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JOURNAL

Serving the Needs of Land Professionals
February 2006

This newsletter is produced through a partnership between the Bureau of Land Management-Eastern States and the Eastern Lands and Resources Council.

Don't miss this conference! The Joint Spring 2006 Eastern Lands and Resources Council (ELRC) and the Western States Land Commissioners Association (WSLCA) Conference will convene March 26-29, 2006, in Washington, D.C. Registration and details inside...

Joint Spring Conference on ECONOMIC STRATEGIES FOR PUBLIC LAND MANAGERS

Sponsored by the
**Eastern Lands and Resources Council &
Western States Land Commissioners Association
in Washington, D.C.**

HOLD THESE DATES: March 26-29, 2006

The conference features **economic strategies** and issues, such as:

- * Innovations in conservation **finance** and using mitigation funds to purchase lands that **protect water supplies**;
- * Emerging issues in **appraisals, disposal** of surplus properties and **land exchanges**;
- * Successful applications of **e-Government**;
- * **Multi-state** land protection for the Chesapeake Bay, **forest certification**, and an update on **endangered species** bills; and
- * **Wind energy contracts**, offshore alternative energy **leases**, and **energy corridors**.

Confirmed speakers include: H. Dale Hall, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Scott Cameron, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Performance, Accountability & Human Resources, Interior; Jeff Holdren, Acting Group Manager, Lands & Realty, BLM; Kathryn Conant, National Forest Legacy Program Manager; Philip Sharp, President, Resources for the Future; James N. Levitt, Director, Program on Conservation Innovation, Harvard Forest; Mark Shaffer, Doris Duke Foundation; and natural resources officials from North Carolina, Texas, and Washington State.

The conference will be held at the Doubletree Hotel
in Washington, D.C. at
1515 Rhode Island Avenue, NW (202-232-7000)
(Reserve single or double rooms by March 3 for the \$153
ELRC-WSLCA conference rate)



Message from the ELRC President...

Dear Friends,

This issue highlights innovative programs which the Eastern States have launched to efficiently protect and manage their land and natural resources. In this time of constrained budgets, ELRC is a great forum to discuss new ideas to solve land and natural resource challenges with our counterparts in other States.

The fall 2005 conference was a great example of our States' innovative programs. Mike Fraysier, Ed O'Leary and their staff pulled together an amazing assemblage of presentations and tours that were extremely relevant to other States. The Lake Champlain conservation initiative showed how several organizations from two States and a Province made progress on a common goal. The forum on off-highway vehicles brought together the policies of several surrounding States on this daunting issue. Tours of biomass and wind energy plants helped frame the same issues for other States.

And there's nothing like standing on a mountain ridge overlooking 11 large windmills to help think about this emerging issue. An important achievement of the conference was our pre-conference planning retreat with discussions on how to focus the ELRC organization more onto basic land acquisition and real estate issues (more on this in upcoming issues).

The joint conference with the Western States Land Commissioners Association in late March in Washington, D.C., is going to be an extremely interesting gathering. This conference will provide an opportunity for attendees to discuss important policy issues with senior staff from Federal agencies, legislators, and national conservation organizations. With the input from the ELRC planning retreat, we are planning to have several "bread and butter" land acquisition presentations that focus on issues like the state-of-the-art appraisals and cutting edge conservation finance techniques. This conference also provides an opportunity to learn from the great work of our counterparts in the Western States. Additionally, during the conference, we will hold the ELRC business meeting, where new officers will be elected to guide the ELRC into the future.

It has been an honor to represent ELRC over the past two years and a great opportunity to work closely with ELRC member States. I would like to thank the Executive Committee members for their great work and the BLM-Eastern States for their continued support.

Please consider joining our Executive Committee in one of the many roles this committee offers. It helps our organization, but the knowledge you gain directly supports your work at home. Hope to see you in Washington, D.C.!

Bob O'Connor, ELRC President



For further information, see www.elrc.org or contact Elinor Schwartz, Joint Spring Conference Coordinator, 703-920-5389, es@elinorschwartz.com

The ELRC

...fostering responsible public land management policies for tomorrow

The ELRC is an organization comprised of highly trained public land professionals in the eastern United States which provides a collaborative and unique forum for enhancing land stewardship and conservation.

