

NC NATURAL HERITAGE TRUST FUND

SPRING 2012 FUNDING CYCLE

GRANT APPLICATION PACKET

***Deadline: To Be Determine early
2012***

This format must be used for Spring 2012 applications.

Contact:

Lisa Riegel, Executive Director
NC Natural Heritage Trust Fund
MSC 1601, 14th Floor Archdale
Raleigh, NC 27699-1601
Phone: (919) 715-8014
Fax: (919) 715-3060
lisa.riegel@ncdenr.gov

NOTE: changes are highlighted in red, bold and/or underlined

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SPRING 2012 GRANT APPLICATION TO THE NATURAL HERITAGE TRUST FUND

As required by statute (G.S. 113-77.6 *et seq.*) and by procedural standards adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Natural Heritage Trust Fund (NHTF), the following information must be provided by grant applicants. **Submit 1 set of each grant application.** Application must **not exceed 7 pages of text**, not including maps. No cover sheet needed. Each agency must provide an electronic version of all applications via CD or returnable flash drive due **TO BE DETERMINED EARLY 2012**

- Word File of text (summary page, narrative, site visit info) **with maps embedded**
- PDF version of entire application (**text with maps embedded**)
- Shape file of tract

Application must be submitted in the following order:

1. Summary Page (see attached form)
2. Project Narrative (see attached form)
3. Project Site Visit Information (see attached form)
4. Attachments
 - Maps – see examples at the end of this guidance document. ArcMap Templates [v9.2] have been provided to agencies previously. Contact Eric.Galamb@ncdenr.gov for copies of template if needed.
 - (1) **Location Map:** Shows general location of project relative to entire state, region, or county, depending on the scale that makes sense for the project. Include inset map of entire state with project area as red dot. Someone unfamiliar with the area should be able to locate and visit the site based on this map (and/or in conjunction with Map 2). Show and label major roads, county lines, and water bodies. Show relationship to nearby conservation lands. (If necessary, you may use another map to show the subject tract and its relationship to nearby conservation lands.)
 - (2) **Tract Map:** Shows detailed tract map including ownership of adjacent tracts/parcels and potential funding entities (if applicable). Background should be USGS topo map, as close as possible to 1:24,000 scale. If more than one tract is proposed, please label with owner name/tract name to differentiate.
 - (3) **Conservation Planning Tool Map:** Shows conservation priority of tract according to Biodiversity and Wildlife Habitat layer. Use same scale as Tract Map.

Each agency must submit a cover letter from the Agency Head which clearly lists the applications in order of priority. The letter can provide additional information regarding the urgency of the funding (e.g., contract expiration dates, matching fund deadlines, etc.). Please include the mailing address for the key agency contact for which grant agreements should be mailed for forwarding to Agency Head.

Submit applications with Cover Letter showing prioritized list of applications to:

Lisa Riegel, Executive Director
NC Natural Heritage Trust Fund
Dept of Environment and Natural Resources
MSC 1601, 14th Floor Archdale
Raleigh, NC 27699-1601

**SPRING 2012
GRANT APPLICATION TO NC NATURAL HERITAGE TRUST FUND
SUMMARY**

APPLICANT: *(agency requesting the grant, abbreviation acceptable, answer in bold)*

PROJECT TITLE: *(answer in bold)*

PROJECT LOCATION: *(county, municipality, and/or brief geographic location)*

AMOUNT OF REQUEST: *(answer in bold)*

COST/ACRE (LAND ONLY): *(contract/estimated land cost per acre – closing costs and other expenses listed later in application)*

TOTAL PROJECT ACREAGE: TOTAL PROJECT COST:

OTHER FUNDERS (CONFIRMED/PROPOSED): *(abbreviated name, funding amount and status of funding – confirmed/proposed)*

SUMMARY OF PROJECT, SIGNIFICANCE, AND THE PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES:

ECOLOGICAL OR CULTURAL PRIORITY RANK FOR THE NATURAL AREA:
(National, State, Regional or Local as assigned by DENR/NHP or DCR)

SIGNATURE OF AGENCY HEAD:

TITLE:

DATE:

**SPRING 2012
GRANT APPLICATION TO NC NATURAL HERITAGE TRUST FUND
PROJECT NARRATIVE**

Applicants must provide the project narrative in the specific order of the topics listed below, repeat the question, and number accordingly. The text must not exceed 7 pages. Maps will probably be at least 3 additional pages which are not included in the page limit. In general, comments in italics do not need to be repeated/included in application.

