

WLRM Section 4 - Partners and Funding Sources

Disclaimer: The materials produced and distributed by the Community Conservation Committee of the North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts area intended to serve only as general guidance for local soil and water conservation districts involved in working lands preservation. These materials, including example conservation easement documents and all support documents, should not be used in lieu of professional legal advice. The Community Conservation Committee recommends that all legal documents be reviewed by an attorney licensed to practice in the state of North Carolina.

Every successful conservation effort is based around partnership and accessing the right tools. Hopefully every district in the state will become familiar with this section and keep it handy. The organizations and funding sources as listed can be most helpful in land protection and other conservation activities. Land protection tools including easements represent costly and time consuming work that can be most efficiently carried out with partners. Conservation districts are land protection newcomers among agencies and non-government organizations. The more your district gets involved with land stewardship, the more you will become an integral part of this network of valued service providers. An advantage of getting into easement work later than other partners is the opportunity to avoid mistakes they have made and to take advantage of all they have learned. This section of the notebook presents information on North Carolina land protection partners and resources that every district should consider getting to know.

Basic Description of Land Protection Agencies and Organizations

One of the best ways to get started in land protection is to visit and get to know local partners and funding sources. All land protection agencies and organizations share commonalities with conservation districts. Most have a board and staff, set annual goals, meet a budget, do annual reporting and need assistance from time to time. This section is a starting point for finding partners who will compliment SWCD land protection efforts. There are other partners beyond this listing that some districts will be working with to protect working farm and forestland. As you find other land protection partners for districts, let us know so that they can be included in this section of the notebook.

Land protection organizations are willing to share their knowledge for many reasons including;

- Land Protection organizations do compete for funding, but their priority is to see as much land protected as possible
- Conservation districts provide land trusts with land owner referrals and sometimes take on easements that do not fit land trust goals, finances, staffing and service boundaries.
- Grant applications for funding land protection are most likely to receive funding when presented by multiple partners.
- Over time land protection organizations can accomplish more through working together, as opposed to each one working on an individual basis.

Information in the next section is detailed in charts. These charts are followed by a section with written descriptions of each agency, organization and funding source. Information on deadlines

and funding amounts is not included as it changes on a regular basis and can be determined by visiting web sites and contacting staff. Agencies and organizations are laid out in the following order;

- Federal Government
- State Government
- Local Government
- Non Governmental Organizations
- Funding Sources
- Supplemental Information: CWMFT Mini-Grants

Program Name	Classification				Assistance Available				Current Activity						
	F	S	L	N	T	C	G	P	E	E	L				
Each soil and water conservation district is in one or more of the following categories of working lands protection. 1) Easement Monitoring, 2) Easement Holding, 2) Land Ownership, or 4) Informed and advising landowners, but not involved in 1, 2 or 3. There are many organizations that have experience in land protection, provide funding and/or who can partner on land protection efforts. This chart is intended as a breakdown of partners who work with conservation districts on working land protection and preservation.	e	d	e	r	a	c	s	s	a	r	a	&	s	s	n
Federal Government															
Internal Revenue Service	F				Income Tax Deduction (federal)										
Natural Resources Conservation Service	F				TA	CS									
Resource Conservation & Development Councils	F				TA		G	P							
State Government															
Clean Water Management Trust Fund		S			TA		G								
Cooperative Extension Service		S			TA			P							
Dept. of Agriculture & Consumer Services		S			TA		G	P							
Dept. of Environment & Natural Resources		S			TA			P	EM	EH	LO				
Dept. of Revenue		S			Income Tax Credit (state)										
Division of Forest Resources		S			TA	CS	G	P			LO				
Division of Natural Resources Planning & Conservation		S			TA			P							
Division of Parks & Recreation		S			TA		G	P	EM	EH	LO				
NC Trails Program		S			TA				EM	EH	LO				
Division of Soil & Water Conservation		S				CS	G	P							
NC Ecosystem Enhancement Program		S			TA		G		EM	EH					
NC Natural Heritage Protection Program		S			TA										
NC State University		S			TA				EM	EH	LO				
One North Carolina Naturally		S			TA										
Office of Conservation & Community Affairs		S			TA			P							
Wildlife Resources Commission		S			TA			P	EM	EH	LO				
Local Government															
City & County Government			L				G	P							
Property Tax Office (Present Use Value Taxation)			L												
Soil & Water Conservation Districts			L					P							
Organizations															
American Farmland Trust			N						EM	EH	LO				
Audobon			N		TA			P	EM	EH	LO				
BRAC Regional Task Force			N				G	P							
Conservation Fund			N		TA			P	EM	EH	LO				
Conservation Trust for North Carolina			N		TA			P	EM	EH	LO				
Councils of Government			N		TA			P							
Ducks Unlimited			N		TA			P	EM	EH	LO				
Environmental Defense			N		TA			P	EM	EH	LO				
Land Trust Alliance			N		TA			P							
Land Trust of North Carolina			N		TA			P	EM	EH	LO				
Military Growth Task Force			N					P							
Mount Olive College (Lois G. Britt Agribusiness Center)			N		TA			P							
National Farm Transition Network			N		TA										
NC Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts			N					P							
NC Coastal Federation			N		TA			P	EM	EH	LO				
NC Farm Bureau			N					P							
NC Farm Transition Network			N					P							
NC Forestry Association			N					P	Studying for future action.						
NC Grange			N					P							
The Conservation Fund			N		TA			P	EM	EH	LO				
The International Farmland Transition Network			N		TA			P							
The Nature Conservancy			N		TA			P	EM	EH	LO				
Trust for Public Lands			N		TA			P	EM	EH	LO				

