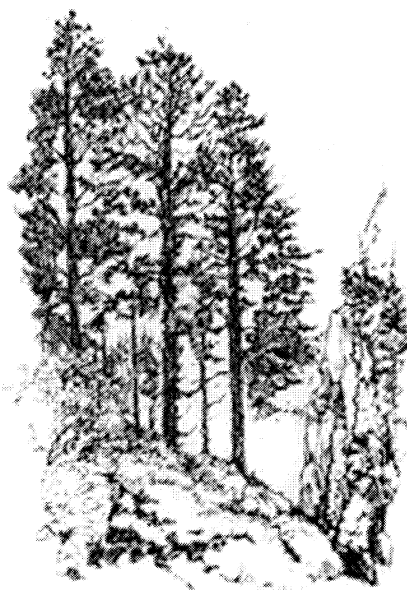


**NORTH CAROLINA**  
**NATURAL HERITAGE TRUST FUND**

**AWARD REPORT**

**Fiscal Year 2002/03**

**A Report to the Governor and General Assembly**



**William G. Ross, Jr., Secretary**  
**Department of Environment**  
**and Natural Resources**

**Dewey W. Wells, Chairman**  
**Board of Trustees**  
**NC Natural Heritage Trust Fund**

# **NORTH CAROLINA NATURAL HERITAGE TRUST FUND AWARD REPORT Fiscal Year 2002/03**

## **Origins and Mission**

The North Carolina Natural Heritage Trust Fund was established by the 1987 General Assembly (G.S. 113-77, effective July 1, 1987) as a supplemental funding source for state agencies to acquire lands and to pay for the inventory of natural areas by the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program. A twelve-member board of trustees administers the Trust Fund.

## **Funding Sources**

Since 1987, and as of June 30, 2003, the Natural Heritage Trust Fund has received \$110 million including an initial appropriation of \$275,000. The Trust Fund acquired a continuing source of funding in 1989 when a part of the receipts from the sale of personalized license plates was designated as income. The General Assembly in 1991 increased the state's deed stamp tax to \$2 per \$1000 value and set aside 15% of the state's share of this additional money as income for the Trust Fund. The 1995 General Assembly increased the Trust Fund's portion of the deed stamp tax from 15% to 25% effective July, 1996. Moneys not expended remain in the interest-accumulating Natural Heritage Trust Fund account and do not revert to the General Fund. In the fiscal year July 1, 2002- June 30, 2003, approximately \$12.5 million was received from all funding sources.

## **Board of Trustees**

The North Carolina Natural Heritage Trust Fund is delegated the authority to grant funds to eligible state agencies pursuant to applications which meet statutory criteria and board guidelines. The governing authority for the Trust Fund is a 12 member Board of Trustees. This number was increased from nine members during the 2001 legislative session. Four members are appointed by the Governor who also designates the chairman. Eight members are appointed by the General Assembly with four recommended by the President Pro-Tempore of the Senate and four recommended by the Speaker of the House. Appointments are made effective January 1 and are for staggered six year terms. Persons appointed are to be knowledgeable in the acquisition and management of natural areas. The 2003 trustees are as follows:

