract, provides key access, buffers or connects existing WRC-managed lands.	<u>5</u>
2. Represents good hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, and other resource-based recreational opportunities.	<u>5</u>
3. No conflicting surrounding land uses.	<u>5</u>
4. Serves as a wildlife corridor between areas already protected for conservation purposes and provides connectivity to priority Wildlife Action Plan habitats.	<u>5</u>
5. Augments land conservation efforts on a landscape scale by providing nuclei (“anchors”) for regional conservation efforts, corridors, key linkages between conservation areas, or keystone tracts.	<u>5</u>
6. Fills a need identified by the Wildlife Action Plan, such as critical, rare or unique habitats; natural heritage elements; or significant aquatic/terrestrial resources.	<u>5</u>
7. Is this an area in which we would like to establish a new game land, wildlife conservation area, or fishing access?	<u>NA</u>
8. Is it large enough to be a new game land, and if not, are there possibilities for expansion (goal 3,000-5,000 acre minimum)?	<u>NA</u>
9. Is area adequate for fishing access development with suitable parking, and if not, are there possibilities for expansion?	<u>NA</u>
TOTAL SCORE	<u><u>30</u></u>

Stolting Tract Sandhills Game Land Richmond County 20 Acres



-  Stolting Tract
-  Sandhills Game Land

January 11, 2015

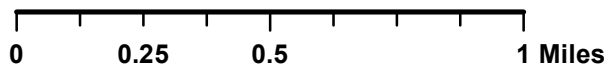


EXHIBIT G-1

May 21, 2015

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Land Acquisition Investigation Form

-PHASE II: FINAL ACQUISITION DETAILS-

WRC Action/Approval to Pursue (Date): May 22, 2014

Tract: Phillips Tract; Ashe County, 101 Acres

Acquisition Plan (specify total project cost, each source, and amount of OBLIGATED funds):

Accept donation of the property from The Blue Ridge Conservancy

Based on Appraisal: Yes No NA

If Yes, Name of Appraiser:

Date of Appraisal: NA

Appraisal Handled by State Property Office: Yes No NA

Acquisition Plan Includes Bargain Sale: Yes No

If Yes, Explain Details:

Source(s) of Stewardship Funds (indicate federal:state match rates):

Pittman-Robertson Federal Assistance Grant (75% federal: 25% state)

Five Year Stewardship Costs & Revenue Projection Evaluation (attach worksheet)

Five Year Estimate of Total Stewardship Expenditures:	\$:	\$6,369
Five Year Estimate of Total Projected Revenue:	\$:	\$0

Additional Comments: NA

WORKSHEET
Five Year Stewardship Costs and Revenue Projections
(Five Years Post Acquisition)

STEWARDSHIP					
Estimated Stewardship Expenditures					
Tract Name	Activity	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost
BRC Phillips Tract	Boundary Establishment (Contract Survey)	4,495	Ft.	\$1.25	\$5,619
	Install gate to control vehicular access	1	ea.	\$750	\$750
Total					\$6,369.00

REVENUE					
Estimated Revenue Projections					
BRC Phillips Tract	Source	Quantity	Unit	Unit Revenue	Total Revenue
					\$ -
Total					\$ -

+

**North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
Land Acquisition Investigation Form**

-PHASE I: INITIAL INVESTIGATION-

WRC Staff Contact: Gordon Warburton/Kip Hollifield

Date First Presented to WRC: May 22, 2014

Tract Name: Blue Ridge Conservancy (BRC) Tracts

Acreage:	Phillips Tract	101 acres (Parcel ID 08068-004)
	BRC Tract	90 acres (Parcel ID 17040-005)
	Tracy Tract	72 acres (Parcel ID 17068-020)
	TOTAL	263 acres

County: Ashe

Estimated Value: NA – offered as a donation. BRC currently owns one of the three tracts and has secured a Clean Water Management Trust Fund grant for 50% of the other two tracts and is currently pursuing the balance of the necessary funding. If successful, BRC wishes to donate all three tracts to WRC.

Property Owner or Representative: Blue Ridge Conservancy c/o Eric Hiegl

Phone: 828-264-2511

Address: P.O. Box 568, Boone, NC 28607

Status: High Interest Moderate Interest Low Interest No Interest

Grant Potential: CWMTF

OTHER (explain): NA – offered as a donation

Resources Assessment and Biological Benefits (brief): Acquisition of these properties is significant as part of the total management project being carried out in the Pond Mountain area. WRC ownership of the tracts will help ensure ecosystem integrity of the area by increasing connectivity of lands in conservation ownership such as the Jefferson and Cherokee National Forests, Three Top Mountain Game Land, and various private holdings that are in conservation ownership or have conservation easements. WRC ownership will reduce land fragmentation as well.

Both the BRC and Tracy tracts are mostly forested with Appalachian oak and Appalachian cove forests predominant. Both also contain a small amount of open and old field habitat. The Phillips tract is approximately half forested with the other half open/old field habitat.

Common wildlife species found on these tracts include wild turkey, black bear, white-tailed deer, gray squirrel, ruffed grouse as well as various songbirds, salamanders, and small mammals. See attached table for listing of priority species likely to occur on the tract. The entire Phillips tract and the majority of both the BRC and Tracy tracts are part of the state significant Pond Mountain Natural Heritage Area.

The BRC tract adjoins Rock Fence Rd. (S.R. 1324) and acquisition will provide additional public access to a portion of the existing Pond Mountain Game Land. While the Phillips and Tracy tracts offer no additional public access points, acquisition will augment existing holdings though additional acreage available for natural resources management and public recreation. Additionally, WRC ownership will ensure these properties are not developed. Management objectives will include restoring or maintaining the oak forest and cove forest priority wildlife habitats that are located on the tracts, as well as maintaining early successional habitat that currently exists on the properties. Public recreational opportunities will include hunting, hiking, bird watching, photography, and general nature study. Educational opportunities may exist as priority wildlife habitats are managed for or maintained.