Program Name	Classification				Assistance Available				Current Activity			
	F	S	L	N	T	A	C	G	P	E	E	L
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	d	a	c	n	c	s	s	a	r	a	s	s
	e	t	a		h	i	t	n	t	s	e	M
	r	e	i	G	n	s		t	n	e	G	m
	a			o	l	t	S	F	e	m	r	e
	l			t	c	a	h	u	r	e	a	n
					a	n	a	n	n	n	t	t
					l	c	r	d	t	t	o	e
					e	e	s	s	s	r	r	r
Funding Sources												
Agriculture Cost Share Program		S			TA	CS				EM	EH	
Clean Water Management Trust Fund		S						G	P	EM	EH	
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program	F				TA			G	P	EM		
Conservation Reserve Program		S			TA			G	P	EM		
County Property Tax Office (Present Use Value Taxation)			L		Income Tax Credit (state)							
Farm & Ranch Land Protection Program	F				TA	CS			P			LO
Federal Land & Water Conservation Fund	F				TA				P			
Forest Development Program		S			TA	CS			P			
Forest Legacy Program		S			TA	CS						
Forest Management Assistance		S				CS			P			
Foundations (both public and private)				N				G				
Internal Revenue Service	F											
NC Dept. of Revenue		S										
NC Agriculture Development & Farmland Preservation Trust Fund		S						G		EM		
		S						G		EM		
NC Foundation for Soil & Water, Inc.				N				G	P	EM	EH	LO
NC Conservation Tax Credit Program		S							P			
NC Eco Enhancement Program		S			TA			G	P	EM	EH	
NC Natural Heritage Trust Fund		S			TA			G	P	EM	EH	
NC State Trails Program		S			TA			G	P	EM		
Wetlands Reserve Program		S			TA	CS			P	EM	EH	
Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program	F				TA	CS			P	EM		

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

Web Site: [http:// www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)

Web Site: <http://www.irs.gov/charities/article/0,,id=137244,00.html>

Point of Contact: The IRS makes no staff available to assist landowners with the process of donating a conservation easement, in exchange for a federal tax deduction. IRS field staff audit conservation easement holders to ensure compliance with donated easement requirements for tax credits.

Purpose: In order to protect environmental and historic values, the U.S. Congress allows an income tax deduction in exchange for giving away specific rights on a permanent basis to preserve conservation values. Benefits of this program can be combined with those of the NC Conservation Tax Credit Program. However, it should be noted that *guidelines of the two programs are similar, but not the same.*

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

Web Site: <http://www.nc.nrcs.usda.gov/>

Point of Contact: County Field Offices (*see telephone directory blue pages "Federal Government" or the directory on the web site*)

Purpose: NRCS is a technical agency of the United States Department of Agriculture. The role of NRCS is to provide technical and financial assistance to landowners for care of the land. Financial assistance is awarded to participants who voluntarily enter into contracts, easements, and agreements to conserve natural resources. Many programs offered through NRCS are authorized by the U.S. Federal Farm Bill and include Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, Farm and Ranchlands Protection Program, Forest Legacy Program, Wetlands Reserve Program and Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program. Details on these programs can be found in the *Resources Section* of this report.

Resource Conservation & Development Councils (RC&D)

Web Site: <http://www.nc.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/directory/rcd.html>

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/rcd/>

Point of Contact: directory on web site

Purpose: This is an NRCS program that initiates and accelerates conservation, development and utilization of natural resources through project development and local partnerships. RC&D councils are able to improve the general level of economic activity, to enhance the environment and standard of living in designated areas. Grant management and partnership development are key components of RC&D operations. *The future of the RC&D program is uncertain at the time of this update, as USDA has terminated funding.*

STATE GOVERNMENT

Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF)

Web Site: <http://www.cwmtf.net/a/index.html#home.html>

Address: 100 East Six Forks Road, Suite 304, Raleigh NC 27609

Point of Contact: Field Representative contact information is on the web site.

Purpose: The CWMTF awards grants to local governments, state agencies and conservation non-profits to help finance projects that address water quality issues. Mini grants and larger grants are awarded according to the schedule on the web site. The program is very flexible and has funded land protection projects across the state.

Cooperative Extension Service (CES)

Web Site: www.ces.ncsu.edu

Point of Contact: County Field Offices (*see telephone directory blue pages "State Government"*) and the web site.

Purpose: CES is staffed with specialists in agriculture, forestry and horticulture that partner on projects and assist with grant funding applications as well as provide technical assistance and educational outreach.

Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (NCDA&CS)

Web Site www.ncagr.gov

Address: NC Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund
2 West Edenton Street, Raleigh, NC 27601

Phone: (919) 733-7125

Purpose: The NCDA&CS is the lead state agency for agriculture, with grant funding and farmland protection tools that are authorized by general statute. The Agriculture Development & Farmland Development Trust Fund (ADFP), Voluntary Agriculture Districts (VAD), Enhanced VAD and County Agriculture Protection programs are housed within NCDA&CS. This office provides staff assistance to the ADFP Trust Fund and the State VAD Work Group.

DA&CS Division of Forest Resources (DFR)

Web Site: <http://www.dfr.state.nc.us> – will change in 2011

Address: 1616 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1616

Phone: (919) 857-4801

Point of Contact: Each county houses a DFR staff forester.

(*see telephone directory blue pages "County Government."*)

In addition, some programs within DFR are administered by staff at the state office; they can be contacted directly via information found at the web site.

