



AGENDA

N.C. WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION

July 14, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

1751 Varsity Drive

NCWRC Conference Room, 5th Floor

Raleigh, North Carolina

CALL TO ORDER - *Chairman John Litton Clark*

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 Wes Seegars*

INVOCATION - *Commissioner Dean Proctor*

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 Clark*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Take action on the April 21, 2016 Wildlife Resources Commission meeting minutes as written in the exhibit and distributed to members (**EXHIBIT A**)

ADMINISTRATION

Financial Status Report - Receive a financial status report on the Wildlife Operating Fund and Wildlife Endowment Fund – *Lindsey Riddick, Budget Analyst (EXHIBIT B)*

RECOGNITION OF 2016 NATIONAL FISHING AND BOATING WEEK PRIZE DRAWING WINNER - Present Lifetime Unified Sportsman License, donated by Russell Rhodes of Neuse Sport Shop, to prize winner Brooks Grady from fishing event he attended during the 2016 National Fishing and Boating Week – *Chairman John Litton Clark*

Break for Photographs

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Boating Safety Committee Report – *Ray Clifton, Chair*

Small Game and Wild Turkey Committee Report – *Garry Spence, Chair*

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

Education Committee Report – *Tommy Fonville and Joe Budd, Co-Chairs*

Big Game/HNGES Joint Committee Report – *Neal Hanks, Big Game Chair and Mark Craig, HNGES Chair*

AGENCY SPOTLIGHT – Building Bridges Through Collaborative Projects – Receive a presentation highlighting the collaboration between WRC, NC State Parks, EBCI, NCDA & CS, and Great Smoky Mountains National Park on the Morrow Mountain Deer Project – *Dr. Maria Palamar, Wildlife Veterinarian*

INLAND FISHERIES DIVISION

Fisheries Division Update - Receive an update on activities of the Inland Fisheries Division – *Christian Waters, Inland Fisheries Division Chief*

WILDLIFE EDUCATION DIVISION

Wildlife Education Division Update – Receive an update on recent activities of the Wildlife Education Division – *Kris Smith, Wildlife Education Division Chief*

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

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

Rulemaking Request and Fiscal Note Review – Consider staff recommendation to publish Notice of Text in the *NC Register* and hold a public hearing, for proposed revisions to 15A NCAC 10B .0106, to require reporting of elk taken without a permit while in the act of depredation. Review and approve fiscal note for revisions to 15A NCAC 10B .0106 to require reporting of elk taken without a permit while in the act of depredation – *David Cobb* (**EXHIBITS C-1, C-2**)

LAND AND WATER ACCESS SECTION

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* (**EXHIBITS D-1, D-2, D-3, D-4, D-5, D-6**)

- Cunningham Tract - Swain County
- Hammond Tract – Randolph County
- Juniper Bay LLC Tract – Brunswick County
- Melton Tract – McDowell County
- Shoe Heel Tract – Johnston County
- Wood Tract – Jackson County

Phase II Land Acquisitions - Consider final approval to proceed with acquisition of the following properties – *Isaac Harrold* (**EXHIBITS E-1, E-2, E-3, E-4, E-5**)

- Dix Creek Tract – Haywood County
- Hampstead Bypass Tract – Pender County
- Hodgson Tract – Davie/Iredell County
- Ward (Columbia Depot) Tracts – Tyrrell County
- Williams-Silvers Tracts – Haywood County

WATER SAFETY RULEMAKING

Temporary Rulemaking – Taylor’s Creek No Wake Zone in Beaufort – Carteret County – Review public comments and consider adoption of temporary rulemaking to clarify and correct the description of the no wake zone in the waters of Taylor’s Creek, shore to shore, in Beaufort under 15A NCAC 10F .0330(a)(2) – Carteret County – *Betsy Haywood, No Wake Zone Coordinator* (**EXHIBIT F**)

Rulemaking – No Wake Zone, Nantahala Lake – Macon County - Consider final adoption of an extended no wake zone for the entire Lakes End Cove on Nantahala Lake in Macon County under 15A NCAC 10F .0366 (a)(1) – *Betsy Haywood* (**EXHIBIT G**)

COMMENTS BY CHAIRMAN – *John Litton Clark*

COMMENTS BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – *Gordon Myers*

ADJOURN

EXHIBIT A

July 14, 2016



MINUTES

April 21, 2016

N. C. Wildlife Resources Commission Meeting Raleigh, North Carolina

The April 21, 2016 N. C. Wildlife Resources Commission meeting was called to order by *Commission Chairman* John Litton Clark at 9:00 a.m. in the Commission Room at Wildlife Resources Commission Headquarters in Raleigh. Clark 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 Tommy Fonville and Garry Spence were absent.

Commissioner Jim Cogdell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Mike Johnson gave the invocation.

WELCOME AND MANDATORY ETHICS INQUIRY

Chairman Clark welcomed the Commissioners and guests. Chairman Clark advised the Commission of the mandatory ethics inquiry as mandated in North Carolina General Statute 138A-15(e).

COMMISSIONER ATTENDANCE

John Litton Clark
Richard Edwards
Nat Harris
Joe Budd
John Coley
Landon Zimmer
Dean Proctor
John Stone
Mike Johnson

Brian White
Wes Seegars
Jim Cogdell
Neal Hanks
Tom Berry
Mark Craig
Ray Clifton
Tim Spear

VISITORS

David Palmer
Gina Mair – AFWA/NCLI
Dick Hamilton – NC Wildlife Federation
Karen Beck – NCDA & CS
Joe McClees – NC Sporting Dog Assn.

Sean Maloy – NC Bowhunters Association
Fred Harris – NC Wildlife Federation
Tim Gestwicki – NC Wildlife Federation
Henri McClees – NC Sporting Dog Association

MINUTES

On a motion by Brian White and second by Tom Berry the Commission approved the February 11, 2016 Wildlife Resources Commission minutes as presented in **Exhibit A**. The Minutes are hereby incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

ADMINISTRATION

Lindsey Riddick, *Budget Analyst*, presented in **Exhibit B** the Wildlife Operating Fund and the Wildlife Endowment Fund as of December 31, 2015. The Operating Fund had a balance of \$13,839,277.03. The Endowment Fund had a balance of \$117,364,244.66. Revenues from licenses have increased 4.35%. The number of vessel transactions has increased 28%. Of vessel registration revenues, the WRC portion is \$3.7 million. A portion of each license and registration goes to shallow water dredging operations.

2015 LAWRENCE G. DIEDRICK AWARD PRESENTATION

Chairman John Litton Clark and Executive Director Gordon Myers presented the 2015 Lawrence G. Diedrick Small Game Award in the individual category to David Palmer and family. The Palmer family has owned Rush Fork Enterprises in Haywood County since 1913. The Palmers maintain early successional habitat for the benefit of golden wing warblers, which have shown a ninety percent decline in the mountains. A drip torch and Aldo Leopold book were presented to David Palmer.

BREAK FOR PHOTOGRAPHS

Chairman Clark announced a five minute recess so that photographs could be taken. The meeting reconvened at 9:20.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Fisheries Committee Report – Tim Spear, *Fisheries Committee Chair*, reported that the Committee met on April 20, 2016. Jake Rash gave an update on surveys of the socioeconomic impacts of trout fishing in North Carolina. Sixty-seven percent of those surveyed are satisfied with the trout fisheries industry. Public access to streams and rivers remains an important topic. Trout fishing provides a \$383 million revenue stream.

Jessica Baumann provided an update on the public meeting to provide information about possible red drum stocking on Hyco Lake. Prior to the presentation, a survey of the audience showed that 58 percent supported the idea of stocking red drum. After the presentation 84 percent supported the idea.

Chad Thomas provided a Central Southern Management Area (CSMA) striped bass update. Of the striped bass sampled in the Neuse and Cape Fear Rivers, no reproduction is taking place. All striped bass sampled have been stocked. Based on these findings, staff will recommend a regulation change to allow a catch of two fish per day, with a minimum size of 26 inches.

Land Use and Access Committee Report – Tom Berry, *Chair*, reported that the Land Use and Access Committee met on April 20, 2016. Berry congratulated the WRC on the Foothills Public Shooting Complex in Cleveland County, which is a premier shooting range.

Isaac Harrold reviewed one Phase I project for initial investigation by staff, and the committee endorsed approval by the WRC for the Bakers Lake tract in Bladen County.

Harrold reviewed eleven Phase II proposals. Four are donations and three are reallocations. The committee endorsed approval by the WRC later in this meeting.

The Committee also received brief updates on a comparison of estimated and actual stewardship expenditures associated with land acquisitions, plans to initiate a study to determine the economic impact of game lands, and modification to the funding plan for the Galloway tract in Rockingham County.

The Committee requested that staff accelerate the development of tools that have been discussed for prioritizing land acquisitions and evaluate opportunities for increasing game populations on game lands.

Director Gordon Myers recognized Erik Christofferson, *Deputy Director of Operations*, and his team for their work with Cleveland County and the NRA to build the Foothills Public Shooting Complex. Myers, Commissioners and staff attended a ribbon cutting there on April 19. Myers stated that the shooting complex is the largest public range in the southeastern United States.

Boating Safety Committee Report – Ray Clifton, *Boating Safety Committee Chair*, reported that the committee met on April 20, 2016. Betsy Haywood reviewed three requests for no wake zone amendments and the committee recommended approval by the full Commission later in this meeting. Ms. Haywood provided an update of proposed changes to the process for applying for a no wake zone that will streamline the process. An update was given about a new matrix that will be used by the Enforcement Division in evaluating each proposal before the local unit of government makes application to the Commission. The Committee requested a one-page flow chart that shows the application process from proposal to codification.

Migratory Birds, Waterfowl Committee Report – Richard Edwards, *Chair*, reported that the committee met on April 20, 2016. The committee received an update from Craig Le Schack of Ducks Unlimited. Le Schack stated that the WRC was one of Ducks Unlimited's first partners and noted their gratitude for the yearly \$50,000 contribution from the WRC for management and enhancement of the Canada maritime breeding grounds.

The committee discussed changes in sea duck regulations. To reduce confusion about the changes it was suggested that the Regulations Digest contain clear descriptions of sea duck seasons and hunting areas. Other changes in Federal guidelines for migratory waterfowl seasons were discussed for consideration later in this meeting. Agency staff was tasked with conducting a study of cormorant hunting.

Committee of the Whole Report – *Commission Chair* John Litton Clark reported that the COW met on April 20, 2016. Clark reported that the Committee of the Whole discussed in more detail the proposed changes in seasons and bag limits for migratory birds.

The COW discussed temporary rules for bear management. Public comments state-wide were in favor of baiting for bears throughout the season.

Erica Garner provided an update of the required Periodic Review of Rules and the rulemaking cycle.

The committee received a U.S. Forest Service Plan update and an update on elk.

AGENCY SPOTLIGHT – BACK IN THE WOODS AGAIN DISABLED HUNT

Major Chris Huebner introduced Sergeant Reggie Barker, who presented a program about the Back in the Woods Again Disabled Hunt. The WRC provides opportunities for all citizens to access and enjoy hunting, boating, and outdoor activities. The Disabled Hunt began in 2010 with 22 hunters. By 2015 there were 84 hunters in wheelchairs who harvested 87 deer. The hunts are made possible with many private donations and volunteer assistance. The WRC provides nine track chairs, safety instruction classes, and provides tags and exemptions that allow them to hunt outside the regular season. The WRC is responsible for deer processing after testing the deer for disease and measuring antlers. Sixty landowners in four counties donate their property, which is wheelchair accessible, for the Chatham County hunt in late September. Hunters apply for the hunt at www.backinthewoodsagain.com.

INLAND FISHERIES

Inland Fisheries Update

Christian Waters, *Inland Fisheries Division Chief*, gave an update about the activities of the Inland Fisheries Division. Waters reported that on the Roanoke River the two-month striped bass season had a \$1.7 million economic effect. He provided a hatchery production report and an update on brood stock being collected by staff for use in the hatcheries.

WILDLIFE EDUCATION

Education Update

Kris Smith, *Wildlife Education Division Chief*, presented an update about the activities of the Education Division. He announced that Christy Bullock is the new Marketing Director and Tammy Rundle is the Outdoor Heritage Advisory Council and Industry Liaison. Smith announced that the agency Facebook page has 65,000 followers. The agency is working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to create a Facebook page for Lake Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge. Smith mentioned several family activities offered, including Hunter Education Skills tournaments, a Family Fishing Fiesta, fly fishing clinics at the Pechmann Fishing Education Center, 24 turkey hunting seminars presented by Deet James, Becoming an Outdoors Woman weekend, and Currituck Youth Waterfowl Hunt, among others.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Wildlife Management Update

Dr. David Cobb, *Wildlife Management Division Chief*, presented an update about the activities of the Division. Dr. Cobb announced an increase in the turkey harvest to 9,856 through the second Sunday of the regular 2016 season, compared to 9,478 in 2015. Fifty acoustic recorders have been acquired for the turkey gobbling survey. Cobb stated that 60 biologists and managers attended the Eastern Elk Management Workshop sponsored by the NCWRC, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, National Park Service, and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

2016 - 2017 Waterfowl Season Frameworks and Public Comments

Dr. Cobb reviewed the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service season frameworks and reviewed public comments regarding certain migratory waterfowl in **Exhibits C-1 and C-2**.

Adoption of 2016-2017 Migratory Game Bird Gun Season Frameworks

Upon a motion by Wes Seegars and second by Richard Edwards, the Commission adopted the 2016-2017 options for bag limits, shooting hours, and season dates for waterfowl seasons presented in **Exhibit C-3:**

Note: Possession limits are three times the daily bag for all seasons unless otherwise noted.

HOURS: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

MOURNING DOVE AND WHITE-WINGED DOVE

Season Length: 90 days
Season Dates: September 3 – October 8
November 21 - January 14
Daily Bag: 15

KING AND CLAPPER RAILS

Season Length: 70 days
Season Dates: Sept. 1 – Oct. 1
Oct. 14 – Nov. 21
Daily Bag: 15

SORA AND VIRGINIA RAILS

Season Length: 70 days
Season Dates: Sept. 1 – Oct. 1
Oct. 14 – Nov. 21
Daily Bag: 25

GALLINULE AND MOORHENS

Season Length: 70 days
Season Dates: Sept. 1 – Oct. 1
Oct. 14 – Nov. 21
Daily Bag: 15

WOODCOCK

<u>Season Length:</u>	45 days
<u>Season Dates:</u>	Dec. 15 – Jan. 28
<u>Daily Bag:</u>	3

COMMON SNIPE

<u>Season Length:</u>	107 days
<u>Season Dates:</u>	Nov. 14 – Feb. 28
<u>Daily Bag:</u>	8

GENERAL DUCK SEASON (includes coots and mergansers)

<u>Season Length:</u>	60 hunting days with three splits
<u>Season Dates:</u>	October 5-8 November 12 – December 3 December 17 – January 28 (Black duck and mottled duck season closed until November 19.)

Bag Limits:

Conventional bag: 6 ducks with no more than 4 scoters, 4 mallards with no more than 2 hen mallards, 3 wood ducks, 4 eiders, 4 long-tailed ducks, 2 scaup, 2 redheads, 2 pintails, 1 black or mottled duck (season closed until November 19), 2 canvasbacks, and 1 fulvous whistling duck. The season on harlequin ducks is closed.

a) Coots and mergansers: 15 coots; 5 mergansers (no more than 2 hooded mergansers)

SPECIAL SEA DUCK SEASON (IN SPECIAL SEA DUCK AREAS ONLY)

<u>Season Length:</u>	60 consecutive days or season must coincide with the general duck season.
<u>Season Dates:</u>	November 21 – January 28
<u>Bag Limit:</u>	5 sea ducks with no more than 4 scoters, 4 eiders and 4 long-tailed ducks.

GOOSE SEASONS

DARK GEESE (*includes Canada geese and white-fronted geese*):

RESIDENT (RP) ZONE

Season Length: 80 days
Season Dates: October 5– October 15
November 12 – December 3
December 17 – February 11
Bag Limit: 5 geese per day

SOUTHERN JAMES BAY (SJB) ZONE

Season Length: 70 days
Season Dates: October 5 – November 4
November 12 - December 31
Bag Limit: 5 geese per day

NORTHEAST HUNT ZONE

Season Length: 14 days
Season Dates: January 13 – January 28
Bag Limit: 1 goose per day (with valid permit)
(unlimited point of sale permits available)

ATLANTIC BRANT:

Season Length: 37 Days
Season Dates: December 17 – January 28
Bag Limit: 1 bird daily

LIGHT GEESE (includes snow, blue and Ross' geese) – Regular Season:

<u>Season Length:</u>	107 Days
<u>Season Dates:</u>	October 11 – February 11
<u>Bag Limit:</u>	25 birds daily (no possession limit)

LIGHT GEESE (includes snow, blue and Ross' geese) – Conservation Season:

<u>Season Dates:</u>	February 13 – March 31
<u>Bag Limit:</u>	no daily bag or possession limit
<u>Expanded hunting methods:</u>	allow the use of electronic calls, unplugged guns and extend shooting hours to ½ hour after sunset

TUNDRA SWAN:

<u>Season Length:</u>	90 Days
<u>Season Dates:</u>	November 12 - January 31
<u>Bag Limit:</u>	One per season (with valid permit)

YOUTH WATERFOWL DAYS - February 4 and February 11, 2017

Youth under the age of 18 may participate in accordance with the following guidelines:

- Person under age 16 with hunter safety certification must be accompanied by an adult age 18 or older
- Person under age 16 without a hunter safety certification may hunt with a properly licensed adult age 18 or older
- Person 16 or 17 years old must be properly licensed, must have HIP certification and a federal duck stamp, and must be accompanied by an adult age 18 or older

Legal species include ducks, geese, brant, tundra swans, mergansers, moorhens, gallinules, and coots. The youth must have a valid permit to hunt tundra swans and Canada geese (NE Hunt Zone only).

Accompanying adults who are properly licensed cannot duck hunt but may participate in other seasons that are open on youth waterfowl days.

Adoption of Extended Falconry Seasons for Migratory Bird Species

On a motion by Mark Craig and second by John Coley, the Commission adopted the 2016-2017 Extended Falconry Seasons for migratory bird species, in **Exhibit C-4**.

GENERAL RESTRICTIONS

- Seasons must fall between September 1 and March 10
- Total days available for falconry cannot exceed 107 (for each species) and includes regular, i.e., gun seasons, experimental seasons and extended falconry seasons
- The falconry daily bag limit is 3 permitted migratory game birds, singly or in the aggregate
- The regular, i.e., gun season bag limits for individual species do not apply
- Each extended season may be divided into a maximum of 3 segments
- The falconry bag limit is not in addition to the gun bag limit

EXTENDED FALCONRY

MOURNING DOVE AND WHITE-WINGED DOVE

Season Dates: October 15 – October 31

RAILS, GALLINULE AND MOORHENS

Season Dates: December 3 – January 7

WOODCOCK

Season Dates: Nov. 5 – Dec. 3
Feb. 1 – Feb. 28

DUCKS

Season Dates: Oct. 25 – Nov. 5
Jan. 31 – Feb. 18

Exhibits C-3 and C-4 are hereby incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

Adoption of a Season to Allow the Take of Migrant Peregrine Falcon

Upon a motion by Mark Craig and second by Tim Spear, the Commission adopted the proposal presented in **Exhibit D** to establish a 2016 season for the take of one live migrant juvenile peregrine falcon for use in falconry, with the following stipulations:

- Total allowable take is 1 bird during the period from September 20, 2016 through October 20, 2016.
- Any bird taken must be a juvenile.
- Take would be allowed only by permit from the WRC and only east of US Highway 17.
- No banded birds may be taken. Any banded birds captured must be immediately released at the site of capture.
- Permit will be issued through our special hunts permitting system (random).
- An individual issued a permit must have the proper state and federal falconry licenses/permits.
- The person receiving the permit must complete a post-season survey provided by WMD staff and submit that survey no later than December 15, 2016.

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

Summary of Public Comments on Temporary Bear Rules

The Commission received in **Exhibit E-1** a summary of comments from public hearings, correspondence and on line regarding temporary rulemaking to amend portions of 15A NCAC 10B .0202:

- to change the bear season in Brunswick and Columbus counties to open on the second Monday in November and close on January 1,
- to amend 15A NCAC 10B .0202 to allow the take of bears using unprocessed foods during the entire open bear season.

Adoption of Temporary Rulemaking for Bears

On a motion by John Coley and second by Richard Edwards, the Commission approved **Exhibit E-2**, temporary rulemaking for 15A NCAC 10B .0202 to change the bear season in Brunswick and Columbus counties to open on the second Monday in November and close on January 1. Based on concerns expressed about allowing the take of bears using unprocessed foods during the entire open bear season in the far western counties, the temporary rulemaking also will allow the take of bears with the use of unprocessed foods during the entire open bear season, but only from the Monday on or nearest October 15 to the Saturday before Thanksgiving in and west of Surry, Wilkes, Caldwell, Burke and Cleveland counties. **Exhibits E-1 and E-2** are hereby incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

PROPERTY MATTERS

Phase I Land Acquisitions

Upon a motion by Mike Johnson and second by Tom Berry, the Commission approved a request presented in **Exhibit F** by Isaac Harrold, *Lands Program Manager*, for agency staff to begin working with the State Property Office and funding partners to develop an acquisition plan for the Bakers Lake Tract in Bladen County.

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

Phase II Land Acquisitions

Upon a motion by Tom Berry and second by John Coley the Commission approved proceeding with acquisition of the following properties in **Exhibits G-1 – G-11**:

- Blue Ridge Conservancy Tracts – Ashe County
- Bristol Creek Tracts – Burke County
- Deviney 2014 Tract – Rutherford County
- Deviney Brier Creek Tracts – Rutherford County
- DMF Fisherman’s Wharf Reallocation – Hyde County
- DOA Ocean Isle Beach Reallocation – Brunswick County
- Eure-Horton Tracts – Gates County
- Little Macedonia Tract – Brunswick County
- McEachern Tract – Bladen County
- Mashie Stomp Tract – Haywood County
- Wycle Fork Tract – Haywood County

Exhibits G-1 through G-11 are hereby incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

RULEMAKING

Temporary Review of Rules

On a motion by Mike Johnson and second by John Coley, the Commission approved the first step of the agency’s initial review of existing Rules 15A NCAC 10F (Motorboats and Water Safety) and 15A NCAC 10H (Regulated Activities), classifying them as necessary with substantive public interest, necessary without substantive public interest, or unnecessary. The review is a mandate from the North Carolina General Assembly for a Periodic Review of Existing Rules every ten years. **Exhibits H-1 and H-2** are hereby incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

WATER SAFETY RULEMAKING

Adoption of Permanent Rulemaking – No Wake Zone in Havelock, Craven County – Upon a motion by Brian White and second by John Coley, the Commission reviewed one public comment and adopted an amendment to 15A NCAC 10F .0347(a)(5) to create a no wake zone on a portion of Slocum Creek in the City of Havelock. The anticipated effective date of the rule is July 1, 2016. **Exhibit I** is hereby incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

Temporary Rulemaking – Taylor’s Creek No Wake Zone in Beaufort – Carteret County – On a motion by Ray Clifton and second by John Coley, the Commission approved a request for temporary rulemaking, presented in **Exhibit J**, to clarify and correct the description of the no wake zone in the waters of Taylor’s Creek in the Town of Beaufort and to publish Notice of Text in the *NC Register* with one public hearing and a public comment period. **Exhibit J** is hereby incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

Initiate Rulemaking – No Wake Zone, Arrowhead Beach Subdivision – Chowan County – On a motion by Brian White and second by John Coley, the Commission approved **Exhibit K-1**, the Fiscal Note review of a request by Chowan County for a no wake zone on an unnamed canal in Arrowhead Subdivision. Brian White made a motion, seconded by Nat Harris and carried, to publish Notice of Text in the *NC Register* and to hold one public hearing and open comment period for an amendment to 15A NCAC 10F .0346, to establish a no wake zone in the waters of an unnamed canal in Arrowhead Subdivision as presented in **Exhibit K-2**. **Exhibits K-1 and K-2** are hereby incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

COMMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN

Chairman John Litton Clark noted his appreciation to staff for their efforts and presentations to the Commission. He thanked Reggie Barker for his spotlight about the disabled hunt opportunities.

COMMENTS BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Executive Director Gordon Myers asked the members of the Habitat, Nongame and Endangered Species Committee to review the Thomas L. Quay Wildlife Diversity Award nominee names so that names may be considered by the Nongame Wildlife Advisory Committee. The award will be presented at the July meeting.

Myers introduced Gina Main of the National Leader Conservation Institute. Ms. Main is developing a leadership program to work directly with the WRC to provide opportunities to learn adaptive leadership skills and to promote communication across Divisions.

Myers recognized the Human Resources and Finance offices for working on a market-based plan for equitable and fair pay for agency employees.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman John Litton Clark at 10:55 am.

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

John Litton Clark, Chairman

Date

Gordon Myers, Executive Director

Date

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

	March, 2015			March, 2016		
Cash Balance July 1		\$ 17,507,785.09			\$ 11,302,064.79	
Appropriations	2014-2015 Authorized Budget	Actual	% of	2015-2016 Authorized Budget	Actual	% of
Appropriations	\$ 11,332,557.00	\$ 8,476,781.00	74.80%	\$ 10,162,782.00	\$ 7,714,161.00	75.91%
Total	\$ 11,332,557.00	\$ 8,476,781.00	74.80%	\$ 10,162,782.00	\$ 7,714,161.00	75.91%
Receipts						
License Receipts	\$ 19,018,349.00	\$ 14,665,430.40	77.11%	\$ 19,128,832.15	\$ 15,595,428.45	81.53%
Vessel Receipts	11,296,581.00	5,682,320.00	50.30%	11,312,037.00	7,096,335.00	62.73%
Federal Funds	27,913,331.00	19,022,132.73	68.15%	27,205,947.00	18,939,268.00	69.61%
Publications	345,432.00	348,019.61	100.75%	349,616.57	349,466.53	99.96%
Professional Services	8,571,485.00	7,105,793.50	82.90%	8,670,846.68	5,650,298.59	65.16%
Agency Reimbursements	3,936,010.00	3,135,977.92	79.67%	3,982,569.52	3,618,790.62	90.87%
Other Receipts	661,664.00	781,555.79	118.12%	2,605,253.08	1,117,845.42	42.91%
Total	\$ 71,742,852.00	\$ 50,741,229.95	70.73%	\$ 73,255,102.00	\$ 52,367,432.61	71.49%
Expenditures						
Administration	\$ 8,023,098.00	\$ 5,780,769.40	72.05%	\$ 9,171,860.00	\$ 6,285,915.90	68.53%
Enforcement	21,820,488.00	15,232,054.06	69.81%	22,320,761.00	15,571,311.22	69.76%
Education	3,837,363.00	2,485,729.42	64.78%	5,401,388.00	3,821,890.82	70.76%
Inland Fisheries	9,826,054.00	6,684,129.36	68.02%	9,585,262.00	5,631,995.84	58.76%
Wildlife Management	10,602,571.00	6,138,645.91	57.90%	9,854,388.00	5,089,468.87	51.65%
Engineering Services	25,966,089.00	20,687,726.64	79.67%	28,143,415.00	19,240,810.18	68.37%
Habitat Conservation	-	-		1,115,733.00	712,849.28	63.89%
W/Life Fund Receipts	9,752,135.00	5,146,274.50	52.77%	8,961,304.00	4,843,081.19	54.04%
Total	\$ 89,827,798.00	\$ 62,155,329.29	69.19%	\$ 94,554,111.00	\$ 61,197,323.30	64.72%
Cash Balance March 31		\$ 14,570,466.75			\$ 10,186,335.10	

NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION

ENDOWMENT FUND YEAR-TO-DATE

	<u>March, 2015</u>	<u>March, 2016</u>
Balance March 1	\$ 112,094,620.96	\$ 117,910,438.60
Plus: Revenues from Sales	216,097.71	454,902.75
Return on Investment	375,747.59	998,647.85
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	112,686,466.26	119,363,989.20
Less: Transfers Out	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-	-
Balance March 31	<u>\$ 112,686,466.26</u>	<u>\$ 119,363,989.20</u>
Market Value	\$ 116,282,144.82	\$ 114,675,565.84

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	\$ 21,345,809.26	\$ -	\$ 1,314,400.00	\$ 1,233,529.00
INFANT Licenses	-	10,661,355.56	-	-
YOUTH Licenses	-	897,380.41	-	-
Magazine Subscriptions	425,071.93	-	-	-
Contributions - General	-	-	-	-
Contributions - Diversity	1,695,637.06	-	-	-
TOTAL	\$ 23,466,518.25	\$ 11,558,735.97	\$ 1,314,400.00	\$ 1,233,529.00

2015-16 Budgeted Obligated

Allocation of Endowment Interest - Sportsman Fund	1,314,400.00
Allocation of Endowment Interest - Magazine Fund	-
Allocation of Endowment Interest - Capital Projects	1,233,529.00
	<hr/>
	<u>\$ 2,547,929.00</u>

2015-16 Transferred To Date

To Sportsman Fund	1,314,400.00
To Magazine Fund	-
To Capital Projects	1,233,529.00
	<hr/>
	<u>\$ 2,547,929.00</u>

EXHIBIT C-1

July 14, 2016



Permanent rule-making for 15A NCAC 10B .0106 Wildlife Management Division

The proposed amendment to 15A NCAC 10B .0106 Wildlife Taken for Depredations will require anyone who takes a depredateing elk without a permit to report that take to the Commission within 24 hours and anyone who takes an elk with a permit to report it on a form provided with the permit.