Additional Comments: None

Program Potential: Game Land (Pond Mountain) Wildlife Conservation Area
 Fishing Access Area None

Potential Source(s) of Stewardship Funds (indicate federal:state match rates): Pittman-Robertson Federal Assistance Grant (75% federal: 25% state)

Relative Priority Evaluation Score (attach worksheet):

28 of 30

Recommendation: Pursue Acquisition Defer Do not Pursue Acquisition

Map Attached: Yes No

Phillips Tract (Ashe County) - Wildlife Action Plan Priority Species

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FED LISTED	STATE LISTED
AMPHIBIANS			
Plethodon glutinosus	Slimy Salamander		
Plethodon montanus	Northern Gray-cheeked Salamander		
Plethodon richmondi	Ravine Salamander		
Plethodon ventralis	Southern Zigzag Salamander		SC
Plethodon wehrlei	Wehrle's Salamander		T
Plethodon welleri	Weller's Salamander		SC
Desmognathus orestes	Blue Ridge Dusky Salamander		
Desmognathus wrighti	Pygmy Salamander		SR
Eurycea longicauda	Longtail Salamander		SC
Hemidactylium scutatum	Four-toed Salamander		SC
Hyla versicolor	Gray Treefrog		SR
Pseudacris brachyphona	Mountain Chorus Frog		SC
BIRDS			
Accipiter striatus	Sharp-shinned Hawk		SR
Accipiter cooperii	Cooper's Hawk		
Falco sparverius	American Kestrel		
Coccyzus erythrophthalmus	Black-billed Cuckoo		SR
Tyto alba	Barn Owl		SR
Asio otus	Long-eared Owl		
Aegolius acadicus	Northern Saw-whet Owl		
Sphyrapicus varius	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		
Empidonax alnorum	Alder Flycatcher		SR
Empidonax minimus	Least Flycatcher		
Vireo griseus	White-eyed Vireo		
Vireo solitarius	Blue-headed Vireo		
Vireo gilvus	Warbling Vireo		SR
Corvus corax	Common Raven		
Tachycineta bicolor	Tree Swallow		
Riparia riparia	Bank Swallow		SR
Petrochelidon pyrrhonota	Cliff Swallow		
Poecile atricapillus	Black-capped Chickadee		
Sitta canadensis	Red-breasted Nuthatch		
Certhia americana	Brown Creeper		SC
Troglodytes troglodytes	Winter Wren		
Regulus satrapa	Golden-crowned Kinglet		
Poliophtila caerulea	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher		
Vermivora pinus	Blue-winged Warbler		SR
Vermivora chrysoptera	Golden-winged Warbler		SC
Dendroica magnolia	Magnolia Warbler		SR
Dendroica discolor	Prairie Warbler		
Dendroica cerulea	Cerulean Warbler		SC

Phillips Tract (Ashe County) - Wildlife Action Plan Priority Species (Continued)

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FED LISTED	STATE LISTED
BRDS (Continued)			
<i>Mniotilta varia</i>	Black-and-white Warbler		
<i>Limnothlypis swainsonii</i>	Swainson's Warbler		
<i>Seiurus aurocapilla</i>	Ovenbird		
<i>Poocetes gramineus</i>	Vesper Sparrow		SC
<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>	Savannah Sparrow		SR
<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	Grasshopper Sparrow		
<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>	Rose-breasted Grosbeak		
<i>Icterus galbula</i>	Baltimore Oriole		
<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	Red Crossbill		
MAMMALS			
<i>Sorex dispar</i>	Long-tailed Shrew		SC
<i>Sorex hoyi</i>	Pygmy Shrew		
<i>Corynorhinus rafinesquii</i>	Rafinesque's Big-eared Bat		T
<i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>	Townsend's Big-eared Bat		
<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>	Hoary Bat		
<i>Myotis grisescens</i>	Gray Myotis	LE	E
<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	Northern Myotis		
<i>Myotis leibii</i>	Eastern Small-footed Myotis		SC
<i>Sylvilagus obscurus</i>	Appalachian Cottontail		SR
<i>Glaucomys sabrinus</i>	Northern Flying Squirrel		
<i>Neotoma magister</i>	Allegheny Woodrat		SC
<i>Synaptomys cooperi</i>	Southern Bog Lemming		
<i>Zapus hudsonius</i>	Meadow Jumping Mouse		
<i>Mustela nivalis</i>	Least Weasel		SR
REPTILES			
<i>Apalone spinifera spinifera</i>	Eastern Spiny Softshell		SC
<i>Eumeces anthracinus</i>	Coal Skink		SR
<i>Lampropeltis triangulum triangulum</i>	Eastern Milk Snake		

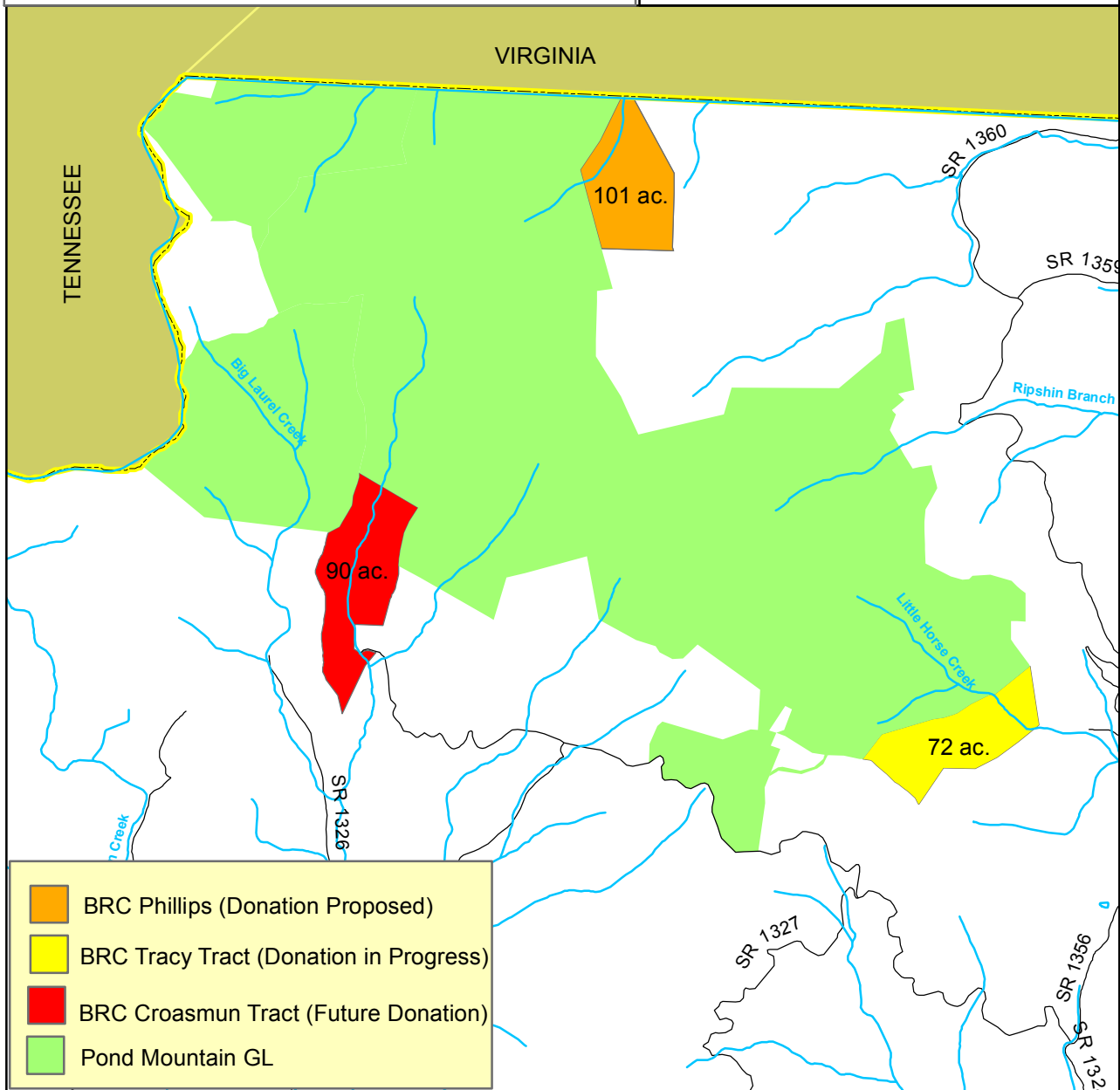
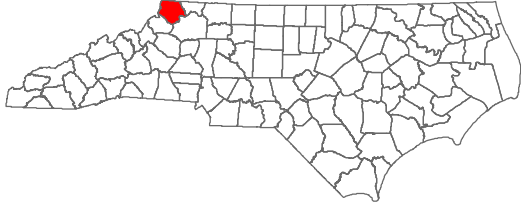
WORKSHEET