Purpose: DFR is mandated by general statute to manage and develop forest resources of the state. DFR programs accomplish this mandate through working with partner agencies and organizations, as well as direct landowner assistance via cost share programs, technical assistance and grants.

DA&CS Division of Soil & Water Conservation (DSWC)

Web Site: <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/swc/> - will change in 2011

Address: 1614 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1614

Phone: (919) 733-2302

Purpose: The DSWC works closely with the NRCS and the ninety-six soil and water conservation districts to administer a comprehensive statewide program of protecting and conserving the state's soil and water resources. DSWC staff provides assistance to the NC Soil and Water Conservation Commission (SWCC). The SWCC and the DSWC provide technical support, partner on agricultural initiatives, administer costs share program funding, work with grant funding and offer assistance to support local districts

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)

Web Site: <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/guest>

Address: 1601 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1601

Phone: (919) 733-4984

Purpose: DENR is the lead stewardship agency for the protection of North Carolina's natural resources. Working lands protection is a top priority of DENR. DENR headquarters office is in Raleigh and seven regional offices are located strategically across the state. Listed below are several divisions and programs housed within DENR including four trust funds. The Conservation Planning Tool (CPT) a web based tool used by the state trust funds, communities and other for setting priorities and environmental stewardship planning is also maintained by DENR.

DENR Division of Natural Resources Planning and Conservation:

Website: <http://www.onencnaturally.org/pages/ConservationPlanningTool.html>

Address: 1601 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1601

Phone: (919) 715-4195

Purpose: The **Division of Natural Resources Planning and Conservation** also houses the Office of Conservation and Community Affairs, and is a program that provides science-based information and incentives to educate and support conservation actions of North Carolina's conservation agencies and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). Programs housed within this division include:

- Natural Heritage Program
- Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program
- Conservation Tax Credit Program
- Stewardship Program.

DENR Division of Parks & Recreation (DPR) & N.C. Trails Program

Web Site: http://www.ncparks.gov/About/trails_main.php
<http://www.ncparks.gov/About/grants/main.php>

Address: 1615 Mail Service Center, Raleigh N.C. 27699-1615

Phone: (919) 733-4181 and (919) 846-9995

Purpose: DPR is charged with providing enjoyment of the outdoors from a stewardship approach. DPR houses the State Trails Program and the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund, for more information on that program look in the resource section of this section.

DENR Ecosystem Enhancement Program (EEP)

Web Site: <http://www.nceep.net/>

Address: 1652 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1652

Phone: (919) 715-0476

Purpose: EEP's mission is to "restore, enhance, preserve and protect the functions associated with wetlands, streams and riparian areas, including but not limited to those necessary for the restoration, maintenance and protection of water quality and riparian habitats throughout North Carolina." EEP funds technical assistance, on the ground work and easements for wetlands-restoration. A primary goal of EEP is high-quality, cost-effective projects for watershed improvement and protection.

DENR Natural Heritage Program (NHP)

Web Site: <http://www.ncnhp.org/>

Address: 1601 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1601

Phone: (919) 715-4195

Purpose: NHP Staff are responsible for inventory, cataloging and facilitating protection of unique areas of natural diversity. Inventory information is made available to landowners, agencies and NGO's, along with options for preservation. The Natural Heritage Program follows methodology developed by [The Nature Conservancy](#) and is shared by the Natural Heritage Network, as well as [NatureServe](#). The information collected is used to establish priorities for the protection of North Carolina's most significant natural areas.

DENR - Office of Conservation, Planning & Community Affairs

Web Site: <http://www.onencnaturally.org/pages/ConservationPlanningTool.html>

Address: 1601 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1601

Phone: (919) 715-4153

Purpose: OCPCA promotes and coordinates long-term conservation of North Carolina's threatened land and water resources. Responsibilities include leading the development and implementation of a comprehensive statewide conservation plan involving government agencies, NGO's and landowners. OCPCA ONCN is incorporates the Division of Natural Resource Planning and Conservation, Conservation Tax Credit Program, Stewardship Program, Natural Heritage Program, NC Natural Heritage Trust, Forever Natural, Working Lands Program and the Million Acre Initiative. OCPCA works with agriculture and forestland protection through the following tools; VAD, EVAD, county agriculture protection plans and easements.

NC State University

Web Sites: <http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/wq/LandPreservationNotebook/index.htm> (Land Preservation Notebook)

<http://harvest.cals.ncsu.edu/indexmain.cfm>

<http://cnr.ncsu.edu/fer/direct/megalos.html> (Dr. Mark Megalos)

<http://www.ag-econ.ncsu.edu/faculty/feitshans/feitshans.htm> (Dr. Ted Feitshans)

(Brandon King)

<http://www.ag-econ.ncsu.edu/faculty/renkow/renkow.html> (Dr. Mitch Rendow)

Address: North Carolina State University, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, Campus Box 8109 Raleigh, NC 27695-8108

Email: Agriculture - Ted_Feitshans@ncsu.edu or Brandon_King@ncsu.edu

Cost of Community Services Study - mitch_renkow@ncsu.edu

Forestry - mark.megalos@ncsu.edu

Purpose: NCSU staff specialists provide program support for VADs, EVADs, County Agriculture Protection Plans and Cost of Community Service studies, as well as forestry and agriculture sustainability. University staff are active in grant management as well as partnering on projects across the state.

