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Report: NC lost more than 300,000 acres to development since 2005

staff reports
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North Carolina has lost more than 300,000 acres of family farms, forests, stream banks, scenic vistas and wildlife areas to development since 2005, according to a report released today by Land for Tomorrow.

The statewide coalition presented the report today to the N.C. General Assembly's Environmental Review Commission. The group is asking the General Assembly to provide \$200 million annually for the next five years for land and water conservation.

According to the report:

- The cost of land has increased almost 300 percent in the last 10 years.
- Conservation needs outpace available funding from the state's four environmental trust funds.
- The miles of streams that do not meet water quality standards have risen from 3,000 to 3,300 since 2005.
- More than 76,000 acres of shellfish waters are closed because they do not meet public health standards.
- With only two years remaining of the N.C. General Assembly's 1999 Million Acre Initiative, the state is only halfway to meeting its goal of protecting a million acres by 2009.

To read the full report, visit

http://www.landfortomorrow.org/stuff/contentmgr/files/9eb60911cea37026b54a9fdb99c1f7a1/doc1/needs_document.pdf.

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