

Restoring North Carolina's Coast

NC COASTAL FEDERATION RESTORATION & PROTECTION PROJECTS:

NC CLEAN WATER MANAGEMENT TRUST FUND

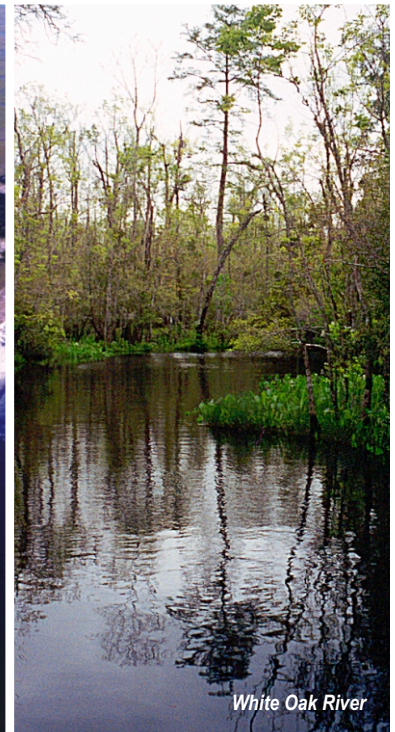
The North Carolina Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF) was established by the General Assembly in 1996. At the end of each fiscal year, 6.5% of the unreserved credit balance in North Carolina's General Fund (or a minimum of \$30 million) is directed into the Fund. Revenues from the CWMTF are then allocated in the form of grants to local governments, state agencies and conservation non-profits to help finance projects that specifically address water pollution problems. Since 1996 the board of trustees has approved 512 grants for a total of \$405.1 million. CWMTF grants have leveraged at least \$643.3 million or 61% in private and other public funds. The CWMTF funds projects (1) enhance or restore degraded waters, (2) protect unpolluted waters, and/or (3) contribute toward a network of riparian buffers and greenways for environmental, educational, and recreational benefits.



Queen's Creek



Bird Island



White Oak River

North Carolina Coastal Federation Clean Water Projects 1997 to 2003

- The North Carolina Coastal Federation (NCCF) was the first organization to buy land with a grant from the new CWMTF. In 1997 NCCF received \$2.5 million to acquire 31 acres of riparian buffers at **Hoop Pole Creek** to preserve and restore 250 acres of marsh, tidal creeks and shallow water habitats.
- The University of North Carolina Institute of Marine Sciences and Duke Marine Lab received \$1 million to restore wetlands to treat runoff from 2,000 acres of farmland at **Open Grounds Farm**. NCCF conducted the public outreach for the project in 1999 and 2000.
- NCCF purchased a conservation easement for \$732,000 on 276 acres in Onslow County to protect an additional mile of riparian shoreline on **Queens Creek** and to preserve 48 acres of primary nursery habitat.
- The NC Division of State Parks and NCCF purchased the 110-acre **Huggins Island** with nearly 2.5 miles of riparian shoreline preserved and 321 acres of salt marsh and shellfish habitat preserved. CWMTF awarded \$750,000 toward the \$1 million purchase price.
- A \$1.2 million grant enabled the NCCF to buy 1,990 acres of cropland, forested freshwater wetlands, and salt marsh along the North River in the year 2000. Later in 2002, NCCF received a \$3.1 million grant to purchase the remainder (2,168 acres) of **North River Farms**. NCCF also negotiated with three private conservation buyers to acquire 1,435 acres of the Farm for \$2 million. The buyers have signed a commitment to provide NCCF with a conservation easement on the land after it is restored to wetlands by enrolling the land in the Wetland Reserve Program through USDA. NCCF is working with the NC Wetland Restoration Program, NOAA, US Fish and Wildlife Service, EPA and other partners to convert the farmland back to wetlands. It is the largest restoration project in the history of North Carolina.
- In 2001 the NC CWMTF provided \$2.1 million to purchase a 776 acre parcel along the **White Oak River** between Swansboro and Stella. Options are being explored for the best protection of the relatively pristine river, while offering opportunities to leverage additional funding.



- The Neuse River Foundation and NCCF purchased the **Gum Thicket** conservation easement (301 acres) from Weyerhaeuser in Pamlico County with \$1.25 million in 2001.
- In cooperation with the **Town of Emerald Isle**, NCCF received \$2.4 million for a stormwater project that includes purchase of 40 acres of undeveloped barrier island land.
- The CWMTF awarded \$1.25 million toward the purchase of **Bird Island** – 148 acres of undeveloped, pristine beach and a popular bird nesting area along the southern coast.
- The Town of Morehead City and NCCF jointly submitted a \$500,000 request to the CWMTF. The grant purchased **Sugarloaf Island** in Carteret County, sparing the 47-acre island from development.
- In 2003 the CWMTF approved a \$972,000 grant to purchase 52.4 acres at **Morris Landing** near Holly Ridge. The property helps to protect the relatively unpolluted waters of Stump Sound, an extremely productive fisheries area for shellfish, shrimp and finfish.



North Carolina Coastal Federation

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About the North Carolina Coastal Federation

The North Carolina Coastal Federation is the state's largest non-profit working to protect and restore coastal North Carolina. There are many exciting opportunities to get involved in restoration projects and help preserve our coastal environment. If you would like to support our efforts, please consider becoming an NCCF member. You also can learn about volunteer opportunities and other programs by checking out NCCF's website at www.nccoast.org, call 252-393-8185, or come by NCCF headquarters at 3609 Hwy 24 in Ocean, located between Morehead City and Swansboro.