### **Governor Appointees**

Charles E. Clement  
Watauga County

Thomas D. "Bud" Hunter  
Henderson County

R. Michael Leonard  
Forsyth County

### **Senate Appointees**

J. Robert Gordon  
Scotland County

George Richards  
Wake County

Jim Sponenberg  
Caldwell County

Dewey W. Wells, Chairman  
Avery County

### **House Appointees**

Alan D. Briggs  
Wake County

William Joslin  
Wake County

Henry L. Kitchen  
Richmond County

Thomas W. Reese  
Catawba County

### Projects and Agencies

Grants are awarded for the purposes of acquiring lands that represent the state's ecological diversity to ensure their preservation and conservation for recreational, scientific, educational, cultural, and aesthetic purposes; for additions to the system of parks, state trails, aesthetic forests, wild and scenic rivers, fish and wildlife management areas; to develop a balanced State program of historic properties; and for other beneficial use and enjoyment of the public. Funds are also allocated to the Natural Heritage Program for natural area inventories and conservation and protection planning of natural areas. State agencies authorized to apply for grant awards are the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Wildlife Resources Commission, the Department of Cultural Resources, and the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Priority consideration is given to protection of land having outstanding natural or cultural heritage values. Land with outstanding natural heritage values is land that is identified by the N.C. Natural Heritage Program as having state or national significance. Land with outstanding cultural heritage values is land that is identified, inventoried or evaluated by the Department of Cultural Resources.

During Fiscal Year 2002/03, the Natural Heritage Trust Fund awarded 20 grants totaling \$9,653,789 which contributed to the protection of 16,686 acres.

#### **Fiscal Year 2002/03 NHTF Awarded Grant Totals by Agency**

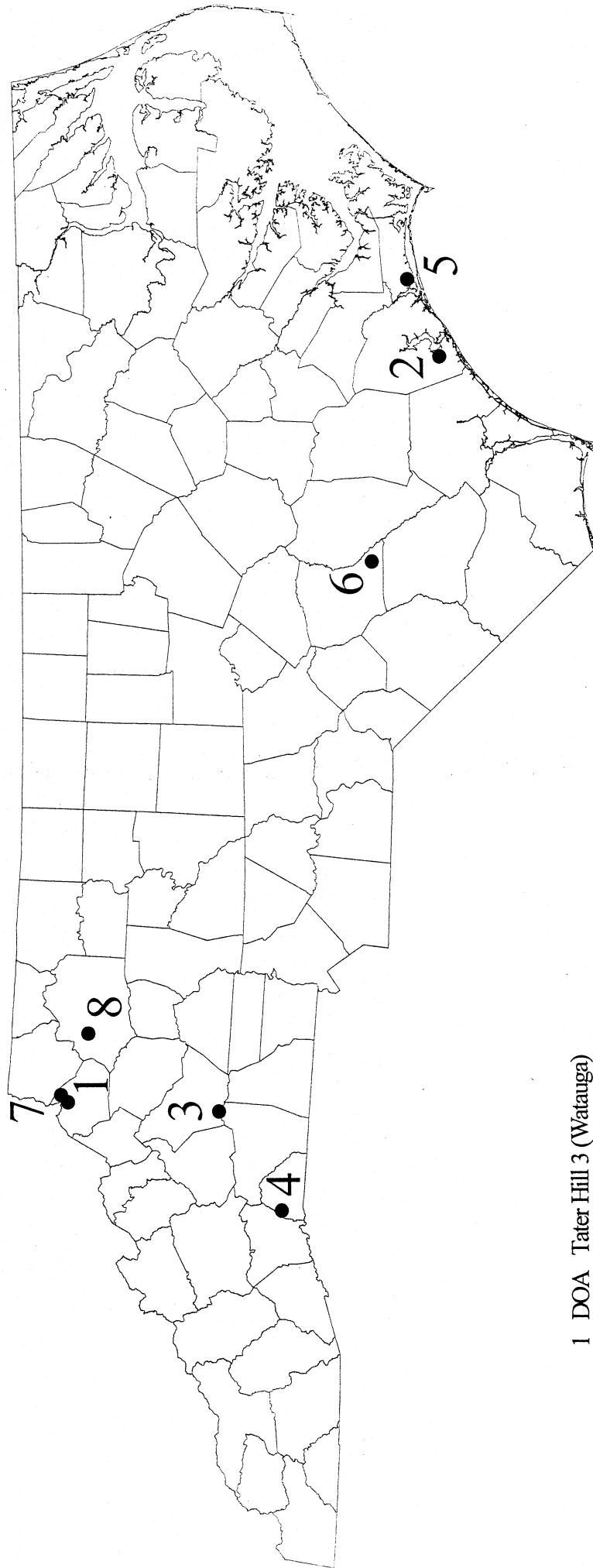
<b>Agency</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Grant Total</b>
Department of Cultural Resources	402.15	\$650,317
Department of Environment and Natural Resources - <i>Division of Forest Resources</i>	180	\$200,000
Department of Environment and Natural Resources - <i>Natural Heritage Program</i>	N/A	\$82,765
Department of Environment and Natural Resources - <i>Division of Parks and Recreation</i>	1,627	\$2,708,000
Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	1,937	\$1,715,000
Wildlife Resources Commission	12,540	\$4,297,707
<b>Total</b>	16,686.15	\$9,653,789