Relative Priority Evaluation for Conservation Lands

Tract Name (Pond Mtn. GL) Blue Ridge Conservancy Tracts

Criterion	Score (1-5) 5=Excellent 1=Poor
1. Augments existing protected lands by addressing an inholding or adjacent tract, provides key access, buffers or connects existing WRC-managed lands.	<u>5</u>
2. Represents good hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, and other resource-based recreational opportunities.	<u>4</u>
3. No conflicting surrounding land uses.	<u>5</u>
4. Serves as a wildlife corridor between areas already protected for conservation purposes and provides connectivity to priority Wildlife Action Plan habitats.	<u>5</u>
5. Augments land conservation efforts on a landscape scale by providing nuclei (“anchors”) for regional conservation efforts, corridors, key linkages between conservation areas, or keystone tracts.	<u>5</u>
6. Fills a need identified by the Wildlife Action Plan, such as critical, rare or unique habitats; natural heritage elements; or significant aquatic/terrestrial resources.	<u>4</u>
7. Is this an area in which we would like to establish a new game land, wildlife conservation area, or fishing access?	<u>NA</u>
8. Is it large enough to be a new game land, and if not, are there possibilities for expansion (goal 3,000-5,000 acre minimum)?	<u>NA</u>
9. Is area adequate for fishing access development with suitable parking, and if not, are there possibilities for expansion?	<u>NA</u>
TOTAL SCORE	<u>28</u>

BRC Phillips Tract Pond Mountain GL Ashe County 101 Acres



April 30, 2015

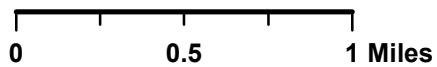


EXHIBIT G-2

May 21, 2015

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Land Acquisition Investigation Form

-PHASE II: FINAL ACQUISITION DETAILS-

WRC Action/Approval to Pursue (Date): May 22, 2014

Tract: EBH – H&V Tract; Alleghany/Surry County, 76 Acres

Acquisition Plan (specify total project cost, each source, and amount of OBLIGATED funds):

Accept donation of the property from the Conservation Trust for North Carolina

Based on Appraisal: Yes No NA

If Yes, Name of Appraiser:

Date of Appraisal: NA

Appraisal Handled by State Property Office: Yes No NA

Acquisition Plan Includes Bargain Sale: Yes No

If Yes, Explain Details:

Source(s) of Stewardship Funds (indicate federal:state match rates):

Pittman-Robertson Federal Assistance Grant (75% federal: 25% state)

Five Year Stewardship Costs & Revenue Projection Evaluation (attach worksheet)

Five Year Estimate of Total Stewardship Expenditures:	\$:	\$11,188
Five Year Estimate of Total Projected Revenue:	\$:	\$0

Additional Comments: NA

WORKSHEET
Five Year Stewardship Costs and Revenue Projections
(Five Years Post Acquisition)

STEWARDSHIP					
Estimated Stewardship Expenditures					
Tract Name	Activity	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost
EBH – H&V Tract	Boundary Establishment and Maintenance (Contract Survey)	8,950	ft.	\$1.25	\$11,188
Total					\$11,188

REVENUE					
Estimated Revenue Projections					
Tract Name	Source	Quantity	Unit	Unit Revenue	Total Revenue
EBH – H&V Tract					\$ -
Total					\$ -

**North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
Land Acquisition Investigation Form**

-PHASE I: INITIAL INVESTIGATION-

WRC Staff Contact: Kip Hollifield

Date First Presented to WRC: May 21, 2015

Tract Name: EBH – H&V Tract, Mitchell River Game Land
PIN 4030281889 (All) and 4030496163 (Partial)

Acreage: +/- 76 acres

County: Alleghany & Surry

Estimated Value: Donation by the Conservation Trust for North Carolina (CTNC)

Property Owner or Representative:

Rusty Painter
Conservation Trust for North Carolina
1028 Washington Street
Raleigh, NC 27605
 [\(919\) 828-4199 x16](tel:(919)828-4199)
Fax [\(919\) 828-4508](tel:(919)828-4508)
Rusty@ctnc.org
www.ctnc.org

Status: High Interest Moderate Interest Low Interest No Interest

Grant Potential: CWMTF

OTHER (explain): Donation

Resources Assessment and Biological Benefits (brief):

Acquisition of the EBH – H&V Tract is significant as part of the total management project being carried out at Mitchell River Game Land. Acquisition of this tract is particularly significant since it would solidify State ownership around the main public access to the Saddle Mtn. Tract of Mitchell River Game Land. Acquisition of the EBH – H&V Tract will also solidify State ownership around the Handy Tract which is slated for donation to WRC in the near future. Acquisition will also provide approximately 0.25 mi. of game land road frontage along S.R. 1462, however this will add little in the way of meaningful public access since the game land parking area adequately serves the EBH – H&V Tract.

The tract is forested with oak forest predominant. An approximately 10 acre white pine plantation is located on the property. Management objectives will include maintaining the oak forest habitat and restoring the pine plantation to native forest (contingent on conditions of the CWMTF grant). Common game species found on the tract include wild turkey, white-tailed deer, raccoon, and gray squirrel. Priority non-game species likely found on the tract as either permanent residents or transients are identified in the following table:

Wildlife Action Plan Priority Species

Group	Species	State Status (Federal Status)
Birds	Wood Thrush	
	Hooded Warbler	
	Eastern Wood-Pee-wee	
Mammals	Eastern Small-Footed Myotis	SC
	Long-tailed Weasel	
Amphibians	Wehrle's Salamander	T
Reptiles	Eastern Box Turtle	
	Timber Rattlesnake	SC

STATUS: T = threatened, SC = special concern

Additional Comments: Funding is via CWMTF application prepared by CTNC and private donation.