ORGANIZATIONS

American Farmland Trust (AFT)

Web: <http://www.farmland.org/>

Address: 1200 18th Street NW, Suite 800, Washington, D.C. 20036

Phone: (202) 331-7300

Status: Membership Organization

Purpose: AFT has helped to protect more than one million acres of American farmland and plays an important role in shaping national and state agriculture related legislation and policy. AFT historically relied heavily on holding easements, but being nationwide in scope, they now focus on helping others to take this action. The AFT website is a good source of information on farmland protection, legislation, farming and agriculture.

Audubon North Carolina

Web Site: <http://www.ncaudubon.org/>

Address: 123 Kingston Drive, Suite 206A, Chapel Hill, NC 27514-1651

Phone: (919) 929-3899

Status: Membership Organization

Purpose: Audubon North Carolina's mission is to help conserve and restore the North Carolina wildlife habitats, focusing on the needs of birds. Audubon works to partner in protecting land and is able to secure resources from individuals, foundations and corporations in carrying out this important work.

BRAC Regional Task Force

Web Site: <http://bracrtf.com/>

Address: PO Box 87129, Fayetteville, NC 28304

Phone: (919) 808-4670

Status: Nonprofit

Purpose: The BRAC Regional Task Force represents eleven counties and 73 municipalities that are planning and preparing for the significant impact on our communities due to the changes that will occur from the BRAC 2005 actions and other growth at Fort Bragg and Pope AFB. The BRAC Regional Task Force is unifying and coordinating these efforts for the eleven counties and provides a regional approach to the planning and implementation effort. The organization works with federal and state agencies, military departments and the installation to support transition actions, minimize the negative impact on the community, and maximize the economic growth potential. The BRAC RTF is working with existing organizations and agencies as much as possible to utilize current capabilities and relationships.

Conservation Fund (CF)

Web Site: <http://www.conservationfund.org/>

Address: North Caroline Office, P.O. Box 271, Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Phone: (919) 967-2223

Purpose: CF is dedicated to advancing America's land and water legacy, through protection of the most important landscapes and waterways for future generations. CF does a lot of work through land acquisition, sustainability programs and leadership training. CF partners with government agencies and other nonprofit organizations to acquire and conserve land across the country; forever protecting wildlife habitat, working landscapes, recreation areas, community green space and historic sites. CF provides turnkey solutions, including delivery of real estate, strategic conservation, mitigation and land advisory services to corporations, private landowners and communities nationwide.

Conservation Trust for North Carolina (CTNC)

Web Site: www.ctnc.org

Address: 1028 Washington Street, Raleigh, NC 27605

Phone: (919) 828-4199

Purpose: CTNC is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the state's land and water through land protection efforts and cooperative work with the 24 land trusts across the state. CTNC works with, landowners, land trusts, government agencies such as SWCDs and other NGOs to save special places including farm and forestland. CTNC holds easements and owns lands and is also very active in working with lawmakers, partnering and in grant management activities.

Councils of Government (COG)

Web Site: <http://www.ncregions.org>

Phone: (828) 273-0276

Status: 16 COGs are in North Carolina (*contact information for individual COGs is on the web site*)

Point of Contact: Betty Huskins, Executive Director

Purpose: COG are multi-county membership planning and development organizations that have been in place since 1972. Every county in North Carolina is covered by a COG, with each office staffed with specialists in grant management and land use planning. SWCD can tap into COG expertise by partnering with COG members on grants and land use projects.

Ducks Unlimited (DU)

Web Site: <http://www.ducks.org/Page1735.aspx>

Address: Rodney Warren, P.O. Box 1349, Dunn, NC 28335
Ducks Unlimited, Inc. One Waterfowl Way, Memphis, Tennessee, USA 38120

Phone: (843) 745-9110 (NC) and 1-800-453-8257 (nationally)

Status: Membership Organization

Purpose: DU is the world's leader in wetland and waterfowl conservation and works to secure a future for waterfowl throughout North Carolina and North America. Below is a listing of tools used by DU to accomplish their mission;

- Working with partners (*state/federal agencies, corporations, foundations, & individuals*)
- Wetland and wildlife management agreements with landowners
- Acquiring land for the purpose of restoring its value to wildlife
- Restoring grasslands near wetlands
- Working with wetland landowners
- Replanting forests that flood
- Conservation Easements
- Restoring watersheds

Environmental Defense (ED)

Web Site: <http://www.edf.org/home.cfm>

<http://www.edf.org/page.cfm?q=north+carolina+office&searchSelect=north+carolina+office&tagID=8081>

Address: 4000 Westchase Blvd., Suite 510, Raleigh, NC 27607

Phone: (919) 881-2601

Purpose: The North Carolina ED staff works on environmental problems affecting the state and the southeast region of the country. Projects include protecting and restoring marine, coastal and mountain ecosystems and promoting sustainable forest management.

Land Trust Alliance (LTA)

Web Site: www.lta.org

Address: Southeast Regional Program, P.O. Box 33355, Raleigh, NC 27636

Phone: (919) 424-4427

Status: Membership Organization

Purpose: LTA is a nationwide organization that promotes land conservation via leadership, resources, training and an accreditation program for the 1,200 land trusts. LTA lobbies for policy and law change as it relates to land protection. LTA recently initiated formation of an accreditation program for land trusts that brings a high level of accountability to the land protection process. Any SWCD that joins LTA will have access to their online library of resource materials including a catalog of excellent land stewardship publications.