Reports of elk taken in depredation situations will aid staff in monitoring the size and composition of North Carolina's elk herd. The elk population in North Carolina is small, consequently it is important for the Commission to document each depredation-related mortality to ensure the Commission has the most complete data possible to use when making management decisions.

Statement of action: Staff recommends the Commission notice the following permanent amendment to 15A NCAC 10B .0106 for public comment and presentation it at one (1) public hearing:

15A NCAC 10B .0106 WILDLIFE TAKEN FOR DEPREDACTIONS

(a) Depredation permits allow the taking of undesirable or excess wildlife resources as described in Subparagraphs (1) and (2) of this Paragraph. Only employees of the Wildlife Resources Commission and Wildlife Damage Control Agents may issue depredation permits. Each permit shall be written on a form supplied by the Commission. No permit is needed for the owner or lessee of a property to take wildlife while committing depredations on the property; however the manner of taking, disposition of dead wildlife, and reporting requirements as described in this Rule still apply. No permit shall be issued to take any endangered or threatened species of wildlife listed under 15A NCAC 10I, except alligators, by reason of depredations to property. Only the Executive Director may issue depredation permits for Special Concern species listed in 15A NCAC 10I .0105 and for alligators. An individual may take an endangered or threatened species in immediate defense of his own life or of the lives of others without a permit. Any endangered or threatened species that may constitute a demonstrable but non-immediate threat to human safety shall be reported to a federal or state wildlife enforcement officer, who, upon verification of the report, may take or remove the specimen as provided by 15A NCAC 10I .0102. Depredation permits for other species shall be issued under the following conditions:

- (1) for taking wildlife that is or has been damaging or destroying property provided there is evidence of property damage. No permit may be issued for the taking of any migratory birds and other federally-protected animals unless a corresponding valid U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service depredation permit, if required, has been issued. The permit shall name the species allowed to be taken and may contain limitations as to age, sex, or any other condition within the species so named. The permit shall be issued to a landholder or an authorized representative of a unit of local government for

depredations on public property; and the permit shall be used only by individuals named on the permit.

- (2) for taking of wildlife resources in circumstances of overabundance or when the wildlife resources present a danger to human safety. Cities as defined in G.S. 160A-1(2) seeking such a depredation permit shall apply to the Executive Director using a form supplied by the Commission requesting the following information:

- (A) the name and location of the city;
- (B) the acreage of the affected property;
- (C) a map of the affected property;
- (D) the signature of an authorized city representative;
- (E) the nature of the overabundance or the threat to public safety; and
- (F) a description of previous actions taken by the city to ameliorate the problem.

(b) Wildlife Damage Control Agents: Upon completion of a training course designed for the purpose of reviewing and updating information on wildlife laws and safe, humane wildlife handling techniques, and demonstration of a knowledge of wildlife laws and safe, humane wildlife handling techniques, an individual with no record of wildlife law violations may apply to the Wildlife Resources Commission (Commission) to become a Wildlife Damage Control Agent (WDCA). Those persons who demonstrate knowledge of wildlife laws and safe, humane wildlife handling techniques by a passing score of 85 percent or better on a written examination provided by a representative of the Wildlife Resources Commission, in cooperation with the training course provider, shall be approved. Those persons failing to obtain a passing score shall be given one chance for re-testing without re-taking the course. Those persons approved as agents by the Commission may then issue depredation permits for depredation as defined in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule to landholders and be listed as a second party to provide the control service. WDCAs may not issue depredation permits for coyotes in the counties of Beaufort, Dare, Hyde, Tyrrell, Washington; big game animals; bats; or species listed as endangered, threatened, or special concern under 15A NCAC 10I .0103, .0104 and .0105 of this Chapter. WDCAs shall report to the Wildlife Resources Commission the number and disposition of animals taken, by county, annually. Records shall be available for inspection by a Wildlife Enforcement officer at any time during normal business hours. WDCA status shall be revoked at any time by the Executive Director when there is evidence of violations of wildlife laws, failure to report, or inhumane treatment of animals by the WDCA. A WDCA may not charge for the permit, but may charge for his or her investigations and control services. In order to maintain a knowledge of current laws, rules, and techniques, each WDCA shall renew his or her agent status every three years by showing proof of having attended at least one training course provided for the purpose of reviewing and updating information on wildlife laws, and safe, humane wildlife handling techniques within the previous 12 months or agency approved continuing education credits.

(c) Each depredation permit shall have an expiration date or time after which the depredation permit is no longer valid. The depredation permit authorizes possession of any wildlife resources taken under the permit and shall be retained as long as the wildlife resource is in the permittee's possession. All individuals taking wildlife resources under the authority of a depredation permit are obligated to the conditions written on the permit and the requirements specified in this Rule.

(d) Manner of Taking:

- (1) Taking Without a Permit. Wildlife taken without a permit while committing depredations to property may, during the open season on the species, be taken by the landholder by any lawful method. During the closed season, such depredating wildlife may be taken without a permit only by the use of firearms or archery equipment as defined in 15A NCAC 10B .0116.
- (2) Taking With a Permit. Wildlife taken under a depredation permit may be taken only by the method or methods authorized by the permit. When trapping is authorized, in order to limit the taking to the intended purpose, the permit may specify a reasonable distance from the property sought to be protected, according to the particular circumstances, within which the traps shall be set. The Executive Director or agent may also state in a permit authorizing trapping whether or not bait may be used and the type of bait, if any, that is authorized. In addition to any trapping restrictions that may be contained in the permit, the method of trapping shall be in accordance with the requirements and restrictions imposed by G.S. 113-291.6 and other local laws passed by the General Assembly. No depredation permit shall authorize the use of poisons or pesticides in taking wildlife except in accordance with the provisions of the North Carolina Pesticide Law of 1971, G.S. 143, Article 52, the Structural Pest Control Act of 1955, G.S. 106, Article 4C, and G.S. 113, Article 22A. No depredation permit shall authorize the taking of wildlife by any method by any landholder upon the lands of another except when the individual is listed as a second party on a depredation permit.

- (3) Intentional Wounding. It is unlawful for any landholder, with or without a depredation permit, intentionally to wound a wild animal in a manner so as not to cause its immediate death as suddenly and humanely as the circumstances permit.

(e) Disposition of Wildlife Taken:

- (1) Generally. Except as provided by Subparagraphs (e)(2) through (5) of this Paragraph, any wildlife killed without a permit while committing depredations shall be buried or otherwise disposed of in a safe and sanitary manner on the property. Wildlife killed under a depredation permit may be transported to an alternate disposal site if desired. Anyone in possession of carcasses of animals being transported under a depredation permit shall have the depredation permit in his or her possession. Except as provided by Subparagraphs of (e)(2) through (5) of this Rule, all wildlife killed under a depredation permit shall be buried or otherwise disposed of as stated on the permit.
- (2) Deer and feral swine. The edible portions of feral swine and deer may be retained by the landholder for consumption but shall not be transported from the property where the depredations took place without a valid depredation permit. The landholder may give a second party the edible portions of the feral swine and deer taken under the depredation permit. The receiver of the edible portions shall hold a copy of the depredation permit. The nonedible portions of any deer carcass, including head, hide, feet, and antlers, shall be disposed of as specified in Subparagraph (1) of this Paragraph or turned over to a wildlife enforcement officer for disposition.
- (3) Fox. Any fox killed under a depredation permit may be disposed of as described in Subparagraph (1) of this Paragraph or, upon compliance with the fur tagging requirements of 15A NCAC 10B .0400, the carcass or pelt thereof may be sold to a licensed fur dealer.
- (4) Furbearing Animals. The carcass or pelt of any furbearing animal killed during the open season for taking such furbearing animal for control of depredations to property, whether with or without a permit, may be sold to a licensed fur dealer provided that the person offering such carcass or pelt for sale has a valid hunting or trapping license; provided further that, bobcats and otters may only be sold upon compliance with any required fur tagging requirement set forth in 15A NCAC 10B .0400.
- (5) Animals Taken Alive. Wild animals in the order Carnivora, armadillos, groundhogs, nutria, and beaver shall be humanely euthanized either at the site of capture or at a facility designed to humanely handle the euthanasia or released on the property where captured. Feral swine shall be euthanized while still in the trap in accordance with G.S. 113-291.12. For all other animals taken alive, the animal shall be euthanized or released on property with permission of the landowner. When the relocation site is public property, written permission shall be obtained from an appropriate local, state, or federal official before any animal may be released. Animals transported or held for euthanasia shall be euthanized within 12 hours of capture. Anyone in possession of live animals being transported for relocation or euthanasia under a depredation permit shall have the depredation permit in his or her possession.

(f) Reporting Requirements. Any landholder who kills an alligator; a coyote in the counties of Beaufort, Dare, Hyde, Tyrrell, or Washington; deer; Canada goose; bear; elk; or wild turkey under a valid depredation permit shall report such kill on the form provided with the permit and mail the form upon the expiration date to the Wildlife Resources Commission. Any landowner who kills a coyote in the counties of Beaufort, Dare, Hyde, Tyrrell, and Washington shall report such kill as directed on the form provided with the depredation permit. The killing and method of disposition of every alligator; ~~alligator and bear~~, or coyote in the counties of Beaufort, Dare, Hyde, Tyrrell, or ~~Washington~~ Washington; bear; or elk taken without a permit shall be reported to the Wildlife Resources Commission within 24 hours following the time of such killing.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-273; 113-274; 113-291.4; 113-291.6; 113-300.1; 113-300.2; 113-307; 113-331; 113-333; 113-334(a); 113-337;
Eff. February 1, 1976;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2013; January 1, 2012; August 1 2010; July 1, 2010; May 1, 2008; August 1, 2002; July 1, 1997; July 1, 1995; January 1, 1995; January 1, 1992; August 1, 1990.
Temporary Amendment Eff. August 1, 2014 and shall remain in effect until amendments expire as specified in G.S. 150B-21.1(d) or the United States District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina's court order number 2:13-CV-60-BOs signed on May 13, 2014 is rescinded, whichever date is earlier. The court order is available at www.ncwildlife.org;
Temporary Amendment Eff. February 27, 2015; Amended Eff. December 1, 2016; May 1, 2016.

EXHIBIT C-2

July 14, 2016



Fiscal Note for Proposed Wildlife Management Rule Amendment for the Wildlife Resources Commission

15A NCAC 10B .0106 Wildlife Taken For Depredations

Agency Contact: Erica Garner

NC Wildlife Resources Commission

919-707-0014

Impact:

Local Funds: No

State Funds: Minimal

Private Impact: Minimal

Substantial Economic Impact: Does not meet \$1,000,000 threshold

Authority:

G.S. § 113 - 134

For reasons which are outlined below, WRC believes that this rule change does not meet the criteria requiring a fiscal note pursuant to G.S. § 150B-21.4. An analysis of the proposed change for the rule follows.

BACKGROUND

The wildlife resources of the State belong to the people of the State as a whole, including the enjoyment of these resources (G.S. § 113-131(a)). WRC is tasked with the conservation of wildlife resources of the State (G.S. § 143-239). This responsibility includes managing as equitably as possible the various competing interests regarding these resources, including the use and take of such resources (G.S. § 113-131.1(a)). The statutes governing wildlife resources are found in Chapter 113, Subchapter IV of the General Statutes, and WRC has been granted rulemaking authority to implement the provisions of these statutes (G.S. § 113-134).

As part of its mission, WRC conducts an annual review of its fish, wildlife, boating safety, and other regulations to determine whether such rules need to be adjusted in order to accomplish the objectives of: managing wildlife resources through a biologically sustainable harvest of such resources by hunters, trappers and anglers consistent with sound conservation objectives;

ensuring the safety of the boating public; managing Commission-owned land for the conservation of wildlife resources and the enjoyment of the public; and implementing legislative directives.

A summary of the proposed rule amendment is shown below, with the full text included in Appendix A.

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE 15A NCAC 10B .0106

Description and Justification

Wildlife depredation refers to wildlife causing property damage. Depredating wildlife may be taken both with and without a permit under certain conditions. How one should dispose of the wildlife taken as a result of depredation depends on the species taken and whether or not a Depredation Permit was issued.

The proposed amendment to the Rule will require anyone who takes a depredating elk without a permit to report that take to the Commission within 24 hours and anyone who takes an elk with a permit to report it on a form provided with the permit.

The proposed change to this Rule is necessary to monitor the size and composition of North Carolina's elk herd. The elk population in North Carolina is very small, consequently it is important for the Commission to record each mortality to ensure the Commission has the most complete data possible to use when making management decisions. Current estimates of the elk population are 150-160 elk total in the herd. Staff continues to work at developing a more rigorous population estimation technique. At this population level, the mortality of individual elk is important to our efforts to monitor the long term viability of the population. The elk range occurs primarily in a small portion of Haywood and Madison Counties.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

This rule amendment requires landowners to report depredating elk taken with or without a permit. As a direct result, staff will record the reports, which can be completed within several minutes per report. No additional staff action will be triggered by reports of elk taken for depredation. Approximately two depredation permits for elk were issued in the previous fiscal year. This rule amendment will have no impact on the number of depredation permits that will be issued. Due to the low number of previously issued permits and the small population of elk (150-160), WRC anticipates that the number of elk taken with or without a depredation permit will be low and staff recording time will be minimal.

Local Impact

This rule has no local government impact as elk population management, law enforcement, and human-elk conflict resolution are the responsibility of the WRC.

Private Impact

Private individuals who take a depredating elk will incur insignificant costs to report a kill by phone or mail. There are no penalties for taking a depredating elk without a permit if the take is in accordance with the law and reported as provided in the rule.

APPENDIX A: PROPOSED RULE CHANGES

15A NCAC 10B .0106 WILDLIFE TAKEN FOR DEPREDACTIONS

(a) Depredation permits allow the taking of undesirable or excess wildlife resources as described in Subparagraphs (1) and (2) of this Paragraph. Only employees of the Wildlife Resources Commission and Wildlife Damage Control Agents may issue depredation permits. Each permit shall be written on a form supplied by the Commission. No permit is needed for the owner or lessee of a property to take wildlife while committing depredations on the property; however the manner of taking, disposition of dead wildlife, and reporting requirements as described in this Rule still apply. No permit shall be issued to take any endangered or threatened species of wildlife listed under 15A NCAC 10I, except alligators, by reason of depredations to property. Only the Executive Director may issue depredation permits for Special Concern species listed in 15A NCAC 10I .0105 and for alligators. An individual may take an endangered or threatened species in immediate defense of his own life or of the lives of others without a permit. Any endangered or threatened species that may constitute a demonstrable but non-immediate threat to human safety shall be reported to a federal or state wildlife enforcement officer, who, upon verification of the report, may take or remove the specimen as provided by 15A NCAC 10I .0102. Depredation permits for other species shall be issued under the following conditions:

- (1) for taking wildlife that is or has been damaging or destroying property provided there is evidence of property damage. No permit may be issued for the taking of any migratory birds and other federally-protected animals unless a corresponding valid U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service depredation permit, if required, has been issued. The permit shall name the species allowed to be taken and may contain limitations as to age, sex, or any other condition within the species so named. The permit shall be issued to a landholder or an authorized representative of a unit of local government for depredations on public property; and the permit shall be used only by individuals named on the permit.
- (2) for taking of wildlife resources in circumstances of overabundance or when the wildlife resources present a danger to human safety. Cities as defined in G.S. 160A-1(2) seeking such a depredation permit shall apply to the Executive Director using a form supplied by the Commission requesting the following information:
 - (A) the name and location of the city;
 - (B) the acreage of the affected property;
 - (C) a map of the affected property;
 - (D) the signature of an authorized city representative;
 - (E) the nature of the overabundance or the threat to public safety; and
 - (F) a description of previous actions taken by the city to ameliorate the problem.

(b) Wildlife Damage Control Agents: Upon completion of a training course designed for the purpose of reviewing and updating information on wildlife laws and safe, humane wildlife handling techniques, and demonstration of a knowledge of wildlife laws and safe, humane wildlife handling techniques, an individual with no record of wildlife law violations may apply to the Wildlife Resources Commission (Commission) to become a Wildlife Damage Control Agent (WDCA). Those persons who demonstrate knowledge of wildlife laws and safe, humane wildlife handling techniques by a passing score of 85 percent or better on a written examination provided by a representative of the Wildlife Resources Commission, in cooperation with the training course provider, shall be approved. Those persons failing to obtain a passing score shall be given one chance for re-testing without re-taking the course. Those persons approved as agents by the Commission may then issue depredation permits for depredation as defined in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule to landholders and be listed as a second party to provide the control service. WDCAs may not issue depredation permits for coyotes in the counties of Beaufort, Dare, Hyde, Tyrrell, Washington; big game animals; bats; or species listed as endangered, threatened, or special concern under 15A NCAC 10I .0103, .0104 and .0105 of this Chapter. WDCAs shall report to the Wildlife Resources Commission the number and disposition of animals taken, by county, annually. Records shall be available for inspection by a Wildlife Enforcement officer at any time during normal business hours. WDCA status shall be revoked at any time by the Executive Director when there is evidence of violations of wildlife laws, failure to report, or inhumane treatment of animals by the WDCA. A WDCA may not

charge for the permit, but may charge for his or her investigations and control services. In order to maintain a knowledge of current laws, rules, and techniques, each WDCA shall renew his or her agent status every three years by showing proof of having attended at least one training course provided for the purpose of reviewing and updating information on wildlife laws, and safe, humane wildlife handling techniques within the previous 12 months or agency approved continuing education credits.

(c) Each depredation permit shall have an expiration date or time after which the depredation permit is no longer valid. The depredation permit authorizes possession of any wildlife resources taken under the permit and shall be retained as long as the wildlife resource is in the permittee's possession. All individuals taking wildlife resources under the authority of a depredation permit are obligated to the conditions written on the permit and the requirements specified in this Rule.

(d) Manner of Taking:

- (1) Taking Without a Permit. Wildlife taken without a permit while committing depredations to property may, during the open season on the species, be taken by the landholder by any lawful method. During the closed season, such depredating wildlife may be taken without a permit only by the use of firearms or archery equipment as defined in 15A NCAC 10B .0116.
- (2) Taking With a Permit. Wildlife taken under a depredation permit may be taken only by the method or methods authorized by the permit. When trapping is authorized, in order to limit the taking to the intended purpose, the permit may specify a reasonable distance from the property sought to be protected, according to the particular circumstances, within which the traps shall be set. The Executive Director or agent may also state in a permit authorizing trapping whether or not bait may be used and the type of bait, if any, that is authorized. In addition to any trapping restrictions that may be contained in the permit, the method of trapping shall be in accordance with the requirements and restrictions imposed by G.S. 113-291.6 and other local laws passed by the General Assembly. No depredation permit shall authorize the use of poisons or pesticides in taking wildlife except in accordance with the provisions of the North Carolina Pesticide Law of 1971, G.S. 143, Article 52, the Structural Pest Control Act of 1955, G.S. 106, Article 4C, and G.S. 113, Article 22A. No depredation permit shall authorize the taking of wildlife by any method by any landholder upon the lands of another except when the individual is listed as a second party on a depredation permit.
- (3) Intentional Wounding. It is unlawful for any landholder, with or without a depredation permit, intentionally to wound a wild animal in a manner so as not to cause its immediate death as suddenly and humanely as the circumstances permit.

(e) Disposition of Wildlife Taken:

- (1) Generally. Except as provided by Subparagraphs (e)(2) through (5) of this Paragraph, any wildlife killed without a permit while committing depredations shall be buried or otherwise disposed of in a safe and sanitary manner on the property. Wildlife killed under a depredation permit may be transported to an alternate disposal site if desired. Anyone in possession of carcasses of animals being transported under a depredation permit shall have the depredation permit in his or her possession. Except as provided by Subparagraphs of (e)(2) through (5) of this Rule, all wildlife killed under a depredation permit shall be buried or otherwise disposed of as stated on the permit.
- (2) Deer and feral swine. The edible portions of feral swine and deer may be retained by the landholder for consumption but shall not be transported from the property where the depredations took place without a valid depredation permit. The landholder may give a second party the edible portions of the feral swine and deer taken under the depredation permit. The receiver of the edible portions shall hold a copy of the depredation permit. The nonedible portions of any deer carcass, including head, hide, feet, and antlers, shall be disposed of as specified in Subparagraph (1) of this Paragraph or turned over to a wildlife enforcement officer for disposition.
- (3) Fox. Any fox killed under a depredation permit may be disposed of as described in Subparagraph (1) of this Paragraph or, upon compliance with the fur tagging requirements of 15A NCAC 10B .0400, the carcass or pelt thereof may be sold to a licensed fur dealer.
- (4) Furbearing Animals. The carcass or pelt of any furbearing animal killed during the open season for taking such furbearing animal for control of depredations to property, whether with or without a permit, may be sold to a licensed fur dealer provided that the person offering such carcass or pelt for sale has a valid hunting or trapping license; provided further that, bobcats and otters may only be sold upon compliance with any required fur tagging requirement set forth in 15A NCAC 10B .0400.

- (5) Animals Taken Alive. Wild animals in the order Carnivora, armadillos, groundhogs, nutria, and beaver shall be humanely euthanized either at the site of capture or at a facility designed to humanely handle the euthanasia or released on the property where captured. Feral swine shall be euthanized while still in the trap in accordance with G.S. 113-291.12. For all other animals taken alive, the animal shall be euthanized or released on property with permission of the landowner. When the relocation site is public property, written permission shall be obtained from an appropriate local, state, or federal official before any animal may be released. Animals transported or held for euthanasia shall be euthanized within 12 hours of capture. Anyone in possession of live animals being transported for relocation or euthanasia under a depredation permit shall have the depredation permit in his or her possession.

(f) Reporting Requirements. Any landholder who kills an alligator; a coyote in the counties of Beaufort, Dare, Hyde, Tyrrell, or Washington; deer; Canada goose; bear; elk; or wild turkey under a valid depredation permit shall report such kill on the form provided with the permit and mail the form upon the expiration date to the Wildlife Resources Commission. Any landowner who kills a coyote in the counties of Beaufort, Dare, Hyde, Tyrrell, and Washington shall report such kill as directed on the form provided with the depredation permit. The killing and method of disposition of every alligator; ~~alligator and bear~~, or coyote in the counties of Beaufort, Dare, Hyde, Tyrrell, or ~~Washington~~ Washington; bear; or elk taken without a permit shall be reported to the Wildlife Resources Commission within 24 hours following the time of such killing.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-273; 113-274; 113-291.4; 113-291.6; 113-300.1; 113-300.2; 113-307; 113-331; 113-333; 113-334(a); 113-337;
Eff. February 1, 1976;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2013; January 1, 2012; August 1 2010; July 1, 2010; May 1, 2008; August 1, 2002; July 1, 1997; July 1, 1995; January 1, 1995; January 1, 1992; August 1, 1990.
Temporary Amendment Eff. August 1, 2014 and shall remain in effect until amendments expire as specified in G.S. 150B-21.1(d) or the United States District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina's court order number 2:13-CV-60-BOs signed on May 13, 2014 is rescinded, whichever date is earlier. The court order is available at www.ncwildlife.org;
Temporary Amendment Eff. February 27, 2015;
Amended Eff. May 1, 2016.

EXHIBIT D-1

July 14, 2016

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: July 14, 2016

Tract Name: Cunningham (Indian Grave Gap). Parcel Number 6559-67-0713-000.

Acreage: 38 acres

County: Swain

Estimated Value: Asking Price \$126,050. Appraised Value (Aug. 2015) \$151,500.

Property Owner or Representative: Mainspring Conservation Trust

Phone: (828) 524-2711

Address: 557 East Main Street Franklin NC 28734

Status: High Interest Moderate Interest Low Interest No Interest

Grant Potential: CWMTF

OTHER (explain): Pittman Robertson (PR) Land Acquisition Grant.
Mainspring is willing to sell WRC this tract at approximately 17% below
appraised value to help offset the PR requirement for 25% non-federal match.

Resources Assessment and Biological Benefits (brief): Acquisition of this property is significant as part of the total management project being carried out in the mountain Eco region. WRC ownership of the tract will increase conservation ownership of properties in the immediate area such as the Nantahala National Forest and properties owned by Mainspring Conservation Trust, formerly the Land Trust for the Little Tennessee (LTLT). 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 Nantahala National Forest, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Needmore Game Land (WRC holdings), Mainspring lands and various private holdings that are in conservation ownership or have conservation easements that are located in the vicinity. WRC ownership will help reduce land fragmentation as well.

Management objectives will include restoring or maintaining the oak forest and cove forest priority wildlife habitats that are located on the tract. WRC ownership would ensure these habitats are protected and managed for wildlife conservation and public use in perpetuity. WRC ownership may also provide opportunities to create some early successional habitat (ESH),

which is a priority wildlife habitat. Resent logging activity on the tract will assist in the ESH creation and enhancement.

Public recreational opportunities will include hunting, fishing, hiking, bird watching, photography, and general nature study. Educational opportunities may exist as priority wildlife habitats are managed for or maintained. The majority of the tract is forested with Appalachian oak and Appalachian cove forests predominant. Common wildlife species found on the tract include wild turkey, black bear, white-tailed deer, gray squirrel, ruffed grouse as well as various songbirds, salamanders, and small mammals. The tract is adjacent to existing Needmore Game Land.

Additional Comments: WRC ownership of this tract will also improve public access to existing WRC game lands. Access to Needmore Game Land from Highway 28 is limited. Highway 28 runs through this tract. In addition to the highway running through the property, logging activity that has taken place on the property resulted in a creation of a nice, flat logging deck just below the highway. This deck will provide an excellent opportunity to create a public parking area to enhance access to existing game land. Skid trails leading from the deck into the game land will also enhance access.

Preliminary estimates of five-year stewardship expenditures include surveying and marking 3,000 feet of property boundary @ \$1.25/foot (\$3,750). Another 0.75 miles of boundary adjoining US Forest Service (existing game land) will be established by WRC staff at \$200/mi. (\$150). Estimates also include constructing one parking area at approximately \$10,000 to enhance public access. Total estimate of five-year expenditures is \$13,900.

Program Potential: Game Land (Nantahala) 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

WORKSHEET
Relative Priority Evaluation for Conservation Lands

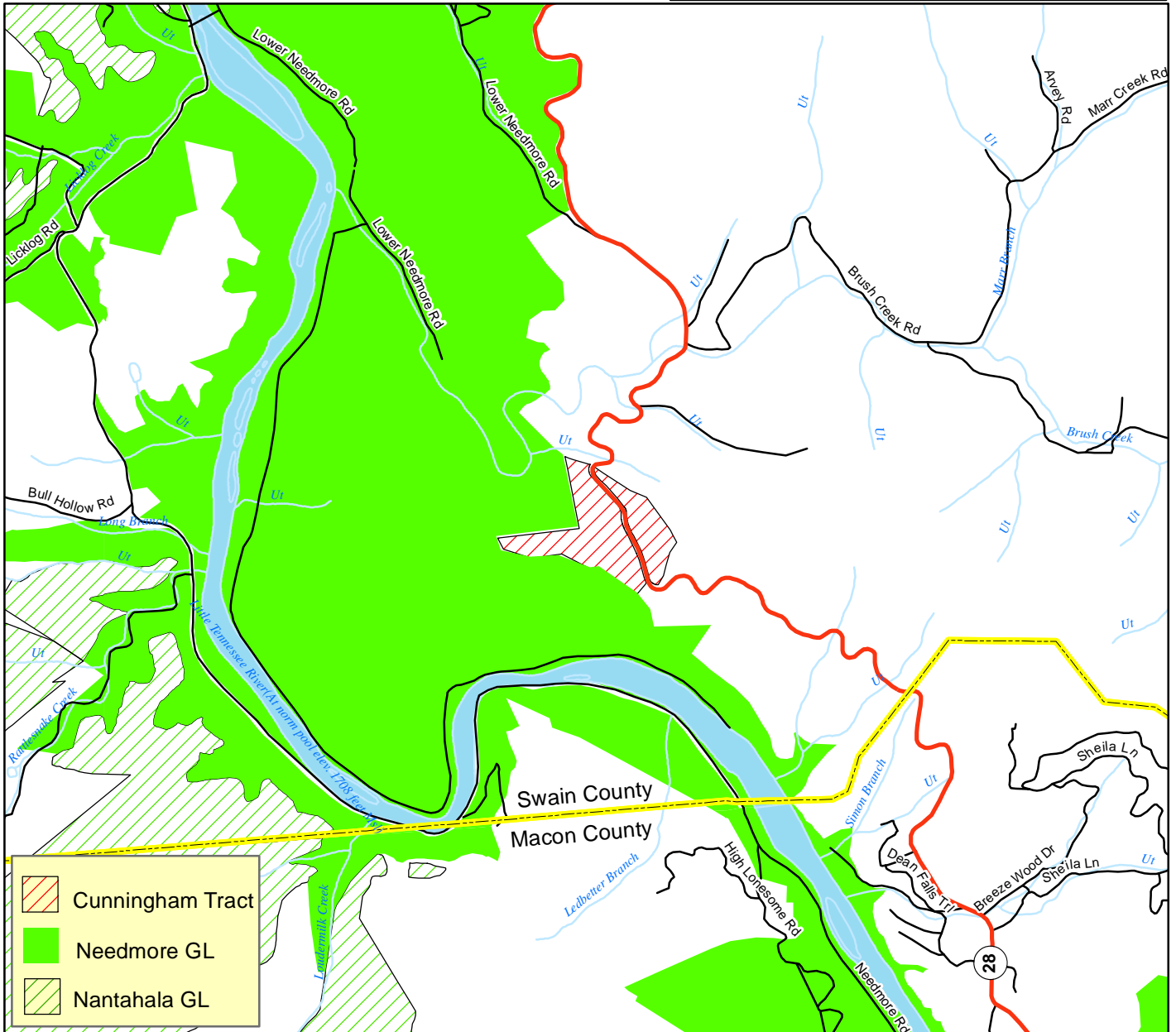
Tract Name (Focal Area) Cunningham (Needmore GL – Swain Co.)