Program Potential: Game Land (Mitchell River) Wildlife Conservation Area
 Fishing Access Area None

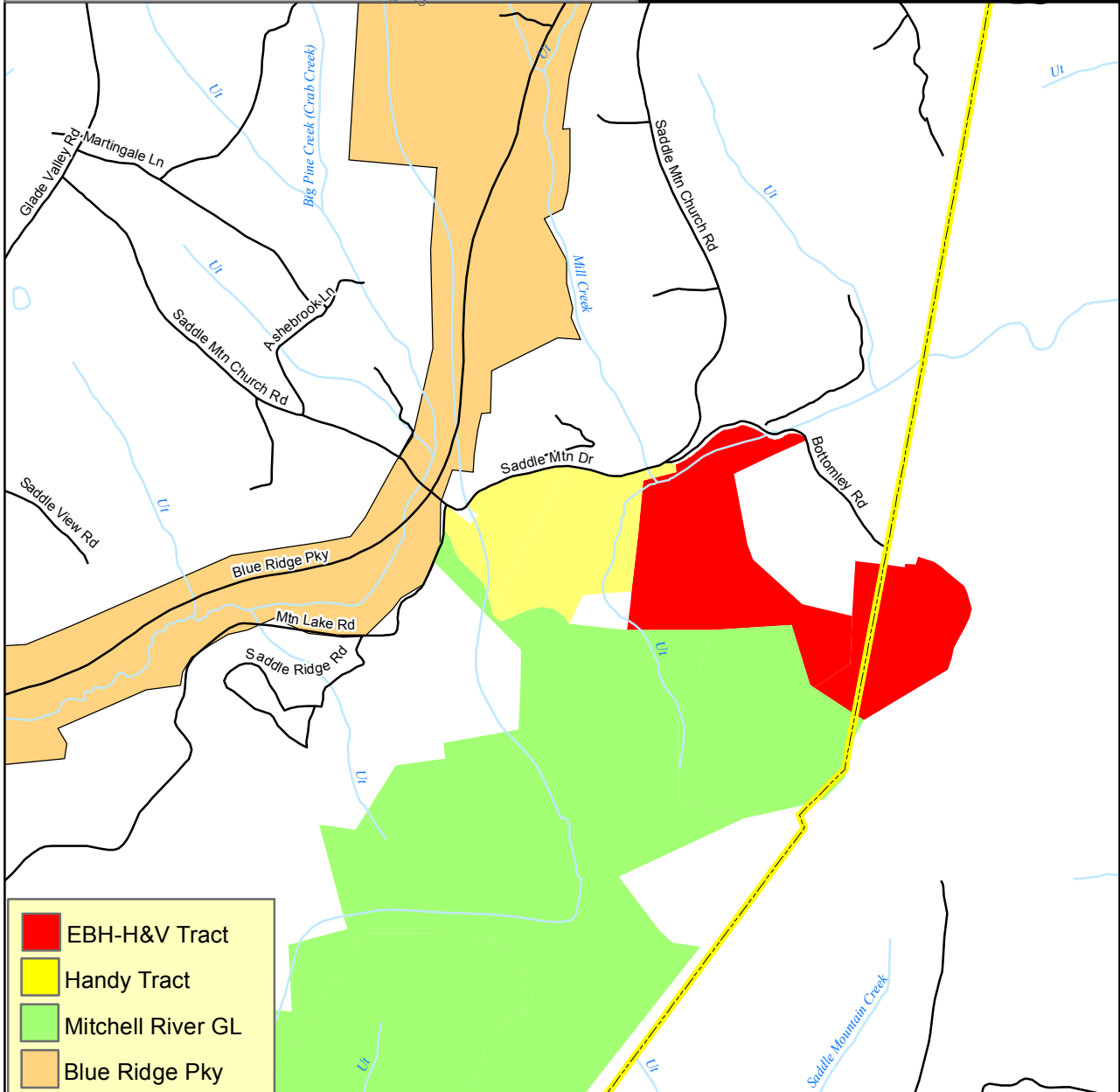
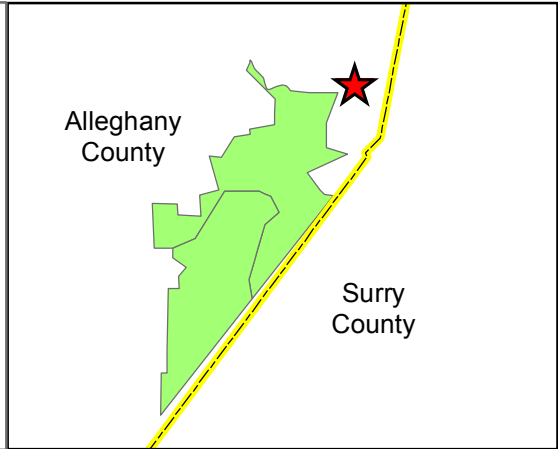
Potential Source(s) of Stewardship Funds (indicate federal:state match rates): Pittman-Robertson Federal Assistance Grant (75% federal: 25% state)

Relative Priority Evaluation Score (attach worksheet): 28 of 30

Recommendation: Pursue Acquisition Defer Do not Pursue Acquisition

Map Attached: Yes No

EBH-H&V Tract Mitchell River GL Allegheny/Surry County 76 Acres



May 3, 2015

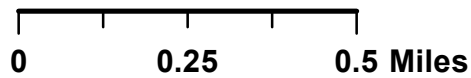


EXHIBIT G-3

May 21, 2015

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Land Acquisition Investigation Form

-PHASE II: FINAL ACQUISITION DETAILS-

WRC Action/Approval to Pursue (Date): May 21, 2015

Tract: Teachey Tract; Pender County, 1,081 Acres

Acquisition Plan (specify total project cost, each source, and amount of OBLIGATED funds):

Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) \$ 100,000 (WRC Funds)
NC Coastal Land Trust (NCCLT) \$ 450,000 (North American Wetlands Conservation Act)

Total Cost: \$ 550,000 (~ \$ 509/Acre)

Note: WRC will contribute \$100,000 of agency funds. NC Coastal Land Trust will contribute \$450,000 via a grant from the North American Wetlands Conservation Act.

Based on Appraisal: Yes No NA

If Yes, Name of Appraiser:

Requested by:	Appraiser	Effective Date	Appraised Value
NCCLT	Shackleford Appraisals	1/19/2015	\$ 586,000 (~ \$542/Acre)

Date of Appraisal: See above.