A. PROJECT TITLE: *(answer in bold)*

B. PROJECT SITE LOCATION: *(detailed location description)*

C. Size (acreage) of the project site: *(detail NHTF portion of project, total project size, and approximate size of overall managed area if applicable)*

D. Significance Statement *As required by statute, as applicable address the items below. Narrative must reflect current conditions, not possible future conditions or conditions near the site (unless clearly identified as such).*

1. Value of land for recreation, forestry, fish and wildlife habitat, and wilderness purposes: *Discuss natural area significance (or cultural/historical) rank if applicable. Map(s) and text should clearly show if proposed land acquisition tract contains the SNHA or if the SNHA are nearby. Best illustration is by using GIS layer with SNHA printed on tract map. See examples of maps below.*
2. Consistency of the proposed acquisition with the State's comprehensive plans, goals and objectives for outdoor recreation, parks, natural areas, and wildlife management areas: *Discuss consistency with NC Strategic Conservation Planning significance (or cultural/historical) rank if applicable. Map(s) and text should clearly show if proposed land acquisition tract contains relative conservation value or conservation values are nearby. Best illustration is by using GIS layer with relative conservation values printed on tract map. Do not alter colorations from data layer.*
3. Presence of rare or endangered species on project site: *Be specific as to whether occurrence is on proposed tract.*
4. Presence of relatively undisturbed and outstanding examples of ecological community types: *Be specific as to whether occurrence is on proposed tract or nearby.*
5. Presence of a major river, tributary, watershed, wetland, significant littoral, estuarine or aquatic site, or important geologic feature:

6. Extent to which the land represents a type of landscape, natural feature, or natural area not currently represented in adequate quality in state parks or other state natural areas:
7. Describe the ecological condition of the tract : *In describing the condition, explain if tract is old growth forest, cutover, young forest, ditched, diseased vegetation, invasive plants/animals, etc. If tract is in poor condition and restoration is planned, state so and explain plans and timing.*
8. Describe how a one meter sea level rise might affect this tract. Explain the role, if any, this tract may play in climate change adaptation – *For Sea Level Rise a quantitative analysis is not expected at this point. For general/relative information, use a 1 meter sea level rise to explain whether tract might, or might not, be affected. This sea level rise is based on the Coastal Resource Commission’s Science Panel’s recent seal level rise Metrics Report found at www.nccoastalmanagement.net under “What’s New?” Look under “Sea Level Rise Science Forum” and then look under “Science Forum Presentations.” If applicable, discuss the history of erosion, frequency of flooding, the need for water control devices, location in a low-lying area, location along an estuarine shoreline, location on a barrier island (specify simple or complex barrier island), etc.*

For Climate Change Adaptation consider that protecting our healthy and diverse communities and robust species populations is of even more importance considering climate change. These healthy, diverse communities will be the best able to adapt to changes, and they are the reservoir for the species that will make up the new ecosystems of the future. DENR’s Climate Change Initiative workgroup on Healthy Ecosystems is preparing guidance that will help identify specific adaptation strategies. More work is needed, but in the interim here is a list to consider and highlight in the NHTF application if applicable:

- *Tract provides suitable habitat for inland/uphill migration of communities expected to migrate in response to climate change.*
- *Tract provides landscape connections that will facilitate animal movement.*
- *Tract is needed to restore communities or species that are expected to decline in other parts of their range in response to climate change.*
- *Tract is needed to allow fire management that will adapt the area for changing climate.*
- *Tract is needed to allow hydrological restoration that will adapt the area for changing climate.*

9. Presence of other important resources:

E. Current Ownership:

F. Current land use and threats: *Provide any evidence of known threats in the area (development pressure, stand conversion, encroaching urban areas, etc.)*

G. Environmental Assessment: *Has a Phase I Environmental Assessment or Other Environmental Screening been conducted on the site? If not, is one planned prior to acquisition? If one has not been conducted and/or is not planned, explain why one is not needed.*