Land Trusts across North Carolina

Web Site: www.ctnc.org

Address: Conservation Trust for N.C., 1028 Washington Street, Raleigh, NC 27605

Point of Contact: 24 land trusts in North Carolina (*contact information for individual LT's on the web site listed above*)

Purpose: Each land trust is chartered by the state to permanently protect natural areas of significant ecological, scenic, recreational, cultural, historic and other values, which can include farm and forestland. Each land trust operates within a certain county, or region as a 501(c)3 with a board and staff to acquire easements and own land via purchase and donation. Many land trust staff include lawyers and specialists in accounting, appraisal and baseline documentation. A land trust can be a good partner for any SWCD that is interested in working with easements and land ownership.

Military Growth Task Force (MGTF)

Web Site: <http://nceastmgtf.com/>

Purpose: The MGF is a nonprofit that operates under NC Eastern Region to facilitate and bring about planning for growth. Most recently grant funding was secured that has launched a planning initiative termed "PlanIt East" that is bringing together leaders in an effort to protect quality of life and to incorporate coming change associated with rapid military growth and infrastructure expansion.

Mount Olive College (Lois G. Brit Agribusiness Center)

Web Site: <http://mocagbiz.com/>

Contact Point: Dr. Sandy Maddox, Director

Purpose: To foster synergism within the agricultural business community, through environmental stewardship and Christian ethics by providing educational opportunities, outreach initiatives, and sustainable partnerships. The staff of this center have worked on a variety of projects in Eastern NC including writing of VADs and county farmland protection plans.

National Farm Transition Network (NFTN)

Web Site: <http://www.farmtransition.org/>

Address: Beginning Farmer Center, 10861 Douglas Ave. Suite B, Urbandale, Iowa 50322

Phone: (515) 252-7801 or (877) BFC-1999

Contact Point: David Baker, Farm Transition Specialist

Purpose: The goal of the network is to support programs that foster the next generation of farmers and ranchers. NFTN holds an annual conferences with the goal of sharing information, strengthening existing programs and helping to establish new programs. It maintains a web site and list serve.

NC Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Web Site: www.ncaswcd.org

Address: PO Box 27943, Raleigh, NC 27611-7943

Phone: (919) 602-5777

Point of Contact: Executive Director

Purpose: Land protection and preservation efforts are being directed through the Community Conservation Committee. Networking, grant funding, technical guidelines and program initiatives relating to easements and other working lands protection efforts are to be directed to this committee.

NC Coastal Federation (NCCF)

Web Site: <http://www.nccoast.org/>

Address: 3609 Highway 24 (Ocean) - Newport, NC 28570

Phone: (252) 393-8185

Status: Membership Organization

Purpose: NCCF works with partners to safeguard coastal rivers, creeks, sounds and the beaches of North Carolina. NCCF works on site restoration, protecting habitat and water quality via land purchases and cooperative agreements with private landowners. Partnering and grant management activities with foundations, companies, organizations and people have made this organization very successful.

North Carolina Farm Bureau (NCFB)

Web Site: <http://www.ncfb.org/>

Address: P.O. Box 27766, Raleigh, NC 27611 (mailing address)

Address: 5301 Glenwood Avenue, Raleigh, NC 27612 (street address)

Phone: (919) 782-1705

Status: Membership Organization

Purpose: NCFB is a grassroots organization focused on ensuring that the farmer's voice is heard. Farm Bureau is interested in protecting landowner rights and at the same time partnering with many agencies and organizations who work on opportunities that help to bring about agricultural sustainability.

NC Farm Transition Network (NCFTN)

Web Site: <http://www.ncftn.org/>

Address: P.O. Box 443, Hillsborough, NC 27278

Phone: (919) 732-7539

Purpose: Currently NCFTN has no staff, the future of this organization is uncertain at this time. For help in this arena, check with the National Farmland Transition Network.

North Carolina Forestry Association (NCFA)

Web Site: <http://www.ncforestry.org/>

Address: 1600 Glenwood Ave., Raleigh, NC 27608

Phone: (919) 834-3943

Status: Membership Organization

Purpose: The NCFA promotes healthy, productive forests by supporting the efforts of landowners, as well as forestry-related businesses and organizations. NCFA offers technical assistance, works to affect public policy and exists for the betterment of the forest industry and forestland owners throughout the state. NCFA is working on putting together a forestland easement program for the future and partnering on forest sustainability efforts is a priority of NCFA.

NC State Grange

Web Site: <http://www.ncgrange.com/>

Address: 734 Wilkesboro Highway, Statesville, NC 28677

Phone: 1-800-432-4857

Status: Membership Organization

Purpose: The Grange is an association of farmers that focuses on making their concerns heard at all levels of government. The Grange is involved in a great deal of partnering on agriculture sustainability and is sometimes able to offer funding. The North Carolina State Grange is a family organization committed to the following ideals;

- Encouraging grassroots involvement in governmental issues.
- Providing educational and wholesome social opportunities.
- Promoting agriculture as an important segment of our economy, as well as the wise conservation of natural resources and the environment.
- Shaping legislation at the state and national level.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) – North Carolina Chapter Office

Web Site: <http://www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/northcarolina/>

Address: 4705 University Drive, Suite 290 Durham, NC 27707

Phone: (919) 403-8558 or (800) 628-6860

Status: Membership Organization

Purpose: TNC is an international organization with a mission of preserving plants, animals and natural communities around the earth. Targeting the highest priority places is based upon a strategic, science-based planning process, called Conservation by Design. TNC works to develop partnership and to influence state policy that affects land protection as well as owning a significant amount of land.