Appraisal Handled by State Property Office: Yes No NA

Acquisition Plan Includes Bargain Sale: Yes No

If Yes, Explain Details:

Source(s) of Stewardship Funds (indicate federal:state match rates):

Pittman-Robertson Federal Assistance Grant (75% federal: 25% state)

Five Year Stewardship Costs & Revenue Projection Evaluation (attach worksheet)

Five Year Estimate of Total Stewardship Expenditures:	\$:	6,000
Five Year Estimate of Total Projected Revenue:	\$:	NA

Additional Comments: NA

WORKSHEET
Five Year Stewardship Costs and Revenue Projections
(Five Years Post Acquisition)

STEWARDSHIP					
Estimated Stewardship Expenditures					
Tract Name	Activity	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost
Teachey Tract	Boundary Establishment	3	mi.	\$1,500	\$4,500
	Boundary Maintenance –yr 4	1	mi.	\$1,500	\$1,500
Total					\$6,000

REVENUE					
Estimated Revenue Projections					
Tract Name	Source	Quantity	Unit	Unit Revenue	Total Revenue
Teachey Tract					\$ -
Total					\$ -

**North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
Land Acquisition Investigation Form**

-PHASE I: INITIAL INVESTIGATION-

WRC Staff Contact: Tommy Hughes

Date First Presented to WRC: May 21, 2015

Tract Name: NE Cape Fear River - Teachey Tract (PIN 3334-14-7651-0000)

Acreage: 1,081

County: Pender

Estimated Value: \$ 586,000 (appraised value)

Property Owner or Representative: Jim Teachey, Buyers, Brokers & Consultants, Inc.

Phone: (910) 520-4992

Address: 1430 Commonwealth Drive, Wilmington, NC 28403

Status: High Interest Moderate Interest Low Interest No Interest

Grant Potential: CWMTF

OTHER (explain): The NC Coastal Land Trust (NCCLT) is proposing to purchase the 1,081 acre tract in fee title and transfer the property to the WRC as an addition Angola Bay Game Land. The NCCLT has applied for a \$1 mil federal North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) Grant which includes \$450K towards acquisition of this property. Subject to Commission approval, WRC has committed to a 10% partnership in the NAWCA Grant and will contribute \$100,000 towards fee acquisition.

Resources Assessment and Biological Benefits (brief): The Teachey Tract lies adjacent to the east side of WRC's 33,000-acre Angola Bay Game Land. The tract consists primarily of pocosin vegetation. Unlike much of the adjacent Angola Bay Game Lands, this property has not been extensively ditched and converted to loblolly pine plantation. There is a 60-foot legal deeded access to the Teachey property. The primary significance of this property is its connectivity to other conservation lands. The NC Wildlife Action Plan identifies pocosin as priority habitat for conservation. Commons species include bear, bobcat, deer, opossum, raccoon, otter, mink, muskrat, quail and woodcock. Nongame species typical of pocosin habitats are identified in the following table:

Priority species associated with coastal plain pocosin habitat:

Group	Species	State Status (Federal Status)
Birds	Northern Flicker	
	Prairie Warbler	
	Wayne's Black-throated Green Warbler	
	Worm-eating Warbler	
	Red-cockaded Woodpecker	E (E)
	Hooded Warbler	
Mammls	Star-nosed Mole	SC
	Long-tailed Weasel	
	Cotton Mouse	
	Marsh Rabbit	
	Southern Bog Lemming	SR
Amphibians	Oak Toad	SR
	Southern Dusky Salamander	
	Pine Barrens Treefrog	
	Many-lined Salamander	

STATUS: E = endangered, SC = special concern, SR = significantly rare
 North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. 2005. *North Carolina Wildlife Action Plan, Raleigh, NC*

Based upon data found in the NC Conservation Planning Tool, the entire NE Cape Fear River/Teachey Tract Biodiversity index averaged a score of 10 out of 10 (1- low-10 high values). The Biodiversity/Wildlife Habitat Index prioritizes aquatic and terrestrial habitat, landscape function and connectivity. Areas that support this level of species richness should be targeted for protection.

Additional Comments: Preliminary estimates of five-year stewardship expenditures are limited to establishing 3 miles of boundary line (\$4,500) and maintaining 1 mile (\$1,500). Total estimate of five-year expenditures is \$6,000.

Program Potential: Game Land (Angola Bay) Wildlife Conservation Area
 Fishing Access Area None

Potential Source(s) of Stewardship Funds (indicate federal:state match rates): Pittman-Robertson Federal Assistance Grant (75% federal: 25% state)

Relative Priority Evaluation Score (attach worksheet): 30 of 30

Recommendation: Pursue Acquisition Defer Do not Pursue Acquisition

Map Attached: Yes No

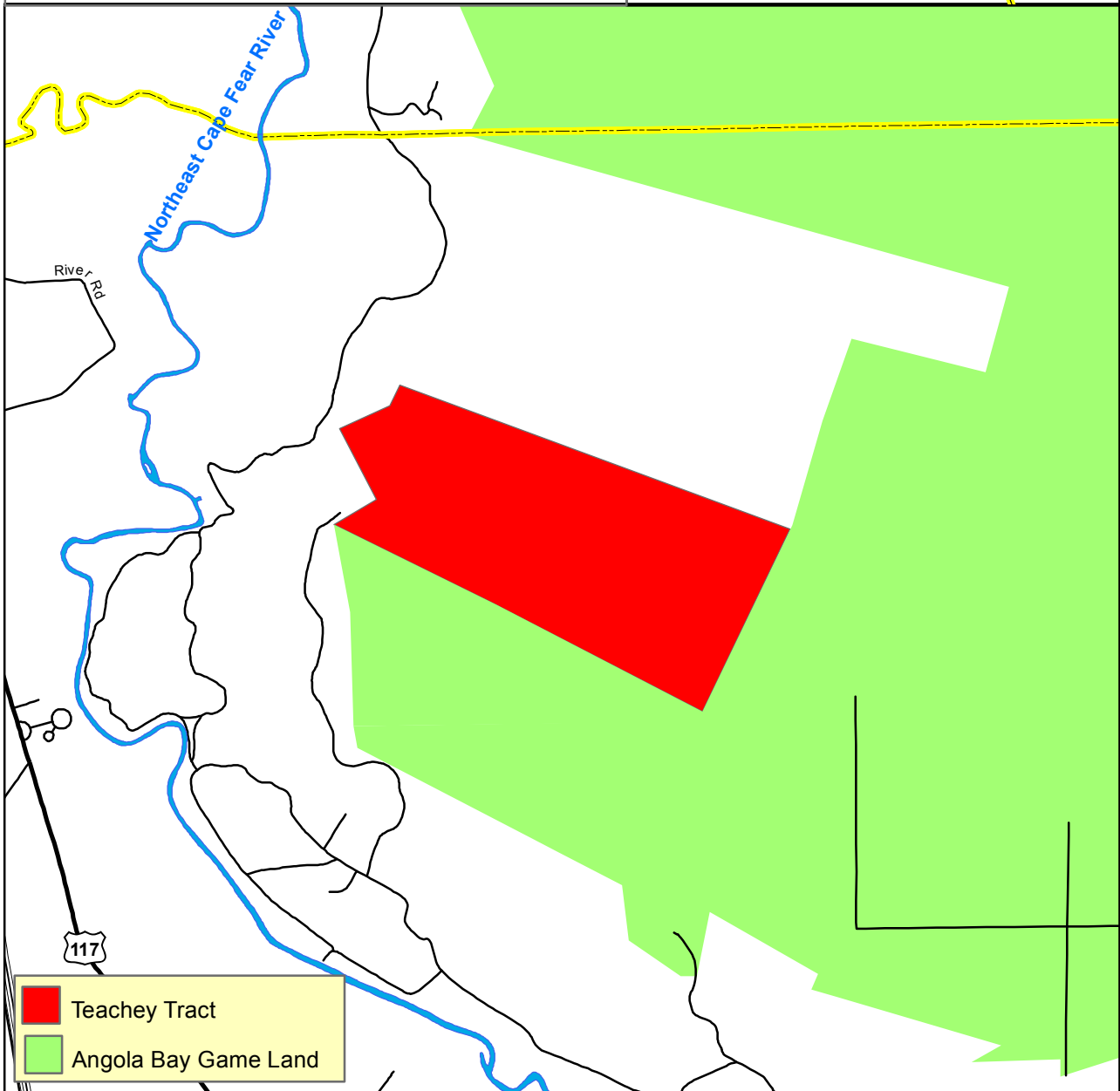
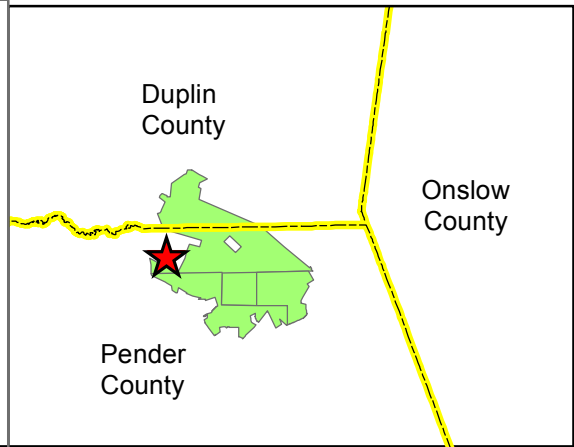
WORKSHEET