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>N/A</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>N/A</u>
9. Is area adequate for fishing access development with suitable parking, and if not, are there possibilities for expansion?	<u>N/A</u>
TOTAL SCORE	<u><u>30</u></u>


Cunningham Tract (Needmore GL - Swain County) - Priority Species


SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FED LISTED	STATE LISTED
AMPHIBIANS			
<i>Plethodon glutinosus</i>	Slimy Salamander		
<i>Plethodon shermani</i>	Red-legged Salamander		SR
<i>Desmognathus aeneus</i>	Seepage Salamander		SR
<i>Desmognathus wrighti</i>	Pygmy Salamander		SR
<i>Hemidactylium scutatum</i>	Four-toed Salamander		SC
<i>Necturus maculosus</i>	Mudpuppy		SC
<i>Cryptobranchus alleganiensis</i>	Hellbender		SC
BIRDS			
<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	Sharp-shinned Hawk		SR
<i>Falco sparverius</i>	American Kestrel		
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Peregrine Falcon		E
<i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i>	Black-billed Cuckoo		SR
<i>Tyto alba</i>	Barn Owl		SR
<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		
<i>Empidonax alnorum</i>	Alder Flycatcher		SR
<i>Empidonax minimus</i>	Least Flycatcher		
<i>Corvus corax</i>	Common Raven		
<i>Sitta canadensis</i>	Red-breasted Nuthatch		
<i>Certhia americana</i>	Brown Creeper		SC
<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Winter Wren		
<i>Regulus satrapa</i>	Golden-crowned Kinglet		
<i>Vermivora pinus</i>	Blue-winged Warbler		SR
<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		
<i>Icterus galbula</i>	Baltimore Oriole		
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>Lasiurus cinereus</i>	Hoary Bat		
<i>Lasiurus seminolus</i>	Seminole Bat		
<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	Northern Myotis		
<i>Myotis leibii</i>	Eastern Small-footed Myotis		SC
<i>Sylvilagus obscurus</i>	Appalachian Cottontail		SR-G
<i>Zapus hudsonius</i>	Meadow Jumping Mouse		
<i>Mustela nivalis</i>	Least Weasel		SR-G
<i>Spilogale putorius</i>	Eastern Spotted Skunk		
REPTILES			
<i>Glyptemys muhlenbergii</i>	Bog Turtle	LT, SAT	T
<i>Eumeces anthracinus</i>	Coal Skink		SR
<i>Lampropeltis triangulum elapsoides</i>	Scarlet Kingsnake		
<i>Lampropeltis triangulum triangulum</i>	Eastern Milk Snake		
<i>Pituophis melanoleucus melanoleucus</i>	Northern Pine Snake		SC
<i>Virginia valeriae</i>	Smooth Earth Snake		

Cunningham Tract Needmore GL Swain County 38 Acres



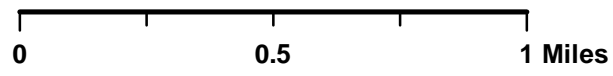
 Cunningham Tract

 Needmore GL

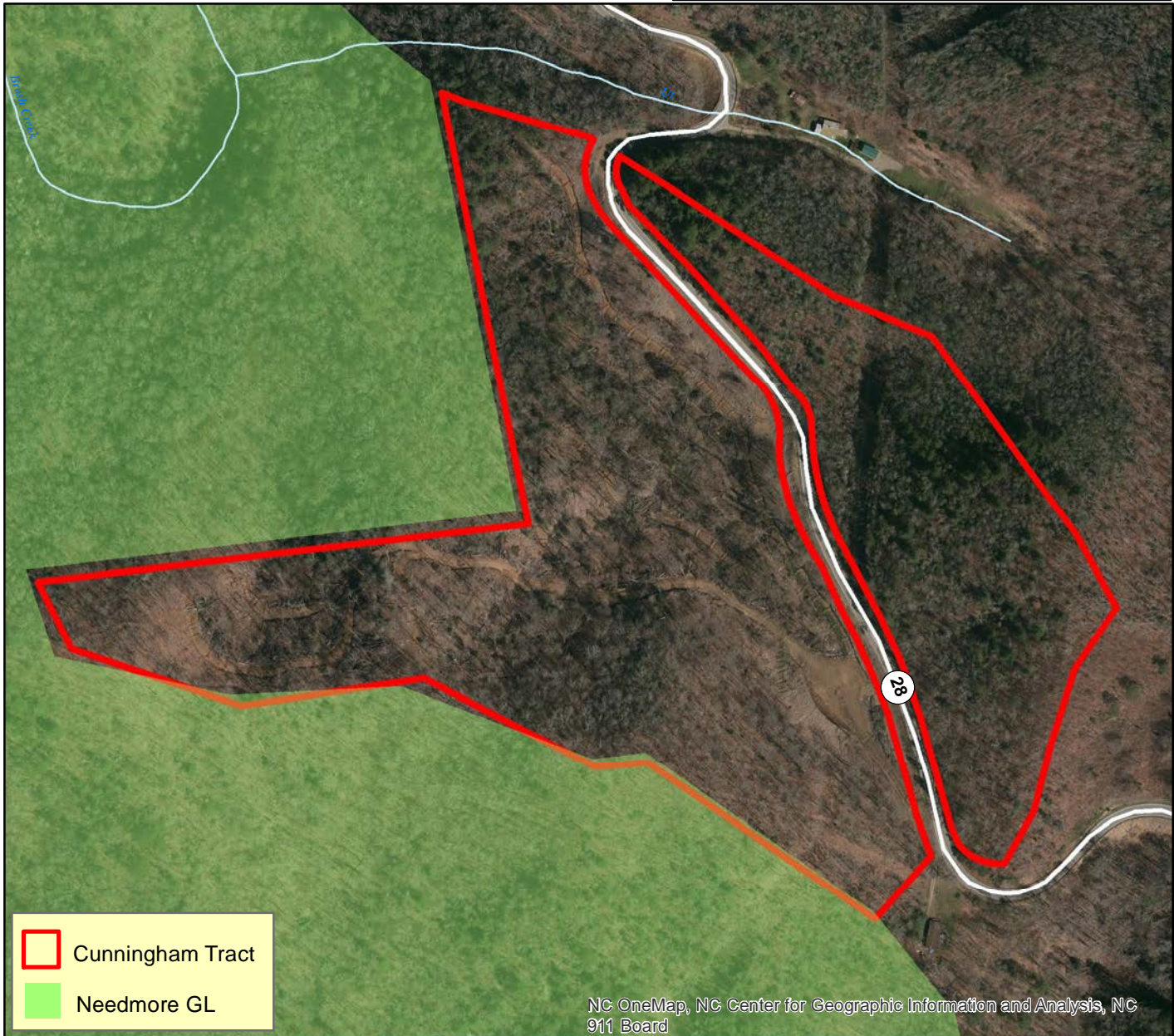
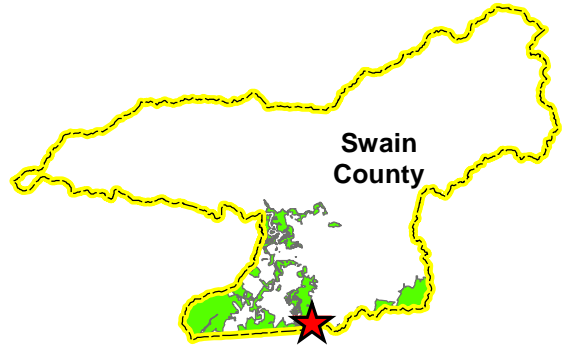
 Nantahala GL





June 24, 2016



**Cunningham Tract
Needmore GL
Swain County
38 Acres**



 Cunningham Tract
 Needmore GL

NC OneMap, NC Center for Geographic Information and Analysis, NC 911 Board



June 24, 2016

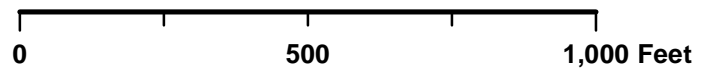


EXHIBIT D-2

July 14, 2016

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Land Acquisition Investigation Form

-PHASE I: INITIAL INVESTIGATION-

WRC Staff Contact: Brooke Massa

Date First Presented to WRC: July 14, 2016

Tract Name: Hammond Tract (PIN 7647374310)

Acreage: 275.10 acres

County: Randolph

Estimated Value: \$900,000 (\$3,272/ac) Asking Price
\$1,059,430 (\$3,851/ac) Tax Value

Property Owner or Representative: Crystal Cockman,
c/o The Land Trust for Central North Carolina
204 East Innes Street, Suite 280
Salisbury, NC 28144

Phone: (704) 647-0302

Email: crystal@landtrustcnc.org

Status: High Interest Moderate Interest Low Interest No Interest

Grant Potential: CWMTF

OTHER: Pittman Robertson Land Acquisition Grant, WRC

Resources Assessment and Biological Benefits (brief): The Hammond Property is a 275-acre property predominantly composed of hardwoods and fields. The riparian buffer portion is still in natural hardwood community, but a large portion of the timber was select-harvested a few years ago. There remains some large hardwoods and potential exists here for creation of a nice oak-hickory savanna. It is adjacent to the Uwharrie National Forest and shares approximately 4,133' of common boundary with it. On this adjacent block of the Uwharrie National Forest, the Kies Mountains Hardwoods Natural Heritage Natural Area of 'High' value is present. The northern boundary of the property includes 6,300' of the South Prong of the Little River, which is a designated Natural Heritage Natural Area of 'Very High' value and provides habitat for the

Eastern creekshell (State Rare). This stream provides good opportunities for recreation. Portions of two other unnamed streams also run through the property. This property also has documented occurrences of four-toed salamander and timber rattlesnake. In addition, this property helps build habitat connectivity between protected lands along the Little River.

Additional Comments: **Additional Comments:** Tract is easily accessed by existing US Forest Service lands and state maintained roads, with approximately 1,640' of road frontage on High Pines Church Road.

Preliminary estimates of five-year stewardship expenditures include surveying and marking 4,000 feet of property boundary @ \$1.25/foot (\$5,000). Another 1.5 miles of boundary along the road and river will be established by WRC staff at \$135/mi. (\$202.50). Estimates also include constructing 2 gates (\$2,000) and one parking area (\$10,000). Total estimate of five-year expenditures is \$17,202.50.

Program Potential: Game Land (Uwharrie) 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

WORKSHEET

Relative Priority Evaluation for Conservation Lands

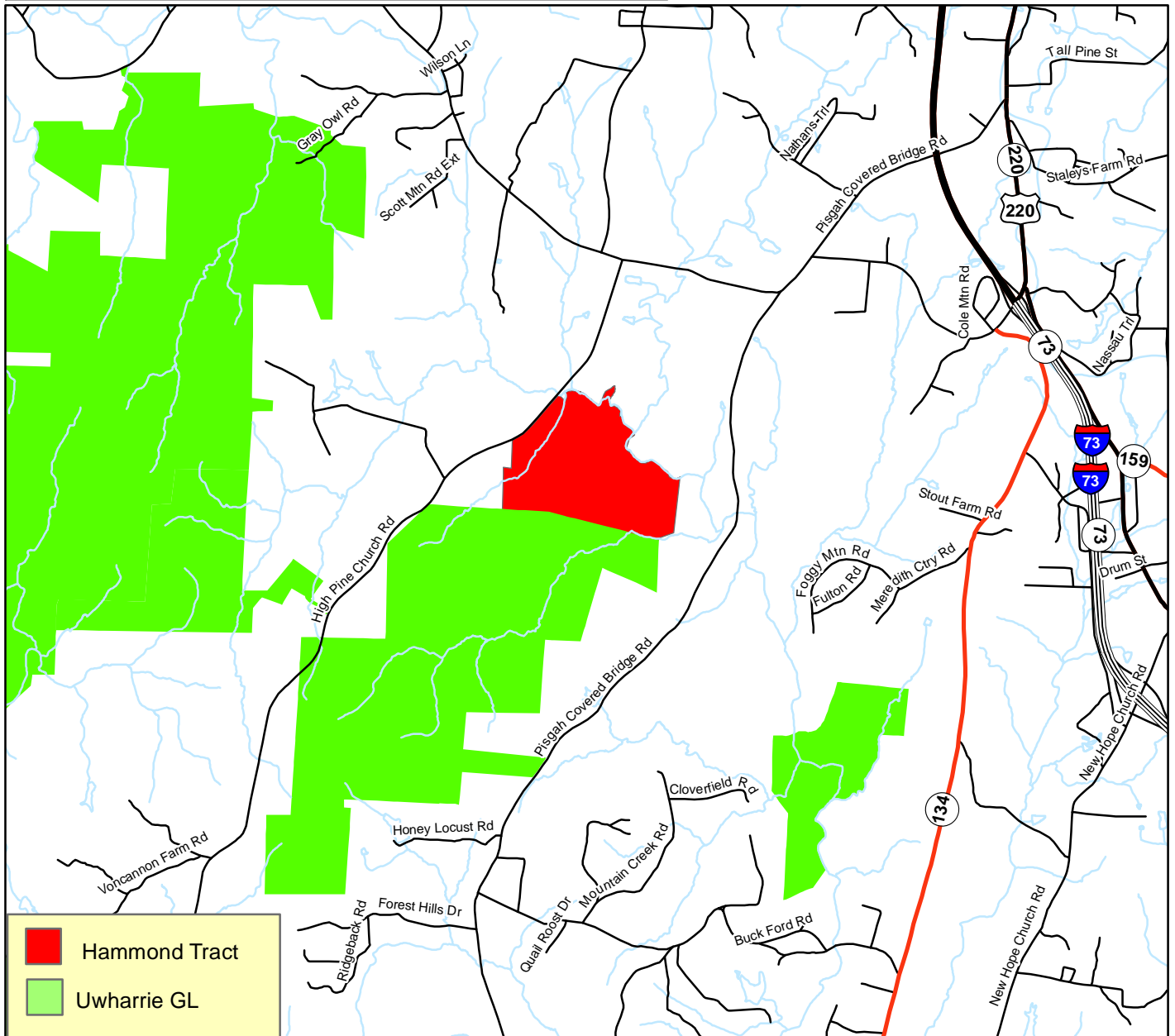
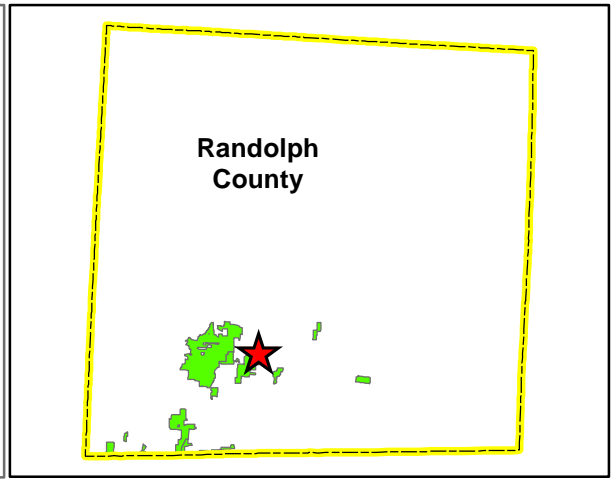
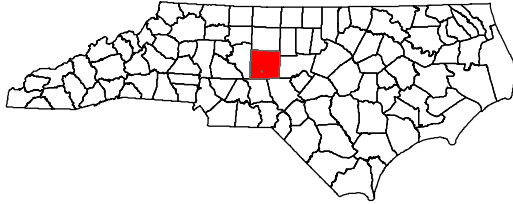
Tract Name (Focal Area) Hammond (Uwharrie GL - Randolph County)

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.	5 <hr/>
2. Represents good hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, and other resource-based recreational opportunities.	5 <hr/>
3. No conflicting surrounding land uses.	4 <hr/>
4. Serves as a wildlife corridor between areas already protected for conservation purposes and provides connectivity to priority Wildlife Action Plan habitats.	3 <hr/>
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.	4 <hr/>
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.	5 <hr/>
7. Is this an area in which we would like to establish a new game land, wildlife conservation area, or fishing access?	NA <hr/>
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)?	NA <hr/>
9. Is area adequate for fishing access development with suitable parking, and if not, are there possibilities for expansion?	1 <hr/>
TOTAL SCORE	27 <hr/> <hr/>

Hsmmonf Tract (Randolph) - Priority Species

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FED LISTED	STATE LISTED
AMPHIBIANS			
<i>Plethodon glutinosus</i>	Slimy Salamander		W4
<i>Eurycea quadridigitata</i>	Dwarf Salamander		SC
<i>Hemidactylium scutatum</i>	Four-toed Salamander		SC
BIRDS			
<i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i>	Hooded Merganser		W3
<i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>	Least Bittern		SC
<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	Sharp-shinned Hawk		SR
<i>Falco sparverius</i>	American Kestrel		W1,W5
<i>Tyto alba</i>	Barn Owl		SR
<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	Loggerhead Shrike		SC
<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	Grasshopper Sparrow		W1,W5
<i>Spiza americana</i>	Dickcissel		W3,W5
<i>Icterus galbula</i>	Baltimore Oriole		W2
MAMMALS			
<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>	Hoary Bat		W2
<i>Zapus hudsonius</i>	Meadow Jumping Mouse		W2
REPTILES			
<i>Apalone spinifera aspera</i>	Gulf Coast Spiny Softshell		W2
<i>Ophisaurus attenuatus</i>	Slender Glass Lizard		SR
<i>Cemophora coccinea</i>	Scarlet Snake		W1,W5
<i>Lampropeltis triangulum elapsoides</i>	Scarlet Kingsnake		W1,W5
<i>Virginia valeriae</i>	Smooth Earth Snake		W2

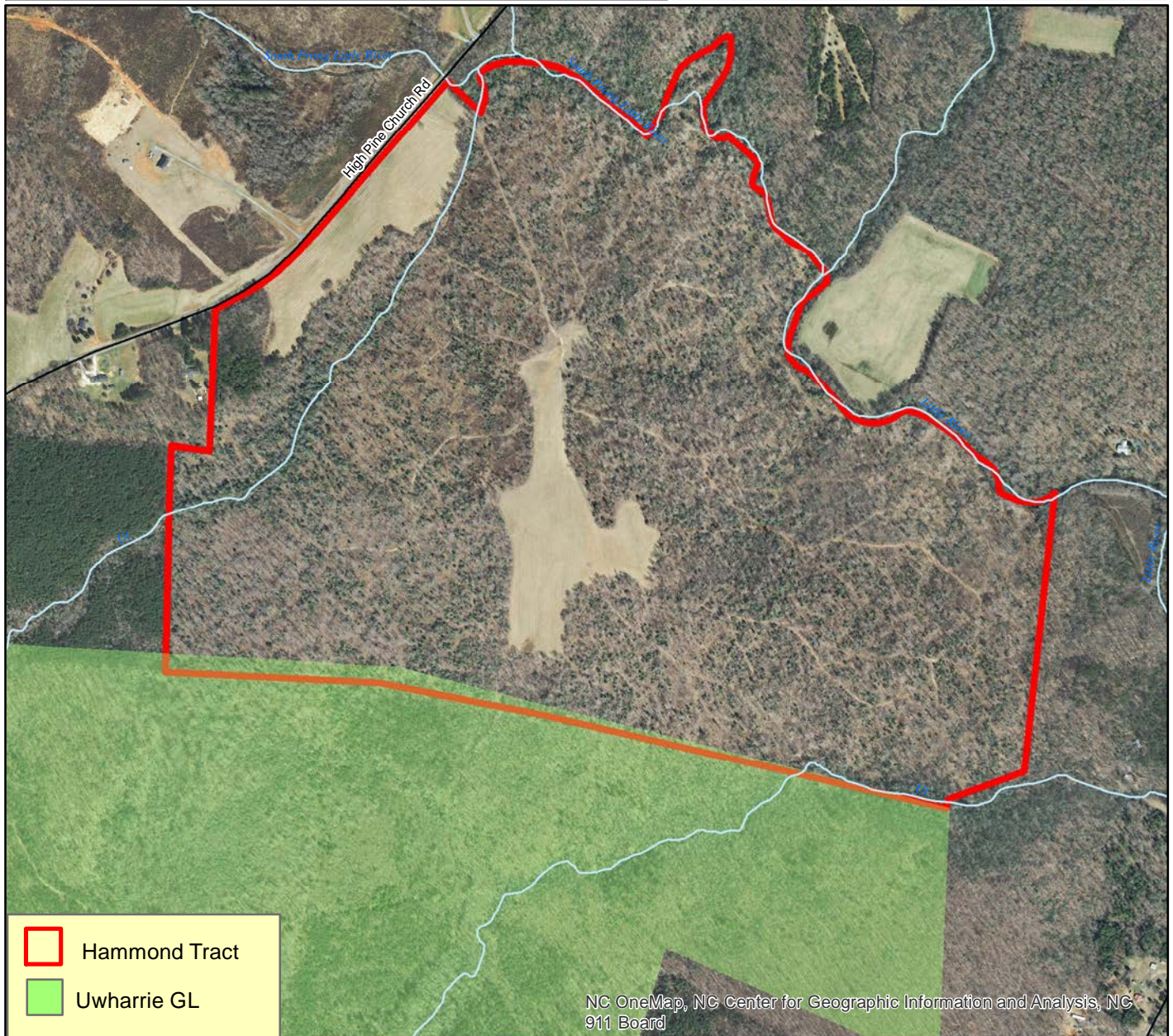
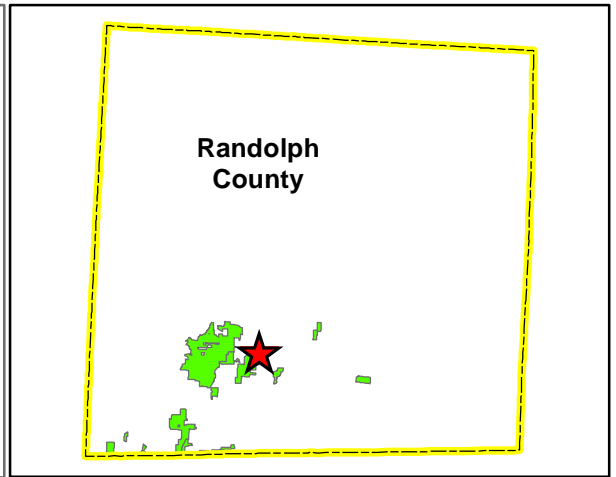
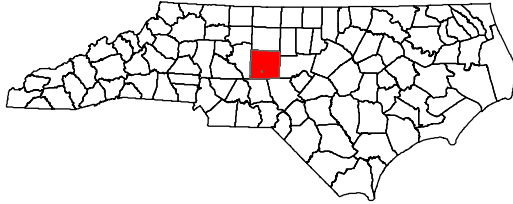
Hammond Tract Uwharrie Game Land Randolph County 275 Acres





June 23, 2016



Hammond Tract Uwharrie Game Land Randolph County 275 Acres



 Hammond Tract
 Uwharrie GL

NC OneMap, NC Center for Geographic Information and Analysis, NC 911 Board



June 23, 2016

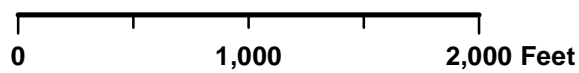


EXHIBIT D-3

July 14, 2016

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Land Acquisition Investigation Form

-PHASE I: INITIAL INVESTIGATION-

WRC Staff Contact: Tommy Hughes

Date First Presented to WRC: July 14, 2016

Tract Name: Juniper Bay LLC (Parcel ID: 12500047)

Acreage: 992 ±

County: Brunswick

Estimated Value: \$ 3,868,059 (\$3,900/ac asking)
\$ 2,033,210 (\$2,050/ac tax value)

Property Owner or Representative: Tom Percival

Phone: (O) 910-738-7170 www.landsofthecarolinas.com
(C) 910-734-6699

Address: Percival Land and Timber Consultant
PO Box 2232
Lumberton, NC 28359

Status: High Interest Moderate Interest Low Interest No Interest

Grant Potential: CWMTF

OTHER (explain): Pittman Robertson Land Acquisition Grant and WRC

Resources Assessment and Biological Benefits (brief): Property lies just east of Bolivia and consists of 992 acres of forested woodlands that support young loblolly pine plantations, thinned 25-30-year-old loblolly plantations, one clearcut, natural pine stands and riparian hardwoods. In addition, a large power line ROW runs through the center of the property. The holding supports approximately 5 miles of dirt-based access roads which are in fair to good shape. These roads provide good access on the tract for use and management. The tract supports habitat for game species such as whitetail deer, black bear, wild turkey, gray and fox squirrel. The hardwood riparian area provides habitat needs for Neotropical migrants and other hardwood dependent bird species, in addition to furbearers, reptiles and amphibians.

The site is severely fire suppressed and needs to have prescribe fire introduced on a regular basis. However, it remains unclear how long burning can be used in the future due to impacts from future development. Prior to the economic downturn, this site was scheduled to be developed. Over 1,600 single and multiple family units were platted for development on this site.

Based upon data found in the NC Conservation Planning Tool, 67% of Juniper Bay LLC Biodiversity index ranked within the range of 3-6 out of 10 (1- low-10 high values). (0-3- 32%, 3-6-67% and 6-10-.00%). 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: None.

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

This site would make an excellent Still Hunting Only game land for deer and bear. Given the adjacent land use and its close proximity to Wilmington, still hunting use is anticipated to be high.