The Trust for Public Lands (TPL)

Web Site: www.tpl.org

Address: Charlotte Office, 1200 East Morehead Street, Suite 290, Charlotte, NC 28204

Phone: (704) 376-1839

Purpose: TPL is a national nonprofit conservation organization that conserves land for people to enjoy as parks, community gardens, historic sites, rural lands, and other natural places, ensuring livable communities for generations to come. TPL's two focus areas are working lands and natural lands.

FUNDING SOURCES

NC Agriculture Cost Share Program (ACSP)

Web Site: <http://www.enr.state.nc.us/DSWC/pages/agcostshareprogram.html> -to change in 2011

Phone: (919) 733-2302

Point of Contact: Local listing (*see telephone directory blue pages "County Government"*) or the directory on the web site.

Purpose: This program is housed within DA&CS Division of Soil and Water Conservation based on protecting and improving water quality. Financial incentives are made available through SWCDs for installing and maintaining best management practices (BMPs). Participating landowners receive a percentage of average costs for installing and maintaining BMPs. Several practices in this program have a ten year life which is a type of term easement. Funding for BMPs through this program can be used as a partnering tool to help with land protection efforts.

DENR Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF)

Web Site: www.cwmtf.net

Address: 100 E. Six Forks Road Suite 304, Raleigh NC 27609

Point of Contact: Field Representatives, contact information is on the web site.

Purpose: The CWMTF provides grants to local governments, state agencies and conservation non-profits to help finance projects that address water quality concerns. Mini grants and larger grants are awarded according to the current schedule on the web site. CWMTF allows for creativity that has helped to fund land protection projects in almost every county of the state as well as providing several grants to SWCDs.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

Web Site: <http://www.enr.state.nc.us/DSWC/pages/crep.html> - to change in 2011

Point of Contact: Soil & Water Conservation District (*see telephone directory Blue Pages "County Government" or the directory on the web site.*)

NC Division of Soil & Water Conservation at www.enr.state.nc.us/DSWC - to change in 2011

Purpose: CREP is a voluntary program that utilizes federal and state resources to achieve long-term protection of environmentally sensitive cropland and marginal pastureland near streams and other approved water bodies. Protection measures are accomplished through easements of 10, 15 and 30 years, as well as permanently, depending upon the landowner's choice. Thirty year and permanent easements are rewarded with a one-time state incentive payment. In addition, permanent easements can qualify the landowner for tax credits and deductions.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

Web Site: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/crp/>

<http://www.nc.nrcs.usda.gov/> (NRCS web site)

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/stateoffapp?mystate=nc&area=home&subject=landing&topic=landing>
(FSA web site)

Point of Contact: Local listing (*see telephone directory blue pages "Federal Government"*) or the directory on the web site.

Purpose: CRP provides technical and financial assistance for landowners to address soil, water, and related natural resource concerns. Retired cropland can be converted to trees, permanent wildlife habitat, grasses, legumes, and/or other permanent cover. CRP is administered by the Farm Service Agency, with NRCS providing eligibility determinations, conservation planning and practice implementation. Funding and program guidelines are updated with the passage of each new version of the federal farm bill.

County Property Tax Office – Present Use Value Taxation (PUV)

Web Site: Refer to the respective county property tax office.

<http://www.dor.state.nc.us/downloads/av4.pdf> (state statute)

Point of Contact: Local listing (*see telephone directory Blue Pages “County Government”*)

Purpose: NC General Statute 105-277.3 requires all units of county government to offer a lower property tax assessment as compared with residential and commercial land values on qualifying agriculture, forestry, horticulture and wildlife lands. Land that is enrolled in PUV and then removed for other uses is assessed a rollback penalty. Some counties are starting to use rollback funds for the purchase of easements; you may want to pursue this action with your county commissioners.

Not all landowners are aware of PUV; a tool that makes land ownership more affordable. Several instances exist where a county government has not understood the tax value of land under easement and their immediate reaction was to tax the land at a higher rate. SWCDs and land trusts have been able to intervene on behalf of landowner interests and to get land values adjusted down to the PUV for farming, agriculture and horticulture easements. If you need assistance with this type of effort, you can contact Jerry Dorsett with OCCA in Winston-Salem at the NC DENR Regional Office.

Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program (FRPP)

Web Site: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/frpp/>

Point of Contact: Natural Resource Conservation Service (*blue pages “Federal Government”*) or the directory on NRCS web site.

Purpose: The FRPP is authorized by the USDA Farm Bill. This program provides matching funds to help purchase development rights to keep productive farm and rangeland in agricultural uses. FRPP is dependant upon working with state, tribal, local government and NGO partners to acquire conservation easements. Funding and program guidelines are updated with the passage of each new version of the federal farm bill.

DA&CS Forest Development Program (FDP)

Web Site: www.dfr.state.nc.us

Address: 1616 Mail Service Center RALEIGH, NC 27699-1616

Phone: (919) 733-2162 ext. 241

Point of contact: County Forester (*blue pages “County Government”*) or the NC Division of Forest Resources web site.

Purpose: FDP is administered through the NC Division of Forest Resources by making cost share funding available for reforestation and in turn helping to maintain forest sustainability.

Forest Legacy Program

Web Site: http://www.dfr.state.nc.us/fsandfl/what_is_forest_legacy.htm

Phone: (919) 857-4833

Point of contact: County Forester (*blue pages "County Government"*) or the NC Division of Forest Resources web site.

Purpose: The Forest Legacy Program is authorized by the Federal Farm Bill and is designed to help landowners and partners identify and protect environmentally important forest lands. The primary program goal is to focus on forestlands threatened by present and future conversion to non-forest uses. Willing landowners who are accepted into the program can sell their development rights to the state. Funding and program guidelines are updated with the passage of each new version of the federal farm bill.