Relative Priority Evaluation for Conservation Lands

Tract Name (Angola Bay GL) NE Cape Fear River/Teachey Tract

Criterion	Score (1-5) 5=Excellent 1=Poor
1. Augments existing protected lands by addressing an inholding or adjacent tract, provides key access, buffers or connects existing WRC-managed lands.	<u>5</u>
2. Represents good hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, and other resource-based recreational opportunities.	<u>5</u>
3. No conflicting surrounding land uses.	<u>5</u>
4. Serves as a wildlife corridor between areas already protected for conservation purposes and provides connectivity to priority Wildlife Action Plan habitats.	<u>5</u>
5. Augments land conservation efforts on a landscape scale by providing nuclei (“anchors”) for regional conservation efforts, corridors, key linkages between conservation areas, or keystone tracts.	<u>5</u>
6. Fills a need identified by the Wildlife Action Plan, such as critical, rare or unique habitats; natural heritage elements; or significant aquatic/terrestrial resources.	<u>5</u>
7. Is this an area in which we would like to establish a new game land, wildlife conservation area, or fishing access?	<u>NA</u>
8. Is it large enough to be a new game land, and if not, are there possibilities for expansion (goal 3,000-5,000 acre minimum)?	<u>NA</u>
9. Is area adequate for fishing access development with suitable parking, and if not, are there possibilities for expansion?	<u>NA</u>
TOTAL SCORE	<u><u>30</u></u>

Teachey Tract Angola Bay GL Pender County 1,081 Acres



 Teachey Tract
 Angola Bay Game Land

April 19, 2015

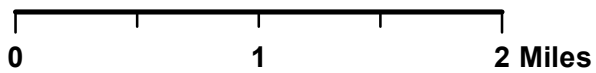


EXHIBIT G-4

May 21, 2015

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Land Acquisition Investigation Form

-PHASE II: FINAL ACQUISITION DETAILS-

WRC Action/Approval to Pursue (Date): May 21, 2015

Tract: IP Chowan Tract; Gates County, 960 Acres

Acquisition Plan (specify total project cost, each source, and amount of OBLIGATED funds):

Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) \$ 100,000 (WRC Funds)
NC Coastal Land Trust (NCCLT) \$ 540,000 (North American Wetlands Conservation Act)

Total Cost: \$ 640,000 (~ \$ 667/Acre)

Note: WRC will contribute \$100,000 of agency funds. NC Coastal Land Trust will contribute \$540,000 via a grant from the North American Wetlands Conservation Act.

Based on Appraisal: Yes No NA

If Yes, Name of Appraiser:

Requested by:	Appraiser	Effective Date	Appraised Value
NCCLT	Chuck Moody	Unknown	\$ 672,000 (~ \$700/Acre)

Date of Appraisal: See above.

Appraisal Handled by State Property Office: Yes No NA

Acquisition Plan Includes Bargain Sale: Yes No

If Yes, Explain Details:

Source(s) of Stewardship Funds (indicate federal:state match rates):

Pittman-Robertson Federal Assistance Grant (75% federal: 25% state)

Five Year Stewardship Costs & Revenue Projection Evaluation (attach worksheet)

Five Year Estimate of Total Stewardship Expenditures:	\$:	\$10,000
Five Year Estimate of Total Projected Revenue:	\$:	NA

Additional Comments: NA

WORKSHEET
Five Year Stewardship Costs and Revenue Projections
(Five Years Post Acquisition)

STEWARDSHIP					
Estimated Stewardship Expenditures					
Tract Name	Activity	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost
IP Chowan Tract	Boundary Establishment	8.5	mi.	\$500	\$4,250
	Boundary Maintenance –yr 4	2.5	mi.	\$500	\$1,250
	Prescribe Burn	150	ac.	\$30	\$4,500
Total					\$10,000

REVENUE					
Estimated Revenue Projections					
Tract Name	Source	Quantity	Unit	Unit Revenue	Total Revenue
IP Chowan Tract					\$ -
	Total				

**North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
Land Acquisition Investigation Form**

-PHASE I: INITIAL INVESTIGATION-

WRC Staff Contact: Isaac Harrold/Tommy Hughes

Date First Presented to WRC: May 21, 2015

Tract Name: IP Chowan River Tract (PIN 6031123897)

Acreage: 960

County: Gates

Estimated Value: \$648,000- \$696,000 (appraised value)

Property Owner or Representative: Sustainable Forests LLC

Phone: Janice Allen c/o NC Coastal Land Trust (252) 634-1927

Address: 6300 Tower 1 Poplar Ave., Memphis, TN 38197

Status: High Interest Moderate Interest Low Interest No Interest

Grant Potential: CWMTF

OTHER (explain): The NC Coastal Land Trust (NCCLT) is proposing to purchase the 960 acre IP Chowan tract in Gates County in fee title and transfer the property to the WRC as an addition to Chowan Swamp Game Land. The NCCLT has applied for and received a \$1 mil federal North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) Grant, which includes \$540K for fee acquisition of this property. Subject to Commission approval, WRC has committed to a 10% partnership in the NAWCA Grant and will contribute \$100,000 towards fee acquisition.