**Natural Heritage Trust Fund**  
**Fall 2002 Grant Awards**

DENR- Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
 DENR -NHP Natural Heritage Program  
 DENR- DFR- Division of Forest Resources  
 DENR -DPR- Division of Parks and Recreation  
 DOA- Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services  
 WRC - Wildlife Resources Commission

AGENCY	PROJECT NAME	COUNTY	ACRES	AWARD	DESCRIPTION
DENR-NHP	Natural Area Inventories	N/A	N/A	\$48,000	Identification and documentation of the significant aquatic natural areas of NC..
DENR-DFR	Whittington Acquisition	Wilkes	180	\$200,000	Addition to Rendezvous Educational State Forest.
DENR-DPR	Elk Knob State Natural Area Land Acquisition	Watauga	1,250	\$1,250,000	Significant for its size, rare plants and exemplary natural communities.
DENR-DPR	Bushy Lake State Natural Area-Big White Bay Project I	Cumberland	234	\$250,000	Addition to Bushy Lake State Natural Area. Protects 200 yr. old longleaf and populations of rare species.
DOA	Tater Hill 3	Watauga	158	\$715,000	Extends the Tater Hill preserve to upper slopes which contain undisturbed hardwood forests.
WRC	Beck Tract	Onslow	2,500	\$1,250,000	Contributes towards linking red-cockaded woodpecker populations, longleaf habitats, and providing a high quality game land adjacent to Camp Lejeune.
WRC	Norman Tract	Rutherford	71	\$140,000	Addition to South Mountains Game Land which is contiguous on three sides of this tract.
WRC	Posey Henderson Estate Tract	Polk	146	\$236,000	Addition to Green River Game Land.
WRC	RPM Partnership Tract	Carteret	916	\$50,000	Protection of longleaf pine, streamhead pocosins, and freshwater marsh habitats as part of Game Land program.
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>5,455</b>	<b>\$4,139,000</b>	