DA&CS Forest Management Assistance

Web Site: http://www.dfr.state.nc.us/Managing_your_forest/managing_your_forest.htm

Address: Point of contact, NC Division of Forestry Resources in the county office.

Phone: (919) 733-2162 ext. 245

Point of contact: County Forester (*blue pages "County Government"*) or the NC Division of Forest Resources web site.

Purpose: The goal of this program is to provide woodland owners with technical and financial assistance for management of forest lands. Some assistance is available free of charge and can be obtained through contract with DFR staff. In addition, referral can be made to outside professionals for land management services.

The Foundation Center

Web Site: <http://foundationcenter.org/>

Address: Headquarters – 79 5th Avenue/16th St, New York, NY 10003-3076
Field Office – 50 Hurt Plaza, Suite 150, Atlanta GA, 30303-2914

Phone: (212) 620-4230 (NY) & (404) 880-0094 (GA)

Purpose: The Foundation Center is a national nonprofit service and a leading expert in connecting nonprofits to grant providers. The Foundation Center maintains a large database of information regarding grant writing including grant providers, trends in grants and an online subscription service. The information is free of charge if accessed at a funding center; over 400 funding centers can be found nationally.

Grantmanship Center

Web Site: <http://www.tgci.com/>

Address: mailing - PO Box 17220, Los Angeles CA 90017
Physical - 1125 W Sixth Street, Fifth Floor, Los Angeles CA 90017

Phone: (213) 482-9860

Point of Contact: <http://www.tgci.com/about.shtml> (staff directory)

Purpose: The Grantmanship Center offers a variety of resources and training to nonprofit and government agencies for facilitating the grant writing process. Regional workshops are offered annually. The website also hosts, free of charge, daily grant announcements from the Federal Registry and indexes of funding sources at the local, federal, and international levels.

Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

Web Site: [http:// www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)

Web Site: <http://www.irs.gov/charities/article/0,,id=137244,00.html>

Point of contact: The IRS makes no staff available to assist landowners with the process of donating a conservation easement in exchange for claiming a federal tax deduction. A lawyer, accountant and/or other professionals should be contacted early in the process of seeking a conservation tax credit in exchange for donating development rights for perpetuity. IRS field staff audit conservation easement holders to ensure compliance with donated easement requirements for tax credits.

Purpose: In order to protect environmental and historic values, the U.S. Congress allows an income tax deduction in exchange for giving away specific rights on a permanent basis to preserve conservation values. Guidelines and auditing of this program are administered by the IRS. Benefits of this program can be combined with the NC Conservation Tax Credit Program if guidelines of both programs are met. It should be noted that guidelines of the two programs are similar, but not all of them are the same.

NC Agriculture Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund (ADFP)

Web Site: www.ncadfp.org/index.htm (ADFP Trust Fund)

www.ncagr.gov (NCDA&CS)

Address: NC Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund
2 West Edenton Street, Raleigh, NC 27601

Phone: (919) 733-7125

Purpose: The ADFP Trust Fund is administered by the NCDA&CS for the following program areas;

- Supporting the purchase of agricultural conservation easements (both temporary and permanent) on farm, forest, and horticulture lands.
- Funding public and private enterprise programs that promote profitable and sustainable family farms through assistance to farmers in developing and implementing plans for the production of food, fiber, value-added products, agritourism activities, marketing and sales of agricultural products produced on the farm, and other agriculturally related business activities.
- Guidelines for this program change each year and are posted on the web site.

DENR Conservation Tax Credit Program

Web Site: <http://www.onencnaturally.org/pages/ConservationTaxCredit.html>

Address: 1601 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1601

Phone: (919) 715-4191

Purpose: The Conservation Tax Credit Program operates under the Office of Conservation, Planning and Community Affairs.. North Carolina recognizes the importance of land conservation to its economy and offers a tax credit program to promote conservation of ecosystem functions (fish and wildlife conservation and conservation of natural areas), ecosystem services (farmland conservation) and other public benefits (public access to public trails, waters, and beaches). Tax credits give landowners compensation in exchange for permanently protecting land from development. Farm and forestland protection is a qualifying component of this program. Benefits of this program can be combined with the IRS tax credit. It should be noted that some guidelines of the two programs vary in their requirements.

DENR Ecosystem Enhancement Program (EEP)

Web Site: <http://www.nceep.net/>

Address: 1652 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1652

Phone: (919) 715-0476

Purpose: The mission of EEP is to "restore, enhance, preserve and protect the functions associated with wetlands, streams and riparian areas, including but not limited to those necessary for the restoration, maintenance and protection of water quality and riparian habitats throughout North Carolina." EEP provides funding and technical assistance for wetlands-restoration initiatives.

NC Foundation for Soil & Water Conservation, Inc. (NCFSWC)

Web Site: <http://www.ncfoundationforsoilandwater.org/forum/index.php>

Address: 5171 Glenwood Avenue, Suite 330, Raleigh, NC 27612

Phone: (919) 510-4599

Point of Contact: Michelle Lovejoy, Executive Director

Purpose: FSWC works to foster leadership development and secures grant funds for use by SWCDs. Grant funds have been secured to cover closing costs associated with conservation easements. NCFSWC will consider holding land stewardship funds in the form of an endowment for conservation districts on a case by case basis. NCFSWC is open to suggestions from SWCDs for other ways they can foster and assist with land protection efforts.