Resources Assessment and Biological Benefits (brief): The IP Chowan River tract lies adjacent and north of WRC's 30,000 acre Chowan Swamp Game Land. The VA Department of Conservation and Recreation owns 3,143 acres along the Chowan River just across the state line (i.e., the South Quay Sandhills Natural Area Preserve). The IP Chowan tract connects these lands. The Chowan River floodplain is designated by the NC Natural Heritage Program as a state significant natural heritage area and a majority of the Chowan River is considered an Aquatic Significant Natural Heritage Area due to the diversity of its freshwater mussel populations, many of which are rare and vulnerable.

The IP Chowan tract consists of approx. 435 acres of wetlands (cypress-gum swamp, bottomland hardwoods) and 525 acres of uplands (young loblolly pine plantation and mixed pine hardwoods), along with approx. 7.5 miles of frontage on the Chowan River and the Somerton Creek tributary.

The tract supports NCWRC Wildlife Action Plan (WAP) priority habitats and species and will provide valuable habitat for reptiles and amphibians, neotropical migrants, whitetail deer, wild turkey, black bear, small game, and furbearers. Priority game fish include catfish, crappie, largemouth bass, striped bass, white perch, yellow perch, and sunfish. Priority aquatic and terrestrial WAP species likely to occur on the tract are identified in the attached table.

Additional Comments: Preliminary estimates of five-year stewardship expenditures involve establishing 8.5 miles of boundary line (\$4,250), maintaining 2.5 miles (\$1,250), and prescribe burning 150 acres (\$4,500). Total estimate of five-year expenditures is \$10,000.

Tract contains > 200 acres of managed pine plantations that will generate revenue in future years as it is thinned to meet wildlife management objectives, but no short-term revenue is anticipated.

Program Potential: Game Land (Angola Bay) Wildlife Conservation Area
 Fishing Access Area None

Potential Source(s) of Stewardship Funds (indicate federal:state match rates): Pittman-Robertson Federal Assistance Grant (75% federal: 25% state)

Relative Priority Evaluation Score (attach worksheet):

Recommendation: Pursue Acquisition Defer Do not Pursue Acquisition

Map Attached: Yes No

IP Chowan River Tract (Gates County) - Wildlife Action Plan Priority Species

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FED LISTED	STATE LISTED
MUSSELS			
<i>Alasmidonta undulata</i>	Triangle Floater		T
<i>Anodonta implicata</i>	Alewife Floater		T
<i>Lampsilis radiata radiata</i>	Eastern Lampmussel		T
<i>Leptodea ochracea</i>	Tidewater Mucket		T
<i>Ligumia nasuta</i>	Eastern Pondmussel		T
CRAYFISH			
<i>Orconectes virginianus</i>	Chowanoke Crayfish		SC
NONGAME FISH			
<i>Acipenser oxyrinchus</i>	Atlantic Sturgeon		SC
<i>Enneacanthus chaetodon</i>	Blackbanded Sunfish		
<i>Enneacanthus obesus</i>	Banded Sunfish		
<i>Erimyzon sucetta</i>	Lake Chubsucker		
<i>Moxostoma macrolepidotum</i>	Shorthead Redhorse		
<i>Moxostoma pappilosum</i>	V-lip Redhorse		
<i>Notropis amoenus</i>	Comely Shiner		
<i>Notropis chalybaeus</i>	Ironcolor Shiner		
<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>	Sea Lamprey		
AMPHIBIANS			
<i>Plethodon glutinosus</i>	Slimy Salamander		
<i>Hemidactylium scutatum</i>	Four-toed Salamander		SC
<i>Stereochilus marginatus</i>	Many-lined Salamander		
<i>Ambystoma mabeei</i>	Mabee's Salamander		SR
<i>Ambystoma tigrinum</i>	Tiger Salamander		T
<i>Siren intermedia</i>	Lesser Siren		
<i>Siren lacertina</i>	Greater Siren		
<i>Bufo quercicus</i>	Oak Toad		SR
<i>Hyla gratiosa</i>	Barking Treefrog		
<i>Pseudacris brimleyi</i>	Brimley's Chorus Frog		
BIRDS			
<i>Anas strepera</i>	Gadwall		
<i>Anas rubripes</i>	American Black Duck		
<i>Anas clypeata</i>	Northern Shoveler		
<i>Aythya valisineria</i>	Canvasback		
<i>Aythya americana</i>	Redhead		
<i>Aythya marila</i>	Greater Scaup		
<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	Long-tailed Duck		
<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	Common Goldeneye		
<i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i>	Hooded Merganser		
<i>Mergus merganser</i>	Common Merganser		
<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	Pied-billed Grebe		
<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	American Bittern		SR
<i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>	Least Bittern		SC

IP Chowan River Tract (Gates County) - Wildlife Action Plan Priority Species (Continued)

BIRDS (Continued)

<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	Little Blue Heron		SC
<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>	Yellow-crowned Night-Heron		
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bald Eagle		
<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	Cooper's Hawk		
<i>Falco sparverius</i>	American Kestrel		
<i>Rallus elegans</i>	King Rail		
<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Common Moorhen		
<i>Tyto alba</i>	Barn Owl		SR
<i>Picoides borealis</i>	Red-cockaded Woodpecker	LE	E
<i>Vireo griseus</i>	White-eyed Vireo		
<i>Cistothorus palustris</i>	Marsh Wren		
<i>Polioptila caerulea</i>	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher		
<i>Dendroica discolor</i>	Prairie Warbler		
<i>Dendroica cerulea</i>	Cerulean Warbler		SC
<i>Mniotilta varia</i>	Black-and-white Warbler		
<i>Limnothlypis swainsonii</i>	Swainson's Warbler		
<i>Seiurus aurocapilla</i>	Ovenbird		
<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	Grasshopper Sparrow		

MAMMALS

<i>Corynorhinus rafinesquii</i>	Rafinesque's Big-eared Bat		T
<i>Lasiurus intermedius</i>	Northern Yellow Bat		SC
<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	Northern Myotis		
<i>Sciurus niger</i>	Eastern Fox Squirrel		SR
<i>Synaptomys cooperi</i>	Southern Bog Lemming		
<i>Zapus hudsonius</i>	Meadow Jumping Mouse		