H. Availability of land and estimated acquisition cost

1. NC State Property Office participation:
 - SPO contact (name)
 - SPO file #
 - *Identify other partner organizations involved*
 - *If SPO is not yet involved, please explain.*
2. Estimated value of land/How determined: *Appraised value of land if available; otherwise estimated value. Have SPO-approved appraisals been done? If so, how many.*
3. List Additional Costs: *Estimate acquisition fees/costs using a table or simple list to include (if applicable): closing costs, appraisal, survey, environmental assessment, partner or contractor overhead/fee, and interest payments. Specify interest rate as a footnote to table or in text. Other funding sources (confirmed or proposed) can be included in table to help answer item 1 below too. Costs such as taxes, title insurance, attorney fees, and recording fees should be incorporated into the closing cost estimate. See example table below.*
4. Has option agreement, contract, letter of intent or other evidence of owner's willingness to sell been established? *(specify which type of document/agreement). **Project must be under contract or option by the time of the award meeting. Applications can be updated one week prior to the meeting, with projects not ready being withdrawn unless sufficient explanation is provided as to why a contract, option or letter of intent is not obtained.***
5. Conservation Easements: *If requesting a conservation easement instead of fee simple acquisition, a copy of all proposed terms and conditions must be included as an attachment.*

6. If one or more of items 1 – 4 have not been accomplished, provide explanation for noncompliance.

I. Other sources of funds available to assist in acquisition: *Is application for part of a larger project that will be funded in part by other sources or will purchase be matched with other funding sources? Suggest using a table to present the data – a template table, developed to assist in presentation data, is provided below. Replace Tract 1, 2 etc., with Tract name. You may need to add or subtract rows based on the number of tracts. Remove unneeded rows. Option status will be “Signed option”, “In negotiations”, or “Letter of intent”.*

	Total Acres	Est. Land Cost	NHTF \$	PARTF \$	CWMTF \$	OTHER \$
Tract 1						
Option status						
Per acre (land) cost						
Interest cost						
Overhead fees						
Closing costs						
Survey/appraisal fees						
<i>Subtotal</i>						
Tract 2						
Option status						
Per acre (land) cost						
Interest cost						
Overhead fees						
Closing costs						
Survey/appraisal fees						
<i>Subtotal</i>						
Tract 3						
Option status						
Per acre (land) cost						
Interest cost						
Overhead fees						
Closing costs						
Survey/appraisal fees						
<i>Subtotal</i>						
TOTALS						

Narrative Explanation of Additional Costs and/or Matching Funds: *Estimate acquisition fees/costs for the table: closing costs, appraisal, survey, environmental assessment, partner or contractor overhead/fee, and interest. Other funding sources (confirmed or proposed) are to be included in table. It is acceptable to have a table titled "other needed funding." Costs such as taxes, title insurance, attorney fees, and recording fees should be incorporated into the closing cost estimate. Specify interest rate within the narrative explanation if interest is being requested.*

Detail confirmed or proposed source and amount of monies toward this acquisition. State whether the potential for bargain sale or partial donations has been explored, and results. Can this project be bought in phases? If so, explain.

J. Relationship of the proposed acquisition project to the total protection project: *Have other parts of the natural area already been acquired or protected by other means? Will acquisition of additional tracts be needed to complete the project and protect its resources? Are these other owners willing to sell? Do the boundaries of the proposed acquisition include adequate land to provide buffer from threats? Answer should be evident on attached map(s).*

K. Management and protection objectives for the project site: *Specify agency which will be responsible for managing the land. If management will be delegated to some other government unit, or to a private non-profit entity, explain. Is a Memo of Understanding (MOU) or other such management agreement document in place or planned? Note that all such non-state agency management agreements must be executed through Department of Administration-State Property Office and that annual progress updates will be required if project is funded by NHTF.*

L. Intended public uses for the land after acquisition:

M. Statement of eligibility for dedication of the land (or portion of it) as a North Carolina Nature Preserve: *** (This requires discussion with the Natural Heritage Program Director, Linda Pearsall, prior to submitting the application)*

N. List Any Attachments: *Maps, Tables*

Prepared By _____
Name/Agency or Affiliation

**SPRING 2012
GRANT APPLICATION TO NC NATURAL HERITAGE TRUST FUND
SITE VISIT INFORMATION**

Name of project site:

Name of Applicant's Representative for site visit:

Phone number of representative:

Cell Phone:

Email of representative:

Site Location:

County:

USGS quadrangle:

Directions from major road/town:

Name and Contact Information for Partner Representative if applicable:

Name:

Phone:

Cell Phone:

email:

What is the name and location of the closest airport? Contact Eunice Reynolds (919) 733-3308 to determine closest airport that the Dept. of Commerce plane can land.