DENR NC Natural Heritage Trust Fund (NHTF)

Web Site: <http://www.ncnhtf.org/>

Address: 1601 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1601

Phone: (919) 715-8014

Purpose: NHTF provides funding to state agencies for the acquisition and protection of important natural areas, to preserve the state's ecological diversity and cultural heritage, and to inventory natural heritage resources of the state.

DENR State Trails Program

Web Site: <http://www.ncparks.gov/About/grants/main.php>

Address: 1615 Mail Service Center, Raleigh N.C. 27699-1615

Phone: (919) 733-4181 and (919) 846-9995

Purpose: The State Trails Program is housed within the Division of Parks & Recreation and is dedicated to helping citizens, nonprofit organizations and government agencies develop and manage all types of trails. The State Trails Program also coordinates the Mountains-to-Sea State Trail, while administering grant programs for trail acquisition and development.

State Trust Funds

Four state trust funds exist that make grants available for land protection activities. Each trust fund has worked with partners to combine funding for mutually beneficial projects. It is important to make note of funding cycles, rules, funding limits and forms necessary for each individual trust fund. Additional information on each of these funds is available in their respective listing within this section and at their web sites. *For additional information on each of these trust funds, go to the respective paragraph in this portion of the section, or visit their web site.*

- 1) Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF)
web address: <http://www.cwmtf.net/a/index.html#home.html>
- 2) Natural Heritage Trust Fund (NHTF)
web address: <http://www.ncnhtf.org/>
- 3) NC Agriculture Development & Farmland Preservation Trust Fund (ADFP)
web address: <http://www.ncadfp.org/index.htm>
- 4) The North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF)
web address: <http://www.ncparks.gov/About/grants/main.php>

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)

Web Site: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/whip/> (Program information)
<http://www.nc.nrcs.usda.gov/> (NRCS in NC)

Point of Contact: County Field Offices (*see telephone directory Blue Pages "Federal Government"*) or the directory on the web site.

Purpose: WHIP is authorized by the USDA Farm Bill and is used for landowners who want to develop and improve wildlife habitat on private land. Through WHIP the NRCS provides both technical and cost-share assistance to establish and improve fish and wildlife habitat. Funding and program guidelines are updated with the passage of each new version of the federal farm bill.

Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)

Web Site: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/wrp/> (Program information)
<http://www.nc.nrcs.usda.gov/> (NRCS in NC)

Point of Contact: County Field Offices (*see telephone directory blue pages "Federal Government"*) or the directory on the web site.

Purpose: WSP is authorized by the USDA Farm Bill and offers landowners the opportunity to protect, restore and enhance wetlands on their property. Through WSP the NRCS provides technical and financial support to help landowners with their wetland restoration efforts by offering landowners an opportunity to establish long-term conservation and wildlife practices and protection through easements. Funding and program guidelines are updated with the passage of each new version of the federal farm bill.

Resources on CD

- 2009 Green Book. Conservation Funding: Good for the Economy, Good for Public Health. North Carolina's Trust Funds – Grants Awarded by County 1987-2008. Land for Tomorrow. 2009

Supplemental Information on Funding

Clean Water Trust Fund –Qualifying For Stewardship Funds - guidelines are subject to change.

The CWMTF awards six different types of grants as follows:

1. Riparian Buffer Acquisition
2. Riparian Greenway Corridor and Trail Acquisition
3. Restoration and Stormwater Projects
4. Wastewater Infrastructure
5. Planning
6. Mini Grants – *open ended application period for stewardship funds*

Donation mini-grants are intended to provide up to \$25,000, to pay transaction costs associated with permanent conservation easement donation, or fee simple real property interest, for protecting surface water quality. If the donation is fee simple, a permanent conservation easement must be recorded on the real property. The conservation easement's value must exceed transaction costs.

2010 Guidelines:

- SWCD's, NC state agencies & local gov't units and nonprofits whose primary purpose is cons., preservation, and restoration of NC's environmental and natural resources can apply
- No application deadline
- \$25,000 maximum
- Reimbursement of grant recipient's actual costs
- Permanent conservation easement
- Match Requirement - The value of the conservation easement is considered match funds, as determined by an appraisal or by the tax value which must exceed transaction costs.

2010 Items eligible for reimbursement

- Surveys and Legal Descriptions
- Phase I Environmental Site Assessments
- Legal Fees and Closing Costs
- Recording Fees
- Project Administration Cost
- Baseline Documentation Report
- Stewardship Endowment Funds

2010 Items not eligible for reimbursement

- Appraisal

Steps To Qualifying For A Clean Water Management Trust Fund Grant

Step 1 - Talk to your district board members about options for stewardship funding at a board meeting.

- a) Does the board want to pursue a grant from the CWMTF
- b) Does the board want to partner with another organization on this effort
- c) What district supervisor will take the lead on this effort

Step 2 – If the district board is interested in securing a CWMTF Mini Grant they should state their intent in a board motion that is included in meeting minutes.

Step 3 - Go to the CWMTF web site <www.cwmtf.net > and follow these steps

- a) Download the mini grant instructions and appropriate forms
- b) Get the name and contact information for your CWMTF Field Representative and Nancy Guthrie, CWMTF Water Quality Advisor in Raleigh.

Step 4 - Contact Nancy Guthrie to discuss options for securing and using mini grant funds

Step 5 - Contact the field representative (FR) and ask that person to meet with you for purpose of discussing your project, follow their advice. The success of your project will depend greatly on convincing the FR that your project is worth being funded

Step 6 - Complete the paperwork and submit it accordingly