# NC Natural Heritage Trust Fund Grant Awards, Fall 2002 Project Locations



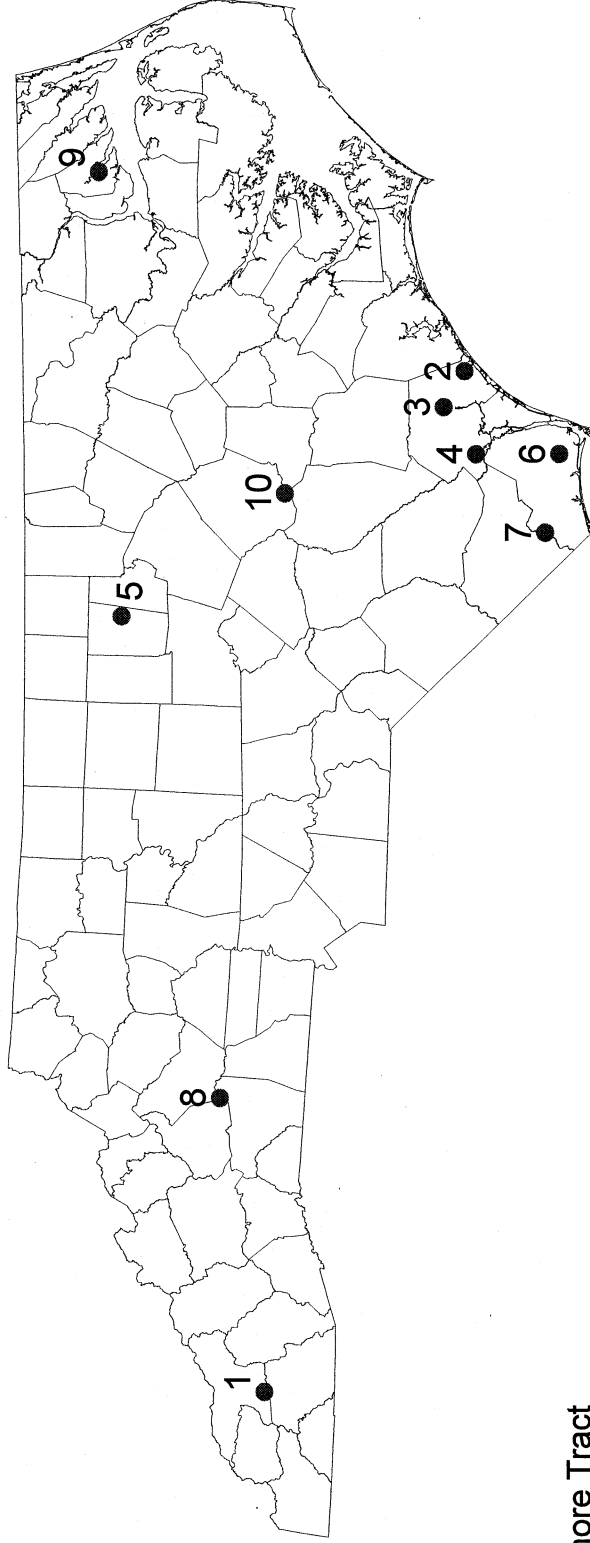
- 1 DOA Tater Hill 3 (Watauga)
- 2 WRC Beck Tract (Onslow)
- 3 WRC Norman Tract (Rutherford)
- 4 WRC Posey Henderson Estate Tract (Polk)
- 5 WRC RPM Partnership Tract (Carteret)
- 6 DPR Big White Bay 1 (Cumberland)
- 7 DPR Elk Knob (Watauga)
- 8 DFR Whittington Tracts (Wilkes)
- 9 DPR Inventory of Significant Aquatic Habitats (not mapped)

**Natural Heritage Trust Fund**  
**Spring 2003 Grant Awards**

DOA- Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services  
DCR- Department of Cultural Resources  
DPR- Division of Parks and Recreation  
NHP- Natural Heritage Program  
WRC- Wildlife Resources Commission

AGENCY	PROJECT NAME	COUNTY	ACRES	AWARD	DESCRIPTION
DOA	Boiling Spring Lakes Preserve Additions	Brunswick	1,779	\$1,000,000	Land part of the nationally significant Boiling Spring Lakes Wetland Complex Natural Area.
DCR	Newbold-White House Historical & Natural Heritage Site	Perquimans	89	\$236,000	Protect land surrounding Newbold-White House; oldest brick house in NC.
DCR	Bentonville Preservation Project	Johnston	313	\$414,317	Protect historically significant land associated with the 1865 Battle of Bentonville.
DENR-DPR	Eno River State Park -Eno Wilderness	Orange	143	\$1,208,000	Adjacent to Eno River State Park. Contribute to the protection of water quality and identified Significant Natural Heritage Area.
DENR-NHP	Inventory of Federally Listed and Candidate Aquatic Species	N/A	N/A	\$34,765	Inventory of high priority populations of federally listed and candidate aquatic species.
WRC	Needmore Tract	Macon and Swain	4,458	\$1,500,000	Protect critical wildlife and aquatic habitats along portions of the Little Tennessee River.
WRC	Atkinson Tract	Pender	232	\$242,000	Bordered by the Holly Shelter Game Land. Contains Pine Scrub Oak Sandhill Community and pocosin habitat.
WRC	Bollinger Gap Tract	Burke	78	\$180,000	Land adjacent to South Mountains Game Land. Protection will provide recreational opportunities and will benefit wildlife habitat.
WRC	Waccamaw River/Juniper Creek Tracts	Brunswick and Columbus	2,530	\$280,365	Land within the Waccamaw River Megasite and the Middle Waccamaw River Macrosite. Protect critical plant and animal habitat.
WRC	Pender 4 Tract	Pender	796	\$168,342	Addition to the Holly Shelter Game Land. Within the Nationally Significant Northeast Cape Fear River Floodplain State Natural Area.
WRC	Pridgen Tract	Pender	813	\$251,000	Land is within the Nationally Significant Black River Floodplain Macrosite. Contains upland pine and wetland natural communities.
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>11,231</b>	<b>\$5,514,789</b>	