Travel time from airport to the project site:

Time needed **at** the project site:

Minimum:

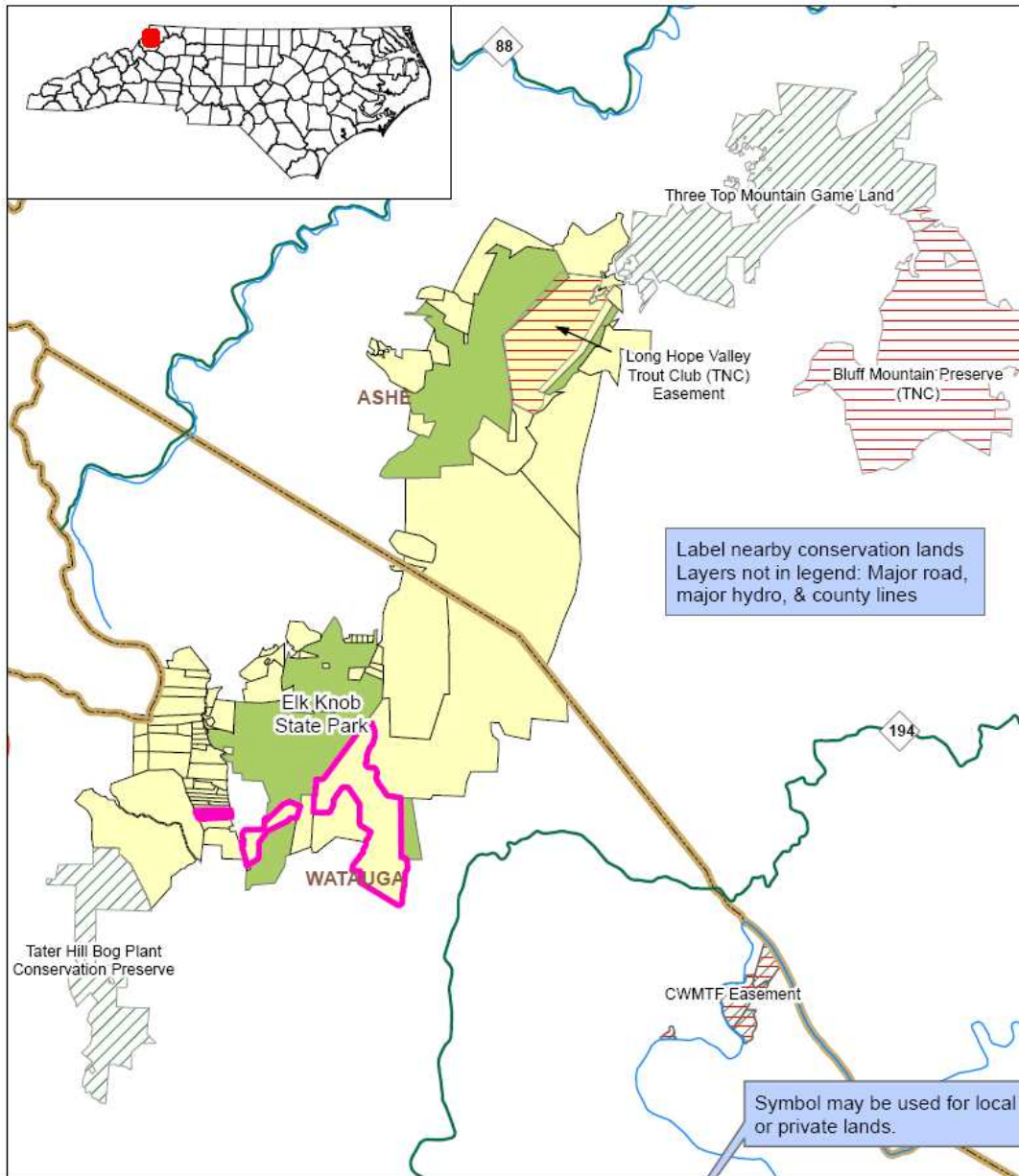
Maximum:

Will weather conditions affect the access to the project site or the length of time needed to visit the project site?