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

WORKSHEET

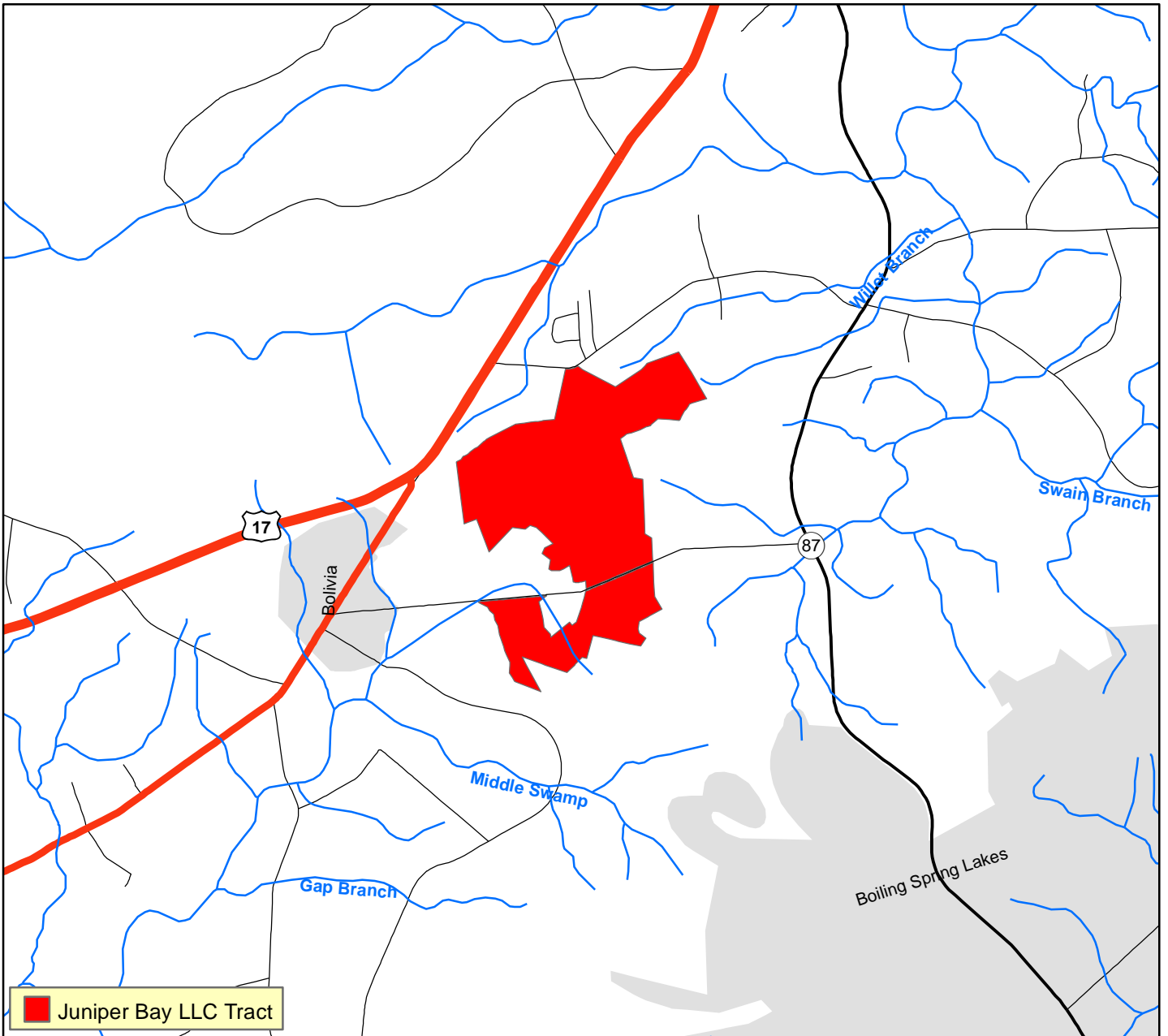
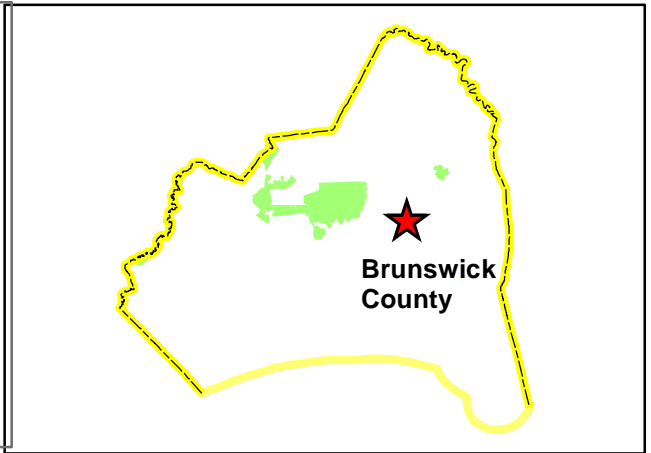
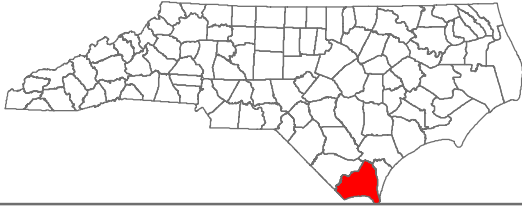
Relative Priority Evaluation for Conservation Lands

Tract Name (Focal Area) Juniper Bay LLC (Brunswick County)

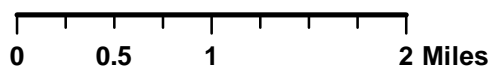
Criterion	Score (1-5) 5=Excellent 1=Poor
1. Augments existing protected lands by addressing an inholding or adjacent tract, provides key access, buffers or connects existing WRC-managed lands.	<u>3</u>
2. Represents good hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, and other resource-based recreational opportunities.	<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>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>No</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>No</u>
9. Is area adequate for fishing access development with suitable parking, and if not, are there possibilities for expansion?	<u>No</u>
TOTAL SCORE	<u>25</u>

Juniper Bay LLC-Brunswick County				
5- Year Estimated Stewardship Costs				
	5-Year			5 Year
Description	Quantity	Unit	Unit/Cost	Total
Maintain Access Road- 5 miles Annually	25	mi	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 62,500.00
Prescribe Burning 335 ac -Annually	1675	ac	\$ 30.00	\$ 50,250.00
Establish Firebreaks-10 mi- Annually	50	mi	\$ 200.00	\$ 10,000.00
Establish Gates-10	10	ea	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Maintain Gates- 10- Annually	40	ea	\$ 100.00	\$ 4,000.00
Boundary Establishment	10	mi	\$ 135.00	\$ 1,350.00
Boundary Maintenance- yr 4- 10 miles	10	mi	\$ 135.00	\$ 1,350.00
Reforestation-27 acres	27	ac	\$ 270.00	\$ 7,290.00
			Total	\$ 146,740.00
5-Year Anticipated Revenue				
No income anticipated in years 1-5				\$ -
			Total	\$ -

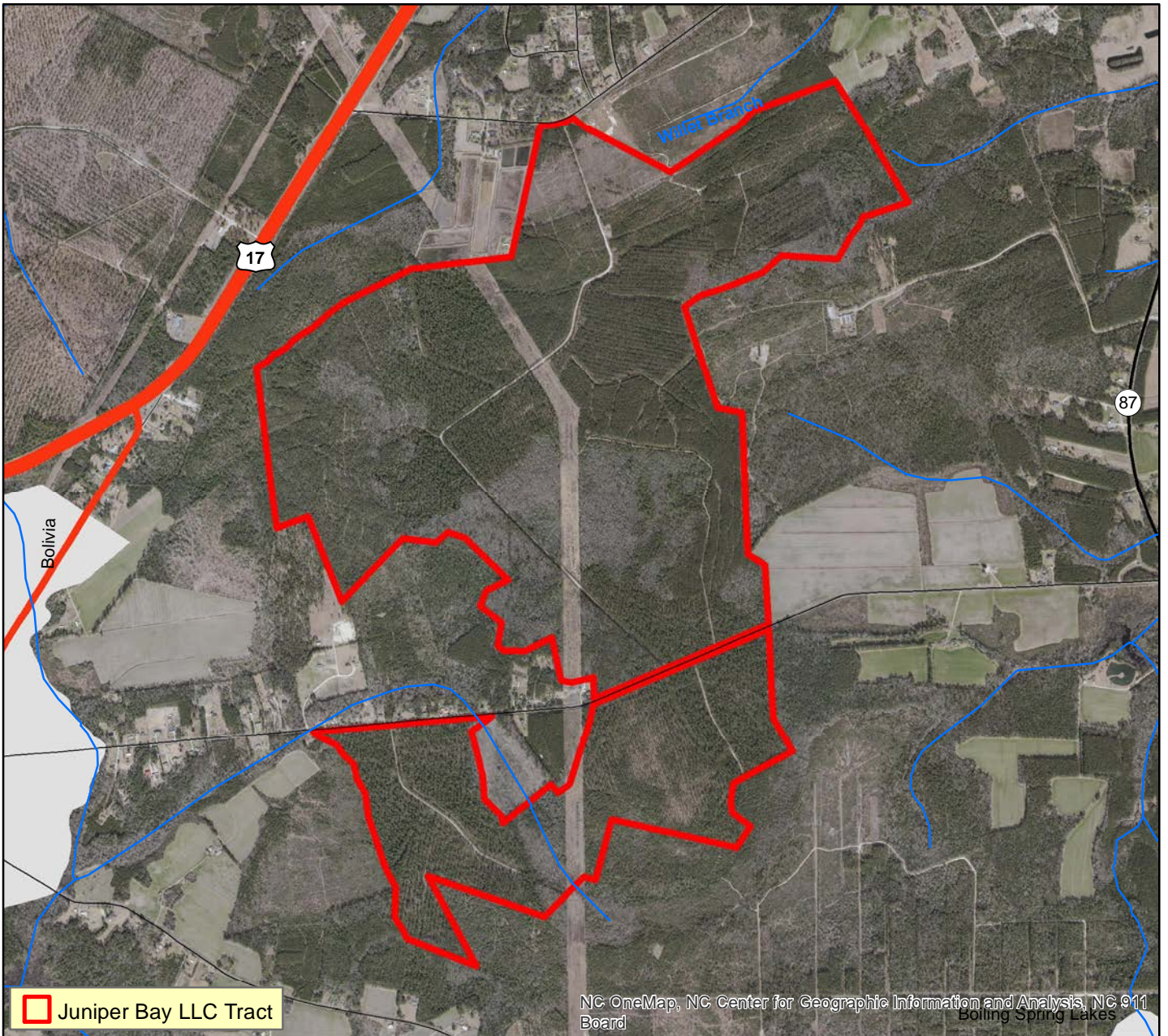
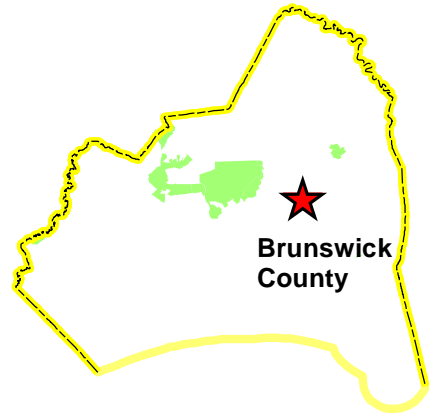
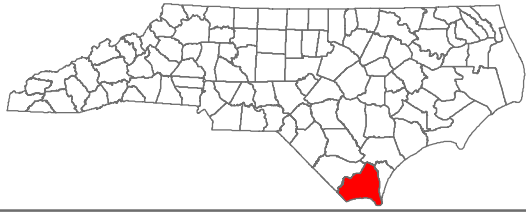
Juniper Bay LLC Tract Brunswick County 992 Acres



June 22, 2016



Juniper Bay LLC Tract Brunswick County 992 Acres



June 22, 2016

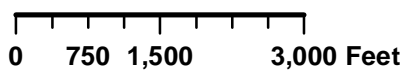


EXHIBIT D-4

July 14, 2016

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: July 14, 2016

Tract Name: Melton Tract (Parcel ID 1657-49-6782)

Acreage: 93.41 acres

County: McDowell

Estimated Value: \$93,410 (bargain sale, \$1000/acre)

Property Owner or Representative: Andrew Kota, c/o Foothills Conservancy of N.C.
akota@foothillsconservancy.org

Address: P.O. Box 3023
Morganton, NC 28680

Phone: 828-437-9930 (office)
828-403-7121 (mobile)

Status: High Interest Moderate Interest Low Interest No Interest

Grant Potential: CWMTF

OTHER: Pittman Robertson Land Acquisition Grant, with donated value of property expected to meet 25% non-federal match requirement

Resources Assessment and Biological Benefits (brief): Acquisition of the Melton Tract will solidify WRC ownership in the portion of South Mountains GL where McDowell and Burke counties adjoin near U.S. Hwy. 64 and provide an additional public access location to the game land in this area.

The tract contains the headwaters of Cane Creek and is predominately composed of Appalachian oak forest. Management objectives will include restoring or maintaining the oak forest priority wildlife habitat that is located on the tract. Common wildlife species found on the tract include wild turkey, black bear, white-tailed deer, raccoon, and gray squirrel. Priority species likely found on the tract as either permanent residents or transients include: South Mountain gray-

cheeked salamander (*Plethodon meridianus*), timber rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*), Eastern box turtle (*Terapene carolina*), northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), wood thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*), Eastern wood-peewee (*Contopus virens*), and hooded warbler (*Setophaga citrina*).

A Revolutionary War battle likely occurred on the property (Battle of Cane Creek) and the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail (trail not developed) also crosses the property. Public recreational opportunities will include hunting, hiking, bird watching, photography, and general nature study.

Additional Comments: **Additional Comments:** The tract contains two old houses, a metal storage shed, and a garage. These structures are of no value or benefit to WRC. Foothills Conservancy will contact the local volunteer fire department and have the structures burned. WRC will dispose of any remaining debris after taking ownership of the property.

Preliminary estimates of five-year stewardship expenditures include surveying and marking 3,220 feet of property boundary @ \$1.25/foot, and constructing one parking area at approximately \$10,000 to enhance public access. Total estimate of five-year expenditures is \$14,025.

Program Potential: Game Land (South Mountains) 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):

29 of 30

Recommendation: Pursue Acquisition Defer Do not Pursue Acquisition

Map Attached: Yes No

WORKSHEET
Relative Priority Evaluation for Conservation Lands

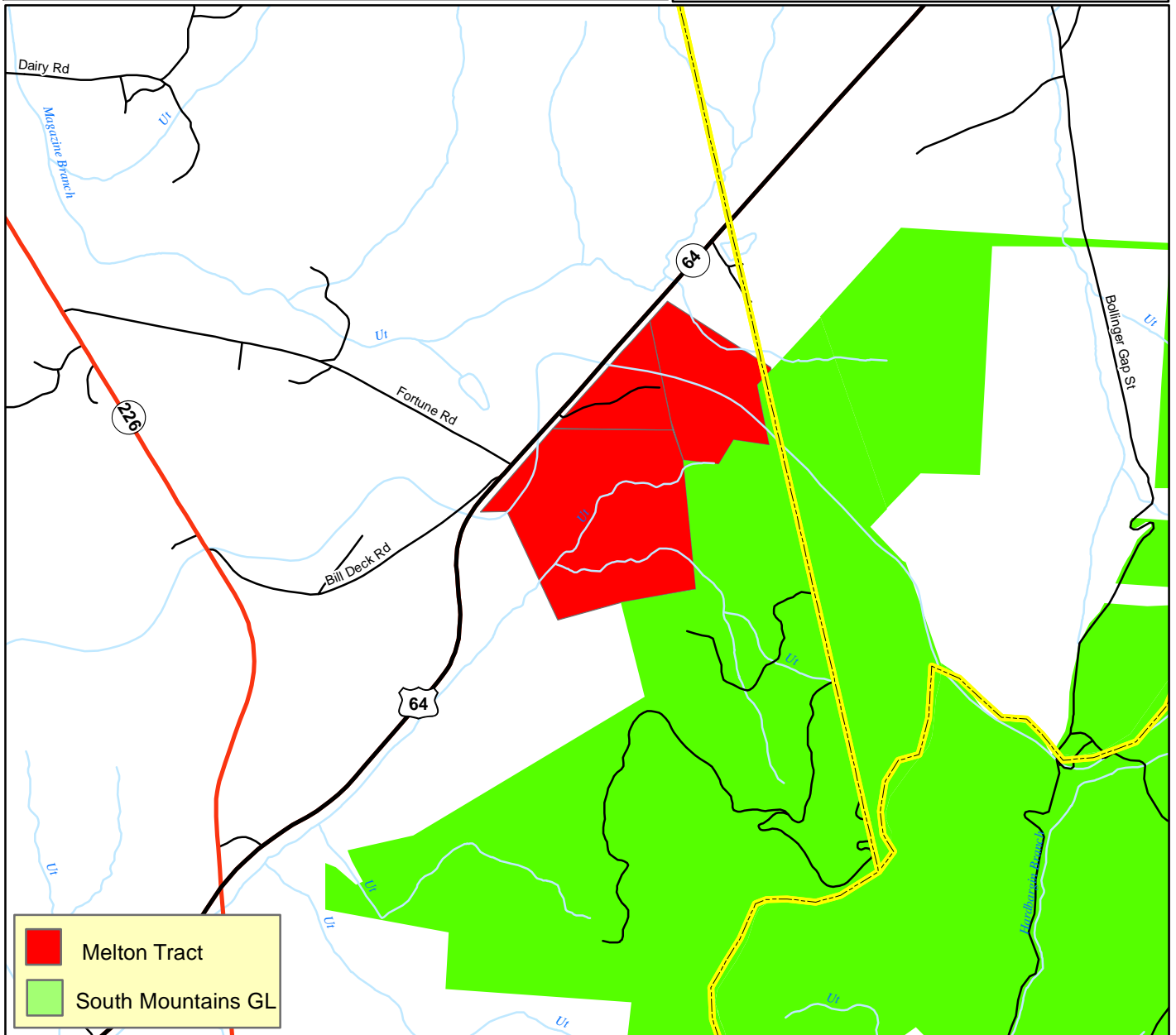
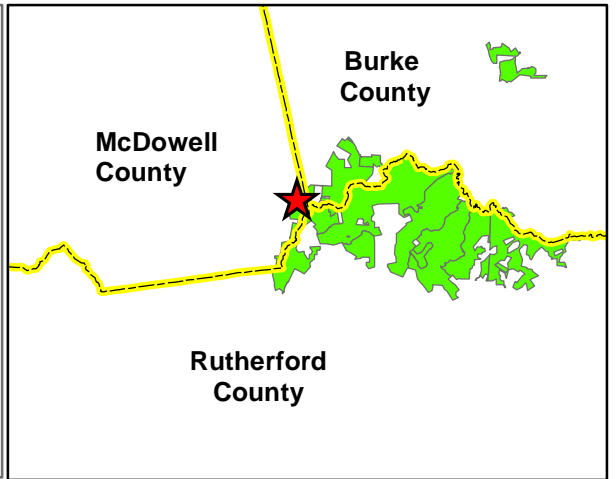
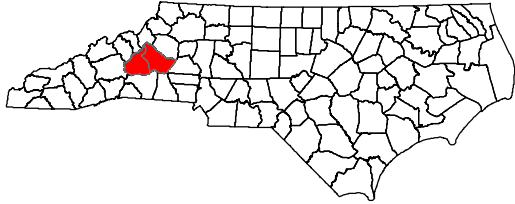
Tract Name (Focal Area) Melton (South Mountains GL - McDowell County)



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>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>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>29</u></u>

Melton Tract (McDowell County) - Priority Species

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FED LISTED	STATE LISTED
AMPHIBIANS			
<i>Plethodon glutinosus</i>	Slimy Salamander		
<i>Plethodon meridianus</i>	South Mountain Gray-cheeked 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>Tyto alba</i>	Barn Owl		SR
<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	Loggerhead Shrike		SC
<i>Corvus corax</i>	Common Raven		
<i>Dendroica magnolia</i>	Magnolia Warbler		SR
<i>Dendroica cerulea</i>	Cerulean Warbler		SC
<i>Limnothlypis swainsonii</i>	Swainson's Warbler		
<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	Grasshopper Sparrow		
<i>Spiza americana</i>	Dickcissel		
<i>Icterus galbula</i>	Baltimore Oriole		
MAMMALS			
<i>Sorex hoyi</i>	Pygmy Shrew		
<i>Corynorhinus rafinesquii</i>	Rafinesque's Big-eared Bat		T
<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>	Hoary Bat		
<i>Lasiurus seminolus</i>	Seminole Bat		
<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	Northern Myotis		
<i>Myotis leibii</i>	Eastern Small-footed Myotis		SC
<i>Neotoma magister</i>	Allegheny Woodrat		SC
<i>Zapus hudsonius</i>	Meadow Jumping Mouse		
<i>Spilogale putorius</i>	Eastern Spotted Skunk		
REPTILES			
<i>Glyptemys muhlenbergii</i>	Bog Turtle	LT, SAT	T
<i>Eumeces anthracinus</i>	Coal Skink		SR
<i>Cemophora coccinea</i>	Scarlet Snake		
<i>Lampropeltis triangulum elapsoides</i>	Scarlet Kingsnake		
<i>Lampropeltis triangulum triangulum</i>	Eastern Milk Snake		
<i>Virginia valeriae</i>	Smooth Earth Snake		

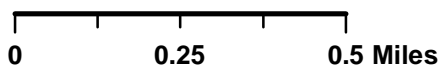
Melton Tract South Mountains GL McDowell & Burke Counties 93 Acres



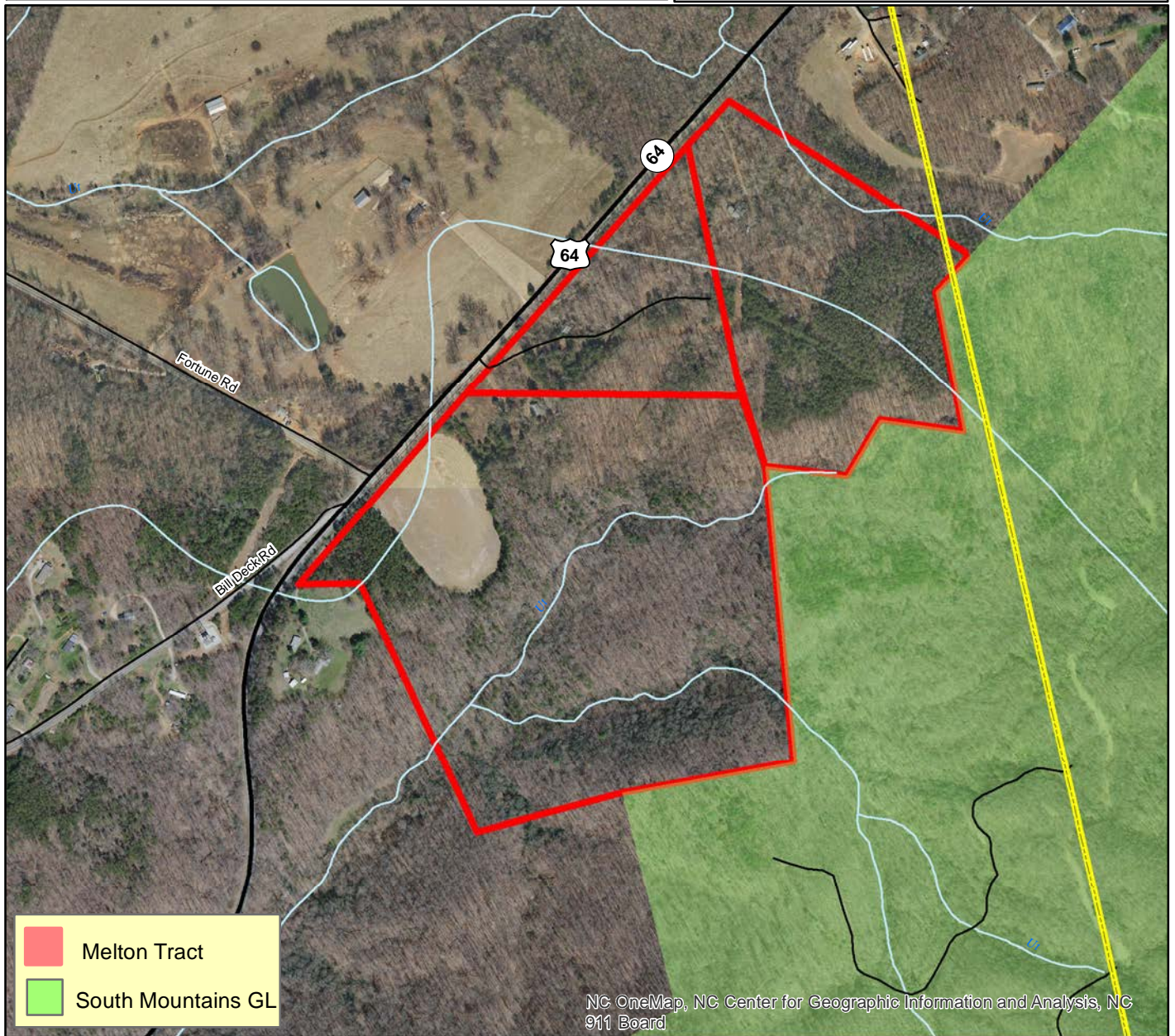
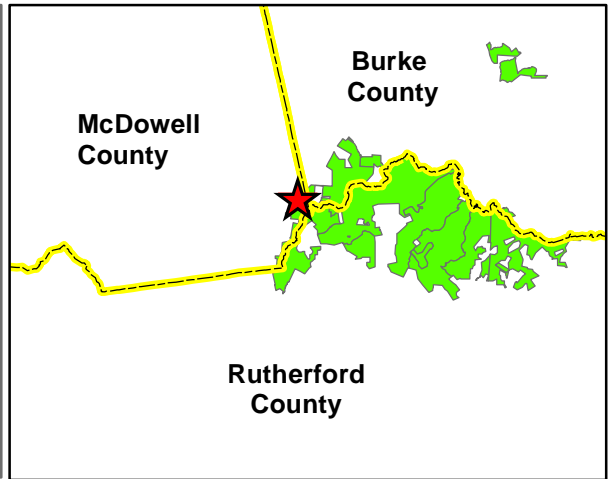
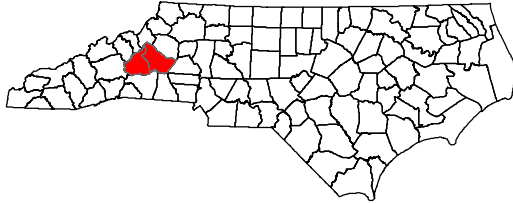
 Melton Tract
 South Mountains GL



June 19, 2016



Melton Tract South Mountains GL McDowell County 93 Acres



NC OneMap, NC Center for Geographic Information and Analysis, NC 911 Board



June 19, 2016

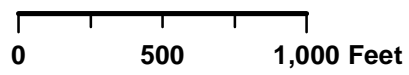


EXHIBIT D-5

July 14, 2016

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Land Acquisition Investigation Form

-PHASE I: INITIAL INVESTIGATION-

WRC Staff Contact: Todd Ewing

Date First Presented to WRC: July 14, 2016

Tract Name: Shoe Heel Tract (Parcel ID Number 263700-48-7011)

Acreage: 63.8

County: Johnston

Estimated Value: \$245,000

Property Owner or Representative: Casey and Company Realty, LLC

Phone: (336)-838-5766

Address: 310 E. Main Street, Wilkesboro, NC 28697

Status: High Interest Moderate Interest Low Interest No Interest

Grant Potential: CWMTF

OTHER (explain): Tract is eligible for funding through the North Carolina and Virginia River and Waters Program (Duke Energy Coal Ash Settlement Funds)

Resources Assessment and Biological Benefits (brief): This property is located on the Little River in the Neuse River basin. Approximately 36 acres of thinned loblolly pine with the remainder in hardwood. Acquisition of this tract will help protect the federally-listed Tar River Spiny mussel, and numerous other Wildlife Action Plan priority species including the Yellow Lance, Carolina Madtom, and Atlantic Pigtoe which have been petitioned for federal listing. It contains 4,500 feet of frontage on Little River. This site can also serve as a potential augmentation site for many of these species.

Additional Comments: Tract has excellent access with 1,500 feet of paved state road frontage on Micro Road.

Preliminary estimates of five-year stewardship expenditures include surveying and marking 2,280 feet of property boundary @ \$1.25/foot (\$2,850). Another 1.1 miles of boundary adjoining the river and state road will be established by WRC staff at \$135/mi. (\$148.50). Total estimate of five-year expenditures is \$2,998.50.

Program Potential: Game Land 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

WORKSHEET

Relative Priority Evaluation for Conservation Lands

Tract Name (Focal Area) Shoe Heel Tract (Johnston 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>1</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>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>No</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>25</u></u>

Shoe Heel Tract (Johnston County) - Priority Species

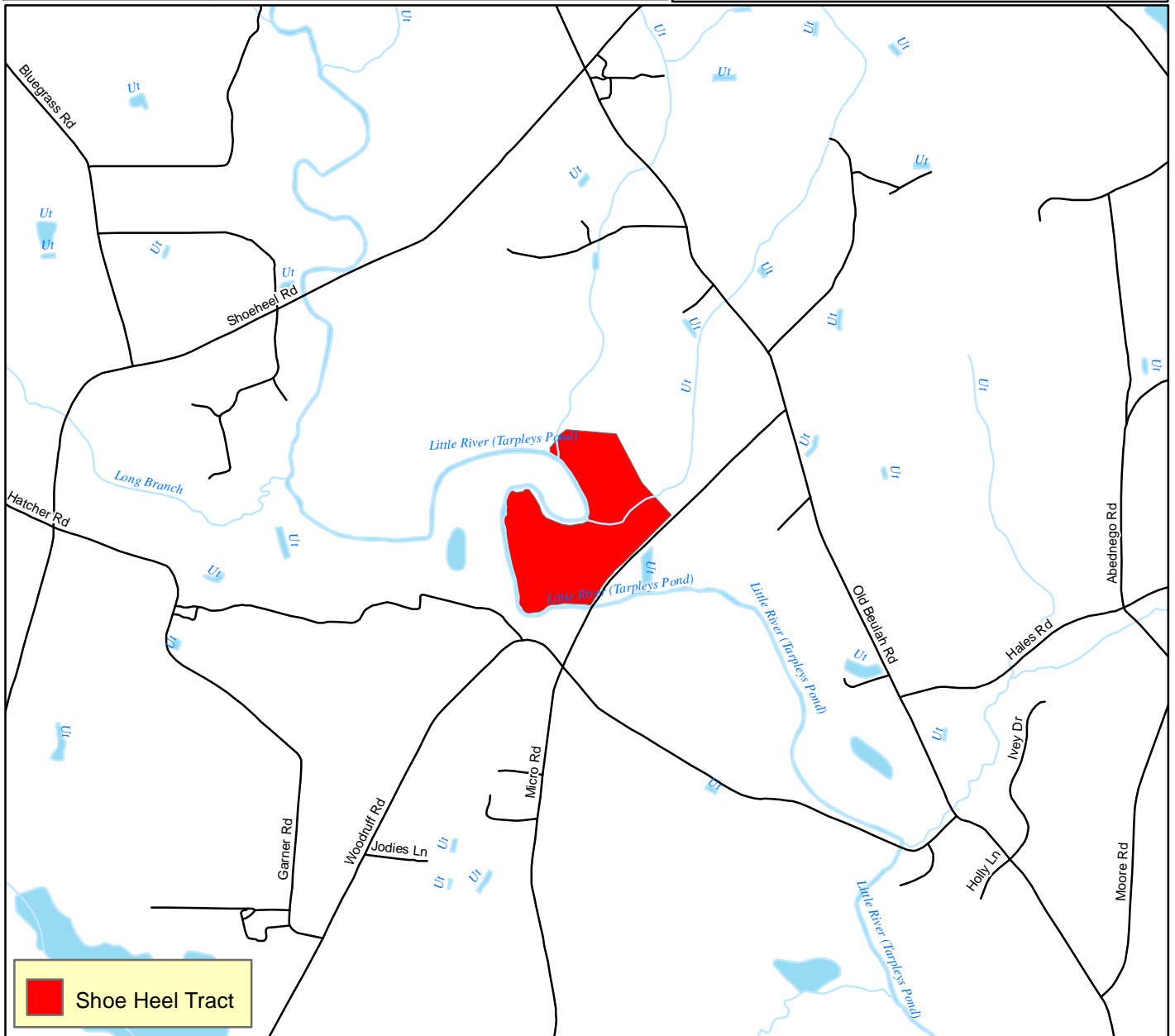
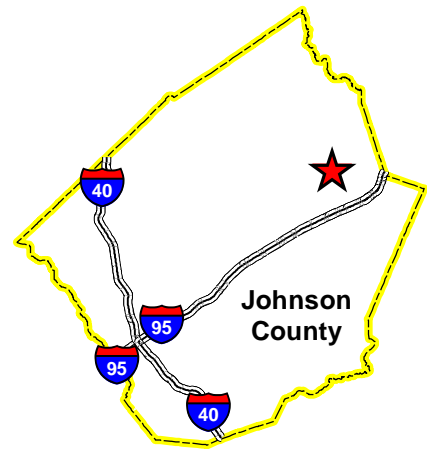
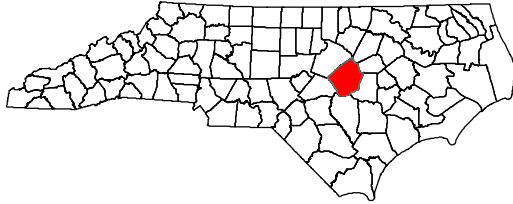
SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FED LISTED	STATE LISTED
AMPHIBIANS			
<i>Plethodon glutinosus</i>	Slimy Salamander		
<i>Eurycea quadridigitata</i>	Dwarf Salamander		SC
<i>Stereochilus marginatus</i>	Many-lined Salamander		
<i>Necturus lewisi</i>	Neuse River Waterdog		SC
<i>Siren lacertina</i>	Greater Siren		
<i>Bufo quercicus</i>	Oak Toad		SR
<i>Hyla andersonii</i>	Pine Barrens Treefrog		SR
<i>Pseudacris brimleyi</i>	Brimley's Chorus Frog		
BIRDS			
<i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i>	Hooded Merganser		
<i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>	Least Bittern		SC
<i>Ictinia mississippiensis</i>	Mississippi Kite		
<i>Falco sparverius</i>	American Kestrel		
<i>Tyto alba</i>	Barn Owl		SR
<i>Picoides borealis</i>	Red-cockaded Woodpecker	LE	E
<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	Loggerhead Shrike		SC
<i>Limnothlypis swainsonii</i>	Swainson's Warbler		
<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	Grasshopper Sparrow		
<i>Spiza americana</i>	Dickcissel		
MAMMALS			
<i>Corynorhinus rafinesquii</i>	Rafinesque's Big-eared Bat		T
<i>Sciurus niger</i>	Eastern Fox Squirrel		SR-G
<i>Zapus hudsonius</i>	Meadow Jumping Mouse		
REPTILES			
<i>Clemmys guttata</i>	Spotted Turtle		
<i>Kinosternon baurii</i>	Striped Mud Turtle		
<i>Ophisaurus attenuatus</i>	Slender Glass Lizard		SR
<i>Cemophora coccinea</i>	Scarlet Snake		
<i>Farancia erytrogramma</i>	Rainbow Snake		
<i>Heterodon simus</i>	Southern Hognose Snake		SC
<i>Lampropeltis triangulum elapsoides</i>	Scarlet Kingsnake		
<i>Virginia valeriae</i>	Smooth Earth Snake		


