



For Immediate Release:

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Governor's Proposed Budget Shortchanges Land Conservation
Reductions in Conservation Funding a Problem for Today and the Future

RALEIGH, NC – In his budget, released today, Governor Pat McCrory proposed significant cuts to land and water conservation funding. Conservation advocates say the proposed budget would have consequences for the state's continued economic recovery.

The governor's proposed budget:

- Cuts the Clean Water Management Trust Fund to \$6.75 million from \$10.75 million per year, a 37 percent cut. And only includes funding in the first year of the biennium.
- Reduces the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund to \$15.5 million, down from \$27.5 million, a 44 percent cut. And, it reduces the Natural Heritage Trust Fund to \$4.23 million from \$9.9 million, a 58 percent cut.
- Removes the dedicated source of funding in the current biennium for PARTF and NHTF, which leaves the state with no reliable way to conserve treasured lands.
- Maintains the current funding level of \$1.7 million per year for the Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund.

"The creation and consistent funding of North Carolina's conservation trust funds have been the result of bipartisan leadership over the past 25 years," explained Katherine Skinner, executive director of The Nature Conservancy and a member of the Land for Tomorrow Steering Committee. "These land protection successes have played a major role in the state's economy – boosting agriculture, the military, tourism, forestry, hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation. As our economy continues to recover, we need to continue a strong investment in these economic drivers. Governor McCrory's proposed budget doesn't reflect the level of investment needed to carry us forward."

Conservation plays an important role in the state's major economic drivers – agriculture, the military, tourism, hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation. The state's conservation trust funds have helped to:

- Protect 16 miles of Fort Bragg's base boundary and 50,000 acres around Camp Lejeune;

- Create major new state parks, including Grandfather Mountain and Chimney Rock state parks;
- Create more than 250,000 acres of state game lands.

Skinner said conservationists look forward to working with the General Assembly to restore conservation funding in the final state budget.

[Land for Tomorrow](#) is a coalition of conservation, agriculture, wildlife, hunting and fishing groups along with businesses, local governments and concerned citizens. Its goal is to increase land and water conservation by boosting funding for the state's four conservation trust funds – Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF), Natural Heritage Trust Fund (NHTF), Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) and the Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund (ADFPTF). Funding for these trusts is controlled by the North Carolina General Assembly.

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