Describe the key points of the site visit. How much time will be spent hiking? Is the level of difficulty easy, moderate, or challenging? Are there restroom facilities or drinking water available?

What facilities are available for a simple meal? (Restaurant, picnic area, fast food?)

NOTE: SITE VISIT DATES FOR SPRING 2012 WILL BE SCHEDULE AS NEEDED



Label nearby conservation lands
Layers not in legend: Major road,
major hydro, & county lines

Symbol may be used for local
or private lands.

Elk Knob State Park

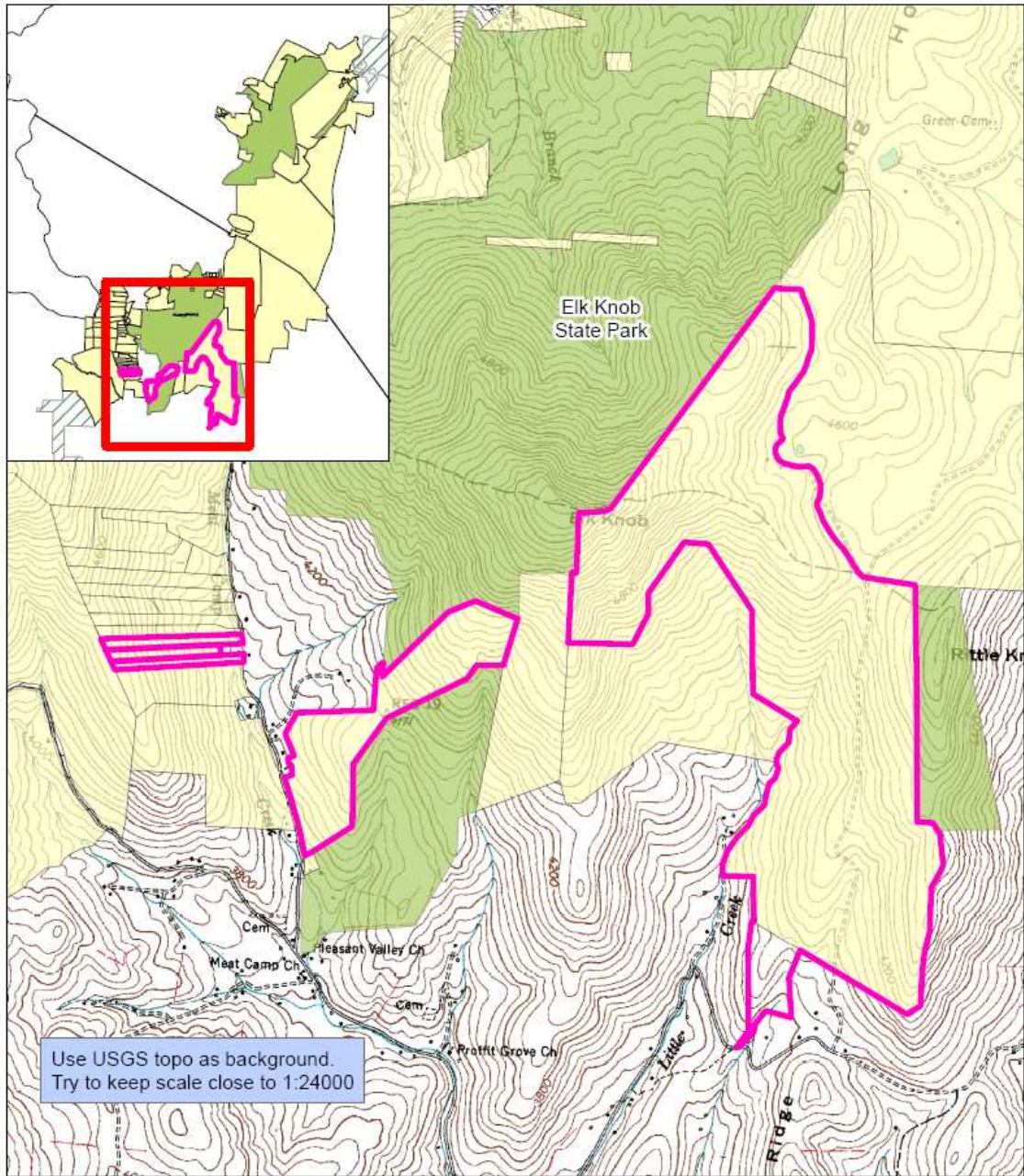
September 2007

LOCATION MAP

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| Proposed Tract | Other Conservation Land |
| State Parks Unit | Federal |
| Future Need | State |
| | Other |

The requesting agencies lands
and planned additions, if available.