2015 North Carolina Wildlife Action Plan

TABLE 4.69 SGCN priority species in the Neuse River Basin

Taxa Group	Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal/ State Status*
AQ SNAIL	<i>Somatogyrus virginicus</i>	Panhandle Pebblesnail	FSC/—
CRAYFISH	<i>Procambarus medialis</i>	Pamlico Crayfish	—
FISH	<i>Acipenser oxyrinchus</i>	Atlantic Sturgeon	E/E
	<i>Ambloplites cavifrons</i>	Roanoke Bass	FSC/—
	<i>Ameiurus brunneus</i>	Snail Bullhead	—
	<i>Ameiurus platycephalus</i>	Flat Bullhead	—
	<i>Enneacanthus chaetodon</i>	Blackbanded Sunfish	—
	<i>Enneacanthus obesus</i>	Banded Sunfish	—
	<i>Etheostoma collis</i>	Carolina Darter	FSC/SC
	<i>Lampetra aepyptera</i>	Least Brook Lamprey	—/T
	<i>Moxostoma pappillosum</i>	V-lip Redhorse	—
	<i>Notropis bifrenatus</i>	Bridle Shiner	FSC/E
	<i>Notropis chalybaeus</i>	Ironcolor Shiner	—
	<i>Notropis volucellus</i>	Mimic Shiner	—
	<i>Noturus furiosus</i>	Carolina Madtom	FSC/T
MUSSEL	<i>Alasmidonta heterodon</i>	Dwarf Wedgemussel	E/E
	<i>Alasmidonta undulata</i>	Triangle Floater	—/T
	<i>Elliptio lanceolata</i>	Yellow Lance	FSC/E
	<i>Elliptio marsupiobesa</i>	Cape Fear Spike	—/SC
	<i>Elliptio steinstansana</i>	Tar River Spiny mussel	E/E
	<i>Fusconaia masoni</i>	Atlantic Pigtoe	FSC/E
	<i>Lampsilis cariosa</i>	Yellow Lampmussel	FSC/E
	<i>Lampsilis sp. 2</i>	Chameleon Lampmussel	—
	<i>Lasmigona subviridis</i>	Green Floater	FSC/E
	<i>Villosa constricta</i>	Notched Rainbow	—/SC

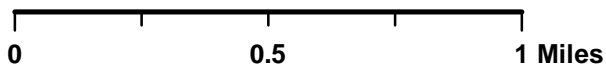
Shoe Heel Tract Johnson County 63.8 Acres



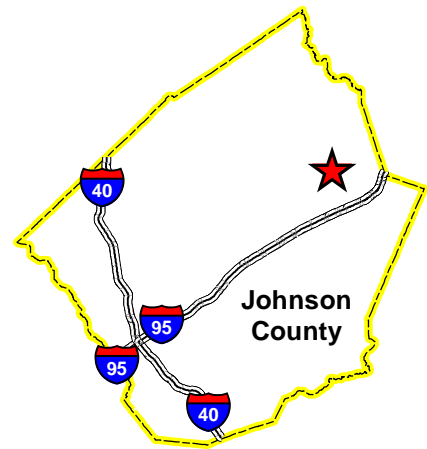
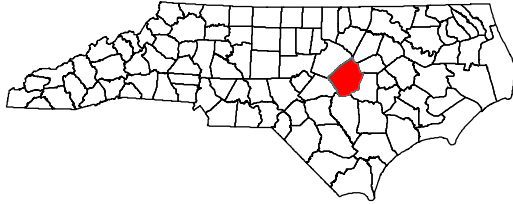
 Shoe Heel Tract




June 26, 2016



Shoe Heel Tract Johnson County 63.8 Acres



 Shoe Heel Tract

NC OneMap, NC Center for Geographic Information and Analysis, NC 911 Board



June 26, 2016

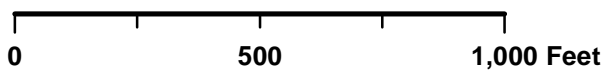


EXHIBIT D-6

July 14, 2016

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: July 14, 2016

Tract Name: Wood Tract (Parcel Number 8506-34-0953)

Acreage: 308 acres

County: Jackson

Estimated Value: \$1.4 Million (Appraised in Dec 2015). \$832,800 is asking price.

Property Owner or Representative: Mainspring Conservation Trust

Phone: (828) 524-2711

Address: 557 East Main Street Franklin NC 28734

Status: High Interest Moderate Interest Low Interest No Interest

Grant Potential: CWMTF

OTHER (explain): Pittman Robertson (PR) Land Acquisition Grant. Mainspring is willing to sell WRC this tract at approximately 40% below appraised value, which more than satisfies the PR requirement for 25% non-federal match.

Resources Assessment and Biological Benefits (brief): Acquisition of this property is significant as part of the total management project being carried out in the mountain Eco region. WRC ownership of the tract will increase conservation ownership of properties in the immediate area such as the Pisgah and Nantahala National Forest, and properties owned by Mainspring Conservation Trust, formerly the Land Trust for the Little Tennessee (LTLT). 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 and Nantahala National Forest, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Needmore Game Land and Cold Mountain Game Land (WRC holdings), Mainspring lands and various private holdings that are in conservation ownership or have conservation easements that are located in the vicinity. WRC ownership will help reduce land fragmentation as well.

Management objectives will include restoring or maintaining priority wildlife habitats that are located on the tract, as well as creating and maintaining additional early successional habitats (ESH). Currently there are eight acres of open pasture that could be restored/enhanced into important early successional habitats. There are also nearly two acres of power line right of way that has some important shrub/scrub early successional habitats. Other important habitats include five acres of riparian habitats and five acres of Appalachian Hemlock/Hardwood Forest. The majority of this tract consists of Southern Appalachian Oak Forest. WRC ownership will ensure these habitats are protected and managed for wildlife conservation and public use in perpetuity. Resent logging activity on the tract may assist in the ESH creation and/or enhancement. Elevations range from 3150 feet to 3950 and the tract is within a Golden-Wing Warbler focal area. The open fields and logging activities will assist in creating good Golden-Wing habitat.

Public recreational opportunities will include hunting, fishing, hiking, bird watching, photography, and general nature study. Educational opportunities may exist as priority wildlife habitats are managed for or maintained. Common wildlife species found on the tract 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 potential priority nongame species.

Additional Comments: The Wood Tract connects two large blocks of USFS land. This is not only important for public access, but also provides an important wildlife corridor. Also, Highway 281 runs through the middle of the tract, providing easy public access directly from a major highway.

There is potential funding available through the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act to assist in creating/enhancing Golden-Winged Warbler habitat on this tract, since the tract lies in an Appalachian Mountain Joint Ventures focal area.

Preliminary estimates of five-year stewardship expenditures include surveying and marking 13,472 feet of property boundary @ \$1.25/foot (\$16,840). Another 0.75 miles of boundary adjoining US Forest Service (existing game land) will be established by WRC staff at \$200/mi. (\$150). Estimates also include constructing one parking area at approximately \$10,000 to enhance public access. Total estimate of five-year expenditures is \$43,830.

Program Potential: Game Land (Nantahala) 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):

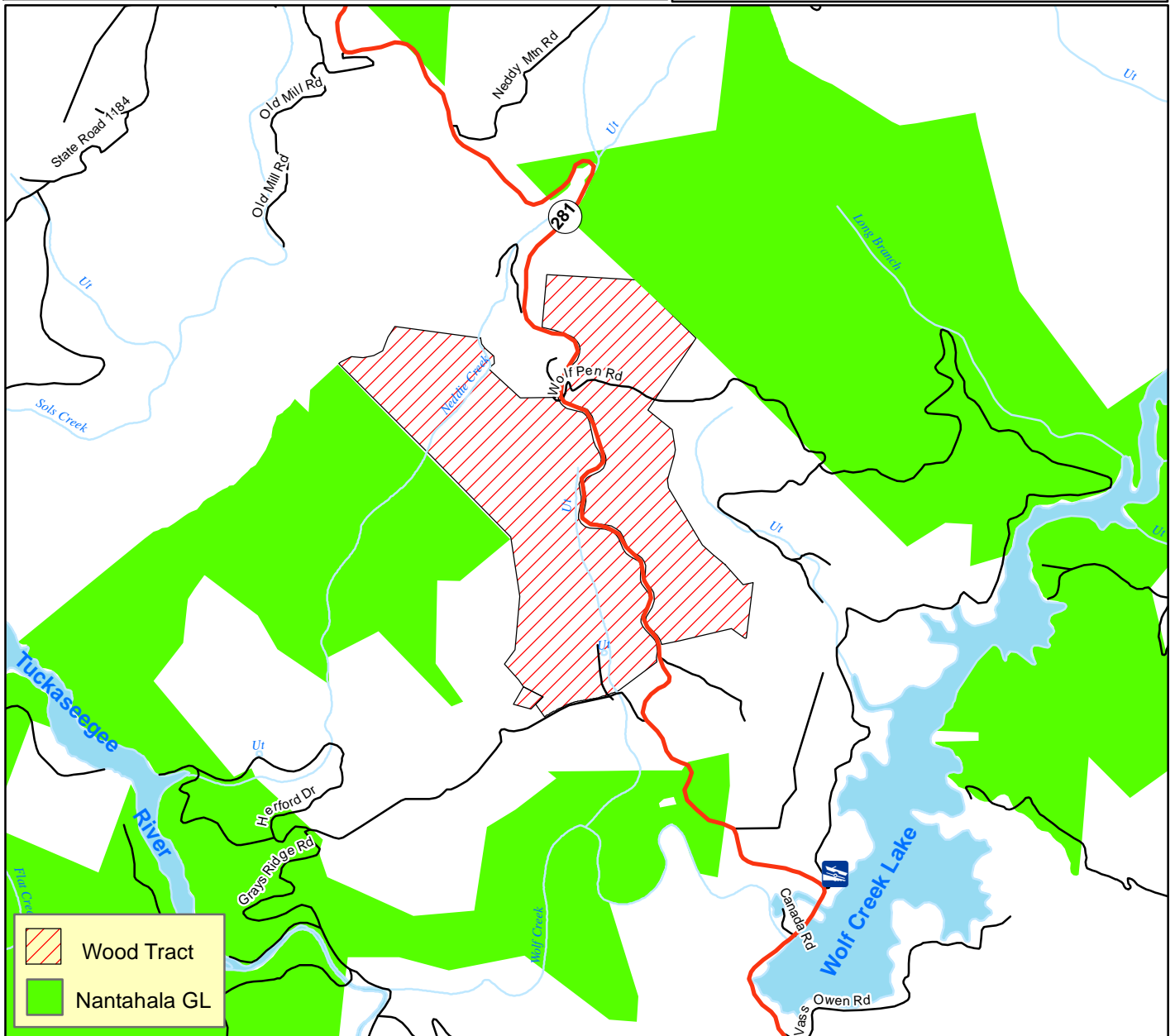
Recommendation: Pursue Acquisition Defer Do not Pursue Acquisition

Map Attached: Yes No

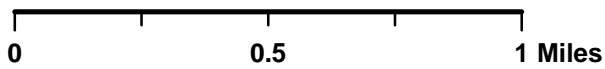
Wood Tract (Jackson County) - Priority Species

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FED LISTED	STATE LISTED
AMPHIBIANS			
<i>Aneides aeneus</i>	Green Salamander		E
<i>Plethodon glutinosus</i>	Slimy Salamander		
<i>Desmognathus santeetlah</i>	Santeetlah Dusky Salamander		SR
<i>Desmognathus wrighti</i>	Pygmy Salamander		SR
<i>Hemidactylium scutatum</i>	Four-toed Salamander		SC
<i>Necturus maculosus</i>	Mudpuppy		SC
<i>Cryptobranchus alleganiensis</i>	Hellbender		SC
BIRDS			
<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	Sharp-shinned Hawk		SR
<i>Falco sparverius</i>	American Kestrel		
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Peregrine Falcon		E
<i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i>	Black-billed Cuckoo		SR
<i>Tyto alba</i>	Barn Owl		SR
<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		
<i>Empidonax alnorum</i>	Alder Flycatcher		SR
<i>Empidonax minimus</i>	Least Flycatcher		
<i>Corvus corax</i>	Common Raven		
<i>Sitta canadensis</i>	Red-breasted Nuthatch		
<i>Certhia americana</i>	Brown Creeper		SC
<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Winter Wren		
<i>Regulus satrapa</i>	Golden-crowned Kinglet		
<i>Vermivora pinus</i>	Blue-winged Warbler		SR
<i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i>	Golden-winged Warbler		SC
<i>Dendroica magnolia</i>	Magnolia Warbler		SR
<i>Dendroica cerulea</i>	Cerulean Warbler		SC
<i>Limnothlypis swainsonii</i>	Swainson's Warbler		
<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	Grasshopper Sparrow		
<i>Icterus galbula</i>	Baltimore Oriole		
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>Lasiurus cinereus</i>	Hoary Bat		
<i>Lasiurus seminolus</i>	Seminole Bat		
<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	Northern Myotis		
<i>Myotis leibii</i>	Eastern Small-footed Myotis		SC
<i>Sylvilagus obscurus</i>	Appalachian Cottontail		SR-G
<i>Zapus hudsonius</i>	Meadow Jumping Mouse		
<i>Mustela nivalis</i>	Least Weasel		SR-G
<i>Spilogale putorius</i>	Eastern Spotted Skunk		
REPTILES			
<i>Glyptemys muhlenbergii</i>	Bog Turtle	LT, SAT	T
<i>Eumeces anthracinus</i>	Coal Skink		SR
<i>Lampropeltis triangulum elapsoides</i>	Scarlet Kingsnake		
<i>Lampropeltis triangulum triangulum</i>	Eastern Milk Snake		
<i>Virginia valeriae</i>	Smooth Earth Snake		

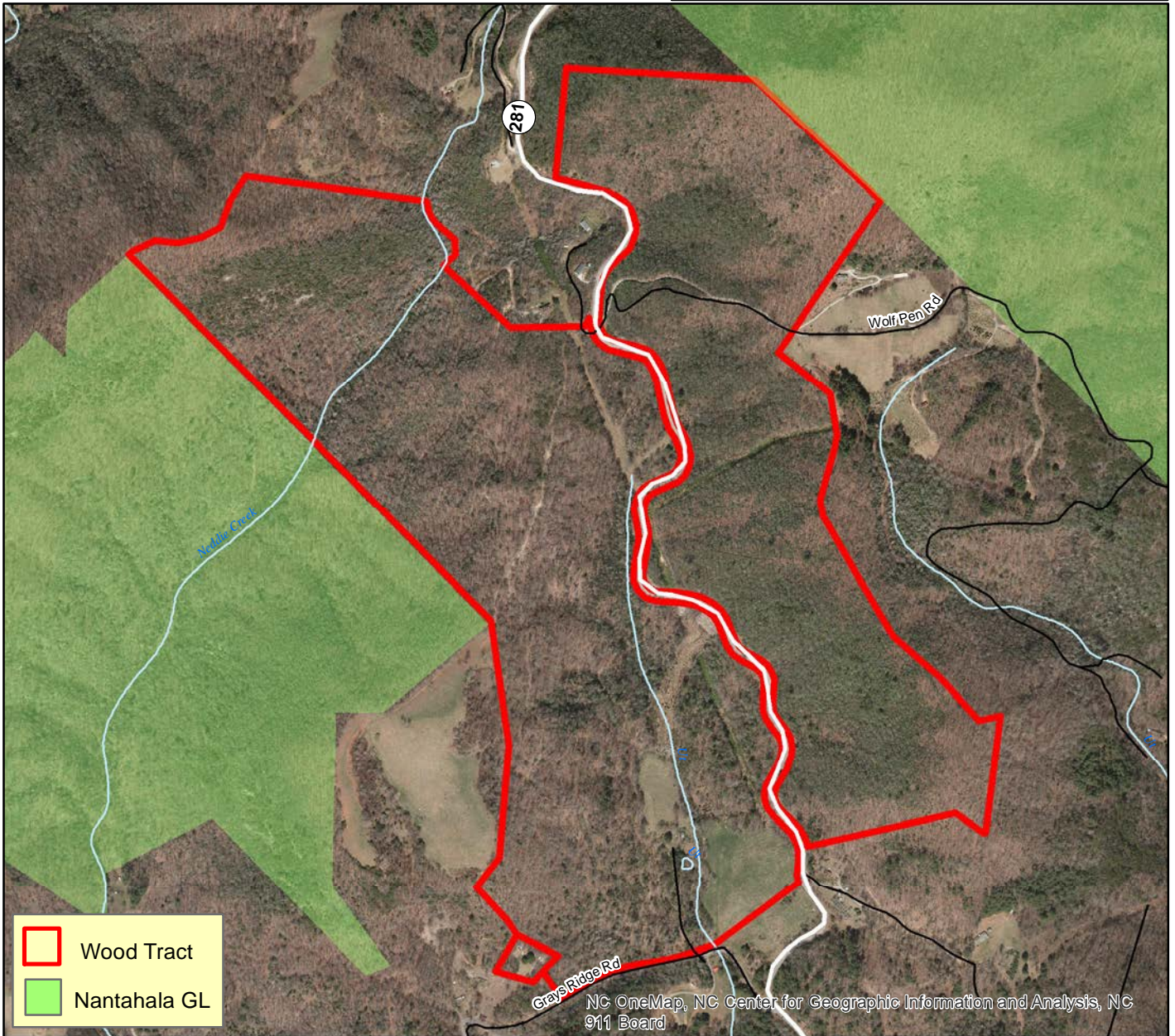
Wood Tract Nantahala GL Jackson County 308 Acres



June 24, 2016



**Wood Tract
Nantahala GL
Jackson County
308 Acres**



June 24, 2016

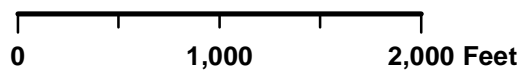


EXHIBIT E-1

July 14, 2016

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Land Acquisition Investigation Form

-PHASE II: FINAL ACQUISITION DETAILS-

WRC Action/Approval to Pursue (Date): February 11, 2016

Tract: Dix Creek Tract; Haywood County, 160.971 Acres

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

Pitman Robertson Land Acquisition Grant \$ 456,000

Total Cost: \$ 456,000 (\$ 2,832/Acre)

Based on Appraisal: Yes No NA

If Yes, Name of Appraiser:

Requested by:	Appraiser	Effective Date	Appraised Value
*SAHC	Mike Moore	Unknown	\$ 757,000 (\$ 4,702/Acre)

*Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy

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: \$:

Five Year Estimate of Total Projected Revenue: \$:

Additional Comments: Purchase price is approximately 40% less than appraised value, which satisfies the PR requirement for 25% non-federal matching funds.

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
Dix Creek	Boundary Establishment (Contract Survey)	6,477	ft.	\$1.25	\$8,096
	Boundary Establishment (WRC Staff)	2	mi	\$250	\$500
	Install gate to control vehicular access	2	ea.	\$1,000	\$2,000
	Develop parking area	1	ea.	\$1,000	\$1,000
Total					\$11,596.00
<i>Insert additional rows in table as needed</i>					

REVENUE					
Estimated Revenue Projections					
Tract Name	Source	Quantity	Unit	Unit Revenue	Total Revenue
Dix Creek	NA	NA	NA	NA	\$ -
Total					\$ -
<i>Insert additional rows in table as needed</i>					

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

-PHASE I: INITIAL INVESTIGATION-

WRC Staff Contact: David Stewart

Date First Presented to WRC: February 11, 2016

Tract Name: Dix Creek (PIN: 8643-61-4955)

Acreage: 161

County: Haywood

Estimated Value: \$456,000 Asking Price

Property Owner or Representative: 130 of Chatham
c/o Carl Silverstein, Executive Director
Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy

Phone: (828) 253-0095 x 202

Address: 34 Wall Street, Suite 502, Asheville, NC 28801

Status: High Interest Moderate Interest Low Interest No
Interest

Grant Potential: CWMTF

OTHER (explain): Pittman Robertson Land Acquisition Grant with 25%
match from Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy.

Resources Assessment and Biological Benefits (brief): The property is located in Haywood County, approximately 6 miles east-southeast of Waynesville and 6 miles south-southwest Candler. Tract is located directly adjacent to Cold Mountain Game Land and the Shining Rock Wilderness Area of Pisgah National Forest. It is accessed via U.S Highway 276 to Dix Creek Rd. (SR1106). The property is listed in the Haywood County Register of Deeds under Deed book 630 and Page 1423. Elevations on the property range from a low of just over 3900 feet along the northern line, to a high of about 5500 feet in the southernmost corner. The property consists of a series of small stream valleys alternating with side ridges. Both the valleys and the ridges cut through the property in a generally northwest to southeast direction. The main branch of Dix Creek extends roughly to the center of the property. With the exception of the stream valleys, the majority of the landmass is convex in form. The aspect of the property is predominantly north to west. Degree of slope inclination varies greatly. The ridgetops and

stream bottoms are flat to rolling, while side slopes commonly exceed 70% slope, especially in the southern half of the property. A notable boulderfield occupies a large area in the southern half of the property. The property is fully forested with several species of trees present. Some of the most prominent species include ash, basswood, beech, black birch, black cherry, black oak, buckeye, chestnut oak, hemlock, hickory, Northern red oak, pitch pine, red maple, sugar maple, yellow birch and yellow poplar. In the understory sourwood, dogwood, sassafras and striped maple are common. Acquisition of this property is significant as part of the total management project being carried out in the mountain Eco region. WRC ownership of the Dix Creek Tract will increase conservation ownership of properties in the immediate area such as the Cold Mountain Game Land, Pisgah National Forest, Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy lands, and various private holdings in the vicinity that are in conservation ownership or protected with conservation easements. 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.

Management objectives will focus on expanding the management currently being implemented on Cold Mountain Game Land. WRC ownership would ensure that important habitats are conserved

Public recreational opportunities may include hunting, hiking, bird watching, photography, and general nature study. Educational opportunities may exist as priority wildlife habitats are managed for or maintained. Common wildlife species found on the tract include wild turkey, black bear, white-tailed deer, gray squirrel, ruffed grouse, and various songbirds, salamanders, and small mammals. Priority species likely to occur on the tract are identified in the attached table.

Additional Comments: The Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy has made a commitment for the 25% matching funds needed in order to use PR funding for the purchase of this tract.

Preliminary estimates of five-year stewardship expenditures include establishing/maintaining property boundary 1.4 miles of property boundary (\$8,596), erection of 2 gates to control vehicular traffic (\$2,000) and development of 1 parking area (\$1,000) for a total estimated cost of \$11,596.

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

WORKSHEET

Relative Priority Evaluation for Conservation Lands

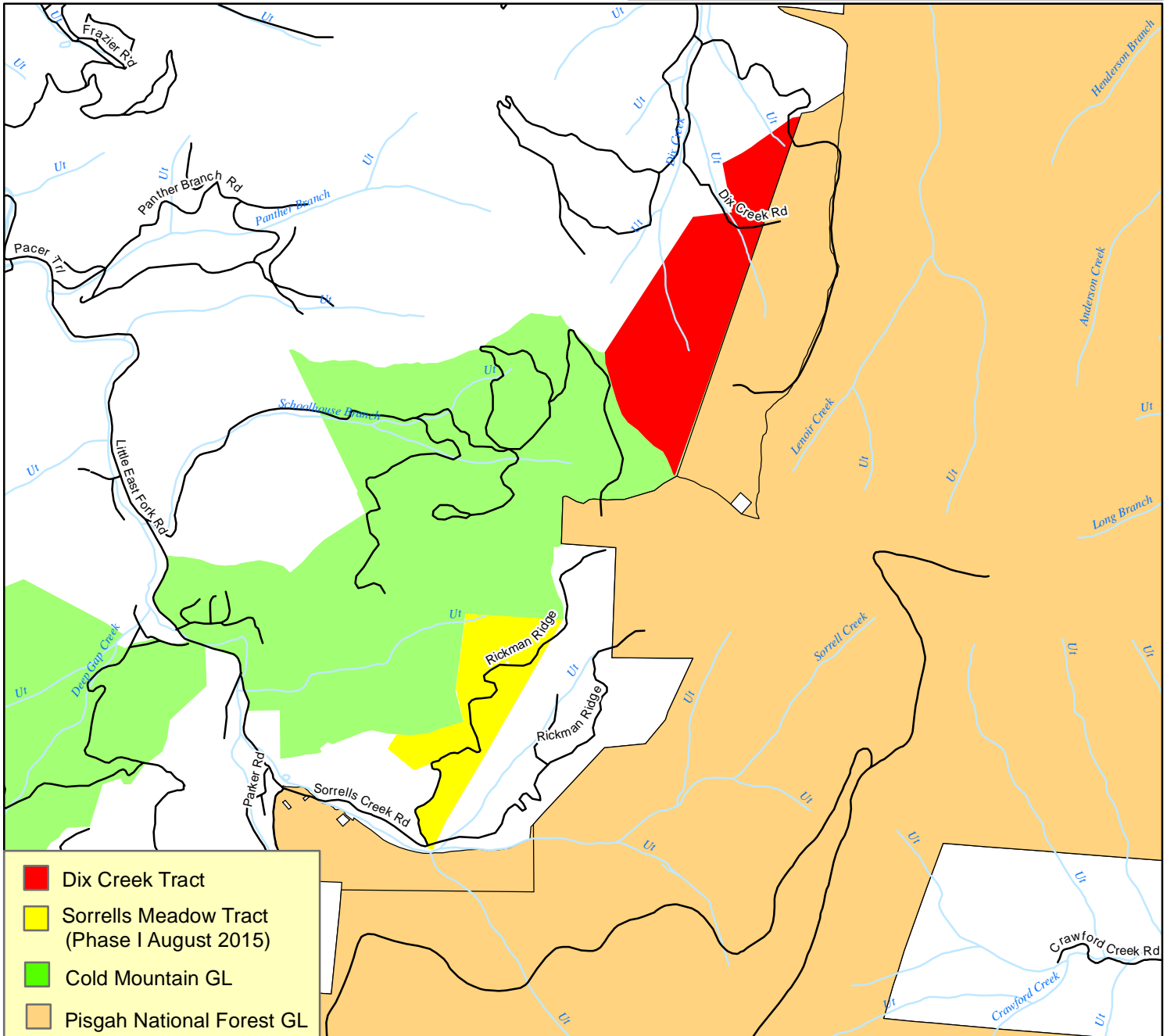
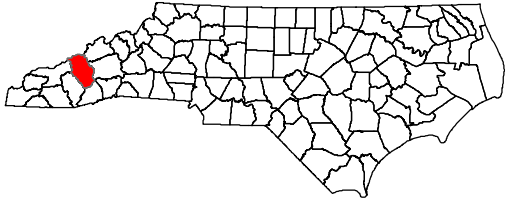
Tract Name (Cold Mountain GL) Dix Creek Tract