REPTILES

<i>Clemmys guttata</i>	Spotted Turtle		
<i>Deirochelys reticularia</i>	Chicken Turtle		SR
<i>Pseudemys rubriventris</i>	Redbelly Turtle		
<i>Kinosternon baurii</i>	Striped Mud Turtle		
<i>Ophisaurus attenuatus</i>	Slender Glass Lizard		SR
<i>Cemophora coccinea</i>	Scarlet Snake		
<i>Farancia erythrogramma</i>	Rainbow Snake		
<i>Lampropeltis triangulum elapsoides</i>	Scarlet Kingsnake		
<i>Lampropeltis triangulum triangulum</i>	Eastern Milk Snake		
<i>Tantilla coronata</i>	Southeastern Crowned Snake		
<i>Virginia valeriae</i>	Smooth Earth Snake		

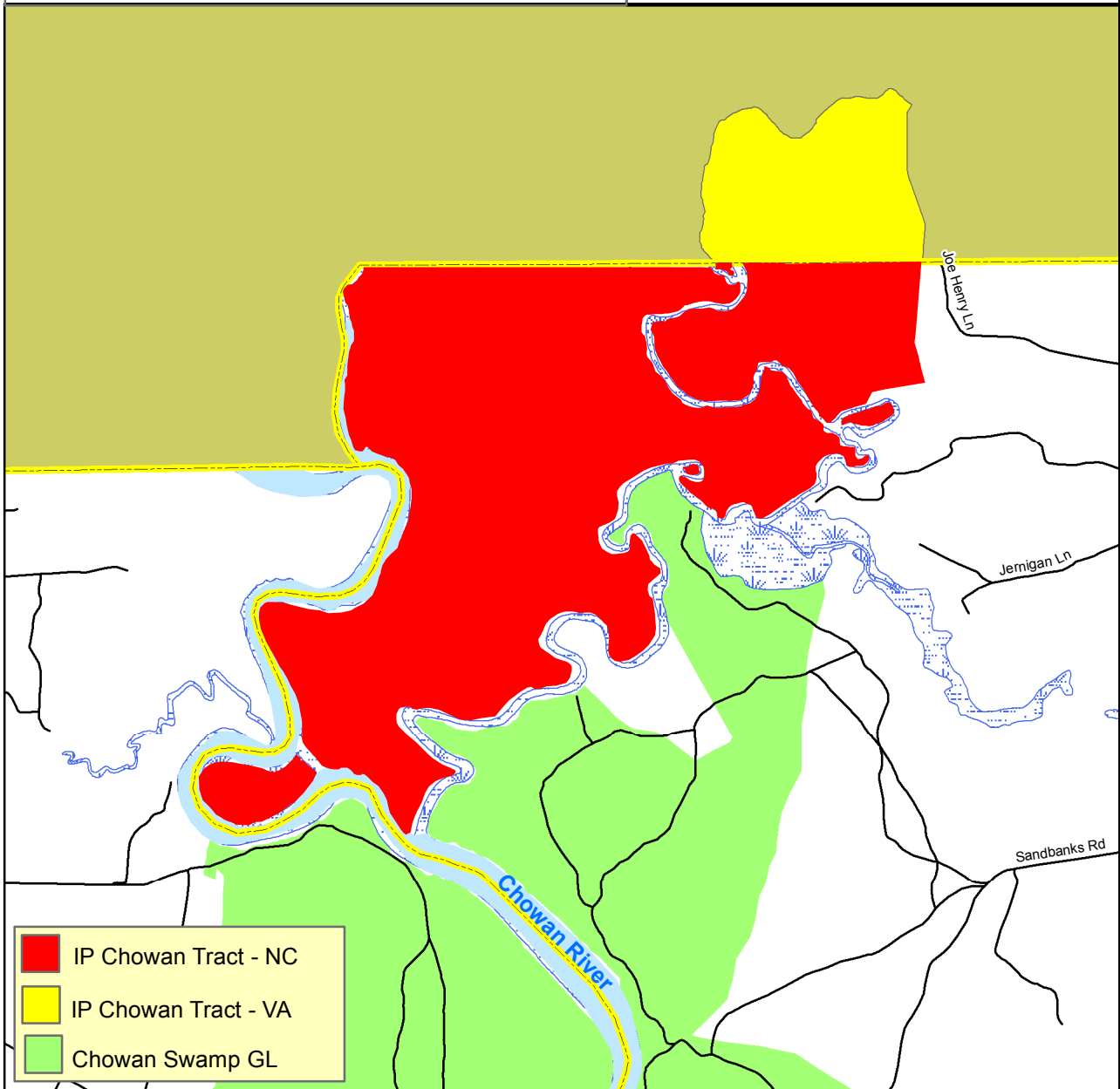
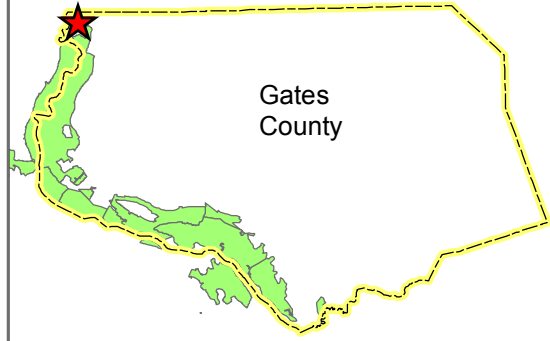
WORKSHEET

Relative Priority Evaluation for Conservation Lands

Tract Name (Chowan Swamp GL) IP Chowan Tract (Gates County)

Criterion	Score (1-5) 5=Excellent 1=Poor
1. Augments existing protected lands by addressing an inholding or adjacent tract, provides key access, buffers or connects existing WRC-managed lands.	<u>5</u>
2. Represents good hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, and other resource-based recreational opportunities.	<u>5</u>
3. No conflicting surrounding land uses.	<u>5</u>
4. Serves as a wildlife corridor between areas already protected for conservation purposes and provides connectivity to priority Wildlife Action Plan habitats.	<u>5</u>
5. Augments land conservation efforts on a landscape scale by providing nuclei (“anchors”) for regional conservation efforts, corridors, key linkages between conservation areas, or keystone tracts.	<u>5</u>
6. Fills a need identified by the Wildlife Action Plan, such as critical, rare or unique habitats; natural heritage elements; or significant aquatic/terrestrial resources.	<u>5</u>
7. Is this an area in which we would like to establish a new game land, wildlife conservation area, or fishing access?	<u>NA</u>
8. Is it large enough to be a new game land, and if not, are there possibilities for expansion (goal 3,000-5,000 acre minimum)?	<u>NA</u>
9. Is area adequate for fishing access development with suitable parking, and if not, are there possibilities for expansion?	<u>NA</u>
TOTAL SCORE	<u><u>30</u></u>

**IP Chowan Tract
Chowan Swamp GL
Gates County
960 Acres**



April 19, 2015