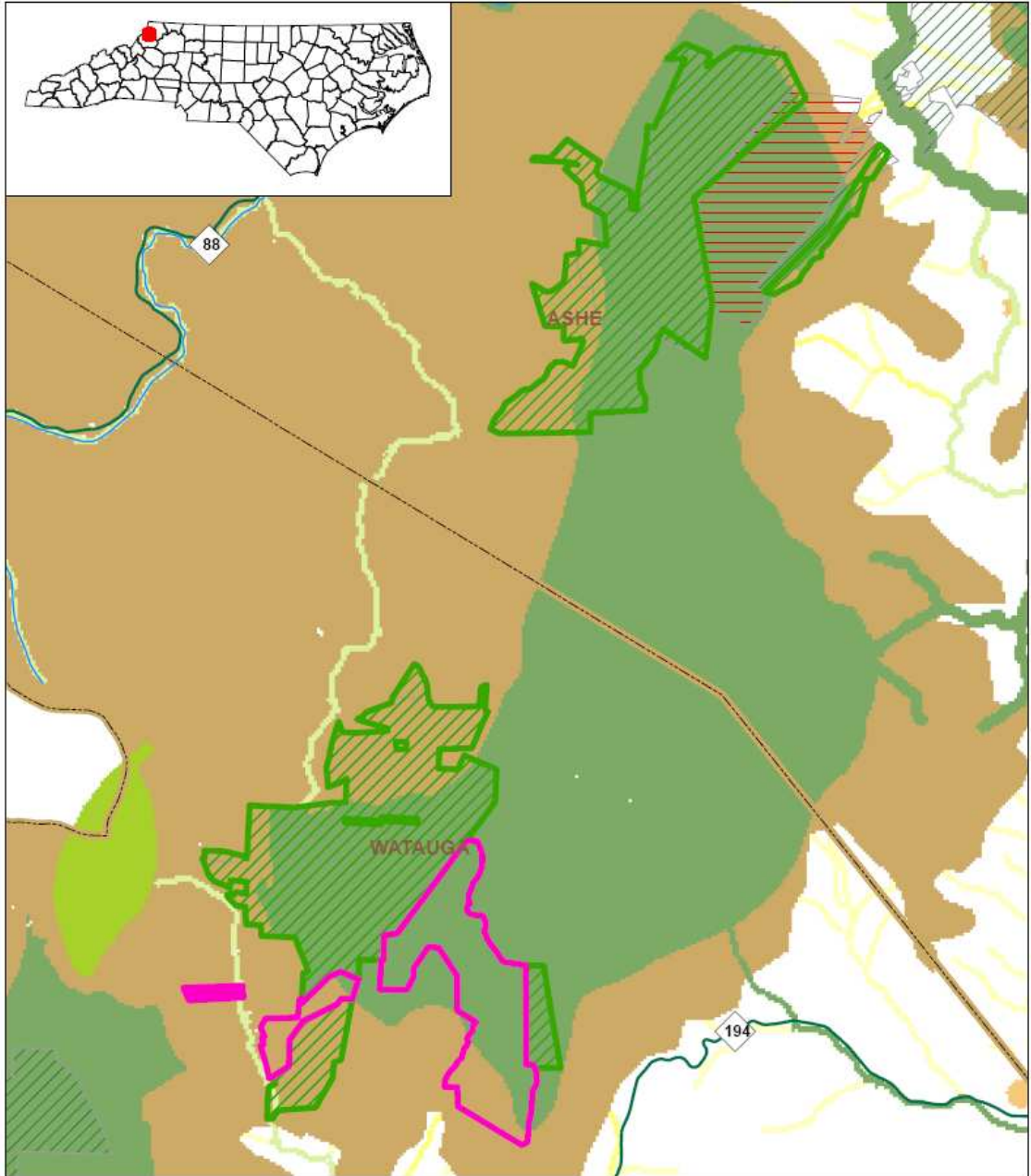
Elk Knob State Park

September 2007

TRACT MAP

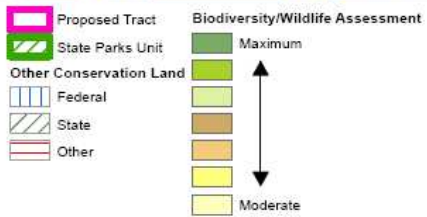
- | | | |
|--|--|---|
|  Proposed Tract |  State Parks Unit |  Federal |
|  Future Need |  State |  Other |
| Other Conservation Land | | |