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>30</u>

Dix Creek Tract (Haywood County) - 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 santeetlah</i>	Santeetlah Dusky Salamander		SR
<i>Desmognathus wrighti</i>	Pygmy Salamander		SR
<i>Hemidactylium scutatum</i>	Four-toed Salamander		SC
<i>Ambystoma talpoideum</i>	Mole Salamander		SC
<i>Necturus maculosus</i>	Mudpuppy		SC
<i>Cryptobranchus alleganiensis</i>	Hellbender		SC
BIRDS			
<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	Sharp-shinned Hawk		SR
<i>Falco sparverius</i>	American Kestrel		
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Peregrine Falcon		E
<i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i>	Black-billed Cuckoo		SR
<i>Tyto alba</i>	Barn Owl		SR
<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		
<i>Empidonax alnorum</i>	Alder Flycatcher		SR
<i>Empidonax minimus</i>	Least Flycatcher		
<i>Corvus corax</i>	Common Raven		
<i>Sitta canadensis</i>	Red-breasted Nuthatch		
<i>Certhia americana</i>	Brown Creeper		SC
<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Winter Wren		
<i>Regulus satrapa</i>	Golden-crowned Kinglet		
<i>Vermivora pinus</i>	Blue-winged Warbler		SR
<i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i>	Golden-winged Warbler		SC
<i>Dendroica magnolia</i>	Magnolia Warbler		SR
<i>Dendroica cerulea</i>	Cerulean Warbler		SC
<i>Limnothlypis swainsonii</i>	Swainson's Warbler		
<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	Grasshopper Sparrow		
<i>Icterus galbula</i>	Baltimore Oriole		
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>Lasiurus cinereus</i>	Hoary Bat		
<i>Lasiurus seminolus</i>	Seminole Bat		
<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	Northern Myotis		
<i>Myotis leibii</i>	Eastern Small-footed Myotis		SC
<i>Sylvilagus obscurus</i>	Appalachian Cottontail		SR-G
<i>Zapus hudsonius</i>	Meadow Jumping Mouse		
<i>Mustela nivalis</i>	Least Weasel		SR-G
<i>Spilogale putorius</i>	Eastern Spotted Skunk		
REPTILES			
<i>Glyptemys muhlenbergii</i>	Bog Turtle	LT, SAT	T
<i>Apalone spinifera spinifera</i>	Eastern Spiny Softshell		SC
<i>Eumeces anthracinus</i>	Coal Skink		SR
<i>Lampropeltis triangulum elapsoides</i>	Scarlet Kingsnake		
<i>Lampropeltis triangulum triangulum</i>	Eastern Milk Snake		
<i>Virginia valeriae</i>	Smooth Earth Snake		

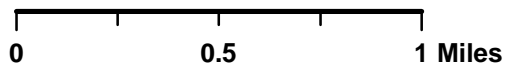
Dix Creek Tract Cold Mountain GL Haywood County 161 Acres



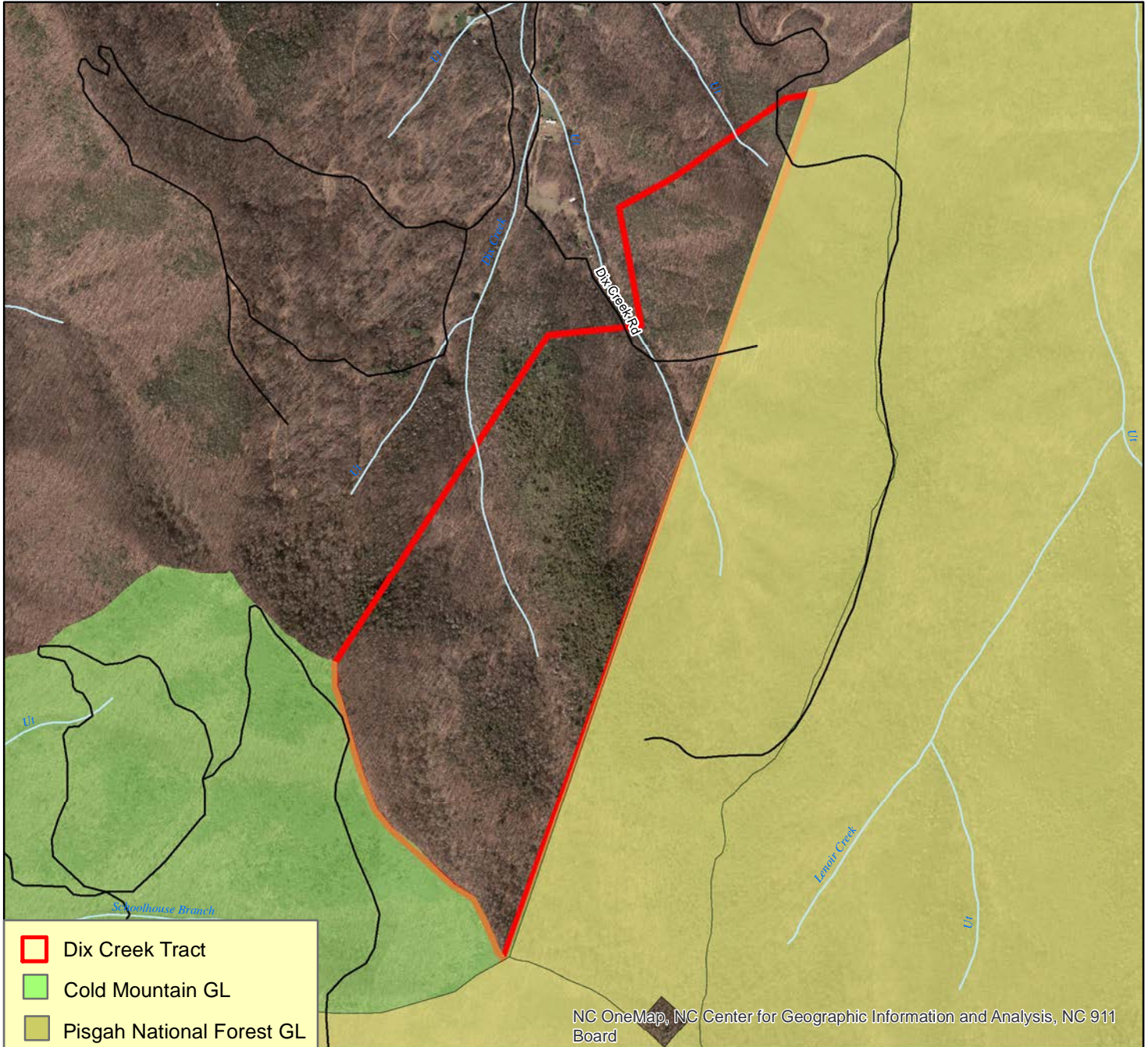
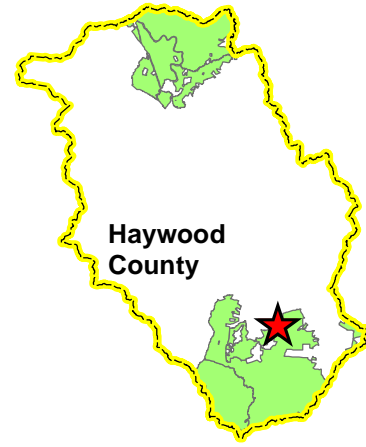
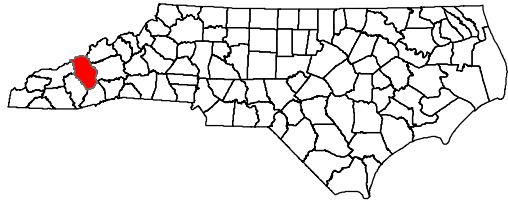
- Dix Creek Tract
- Sorrells Meadow Tract (Phase I August 2015)
- Cold Mountain GL
- Pisgah National Forest GL






January 17, 2016



**Dix Creek Tract
Cold Mountain GL
Haywood County
161 Acres**



-  Dix Creek Tract
-  Cold Mountain GL
-  Pisgah National Forest GL

NC OneMap, NC Center for Geographic Information and Analysis, NC 911 Board



January 17, 2016

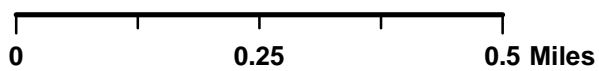


EXHIBIT E-2

July 14, 2016

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Land Acquisition Investigation Form

-PHASE II: FINAL ACQUISITION DETAILS-

WRC Action/Approval to Pursue (Date): July 14, 2016

Tract: Hampstead Bypass; Pender County, 81.6 Acres

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

Accept donation of the property from NC Department of Transportation

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:

2,932

Five Year Estimate of Total Projected Revenue: \$:

0

Additional Comments: NA

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

-PHASE I: INITIAL INVESTIGATION-

WRC Staff Contact: Tommy Hughes

Date First Presented to WRC: July 14, 2016

Tract Name: Hampstead Bypass

<u>PIN</u>	<u>Acreage</u>
4204-11-5175-0	50.1
4204-21-9305-0	13.01
4204-31-3648-0	8.74
4204-10-9252-0	4.55
4204-20-6843-0	5.15

Acreage: 81.55

County: Pender

Estimated Value: NA - transfer from NCDOT

Property Owner or Representative: Marissa Cox
Environmental Supervisor
PDEA – Natural Environment Section
North Carolina Department of Transportation

Phone: 919 707 6153 office
919 818 5901 mobile
mrcox@ncdot.gov

Address: 1020 Birch Ridge Drive
1598 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1598

Status: High Interest Moderate Interest Low Interest No Interest

Grant Potential: CWMTF

OTHER (explain): Transfer from NCDOT

Resources Assessment and Biological Benefits (brief): The Hampstead Bypass Tract is located on the eastern boundary of Holly Shelter Game Land, approximately 3.5 miles northeast of Hampstead, NC. The combined tract encompasses 81.6 acres and is comprised of three purchased tracts; The Hampstead Commons, Pensco, and Ibis properties. The properties were purchased by NCDOT to help offset impacts to the federally endangered red-cockaded

woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*) (RCW) and to control access to the Hampstead Bypass from the properties that compose this site.

The ecological value of the Hampstead Bypass Tract is enhanced by the fact that it is adjacent to the Holly Shelter Game Lands (HSGL), a 63,000-acre tract owned by the State of North Carolina and managed by NCWRC for hunting, fishing, recreational, and ecological purposes. Incorporation of the Hampstead tract into HSGL will protect current RCW foraging habitat and provide for future habitat for two RCW clusters on the HSGL (Clusters 17 and 17A). HSGL is part of the Mid-Atlantic Coastal Plain RCW Recovery Unit, as established by USFWS. Incorporation of the Properties into the HSGL will support the RCW management objectives of the WRC and the USFWS.

The property has had all infrastructure removed and has been planted in longleaf pine and native warm seasons grasses by NCDOT. The NCWRC will be responsible for the long-term management of this area for red-cockaded woodpeckers.

Additional Comments: Five-year estimated stewardship expenditures will include establishment and maintenance of property boundary, establish of firebreaks, and prescribed burning and totals approximately \$3,000 (see attached table).

Program Potential: Game Land (Holly Shelter) 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

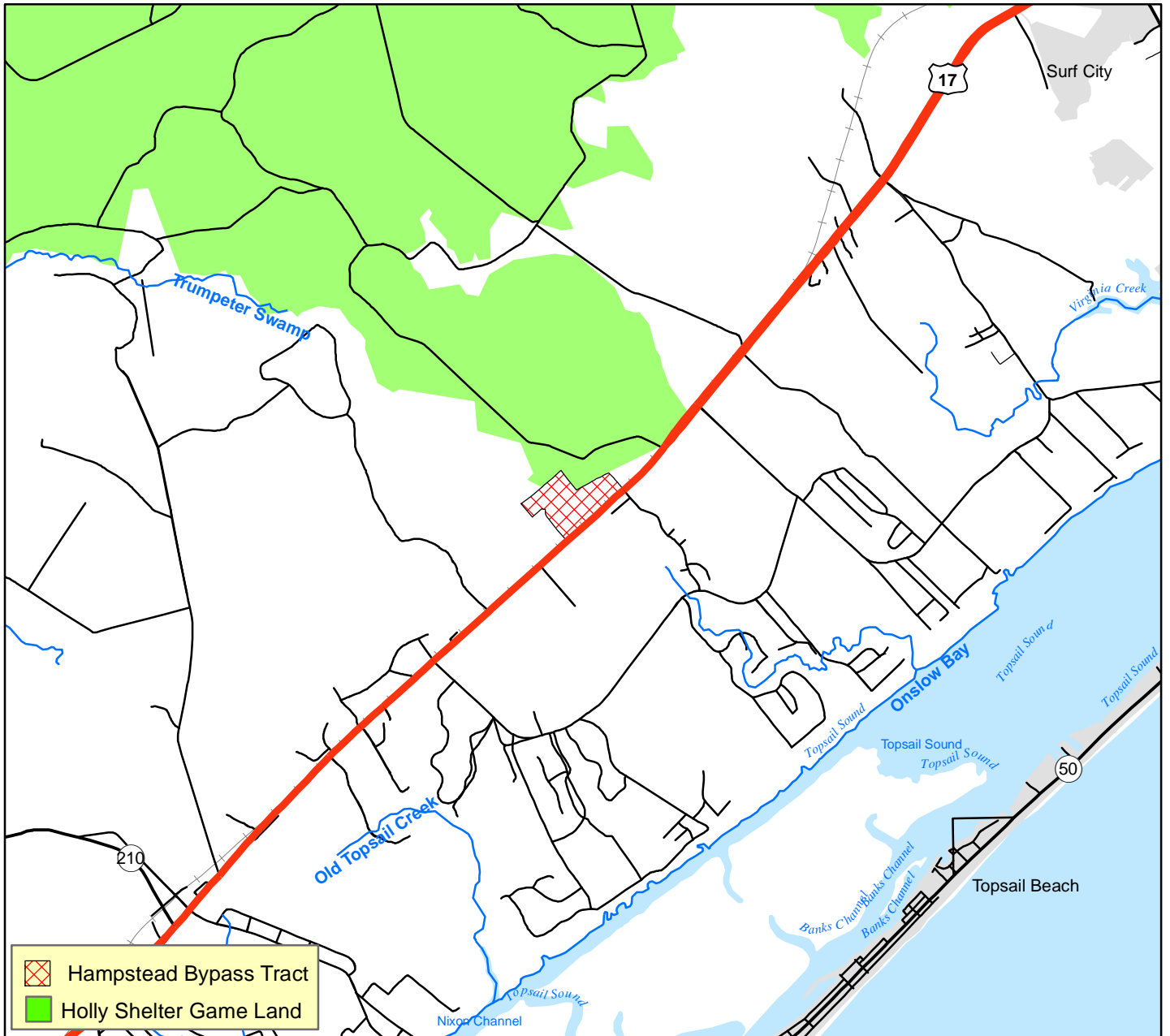
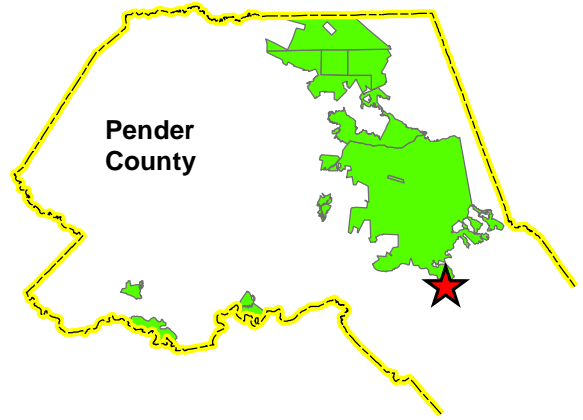
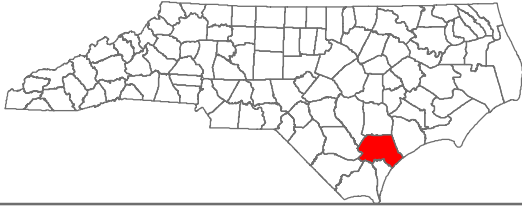
WORKSHEET



Relative Priority Evaluation for Conservation Lands

Tract Name (Focal Area) Hampstead Bypass Tract (Pender 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>

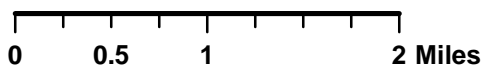
**Hampstead Bypass Tract
Holly Shelter GL
Pender County
81.6 Acres**



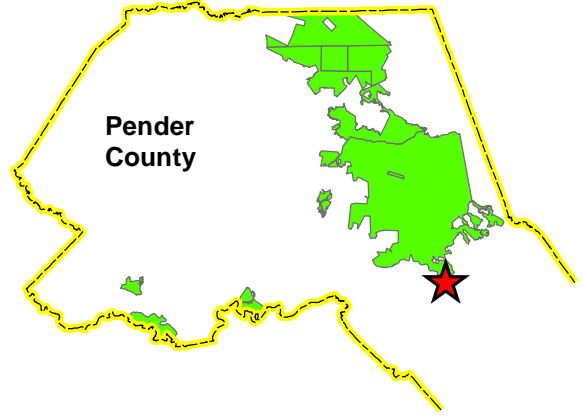
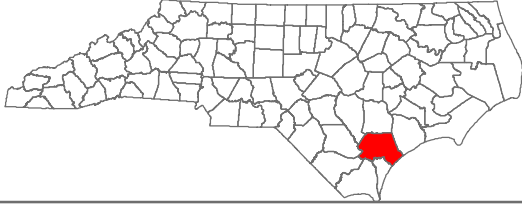
 Hampstead Bypass Tract
 Holly Shelter Game Land





June 27, 2016



**Hampstead Bypass Tract
Holly Shelter GL
Pender County
81.6 Acres**

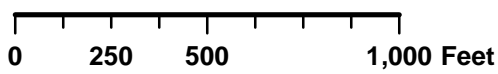


-  Hampstead Bypass Tract
-  Holly Shelter Game Land

NC OneMap, NC Center for Geographic Information and Analysis, NC 911 Board



June 27, 2016



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
between the
NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION
and the
NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
for the
MANAGEMENT AND OWNERSHIP
OF THE HAMPSTEAD COMMONS, PENSICO AND IBIS PROPERTIES
PENDER COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

Purpose

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (Memorandum) is to set forth the terms between the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), and the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) (collectively, the Parties and singularly, a Party), both agencies of the State of North Carolina, whereby WRC will accept ownership of and all management responsibilities for a portion of each of the properties known as the Hampstead Commons, Pensico and IBIS properties currently owned by NCDOT (collectively, the Properties) as depicted on the figure attached as Exhibit A. The Hampstead Commons, Pensico and IBIS properties were acquired by NCDOT by the deeds recorded in the Pender County Registry at Deed Book 4306, Page 107, Deed Book 4308, Page 201, and Deed Book 4490, Page 149 and more particularly shown in Pender County Registry Map Book 58, Page 67, Map Book 58, Page 68 and Map Book 58, Page 69.

The Hampstead Commons, Pensico and IBIS properties, which are adjacent to the proposed alignment of the Hampstead Bypass (STIP No. R-3300), were purchased by NCDOT to help offset impacts to the federally endangered red-cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*) (RCW) and to control access to the Hampstead Bypass from those properties. NCDOT will submit this Memorandum with RCW Biological Assessment (BA) R-3300 and U-4751(Hampstead Bypass and Military Cutoff Road Extension), as requested by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as part of the consultation process under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

The ecological value of the Properties is enhanced by the fact that they are adjacent to the Holly Shelter Game Lands (HSGL), a 75,000 acre tract owned by the State of North Carolina and managed by WRC for hunting, fishing, recreational, and ecological purposes. Incorporation of the Properties into HSGL will protect current RCW foraging habitat and provide for future habitat for two RCW clusters on the HSGL (Clusters 17 and 17A). HSGL is part of the Mid-Atlantic Coastal

Plain RCW Recovery Unit, as established by USFWS. Incorporation of the Properties into the HSGL will support the RCW management objectives of the WRC and the USFWS.

NCDOT is an agency of the State of North Carolina whose purpose includes the construction of transportation projects for public use and that has the authority to enter into agreements and acquire land and interests in land for the purpose of mitigating the environmental impacts of these transportation projects pursuant to, among other authority, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 136-18(12) and § 136-18-19. WRC is an agency of the State of North Carolina whose purpose is to manage, restore, develop, cultivate, conserve, protect, and regulate the wildlife resources of the State of North Carolina and that has the authority to enter into agreements and acquire land and interests in land in the overall best interests of the conservation of wildlife resources pursuant to, among other authority, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 113-305, § 113-306 and § 143-239 and §143-251.

Current Conditions Background

At the time of purchase by NCDOT in 2013, the Hampstead Commons property had already been partially cleared, and the remaining area is forested with mixed pines, including longleaf, ranging in age from 48 to 82 years old. The Pensco property had been completely cleared. The IBIS property, purchased by NCDOT in 2014, was mostly open with scattered longleaf pine and contained structures left over from a previous nursery business.

As requested by WRC, NCDOT prepped the Hampstead Commons property for planting longleaf pine seedlings in the cleared area where suitable. Silt fencing was removed. NCDOT planted all Properties with longleaf pine seedlings and native grasses as requested by WRC.

Structures and debris were removed from the IBIS property including buildings, power poles, irrigation pipes and poles, tarps, railroad ties, mailbox and metal pipes. The septic tank was pumped out, crushed and filled with dirt. The wells used for irrigation were closed out by a licensed well driller and abandoned. Fencing was removed except near the US 17 entrance as requested by WRC.

Terms

NCDOT has surveyed, subdivided and platted the Hampstead Commons, Pensco and IBIS properties and recorded a plat (see Exhibit A). On each of these properties, NCDOT will retain title to the parcels adjacent to US 17 for the purpose of construction of the Hampstead Bypass or any other transportation purpose. NCDOT will convey, and WRC will accept, title in fee simple to the Properties. The Parties agree to conduct the transfers of title after completion of the above-referenced plantings.

The parcels to which NCDOT will retain title (as depicted on Exhibit A) are coextensive with estimated construction limits for the Hampstead Bypass. If in the sole discretion of NCDOT any additional land, beyond those parcels to be retained by NCDOT, is needed for construction of the Hampstead Bypass or other transportation projects, WRC agrees to make best efforts to obtain all necessary approvals to effectuate the return of title to all such lands to NCDOT. WRC agrees that it will not seek compensation from NCDOT for the return of title to any such lands. After completion

of the Hampstead Bypass, any surplus land of the Properties that NCDOT determines in its sole discretion is no longer needed for transportation purposes will be transferred to WRC, if feasible. NCDOT will pay the fees associated with transferring the Properties between NCDOT and WRC.

The principal contacts for this Memorandum are:

- WRC: Coastal Area Ecoregion Supervisor
1720 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699
Telephone: 919-707-0150

- NCDOT: Marissa Rodman Cox
Natural Environment Section
1598 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1548
Telephone: (919) 707-6015
Facsimile: (919) 212-5785
Email: mrcox@ncdot.gov

This Memorandum is neither a fiscal nor a funds obligation document. Any endeavor or transfer of anything of value involving reimbursement or contribution of funds between the parties to this Memorandum will be handled in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and procedures including those for government procurement and printing. Such endeavors will be outlined in separate agreements that shall be made in writing by representatives of the parties and shall be independently authorized by appropriate statutory authority. This Memorandum does not provide such authority. Specifically, this document does not establish authority for non-competitive award to the cooperator of any contract or other agreement. Any contract or agreement for training or other services must fully comply with all requirements for competition.

The designation the Parties as used herein shall include said Parties, their officials, managers, designees, heirs, successors, assigns, respective agents, administrators, contractors, grantees, devisees, licensees, subdivisions, and/or all other successors as their interests may appear, and shall include singular, plural, masculine, feminine or neuter as required by context.

This Memorandum may not be changed, amended, corrected, or modified except in writing by mutual consent of all Parties prior to any changes being performed.

Each Party hereby acknowledges that the individual executing this Memorandum on behalf of the respective Party is authorized to execute the document. The Parties further acknowledge that they have read this Memorandum, conferred with their legal counsel, and fully understand the contents of this instrument. A copy or facsimile copy of the signature of any Party shall be deemed an original with each fully executed copy of this Memorandum as binding as an original, and the Parties agree

that this Memorandum may be executed in counterparts, as duplicate originals, with facsimile signatures.

All actions taken pursuant to this Memorandum shall be in accordance with applicable local, state and federal laws and regulations.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have executed this Memorandum of Understanding as of the last written date below:

State of North Carolina,
acting through the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

By: _____
Its: _____

Date _____

State of North Carolina,
acting through the North Carolina Department of Transportation

By: _____
Its: _____

Date _____

EXHIBIT A

[Attached Hereto]

EXHIBIT E-3

July 14, 2016

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Land Acquisition Investigation Form

-PHASE II: FINAL ACQUISITION DETAILS-

WRC Action/Approval to Pursue (Date): July 14, 2016

Tract: Hodgson Tract; Davie & Iredell Counties, 108.5 Acres

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

Accept donation of the property from the landowner

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:

6,980

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	
Keith Hodgson	Contract survey to locate property boundary	5,584	ft.	\$1.25	\$6,980	
Total					\$6,980.00	
<i>Insert additional rows in table as needed</i>						

REVENUE						
Estimated Revenue Projections						
Tract Name	Source	Quantity	Unit	Unit Revenue	Total Revenue	
Keith Hodgson	NA	NA	NA	NA	\$ -	
Total					\$ -	
<i>Insert additional rows in table as needed</i>						

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

-PHASE I: INITIAL INVESTIGATION-

WRC Staff Contact: Kip Hollifield/Kacy Cook

Date First Presented to WRC: 07/14/16

Game Land: Hunting Creek Swamp Waterfowl Refuge

Tract Name: Hodgson Tract

Parcel ID#: Davie County Portion: 4890617716
Iredell County Portion: 4890611801

Acreage: Davie County Portion: 58.332
Iredell County Portion: 50.168
108.50 acres

County: Davie and Iredell

Tax Value: Davie County Portion: \$168,450
Iredell County Portion: \$219,740

Property Owner or Representative:

Keith Hodgson
7325 NC HIGHWAY 801 S.
Mocksville, NC 27028-6738
Phone: 336-284-2800

c/o Crystal Cockman
The Land Trust for Central North Carolina
204 East Innes Street, Suite 280
Salisbury, NC 28144
Phone: 704-647-0302
Email: crystal@landtrustnc.org

Status: High Interest Moderate Interest Low Interest No Interest

Grant Potential: CWMTF

OTHER (explain): Mr. Hodgson wishes to donate both tracts to WRC

Resources Assessment and Biological Benefits (brief): The subject tract lies immediately adjacent to Hunting Creek Swamp Waterfowl Refuge (HCSWR) along the Davie/Iredell county line. It is located upstream of HCSWR and provides important buffer to current holdings. HCSWR provides important nesting habitat to wood ducks and provides critical habitat to other waterfowl during fall and spring migrations. It also provides important habitat for amphibians and other non-game species. The majority (~87%) of the tract is forested, with oak forest and mixed hardwood forest predominant. The northern third of the tract is floodplain forest. The remainder of the tract (~13%) is an agricultural field. These habitats provide excellent opportunities to manage for the following NCWAP species: 12 priority bird species including American kestrel, American woodcock, Eastern wood pee-wee, yellow-billed cuckoo, yellow-bellied sapsucker (winter), hooded warbler and wood thrush; 4 priority mammal species including long-tailed weasel; five priority amphibian species including the three-lined salamander; and 8 priority reptile species including Eastern box turtle and ribbon snake. The property has high value for providing needed buffer to HCSWR and also for scientific and educational purposes. The location and condition of this tract make it an ideal addition to HCSWR.

Additional Comments: Mr. Hodgson wishes to donate the entire property to WRC with the stipulation that it is managed for conservation purposes in perpetuity. Mr. Hodgson wishes to have a conservation easement placed on the property to be held by The Land Trust for Central North Carolina as an additional safeguard that the property is not utilized for unintended purposes at any future point.

There are no structures located on the property.

Mr. Hodgson currently leases the field located on the property to a friend for agricultural purposes. He wishes this agreement to continue for as long as the friend desires or until the friend passes.

Preliminary estimates of five-year stewardship expenditures include surveying and marking 5,584 feet of property boundary @ \$1.25/foot. Total estimate of five-year expenditures is \$6,980.