The ELRC fosters communication, strengthens professional development, and promotes sound policies and practices among those involved in the management and administration of public lands, records, and natural resources.

For more information, write:
Bob O'Connor, Director of Land and Forest Conservation, Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02114
Email: robert.oconnor@state.ma.us
or call Bob at (617) 626-1170

What's Happening in YOUR State?

Florida to Host Fall 2006 ELRC Conference

The State of Florida will be hosting the ELRC Fall 2006 Conference from October 22-26, 2006. The conference will be held in St. Augustine, Florida, at the historic Casa Monica Hotel—a majestic 1888 landmark hotel that was renovated in 1999. St. Augustine is the oldest city in Florida and is situated approximately 50 miles south of Jacksonville on the Atlantic Coast.



Photo by Florida Park Service

An aerial photo of Amelia Island State Park in Florida.

This year's fall conference will focus on land acquisition funding with partners and how the "Florida Forever" Land Acquisition program was developed and legislated. It will provide public land professionals an opportunity to discuss the "nuts and bolts" of funding acquisitions for conservation and how to stretch acquisition dollars. You will also be able to tour Old St. Augustine, visit the historic sites in the area, and walk on the white, sandy beaches.

Please bring your families and enjoy some Florida hospitality before or after the conference. Florida has an abundance of excellent State forests, wildlife management areas, greenways, and trails for residents and visitors to enjoy. Additionally, Florida State Parks is the only two-time winner of the National Recreation and Parks Association Gold Medal Award as the Nation's best park service.

Contact: Vicki Thompson, Program Administrator, Bureau of Public Land Administration Division of State Lands, Department of Environmental Protection, (850) 245-2688; E-mail: Vicki.Thompson@dep.state.fl.us

Ecosystem Enhancement Program Update

North Carolina's groundbreaking Ecosystem Enhancement Program (EEP) marked its second anniversary in 2005 with an unblemished record of achievement in its core mission: protecting, enhancing and restoring the State's wetlands and waterways while simultaneously promoting responsible economic growth.

The initiative, launched in July 2003 under an agreement among the State's Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Transportation and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, compensates in advance for unavoidable environmental damage caused by new transportation infrastructure and other economic development. EEP moved the State from a policy of project-by-project mitigation, where every road construction project was matched to a precise mitigation site, to an approach of considering multiple highway projects accumulated within a watershed, then designing high-quality projects to meet future mitigation demands.

In accomplishing its goals, since the program's inception, not a single road project in North Carolina has experienced delays because of a lack of mitigation—EEP is achieving national recognition. In March, EEP earned recognition as one of the top 50 new government initiatives in the Nation by the Innovations in American Government Awards, sponsored by the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government and the Council for Excellence in Government of Washington, D.C. More than 1,000 programs applied for the honor.

In April, the National Association of Environmental Professionals gave its annual environmental excellence award to EEP for its work on a local watershed plan. And in August, the National Council of State Governments

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recognized EEP in its 2005 Innovations Awards Program.

Housed in North Carolina's State environmental agency and funded largely by its transportation agency, EEP works with private-sector contractors on nearly 400 stream and wetland restoration and enhancement programs statewide. The initiative's collaborations with public and private partners have resulted in the permanent preservation of nearly 35,000 acres of high-quality natural areas for future generations, with 14 tracts being designated as State parks or gamelands.

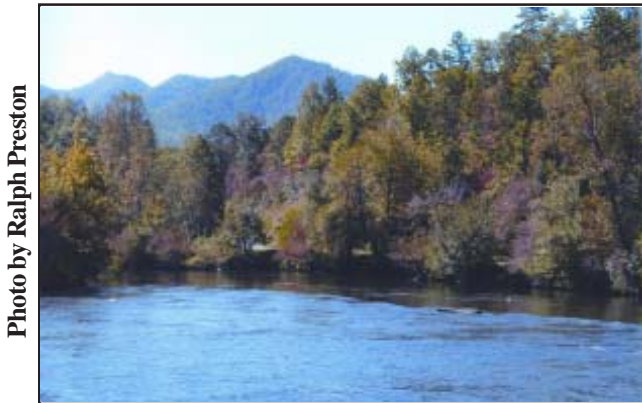


Photo by Ralph Preston

Among the high-quality preservation tracts acquired by the Ecosystem Enhancement Program is the 4,500-acre Needmore site in Western North Carolina, which includes 27 miles of the Little Tennessee River and 37 miles of tributaries.