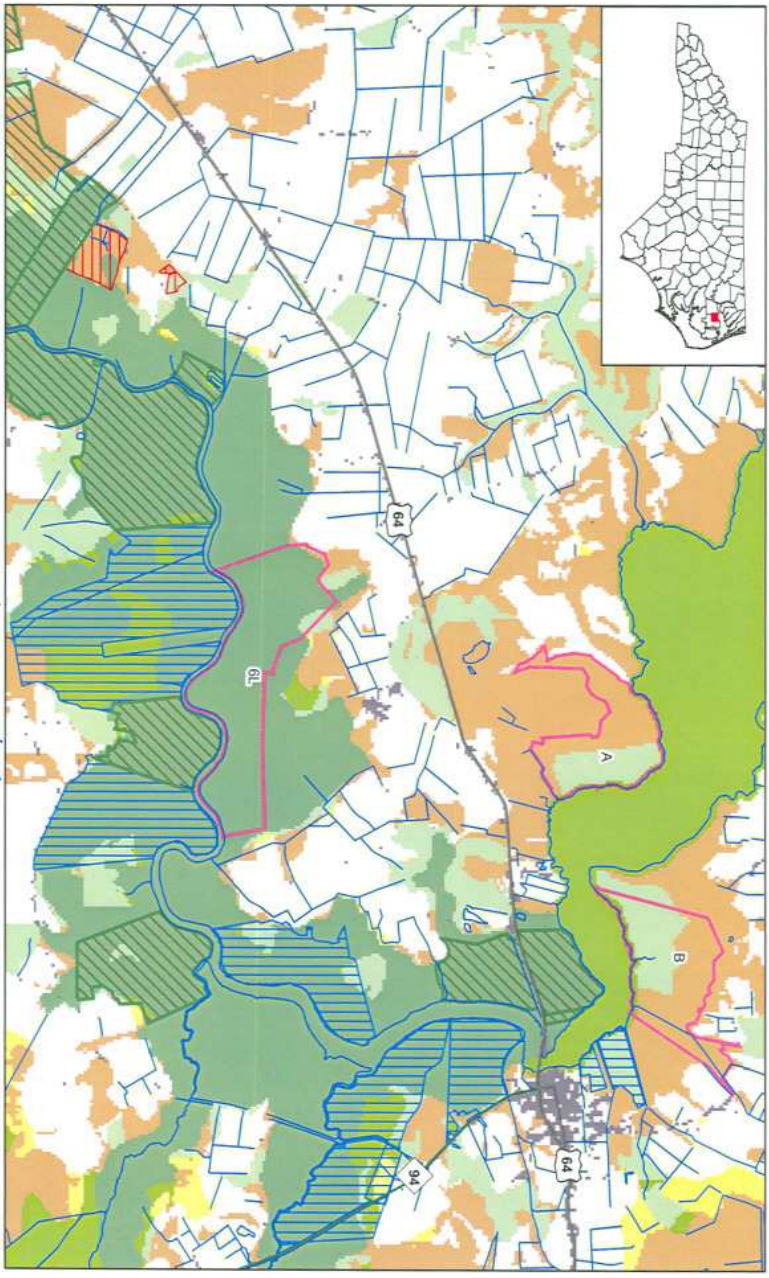




Elk Knob State Park

September 2007
 DRAFT STRATEGIC
 CONSERVATION PLAN MAP





Pettigrew State Park
 Conservation Planning Tool
 Biodiversity/Wildlife Habitat Assessment
 January 2008

3pt index 255 0 197
 2pt 56 168 0
 0 197 255
 56 168 0
 255 0 0

Relative Conservation Value

Maximum (10)	124	171	101
Maximum (9)	168	202	93
Maximum (8)	210	242	162
Maximum (7)	204	170	102
Maximum (6)	245	202	122
Maximum (5)	255	255	129
Maximum (4)	255	255	191
Maximum (3)	138	138	130

colors