Program Potential: Game Land Wildlife Conservation Area
 Fishing Access Area Waterfowl Refuge

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

WORKSHEET

Relative Priority Evaluation for Conservation Lands

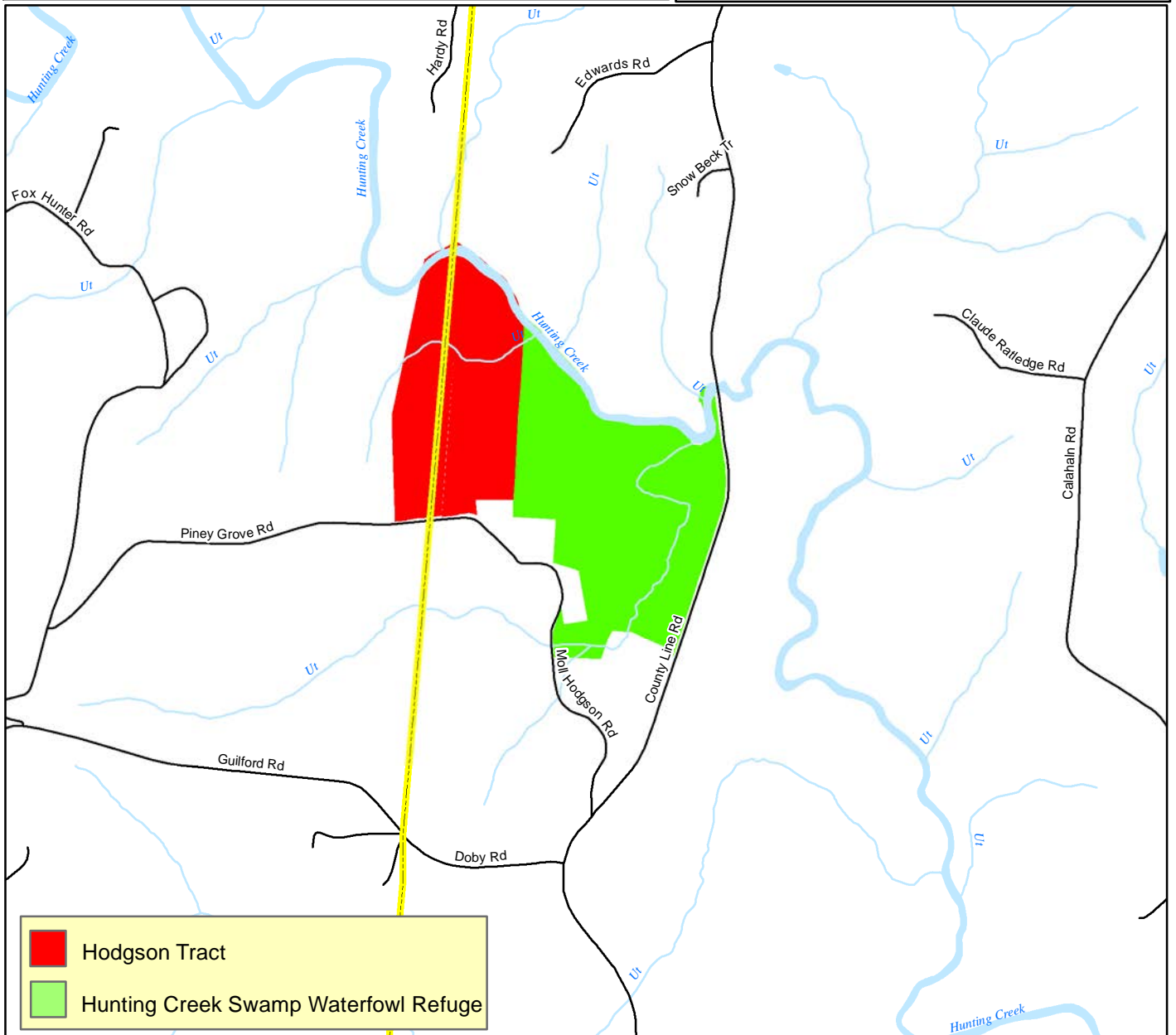
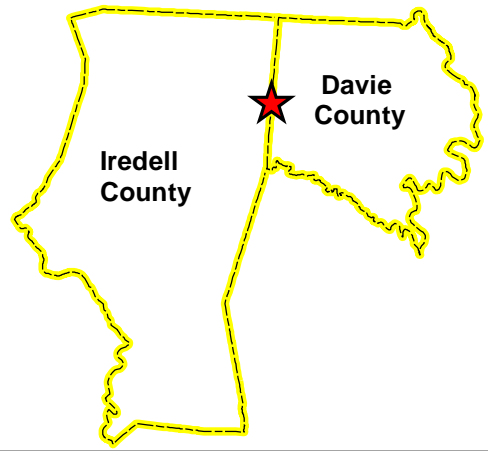
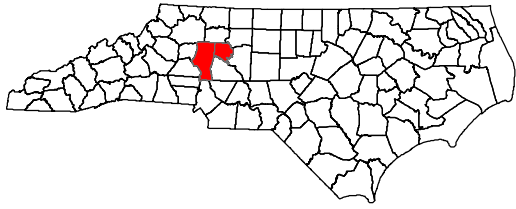
Tract Name (Focal Area) Hodgson (Davie & Iredell counties)

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>1</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>26</u></u>

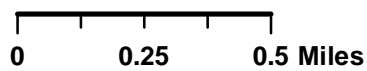
Hodgson Tract (Davie & Iredell Counties) - Priority Species

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>Lophodytes cucullatus</i>	Hooded Merganser		
<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	Sharp-shinned Hawk		SR
<i>Falco sparverius</i>	American Kestrel		
<i>Tyto alba</i>	Barn Owl		SR
<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	Loggerhead Shrike		SC
<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	Grasshopper Sparrow		
<i>Spiza americana</i>	Dickcissel		
<i>Icterus galbula</i>	Baltimore Oriole		
MAMMALS			
<i>Sorex hoyi</i>	Pygmy Shrew		
<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>	Hoary Bat		
<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	Northern Myotis		
<i>Neotoma magister</i>	Allegheny Woodrat		SC
<i>Zapus hudsonius</i>	Meadow Jumping Mouse		
REPTILES			
<i>Glyptemys muhlenbergii</i>	Bog Turtle	LT, SAT	T
<i>Ophisaurus attenuatus</i>	Slender Glass Lizard		SR
<i>Eumeces anthracinus</i>	Coal Skink		SR
<i>Cemophora coccinea</i>	Scarlet Snake		
<i>Lampropeltis triangulum elapsoides</i>	Scarlet Kingsnake		
<i>Virginia valeriae</i>	Smooth Earth Snake		

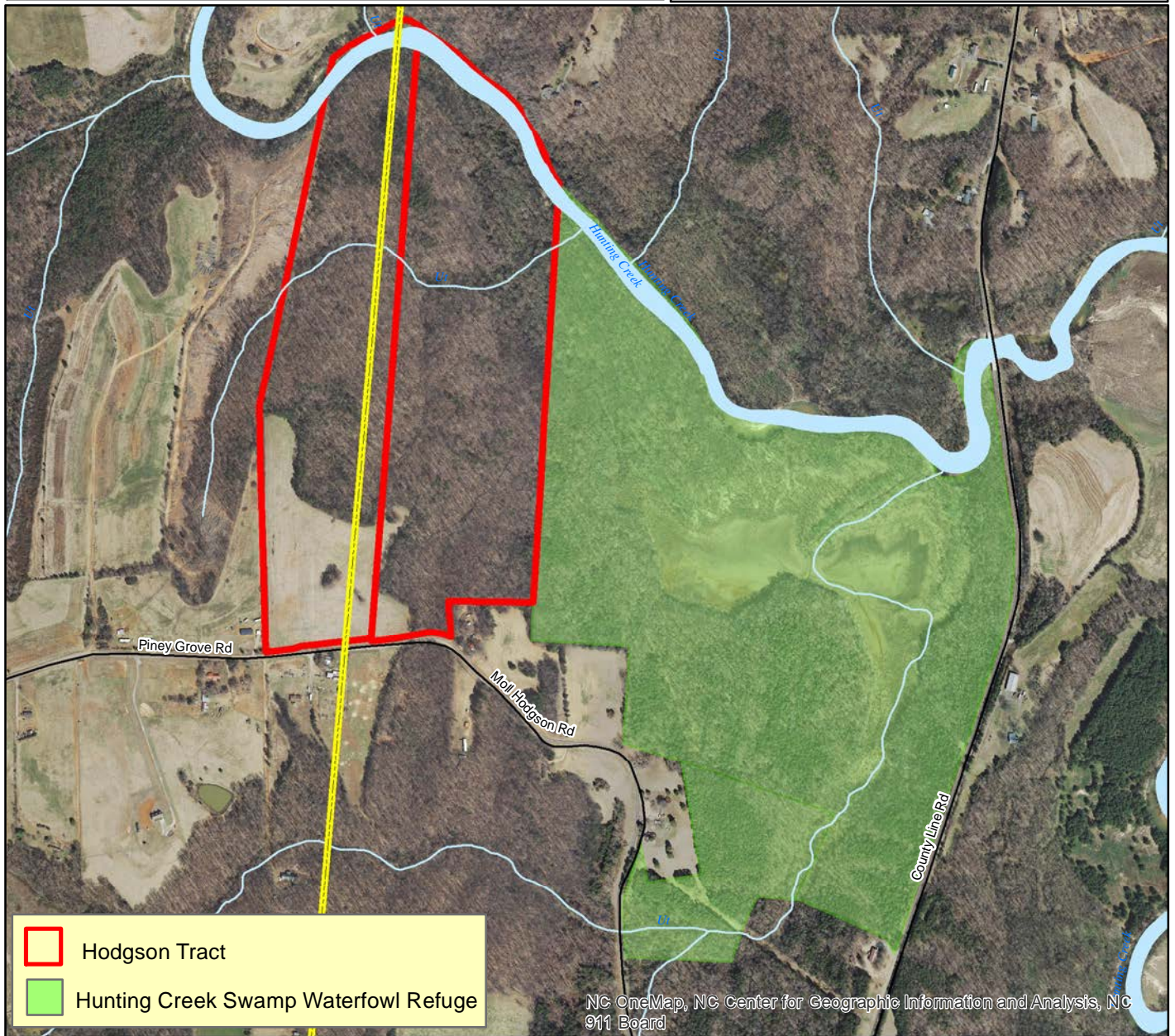
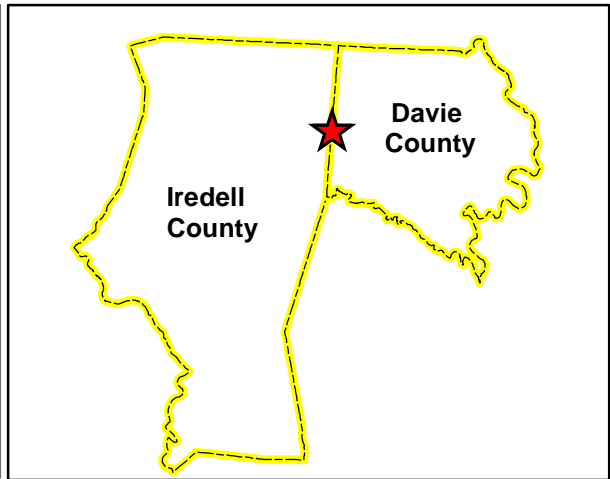
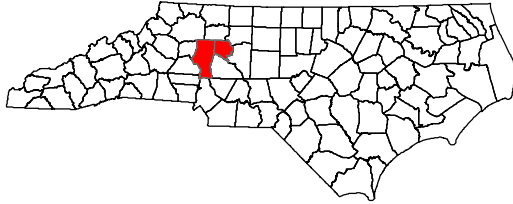
Hodgson Tract Davie/Iredell County 108.5 Acres



June 21, 2016



Hodgson Tract Davie/Iredell County 108.5 Acres



June 21, 2016

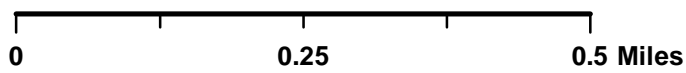


EXHIBIT E-4

July 14, 2016

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Land Acquisition Investigation Form

-PHASE II: FINAL ACQUISITION DETAILS-

WRC Action/Approval to Pursue (Date): February 11, 2016

Tract: Albert Ward Tract A Tyrrell County 2.75 Acres
Anne Ward Tract B Tyrrell County 5.14 Acres
7.89 Acres

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

	<u>Tract A</u>	<u>Tract B</u>	<u>Total</u>
Pitman Robertson Land Acquisition Grant	\$ 273,750	\$ 67,500	\$ 341,250
Wildlife Resources Commission	<u>\$ 103,750</u>	<u>\$ 27,500</u>	<u>\$ 131,250</u>
Total Cost:	<u>\$ 377,500</u>	<u>\$ 95,000</u>	<u>\$ 472,500</u>

Based on Appraisal: Yes No NA

If Yes, Name of Appraiser:

Tract	Requested by:	Appraiser	Effective Date	Appraised Value
Ward A	WRC	Robert & Christopher Mashburn	3/17/2016	\$ 365,000
Ward B	WRC	Robert & Christopher Mashburn	3/17/2016	\$ 90,000

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: \$:
Five Year Estimate of Total Projected Revenue: \$:

Additional Comments: Purchase price exceeds appraised value by approximately 3.5% for Tract A and 5.5% for Tract B. Exceeding appraised value is justified in this case due to the location, existing infrastructure, and overall suitability of the site as a depot location/facility for WRC's Columbia Crew.

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
Ward Tracts	Install chain link security fence	150	ft.	\$25	\$3,750
	Connect to city of Columbia Sanitary Sewer System	1	Ea.	\$4,500	\$4,500
Total					\$11,596.00
<i>Insert additional rows in table as needed</i>					

REVENUE					
Estimated Revenue Projections					
Tract Name	Source	Quantity	Unit	Unit Revenue	Total Revenue
Ward Tracts	NA	NA	NA	NA	\$ -
Total					\$ -
<i>Insert additional rows in table as needed</i>					

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

-PHASE I: INITIAL INVESTIGATION-

WRC Staff Contact: Tommy Hughes

Date First Presented to WRC: February 11, 2016

Tract Name: Ward Property (Potential Columbia Depot Site)

Acreage: Two tracts totaling 7.89 acres.

Tract A, 2.75 acres, Albert Benjamin Ward, Deed Book 236, Page 728 (MAPID: T074 18 001)

Tract B, 5.14 acres, Ann B. Ward, Deed Book 236, Page 728 (MAPID: T074 01 018)

County: Tyrrell

Estimated Value: \$ 575,000, includes buildings, land, and some equipment in building (vehicle lift, air compressor and hydraulic hose manufacturing machine)

Property Owner or Representative: Chuck Owens Realty Inc., c/o Chuck Owens

Phone: 252-796-3165 chuckqowens1958@gmail.com, corealty@coreality.net, www.corealty.net

Address: 606 Martha Street, PO Box 66, Columbia, NC 27925

Status: High Interest Moderate Interest Low Interest No Interest

Grant Potential: CWMTF

OTHER (explain): Pittman Robertson Grant, WRC Endowment Funds

Resources Assessment and Biological Benefits (brief): The Ward Tract A is located in the Town of Columbia Extraterritorial Jurisdiction off of SR1209 at 637 Road Street Extension, Columbia, N.C. (Tax ID#'s T074-18-001 & T074-01-018-LL, Deed book 236, page 728, Tract "A" in Plat Cabinet C, Slide 437).

Tract A is approximately 2.75 acres in size and is located on SR 1209 with 569 feet of state road frontage and supports a well-built and well maintained steel commercial building that is currently used as an automotive repair facility. The building contains approximately 5,000 square feet, of which 4,150 is garage space and 850 is office/storage. Specifically, the building has one main entrance office, one rear office, kitchen/breakroom, two bathrooms and significant overhead storage. The building was constructed in 2007 and is in very good condition. The structure exists within a federally-designated flood zone, but sits on an elevated pad that is 2.0

feet above floodplain elevation. Although the Columbia area was heavily impacted by high water during Hurricane Irene in August 2011, the building did not flood.

In addition, there is an adjacent property (Tract B) for sale which is located directly behind and adjacent to Tract A. Tract B contains 5.14 acres and includes a 50 x 50 foot steel commercial building with electrical service that is used for storage. This building was also built in 2007 and is constructed on an elevated pad at the same elevation as the building on Tract A. The Tract B building is also in very good condition. Tract B would offer additional dry storage for equipment and would provide a layout yard for storage of outside equipment, large vehicles and materials (gravel, stone, culvert pipe, etc.).

Additional Comments: If purchased, these two tracts provide an excellent opportunity to purchase buildings with outstanding floor plans and a site layout yard that is move-in ready and ideally suited for housing the Columbia Land Management Crew. Currently, the Columbia crew works in 10 foot x 10 foot office within a NCDOT maintenance facility, with little space to store equipment, materials and supplies. For comparison, the current cost to purchase land and construct new buildings typical of WRC depot facilities is estimated at \$750,000 - \$1,000,000.

Program Potential: Game Land Wildlife Conservation Area
 Fishing Access Area Management Depot

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

WORKSHEET
Relative Priority Evaluation for Conservation Lands

Tract Name (Focal Area) Ward Property-Tyrell (Potential Management Depot Site)

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>NA</u>
2. Represents good hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, and other resource-based recreational opportunities.	<u>NA</u>
3. No conflicting surrounding land uses.	<u>NA</u>
4. Serves as a wildlife corridor between areas already protected for conservation purposes and provides connectivity to priority Wildlife Action Plan habitats.	<u>NA</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>NA</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>NA</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>NA</u>

Front View of Building – Tract A



Office Area – Tract A



Small Separate Office – Tract A



Kitchen/Break Area – Tract A



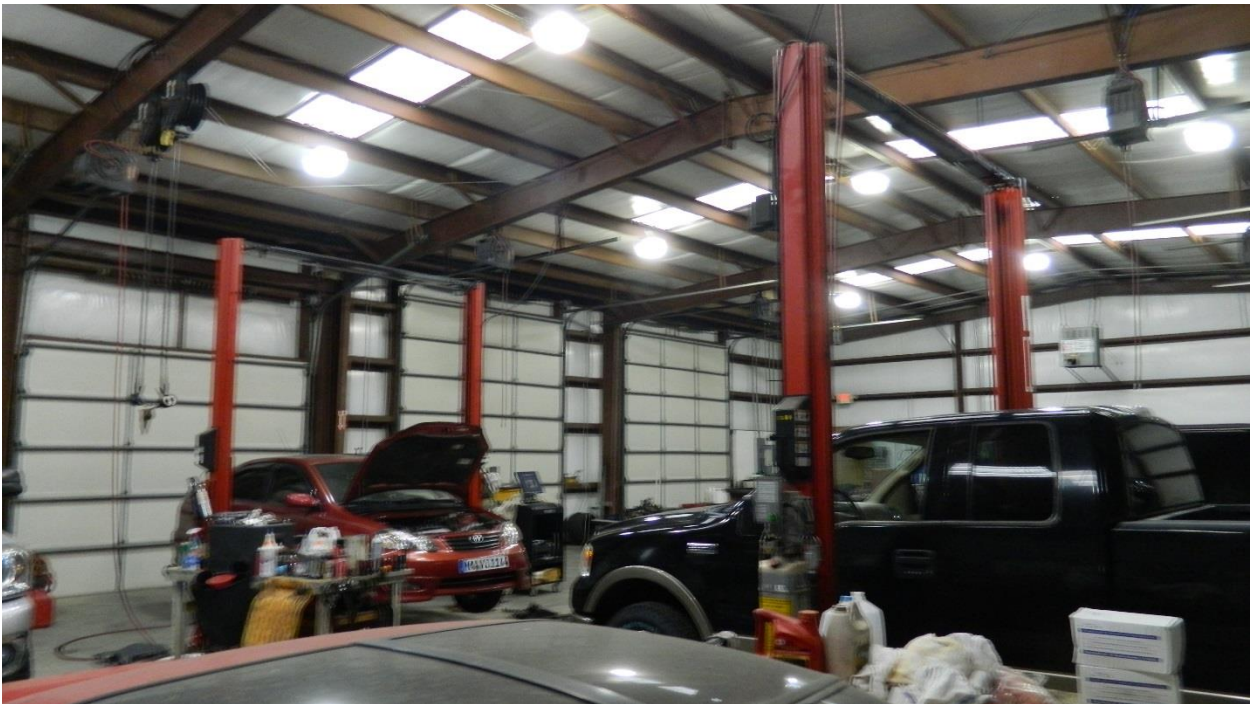
Office Bathroom ADA Compliant – Tract A



Shop – Tract A



10,000 Lb. Lift – Tract A



Air Compressor – Tract A



Overhead Air Reels – Tract A



Stairway to Overhead Storage – Tract A



Overhead Storage Area – Tract A



Bunk Area in Overhead Storage – Tract A



Rear View of Building – Tract A



Heat Pump that Cools/Heats Office – Tract A



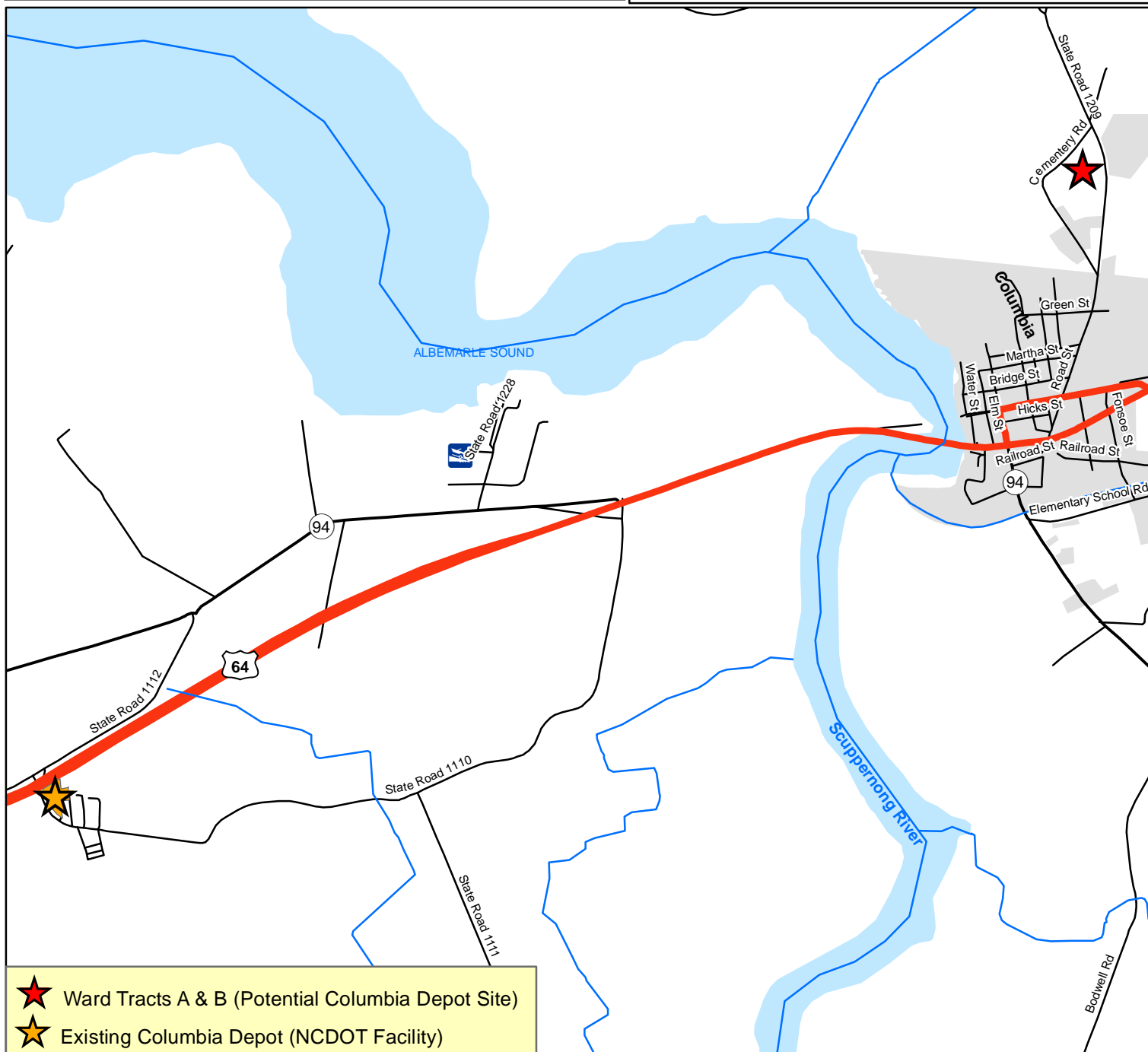
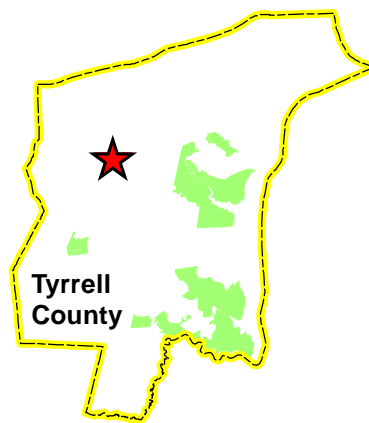
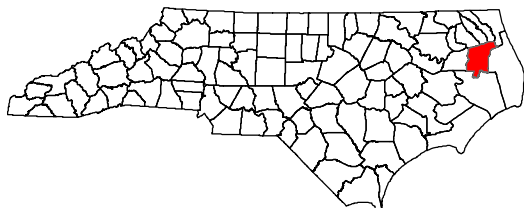
Front View of 50x50 Building - Tract B



Layout Yard - Tract B



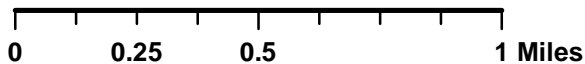
Ward Tracts (A and B) Potential Columbia Depot Site Tyrrell County 7.89 Acres



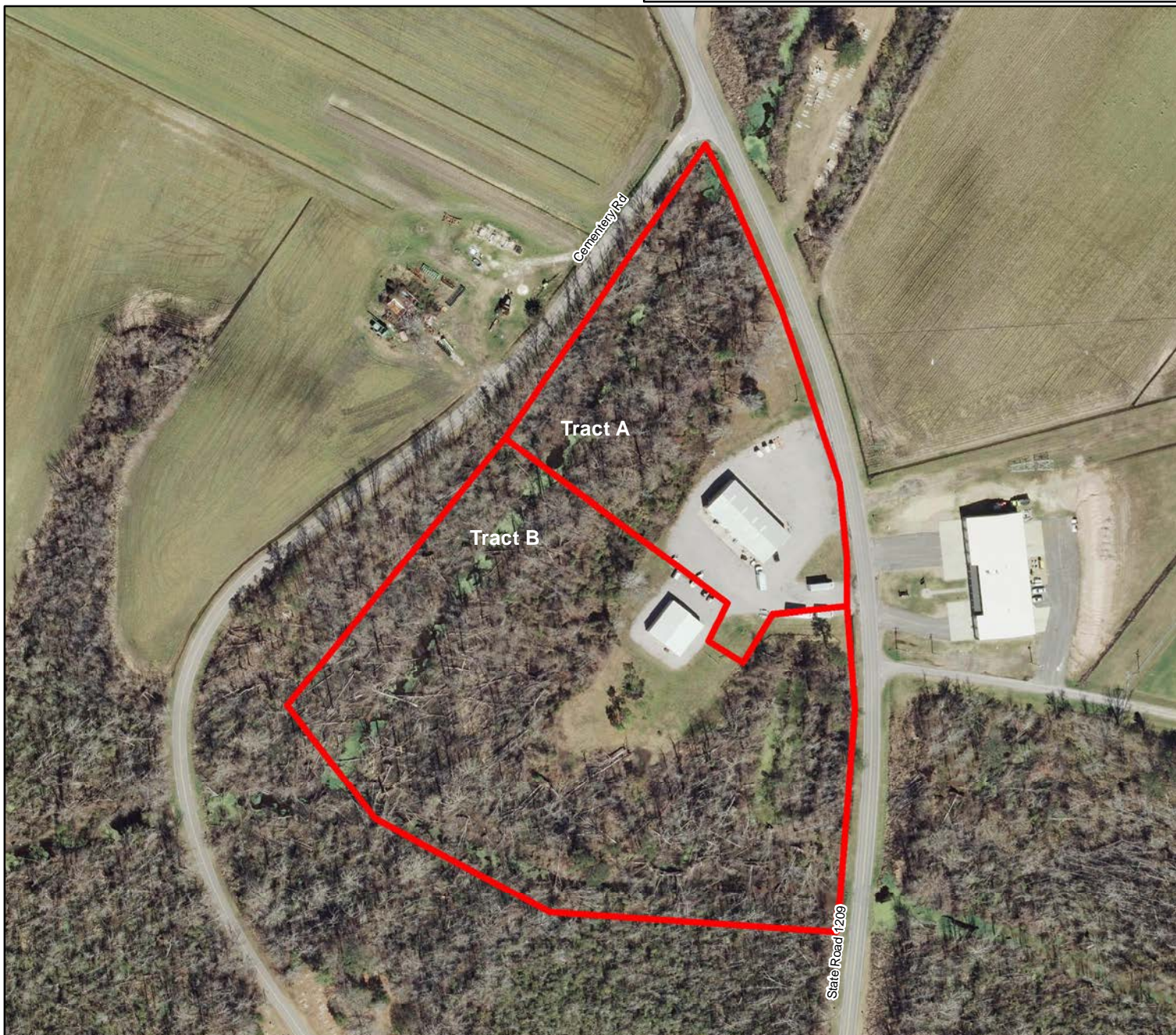
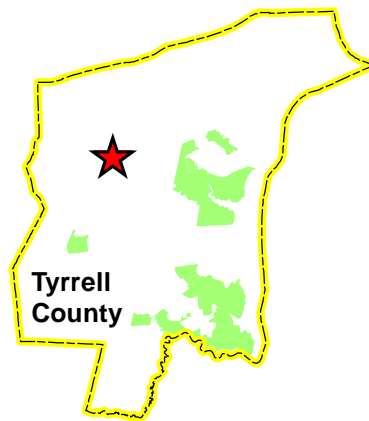
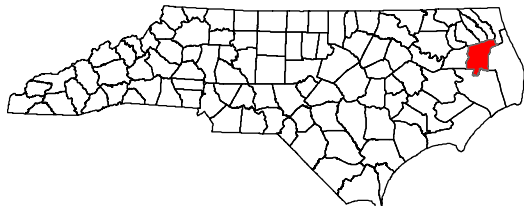
- ★ Ward Tracts A & B (Potential Columbia Depot Site)
- ★ Existing Columbia Depot (NCDOT Facility)




January 24, 2016



Ward Tracts (A and B) Potential Columbia Depot Site Tyrrell County 7.89 Acres



 Ward Tracts A & B (Potential Columbia Depot Site)

NC OneMap, NC Center for Geographic Information and Analysis, NC 911 Board



January 24, 2016

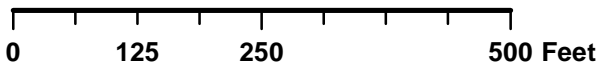


EXHIBIT E-5

July 14, 2016

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Land Acquisition Investigation Form

-PHASE II: FINAL ACQUISITION DETAILS-

WRC Action/Approval to Pursue (Date): Silvers Tract - February 27, 2014
Williams Tract - July 14, 2016

Tract: Williams-Silvers; Haywood County, 783 Acres

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

Pitman Robertson Land Acquisition Grant \$ 260,000
Total Cost: \$ 260,000 (\$ 332/Acre)

Based on Appraisal: Yes No NA

If Yes, Name of Appraiser:

Requested by:	Appraiser	Effective Date	Appraised Value
*TCF	Unknown.	Unknown	\$ 2.4 mil (\$ 3,065/Acre)

*The Conservation Fund

Date of Appraisal: Unknown

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:	\$:	\$127,500
Five Year Estimate of Total Projected Revenue:	\$:	\$0

Additional Comments: Purchase price is approximately 89% less than appraised value, which satisfies the PR requirement for 25% non-federal matching funds.