The tracts include more than 120 miles of streams and about 7,500 acres of wetlands. The initiative also has launched about 30 local watershed-planning initiatives with local partners to improve water quality. For more information on EEP, visit www.nceep.net.

Contact: Tad Boggs, Director of Communications, North Carolina Ecosystem Enhancement Program, (919) 715-2227; E-mail: tad.boggs@ncmail.net

The Ann Arbor Greenbelt Initiative: A Model for the Nation

Like many communities across America, Ann Arbor was in danger of losing its unique character and identity. With the

large-scale conversion of agricultural lands to developmental use, the scenic rural heritage that has made this region one of America's most popular places to live and work was beginning to erode. In 2003, Ann Arbor residents passed a referendum to do something about it, launching one of the most innovative and locally-driven land use initiatives in the history of the State.

The Open Space and Parkland Preservation Millage, commonly known as the Ann Arbor Greenbelt Initiative, extended an expiring tax for the purchase of parkland inside the city. This aggressive program is aimed at protecting both working farmland and natural areas, as well as identifying and conserving those lands that are integral to the protection of Ann Arbor's source groundwater. The effort also helps to safeguard lands along the Huron River—a portion of which is designated a State scenic river. The program is expected to raise \$84 million over 30 years. Those dollars will be used to purchase land and development rights both within and outside of the city limits in an attempt to curb urban sprawl.

"The Ann Arbor Greenbelt Initiative is truly a model for the State and the Nation," said Conservation Fund Program Director Mike Kelly. "Thanks to the community's vision and commitment, Ann Arbor will permanently preserve its unique natural and cultural heritage."

In January of 2005, The Conservation Fund, a leading national environmental non-profit, was hired by the City of Ann Arbor to assist in the programmatic implementation and land acquisition for the Greenbelt Initiative. Leveraging its more than 2 decades of experience, The Conservation Fund is working with the Greenbelt Advisory Commission to focus on two primary goals: the protection of working farms in selected areas where there's still the possibility of creating 1,000-acre blocks of farmland, and the outright purchase of land along the Huron River to advance work on a countywide border-to-border trail. This year,

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The Conservation Fund helped the Greenbelt program achieve its first “on-the-ground” success with the purchase of development rights on a 152-acre farm in Webster Township. Thanks to this project, these working lands will continue to support the local economy through sustainable agriculture as well as permanently protect the property from development, an issue of increasing concern for the region and the country.

Contact: Ginny Leikam, The Conservation Fund, Ann Arbor Greenbelt Project, (734) 997-1316.

Managing the Mature Forests of Maine

The Maine Department of Conservation, Bureau of Parks and Lands recently responded to strong objections raised by various members of the public regarding timber management activities in the Bigelow Preserve. Of special interest was a component of the harvest plan that called for limited timber management within a mature forest environment characteristically known as “late successional” (LS). In reaction to these objections, the Bureau undertook an extensive review of its timber management policies and, after formal discussions and field trips were held with concerned parties, posted a formal response on the Department’s website at www.state.me.us/doc/parks/index.html.



Photo by John Titus

Bureau staff undergoing training in identifying late successional forests.

By definition LS forests are not “old growth” but are precursor to it, although only a portion of these forests ever actually achieve this status. The environmental community was quick to point out, however, that LS (and consequently old growth) forests were becoming increasingly rare in Maine, and that Bureau lands held a much higher proportion of it than did its industrial counterparts. The recent review of the Bureau’s management policies and practices, however, revealed what we already knew. The increasing percentage of LS was in large part due to a conservative, uneven aged approach to managing timber that had been in place since the mid-1970s, and the Bureau’s land base was continuing to mature statewide, with younger forests being allowed to grow older and late successional forests being the inevitable outcome of this style of management. Continued management in these areas was demonstrated to have enhanced rather than degrade these stands over time.

