



## N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources

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### **State Trust Fund Awards \$12.3 Million For Significant Natural Heritage Sites**

**RALEIGH** – Trustees with the N.C. Natural Heritage Trust Fund have awarded \$12.3 million to help the state preserve more than 6,800 acres of some of North Carolina's most culturally and ecologically significant land.

The trust fund's board of trustees made the awards this week after their regular two-day meeting. Many of projects call for funding from other sources, including the state's other trust funds and local government matching funds.

The trust fund board awarded \$3.93 million to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to identify and help acquire property in Hickory Nut Gorge State Park in Rutherford County, Sandy Run Savannas State Natural Area in Onslow County, Elk Knob State Natural Area and Rendezvous Mountain Educational State Forest in Wilkes County. The board also awarded to the department \$381,000 to inventory natural areas and aquatic ecosystems.

Also, the board awarded \$1.37 million to the Department of Cultural Resources to help acquire the Contentnea Creek Archeological Preserve near Wilson, the Mission Ridge area overlooking the Valle Crucis National Register Historic District in Watauga County, land surrounding the historic Cedar Grove plantation home in Huntersville, and property for a park near the historic Glencoe Mill Village in Alamance County.

The board also awarded \$4.76 million to the Wildlife Resources Commission to help acquire land formerly owned by International Paper in eastern North Carolina as well as land in the Jessups Mill Pond State Significant Area in Cumberland County, N.C. State University's New Hope Valley Forest in Durham and Chatham counties and the Weyerhaeuser Roquist Pocosin tract in Bertie County.

The board awarded another \$1.86 million to the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to help acquire the Eastwood Plant Conservation Preserve in Moore County, the Dulany Bog Plant Conservation Preserve in Jackson County and Schulzens Savanna Plant Conservation Preserve in Columbus County.

The N.C. Natural Heritage Trust Fund provides supplemental funding to select state agencies to acquire and protect important natural areas, preserve the state's ecological diversity and cultural heritage and inventory the natural heritage resources of the state. The trust fund is supported by 25 percent of the state's portion of the tax on real estate deed transfers and a portion of the fees for personalized license plates. It is one of four trust funds the state administers to protect and conserve land. For more information on the trust fund, go to <http://www.ncnhtf.org/>.

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