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	
Williams-Silvers	Boundary Establishment (Contract Survey)	42,000	ft.	\$1.25	\$52,500	
	Enhance & maintain access road	3	mi	\$25,000	\$75,000	
Total					\$127,500.00	
<i>Insert additional rows in table as needed</i>						

REVENUE						
Estimated Revenue Projections						
Tract Name	Source	Quantity	Unit	Unit Revenue	Total Revenue	
Williams-Silvers	NA	NA	NA	NA	\$	-
Total					\$	-
<i>Insert additional rows in table as needed</i>						

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Land Acquisition Investigation Form

-PHASE I: INITIAL INVESTIGATION-

WRC Staff Contact: Gordon Warburton, David Stewart, Mike Carraway

Date First Presented to WRC: February 27, 2014

Tract Name: Silvers Tract

Acreage: 728

County: Haywood

Estimated Value: \$ 1,800,000 Staff Estimate (approximately \$ 2,473/acre)

Property Owner or Representative: Robert Williams

Phone: (828) 926-1177

Address: 157 Indian Creek Rd., Maggie Valley NC 28751

Status: High Interest Moderate Interest Low Interest No Interest

Grant Potential: Clean Water Management Trust Fund

OTHER (explain): Pittman-Robertson Federal Assistance Grant (75%) and WRC funds (25%)

Resources Assessment and Biological Benefits (brief): WRC acquisition of this tract will compliment conservation ownership of other protected properties in the immediate area such as the Great Smokey Mountains National Park (adjacent), Pisgah and Nantahala National Forests and the Cherokee Indian Reservation. In a broader sense, WRC acquisition will help ensure ecosystem integrity at the landscape scale by increasing connectivity of lands in conservation ownership.

Management objectives will focus on continuing and/or expanding elk monitoring and research in Western NC. WRC ownership will ensure that critical elk habitat is conserved, and will also provide areas for WRC staff to conduct elk research and monitoring projects. WRC ownership will also provide opportunities to create early successional habitat, which is also a priority wildlife habitat.

The entire tract is forested in Appalachian oak and Appalachian cove forests. Commons wildlife species found on the tract include wild turkey, black bear, white-tailed deer, gray squirrel, ruffed grouse, as well as various songbirds, salamanders and small mammals.

Additional Comments: The Silvers Tract is bordered on the north by the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Currently, the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission does not have any public lands inhabited by elk that can be managed for elk. One of the major obstacles to elk management in North Carolina (outside of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park) is finding public lands that are suitable for development as elk habitat and for eventual use as a public hunting area for elk if a hunting season is established at some point in the future. There are a few areas on National Forest lands that are currently used by elk (occasionally), but those lands cannot be managed for elk under the current management restrictions of the US Forest Service.

The goal of this purchase is to acquire a tract of public land that already has elk on it (and in close proximity to it) that can be managed as elk habitat. Because of the lack of public access (unless additional land is purchased to provide public access) the property will not be suitable as a traditional game land or as an elk viewing area. It will be managed almost exclusively as an elk habitat management area. Funding for the property will need to come from sources that do not restrict development of elk habitat.

The Silvers Tract does have potential for elk habitat development. There are many logging roads that can be seeded with elk forage grasses and there are numerous logging decks (10+) that can be developed into small wildlife openings, ranging in size from 0.5 acres to 2 acres. The property is very steep and there does not appear to be any potential for developing large fields for elk habitat (5-10 acres).

The property under consideration is not adjacent to any public roads. The current owner does own additional land that can provide administrative access to the property and has indicated his willingness to include access rights as part of a sale. However, public access to the property would have to be acquired through the purchase of additional parcels.

Program Potential: Game Land Wildlife Conservation Area Fishing Access Area

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

WORKSHEET

Relative Priority Evaluation for Conservation Lands

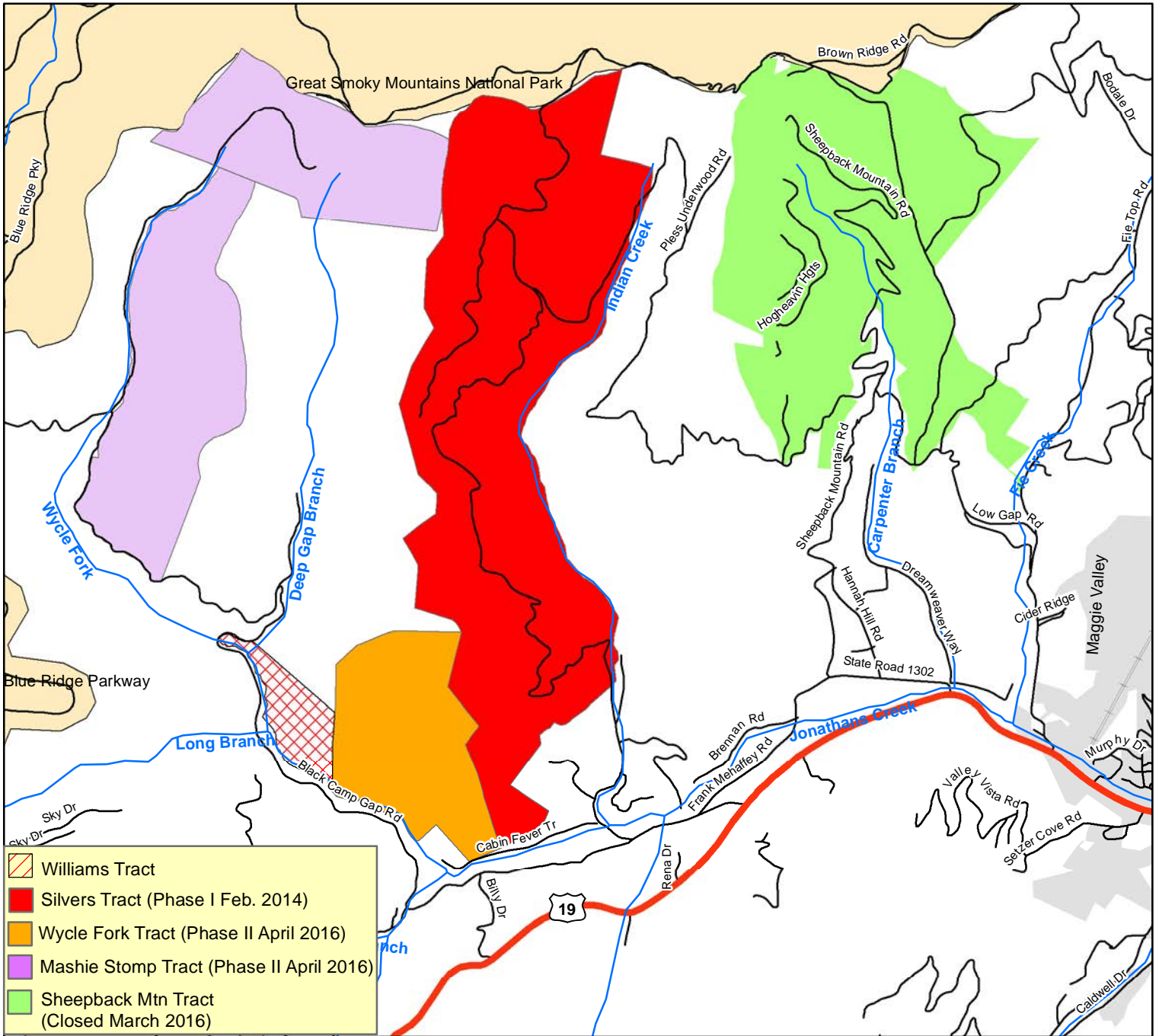
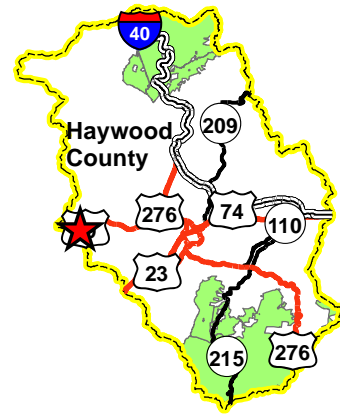
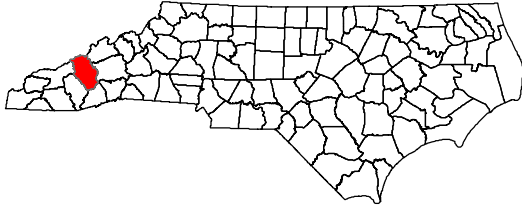
Tract Name Silvers Tract – Haywood County

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>3</u>
2. Represents good hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, and other resource-based recreational opportunities.	<u>3</u>
3. No conflicting surrounding land uses.	<u>2</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>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>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>NA</u>
TOTAL SCORE	<u><u>21</u></u>

Williams-Silvers Tract (Haywood County) - Priority Species

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FED LISTED	STATE LISTED
AMPHIBIANS			
<i>Plethodon glutinosus</i>	Slimy Salamander		
<i>Plethodon jordani</i>	Red-cheeked Salamander		
<i>Plethodon ventralis</i>	Southern Zigzag Salamander		SC
<i>Desmognathus imitator</i>	Imitator Salamander		
<i>Desmognathus santeetlah</i>	Santeetlah Dusky Salamander		SR
<i>Desmognathus wrighti</i>	Pygmy Salamander		SR
<i>Hemidactylium scutatum</i>	Four-toed Salamander		SC
<i>Necturus maculosus</i>	Mudpuppy		SC
<i>Cryptobranchus alleganiensis</i>	Hellbender		SC
BIRDS			
<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	Sharp-shinned Hawk		SR
<i>Falco sparverius</i>	American Kestrel		
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Peregrine Falcon		E
<i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i>	Black-billed Cuckoo		SR
<i>Tyto alba</i>	Barn Owl		SR
<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		
<i>Contopus cooperi</i>	Olive-sided Flycatcher		
<i>Empidonax alnorum</i>	Alder Flycatcher		SR
<i>Empidonax minimus</i>	Least Flycatcher		
<i>Corvus corax</i>	Common Raven		
<i>Sitta canadensis</i>	Red-breasted Nuthatch		
<i>Certhia americana</i>	Brown Creeper		SC
<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Winter Wren		
<i>Regulus satrapa</i>	Golden-crowned Kinglet		
<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		
<i>Icterus galbula</i>	Baltimore Oriole		
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>Lasiurus cinereus</i>	Hoary Bat		
<i>Lasiurus seminolus</i>	Seminole Bat		
<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	Northern Myotis		
<i>Myotis leibii</i>	Eastern Small-footed Myotis		SC
<i>Sylvilagus obscurus</i>	Appalachian Cottontail		SR-G
<i>Zapus hudsonius</i>	Meadow Jumping Mouse		
<i>Mustela nivalis</i>	Least Weasel		SR-G
<i>Spilogale putorius</i>	Eastern Spotted Skunk		
REPTILES			
<i>Glyptemys muhlenbergii</i>	Bog Turtle	LT, SAT	T
<i>Apalone spinifera spinifera</i>	Eastern Spiny Softshell		SC
<i>Eumeces anthracinus</i>	Coal Skink		SR
<i>Lampropeltis triangulum elapsoides</i>	Scarlet Kingsnake		
<i>Lampropeltis triangulum triangulum</i>	Eastern Milk Snake		
<i>Virginia valeriae</i>	Smooth Earth Snake		

Williams-Silvers Tracts Haywood County 783 Acres



- Williams Tract
- Silvers Tract (Phase I Feb. 2014)
- Wycle Fork Tract (Phase II April 2016)
- Mashie Stomp Tract (Phase II April 2016)
- Sheepback Mtn Tract (Closed March 2016)



June 25, 2016

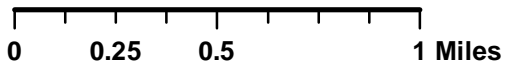


EXHIBIT F

July 14, 2016



PROPOSED TEMPORARY RULEMAKING – DESCRIPTION OF NO WAKE ZONE AT TAYLOR’S CREEK BEAUFORT, CARTERET COUNTY

The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission proposes temporary rulemaking to clarify and correct the description of the No Wake Zone in the waters of Taylor’s Creek in Beaufort, Carteret County. The agency decided to proceed with temporary rulemaking, followed by permanent rulemaking, to clarify the description of the Taylor’s Creek no wake zone to facilitate enforcement of the area during the busy boating season, and also to redefine the eastern end of the no wake zone as being a line at the tip of Carrot Island. This was necessary in light of the removal of Channel Marker 1A that used to mark the eastern end of the no wake zone, and by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ recent dredging of the channel outside Taylor’s Creek, which has rerouted the entrance into the creek from southeast of Carrot Island to northeast of Carrot Island. Neither the removal of the channel marker nor the dredging changes the location of the existing no wake zone within Taylor’s Creek.

Notice of Text was published in the *NC Register* and one public hearing was held in Raleigh, N.C. on May 24, 2016. Five persons attended and submitted comments which are attached in **Attachment A**. One comment was received by email. All comments were in favor of extending the Taylor’s Creek no wake zone out into the narrow channel, recently dredged by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Federal waters. That channel is not part of the Taylor’s Creek no wake zone.

A response from the Navigation Branch of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Wilmington District indicated that USACE will not concur with extension of a no wake zone into deep water channels under the purview of USACE. Their concurrence extends only to the line of the fixed channel at the eastern tip of Carrot Island:

From: Horton, James T SAW
Sent: Wednesday, June 08, 2016 3:44 PM
To: Haywood, Betsy
Subject: RE: Channel at the eastern end of Taylor Creek, Beaufort

Betsy,

I would agree with idea that deep water channels cannot be part of a no wake zone since they do migrate. It would be difficult to define a specific location of the no wake zone start, since it could change. If your zone were to extend to the end of the fixed channel (black lines), we would have no issue with that. We would not approve a no wake zone eastward of the fixed channel.

Todd

The Wildlife Resources Commission is not authorized to place a no-wake zone in Federal waters under purview of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers without the concurrence of USACE. See USACE Commander's Policy Memorandum #20- No Wake Zones - **Attachment B**.

Staff therefore recommends adoption of the temporary rule for 15A NCAC 10F .0330, to clarify the description of the no wake zone for Taylor's Creek in Beaufort. Temporary rulemaking will be followed by permanent rulemaking.

15A NCAC 10F .0330 CARTERET COUNTY

(a) Regulated Areas. This Rule applies to the following waters in Carteret County:

- (1) the waters of Money Island Slough beginning at the east end of Money Island near the Anchorage Marina Basin and ending at the west end of Money Island where Brooks Avenue dead ends at the slough;
- (2) the waters of Taylor Creek located within the territorial limits of the Town of Beaufort; Taylor's Creek in Beaufort, shore to shore from where it meets the Newport River at the western end to a line at the eastern end between a point on the north shore at 34.70762 N, 76.61784 W, south-southwest to the eastern tip of Carrot Island.
- (3) the waters of Pelletier Creek beginning at the entrance to Pelletier Creek at the Intracoastal Waterway and ending at U.S. Highway 70;
- (4) the waters of Bogue Sound Harbor Channel in Morehead City between Sugar Loaf Island and the seawall on the south side of Evans, Shepard and Shackelford Streets and bounded on the east by the State Ports Authority and on the west by the eastern right-of-way margin of South 13th Street extended;
- (5) the waters of Gallant's Channel from the US 70 crossing over the Grayden Paul bridge to Taylor's Creek;
- (6) the waters of Cedar Island Bay and Harbor from N.C. Highway 12 to Cedar Island Bay Channel Light 8;
- (7) the waters of the small cove on the west side of Radio Island south of Old Causeway Road;
- (8) the waters of the Newport River beginning at the north side of the Beaufort Drawbridge and ending at marker #6;
- (9) the waters of Spooners Creek within the territorial limits of the Town of Morehead City as delineated by appropriate markers;
- ~~(10) the waters of Taylor's Creek from the eastern end of the current no wake zone eastward to Channel Marker #1A;~~
- ~~(11)~~ (10) the waters of the Newport River at Bogue Sound including all waters surrounding the Port of Morehead City to Brandt Island as delineated by appropriate markers;
- ~~(12)~~ (11) the waters of Morgans Creek as delineated by appropriate markers;
- ~~(13)~~ (12) the waters of Cannonsgate Marina and the Cannonsgate Marina Channel, beginning at its intersection with Bogue Sound at 34.70163 N, 76.98157 W as delineated by appropriate markers; and
- (14) (13) the waters of the Newport River within 200 yards of the Newport River Beach Access Boat Ramp, beginning at the shore north of the U.S. 70 bridge at a point at 34.72141 N, 76.68707 W, west to a point at 34.72128 N, 76.68893 W, north to a point at 34.72376 N, 76.68911 N, then east to the shore at 34.72371 N, 76.68631 W.

(b) Speed Limit. It is unlawful to operate a motorboat or vessel at a speed greater than no-wake speed while on the waters of the regulated areas designated in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.

(c) Placement and Maintenance of Markers. The Board of Commissioners of Carteret County, with respect to the regulated areas designated in Subparagraphs (1), (3), (5), (6), (7), (8), ~~(10)~~, ~~(12)~~ (11) and ~~(13)~~ (12) of Paragraph (a) of this Rule, and the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Beaufort, with respect to the regulated area designated in Subparagraph (2) of Paragraph (a) of this Rule, and the Board of Commissioners of Morehead City, with respect to Subparagraph (4), (9), and ~~(14)~~ (13) of Paragraph (a) of this Rule, and the North Carolina State Ports Authority, with respect to the regulated area designated in Subparagraph ~~(14)~~ (10) of Paragraph (a) of this Rule are designated as suitable agencies for placement and maintenance of the markers implementing this Rule, subject to the approval of the United States Coast Guard and the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

15A NCAC 10F .0330 (a) (2) No Wake Zone - Proposed Amendment
Taylor Creek, Carteret County



▲ Proposed NWZ Points
■ Proposed No Wake Zone
□ Existing No Wake Zones



Lat: 34.70762 N
Long: 76.61784 W

**COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM PUBLIC HEARING ON MAY 24, 2016 REGARDING
PROPOSED TEMPORARY RULE TO CLARIFY DESCRIPTION OF
TAYLOR'S CREEK NO WAKE ZONE – 15A NCAC 10F .0330**

- My proposal would be to move the no wake marker to the floating marker 1B at the end of Taylor's Creek. It is a very narrow channel that was just dredged by the Corps of Engineers. The issue I have personally is that people are going extremely fast around a hairpin turn into the creek. I don't believe it's a safe way to proceed as it is currently set up. Too many boats in a narrow channel with sandbars on both sides. Someone is going to get hurt.
- I can only express the dangers of not having a no wake one past the end of Taylor's Creek as soon as possible!
- We have serious safety issues from boat wakes due to the channel changes made by the Army Corps of Engineers.
- No Wake Zone should be continued to the end of the new channel opened up in 2015. Boaters are creating serious safety issues to property owners on Lennoxville Point. The old channel kept boater wakes aware from owners' docks and boats.

Compelling Reasons to Extend the Taylors Creek “No Wake Zone” to the Newly Dredged Eastern Channel Entrance Buoy

Presented to the NCWRC May 24, 2016.... Raleigh, North Carolina

The original regulations, prior to the creation of a new channel entrance in 2015, specified that the No Wake Zone begin at the entrance buoy on the eastern end of Taylor's Creek. The intent was clear.....begin the No Wake Zone at the eastern entrance buoy to Taylor’s Creek. In 2015, the Taylor’s Creek channel was extended a very short distance. This is a simple, but highly important request.... *maintain the No Wake Zone in compliance with its original intent*. The original intent was clear..... begin the No Wake Zone at the channel entrance.

2) The No Wake Zone signs initially began at both the eastern and western entrances to Taylors Creek. When the eastern channel was newly dredged in 2015, the channel entrance was moved a couple of hundred yards further to the east. The current request simply asks that the No Wake Zone comply with the original intent and begin at the newly dredged eastern channel entrance.

3) The easterly entrance to Taylor’s Creek offers, to the boating public, access to one of the most scenic, pristine and beautiful boating corridors in North Carolina, and perhaps the entire east coast. Boaters traversing Taylor’s Creek have a scenic view of historic Beaufort and its beautiful historic homes along the northern shore, as well as a long and scenic cruise along pristine Carrot Island, on its southern shore, with its historic wild ponies. The entire shoreline is unique and unmatched anywhere in the United States and needs to be preserved and protected for the welfare of all the citizens of North Carolina. Unsightly erosion caused by speeding boats will detract from the public beauty shared by all boaters. Erosion, along the easterly most point of beautiful and historic Beaufort North Carolina, has increased significantly since the new channel has been dredged. The old historic Lennoxville Cemetery was lost some years ago to

erosion on the eastern end of Beaufort. Preservation of the eastern end of Carrot Island and the eastern most point of Beaufort is not only historically important, but, as already mentioned, protects the beauty of this unique part of North Carolina for all of its citizens. Hundreds of tourists visit Beaufort each year and are transported along Taylor's Creek to Cape Lookout and Shackleford Banks. Protecting the access and beauty of this corridor is also vitally important to the local tourist industry.

4) There is no reasonable opposition to this short extension of the No Wake Zone, other than a very small number of boaters who don't want to have to slow down and add two to three minutes to their travel time as they ingress and egress Taylors Creek. 99% of the boat traffic entering and leaving Taylor's Creek is comprised of recreational boaters.

5) Almost 7,000 yards (just under 4 miles) of Taylor's Creek and this beautiful boating passage along the water front of historic Beaufort, is already protected by a continuous No Wake Zone. The No Wake Zone extends from the western channel entrance to the old eastern channel entrance. The current request is simply to extend the No Wake Zone along with the new channel extension and its new entrance. With approximately 4 miles of waterfront and shoreline along Taylor's Creek already protected by the No Wake Zone, the benefits of extending the zone a couple of hundred yards to the channel entrance, as originally intended, is an infinitesimally small inconvenience for a very small handful of boaters, when compared to the public benefit and preservation of the eastern end of historic Beaufort.

6) The new channel entrance and marking buoy creates a dangerous hair pin curve for all boaters. The public danger and risk of this hair pin curve is readily apparent to any observer watching the mass of boats often racing in opposite directions around the entrance buoy. The channel entrance is very narrow. Hundreds of boats daily will sometimes swing through this channel and around the hair pin curve at break neck speed, as they race out toward Shackleford Island or return from the ocean. Virtually all of these boaters are recreational boaters, and many are inexperienced and poorly skilled

navigators. Having a No Wake Zone sign at the channel entrance buoy will slow the extensive boating traffic trying to squeeze in and out of this narrow channel and will somewhat reduce the danger of this hair pin curve.

7) The new channel was extended in 2015. The channel has already had to be re-dredged in 2016. This channel is vital to the economy of the Beaufort community, the state of North Carolina, and for the recreational opportunities of all North Carolina's citizens. Erosion on the easterly point of Beaufort caused by speeding boat traffic, will continuously add fill to the channel and contribute to the need and cost of having to constantly dredge the channel. Reducing the erosion caused by speeding boats will save tax payer dollars and unnecessary funds required to keep the channel entrance open and viable.

From: Lee Dunn lhdunn@comcast.net
Subject: No wake zone clarification at east end of Taylor's Creek in Beaufort
Date: May 27, 2016 at 11:19 AM
To: betsy_haywood@ncwildlife.org
Bcc: Tharon Dunn tsdunn@comcast.net, David Evans paparacer@bellsouth.net, Williamson Tom tomwilliar
ramsey@jarrettbay.com, Ron Lovings rlovings@mechworksinc.com, Mark Daley mdaley@generation
Sam and Gail Williams williamssam@embarqmail.com, Sheryl@acpnc.com

Dear Mrs. Haywood and NC Wildlife Commissioners:

My wife and I have owned a house at 2690 Lennoxville Road at the easternmost end of about 15 years.

As you know, the original channel from Taylor's Creek to the North River before the re on the south side of Taylor's Creek and followed around the eastern tip of Carrot Island enough away from the shoreline and the houses and docks on Lennoxville Point that b mostly not a problem. Unfortunately, the newly dredged channel now closely follows t around to the north. The wave action and noise from the now dramatically increased k something to behold, especially on a holiday weekend like this Memorial Day. The dar eroding shoreline, and to our docks and boats, has been graphically detailed. Homeov longer experience the peace and quiet, and the safety, that attracted us there originall

It's hard to imagine how this all came to be so near our properties without any local in wake zone was not a requirement for the permit. Our properties have been seriously c

The best solution would be to relocate the channel to it's original location on the south Creek and out to the south. Barring that, at a minimum, an enforced NO WAKE zone fr the new southerly turn at the North River Channel is an obvious and simple fix. It's my this was in the works, but has strangely run into objections and bureaucratic obstacles

It's also our understanding that you have standing on this issue and are taking comme We hope you will do everything you can to bring reasonable relief to the property owners environment at Lennox Point.

Thank you,

Lee Dunn

(Please confirm receipt.)



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WILMINGTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69 DARLINGTON AVENUE
WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA 28403-1343

CESAW-CDR

19 June 2009

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Commander's Policy Memorandum # 20 – No Wake Zones

1. Purpose. This memorandum provides general policy and guidance for establishing and marking "No Wake Zones" along navigation channels within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District.
2. Applicability. This policy applies to all permit applications pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors of 1899, 33 USC Section 403, for the establishment and/or marking of "No Wake Zones" along navigable waterways. In addition to permitting authority under Section 10 authority, the District Commander is also authorized to direct the "use, administration, and navigation of navigable waters, Federal locks, and hurricane gate chambers" pursuant to 33 CFR 207.160. The Wilmington District has, since the early 1970's, considered that, absent overriding safety concerns, "No Wake Zones" within federally authorized and maintained waterways are an unreasonable interference with navigation and the navigable capacity of the Federal channel. This memorandum formalizes this unwritten policy. This policy statement is internal Wilmington District guidance; it is not a permit to be utilized by the public.
3. Definitions. Federally authorized and maintained navigation channels are those channels the construction, improvement or maintenance of which are authorized by Congress; marked by the Federal government; and maintained by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Navigable capacity is the ability of the channel to accommodate the movement of waterborne commerce and the public rights of navigation for which the Federal channel was designed and authorized.
4. General. The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) and the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) administers rules for water safety in North Carolina. The North Carolina Boating Safety Act provides a process for any subdivision of the state to make a formal application to the NCWRC to establish a boating restriction related to water safety including "No Wake Zones". Once the NCWRC and/or the USCG has agreed to enforce a specific "No Wake Zone", notice should be sent to the Wilmington District Regulatory Division describing the boundaries of the "No Wake Zone" and the location and construction of any signage to be installed. The Wilmington District will review the proposed boating restriction and associated signage and assess any potential impact to Navigable Waters of the US. For requests affecting federally authorized and maintained waters, the Wilmington District will issue a public notice and notice to mariners to solicit public comments. After full consideration of the public interest, the District Commander will render a decision on the establishment of the specific "No Wake Zone" and the authorization of any associated signage or structures to be placed in Navigable Waters of the US.

CESAW-CDR

SUBJECT: Commander's Policy Memorandum # 20 – No Wake Zones

5. Federal Projects/Navigation Channels. "No Wake Zones" and other boating restriction markers on Federal navigation channels will not be permitted unless the District Commander determines that substantial safety concerns exist and that the restriction will remedy those concerns without significant impacts to the "navigable capacity" of the Federal channel. Other means of addressing such safety concerns will have to be considered before a "No Wake Zone" will be authorized. Any authorization will be limited to the absolute minimum area necessary to address the safety issue. "No Wake Zones" are not intended for the purposes of controlling shoreline erosion or protecting structures and moored vessels from damage caused by wake wash.



JEFFERSON M. RYSCAVAGE
Colonel, EN
Commanding

Distribution:
DLL-SAW-B

EXHIBIT G

July 14, 2016



PROPOSED FINAL ADOPTION AMENDMENT TO 15A NCAC 10F .0366 – NANTAHALA LAKE – MACON COUNTY

The Wildlife Resources Commission published Notice of Text in the *NC Register* for adoption of an amendment to 15A NCAC 10F .0366, requested by Macon County for extension of a no wake zone in the waters Lakes End Cove, shore to shore, on Nantahala Lake in Macon County. During the open comment period one public hearing was held in Raleigh, NC on March 31, 2016. There were no attendees and no public comments received.

Staff recommends adoption of 15A NCSC 10F .0366(a)(1), subject to final approval by the Rules Review Commission and codification in the NC Administrative Code. Earliest effective date will be September 1, 2016.

15A NCAC 10F. 0366 MACON COUNTY

(a) Regulated Area. This Rule applies to the following waters of Nantahala Lake:

(1) That area within 50 yards of the Lakes End Boat Dock-Lakes End Cove shore to shore, beginning at a line from a point on the northwest shore at 35.19602 N, 83.64184 W to a point on the southeast shore at 35.19544 N, 83.64053 W.

(2) That area within 100 yards from the end of the Mountain Shadows Community Dock-Dock.

(b) Speed Limit. No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no-wake speed in the waters of the regulated area specified in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.

(c) Placement and Maintenance of Markers. The Board of Commissioners of Macon County is designated a suitable agency for placement and maintenance of the markers implementing this Rule.

History Note: *Authority G.S. 75A-3; 75A-15;*