The debate, however, served to sharpen a dilemma that will not go away soon. As the State-owned forest lands continue on its path to relative health and maturity, so does the demand that more of the land base be left in its natural state—posing an increasing challenge to the Bureau’s “multiple-use mandate” and overall approach to management of its lands. Yet the Bureau continues to hold firm to its successes. Multiple-use management works if there is production and integration at all resource levels—to include its natural, cultural, wildlife, recreation, and renewable resources. This has been demonstrated by the enhanced rather than diminished opportunities and uses over time—no small challenge when managing a publicly-owned land base.

Contact: John Titus, Senior Planner, Division of Acquisitions, Planning, and Special Services, Maine Department of Conservation (207) 287-4916; E-mail: John.Titus@maine.gov

Highlights of the ELRC's Fall 2005 Conference in Vermont

The 2005 Fall ELRC Conference was held in Burlington, Vermont, during peak foliage season. Those attending expected typical New England weather and conference hosts responded by providing fleece vests at registration. Representatives from 13 States, including Vermont, traveled around the State from October 2-6, 2005, during a record heat wave.



Stowe Mountain Resort in Vermont.

State and Federal land managers visited a number of sites and heard from a variety of perspectives on how Vermont is using partnerships to achieve land conservation goals. The State is working to balance affordable housing

needs while maintaining its rural character by supporting sustainable economies derived from its farms and forests. In addition, Vermont is looking to diversifying its energy portfolio through efforts such as wind energy and biomass.

A panel of land and recreation managers spoke with conference participants about managing Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) use on public lands in the Northeast. Other specific topics included: the Vermont Housing & Conservation Trust Fund which provides for the development of perpetually affordable housing, conservation and historic preservation; discussion of the recent land swap between the State and Stowe Mountain Resort as a model for the use of land exchanges to further conservation goals and the local economy; landscape level and regional conservation



ELRC attendees spent an afternoon on Lake Champlain in Vermont.



ELRCer's enjoyed a beautiful fall day while visiting sites in Vermont.

initiatives; the Lake Champlain Basin Program—an international partnership between New York and Vermont and Canada, whose goal is to improve water quality in Lake Champlain; Forest Legacy; a Federal update of land management issues; and a look at the Green Mountain National Forest's recent draft management planning efforts and the key issues being addressed.

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Elinor Schwartz, ELRC/WSLCA Conference Coordinator, provides the Federal update.

Participants visited the McNeil Woodchip Generation Plant, one of the first biomass energy plants in the Eastern United States. A tour of the facility showed how Vermont is using a renewable resource to produce energy for the State while putting money back into Vermont's economy and providing jobs for Vermonters.



ELRC members listen to an explanation given by a representative from the Burlington Electric Department about the operation of the George C. McNeil Woodchip Generation Plant.

Later that day, dwarfed by 11 wind towers nearly 200 feet tall, Martha Staskus from Vermont Environmental Research Associates and Walt Condon, a volunteer tour guide, spoke about renewable energy generated from Green Mountain Power's Searsburg Wind Facility. Martha and Walt gave a fantastic tour and presentation of the facility explaining the public education process as well as the numerous natural and cultural resource studies that occurred before the facility was built and continue to be conducted now. Green Mountain Power is proposing a major expansion of this windfarm onto adjacent National Forest land.



Green Mountain Power Searsburg Wind Facility.

Conferees spent a beautiful afternoon touring island parks on Lake Champlain on board the State Park System's island runner ferry. Land managers discussed challenges associated with managing island parks as well as the unique partnerships which have stemmed from ownership and development of camping facilities on islands in Lake Champlain. The conference concluded at sunset with dinner on the deck at "ECHO at the Leahy Center for Lake Champlain" overlooking Lake Champlain and New York's Adirondack Mountains.



Photos by Peggy Riek

Conferees end the fall conference with a visit to "ECHO at the Leahy Center for Lake Champlain."

Contact: Mike Fraysier, State Lands Director, Vermont Natural Resources Agency, Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (and ELRC Secretary), (802) 241-3682; E-mail: mike.fraysier@state.vt.us

A New World to Explore:

Captain John Smith's Trail Teaches Stewardship in Virginia

"Virginia doth afford many excellent vegetables and living creatures... The mildness of the air, the fertility of the soil, and the situation of the rivers are so propitious to the nature and use of man as no place is more convenient for pleasure, profit, and man's sustenance." – Captain John Smith

Virginia's newest trail, unveiled by former Governor Mark Warner at the National Geographic Society in Washington, D.C., traces the adventures of Captain John Smith along the James River in Virginia.