# NC Natural Heritage Trust Fund Grant Awards, Spring 2003 Project Locations



- 1 Needmore Tract
- 2 Atkinson Tract
- 3 Pender 4 Tract
- 4 Pridgen Tract
- 5 Eno Wilderness- Eno River State Park
- 6 Boiling Springs Addition
- 7 Waccamaw River/Juniper Creek Tract
- 8 Bollinger Gap Tract
- 9 Newbold-White House
- 10 Bentonville Preservation Project

**Natural Heritage Trust Fund  
Income by Fiscal Year**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Personalized Licence Plates</b>	<b>Transfer Tax</b>	<b>Interest</b>	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>
Original appropriation				\$275,000
1987-88	\$0	\$0	\$15,546	\$15,546
1988-89	\$0	\$0	\$24,316	\$24,316
1989-90	\$1,073,165	\$0	\$53,766	\$1,126,931
1990-91	\$1,761,140	\$0	\$144,662	\$1,905,803
1991-92	\$1,627,304	\$1,326,848	\$232,156	\$3,186,308
1992-93	\$1,661,943	\$2,012,107	\$309,750	\$3,983,800
1993-94	\$1,713,091	\$2,089,776	\$326,920	\$4,129,787
1994-95	\$1,787,029	\$3,579,453	\$393,892	\$5,760,374
1995-96	\$1,856,167	\$3,134,801	\$335,131	\$5,326,099
1996-97	\$1,914,104	\$6,019,264	\$616,282	\$8,549,650
1997-98	\$1,745,519	\$5,302,094	\$968,107	\$8,015,720
1998-99	\$2,004,740	\$8,148,689	\$1,396,073	\$11,549,502
1999-2000	\$2,189,995	\$8,599,107	\$1,925,497	\$12,714,599
2000-01	\$2,304,127	\$8,471,697	\$1,348,659	\$12,124,484
2001-02	\$4,622,580	\$6,570,386	\$1,183,199	\$12,376,165
2002-03	\$2,550,269	\$9,494,785	\$508,397	\$12,553,451
Total Income	\$28,811,173	\$64,749,008	\$9,782,353	\$103,604,580
*Funds Returned				\$87,826.00
**Memorial Gift				<u>+\$50.00</u>
<b>Current Total Income</b>				<b>\$12,641,326</b>
<b>Amount Awarded To Date</b>				<b>\$102,723,448</b>
Acres Protected				189,485
Amount Requested by Applicants				\$220,575,671

\*Funds are returned to the NHTF when project could not be completed or was completed for less than the amount awarded.

\*\*Donation made to the NHTF in memory of Mr. Lawrence Diedrick, Trustee



Report prepared by:

Jennifer Dennis  
NC Natural Heritage Trust Fund  
MSC 1601  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1601

For additional copies:

(Phone) 919-715-8703  
(Fax) 919-715-3085

Fewer than fifty copies of this annual report were printed at \$0.04 per page.