



LAND for TOMORROW

Conservation Needs Unmet by Existing Trust Funds

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Working Forests

- We have the ninth largest forest products industry in the United States, generating \$4 billion in gross state product and employing 74,400 people.
- More than one million acres of forestland was developed between 1990 and 2001.
- No dedicated, merit-based funding program exists for purchase of development rights on working forests since none of the existing trust funds address this type of land.
- The Land and Water Conservation Bond bill last session recommended giving the Farmland Preservation Trust Fund authority to protect this type of land.

Historic Preservation

- Historic buildings are critical to our quality of life and to the economic vitality of our communities and tourism industry.
- Preserving historic public buildings, such as town halls, has been shown to stimulate development in our historic downtowns.
- The Natural Heritage Trust Fund will fund purchase of historically significant land and buildings by the NC Department of Cultural Heritage.
- No dedicated, merit-based funding program exists for restoration of buildings in public use.
- The historic preservation community sees restoration funding as its biggest need.
- The Natural Heritage Trust Fund board has said they would be willing to help meet this need if funding were available.¹

Economic Development

- Forests, farms, streams, parks and historic places are an extremely important part of the state's economy.
 - Our \$14.2 billion **tourism industry** is so successful because visitors think of NC as a “state where you can enjoy unspoiled natural beauty in a restful and relaxing atmosphere.”
 - Undeveloped land around **military bases**, which contributes \$12 billion to the economy, helps ensure that the bases can operate effectively.
 - The beauty of our state and its quality of life help us **recruit and retain knowledge workers** and industry.
 - **Agriculture and forest products** together provide more than \$12 billion in cash receipts to our economy.
- Protecting one million acres of land by 2010 not only protects the environment. It also provides a tremendous economic asset for communities throughout North Carolina.
- Land for Tomorrow recommends that North Carolina create a grant/loan program called **“Landing Jobs”** to help communities expand their tourism, agriculture, forestry and downtown revitalization programs based on important land and historic resources.

¹ If they were to undertake this work, they recommend that the NC Department of Cultural Resources monitor these projects and that they not account for more than 25% of the funds allocated to their trust fund.