Captain John Smith's Trail is a 40-stop boat and auto tour that includes nature parks, museums and, of course, Jamestown. Smith's story unfolds—his capture by the Algonquian Chief Powhatan and subsequent rise to president of the Virginia colony—against the backdrop of an unspoiled river teeming with wildlife. "The trail is an exciting opportunity to experience the James River and the wonders of the Chesapeake Bay just as Smith did," said Warner. "Now, visitors and students can retrace Smith's journeys in a kayak or canoe, as well as from a car or a classroom."

A "virtual" trail, at www.JohnSmithTrail.org, features an interactive map, extended interpretive text and related links. Teachers are encouraged to use the site in their classrooms or when planning field trips. A color poster of the trail featuring elements drawn from Smith's own 1612 map, is also available free of charge to Virginia educators.

Virginia's Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) developed the trail in preparation for the 400th anniversary of Jamestown next year. The Hollywood film, *The New World*, a National Geographic documentary and scores of popular history books have piqued public interest in the colony and its most famous founder.

This spring, the Virginia Tourism Corporation will set sail on the replica *Godspeed* vessel to ports along the Northeast seaboard,

inviting tourists to come see for themselves the birthplace of English-speaking America. However, Captain John Smith's Trail will continue to welcome visitors well beyond 2007. In fact, pending the results of a National Park Service feasibility study, the trail may become part of a larger network: the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Water Trail. At the November 29 meeting of the Chesapeake Executive Council, Virginia, Maryland, and Washington, D.C., announced contributions totaling more than \$50,000 towards completion of the Park Service study. Former Governor Warner presented framed posters of the James River Trail to Conservation Fund Chairman Pat Noonan and National Geographic Chairman Gilbert Grosvenor, and thanked both for their support.

"Virginia's John Smith Trail on the James River provides a model for development of a national water trail," explained DCR Director Joseph Maroon. "Through the lens of history, trail users see the beauty of this Chesapeake tributary. Learning how English settlers and Virginia's Indians relied on Nature's bounty helps us better understand our own relationship with the natural world. The trail will connect those who love history and culture with the plight of the Chesapeake Bay and our environment," Maroon added.



Captain John Smith's Trail logo will be featured on interpretive and directional signs along the route.

Contact: Nathan Lott, Public Relations Specialist, Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation, (804) 786-7961; For more information on Captain John Smith's Trail, E-mail: news@dcr.virginia.gov

Georgia Land Conservation Act Leverages Funds for Working Lands

Recognizing the need for State funding to purchase green space, the 2005 “Georgia Land Conservation Act” created a \$100 million fund to restrict development rights on priority lands. Fifty-five million dollars will be put into a loan fund and \$45 million will be used as grants for various land deals. Most of this money will come from existing State and Federal money with the remainder coming from private donations.

The 10 goals of the Georgia Land Conservation Act include:

- Protecting water quality for rivers, streams, and lakes;
- Flood protection;
- Wetlands protection;
- Reduction of erosion through protection of steep slopes, areas with erodible soils, and stream banks;
- Protection of riparian buffers and areas that serve as natural habitat and corridors for native plant and animal species;
- Protection of prime forest and agricultural lands;
- Protection of cultural sites, heritage corridors, and archaeological and historic resources;
- Scenic protection;
- Provision of recreation in the form of boating, hiking, camping, fishing, hunting, running, jogging, biking, walking and similar outdoor activities; and
- Connection of existing or planned areas contributing to these goals.

A new nine-member Georgia Land Conservation Council has been established to identify specific tracts to be purchased, with greater weight given to land that is ecologically important, such as stream headwaters or old-growth forests.

Through the newly created Georgia Land Conservation Act fund, private farm and forest landowners can voluntarily sell the development rights on their property while continuing to work their land and retain private



Photo by Elizabeth Crane

Buford Sanders of the Georgia Forestry Commission examines a prescribed burn done on the Callaway Forest Legacy Conservation Easement.

ownership. Local and State governments will also be eligible for loans to purchase lands, restrict the development rights, and then resell the land to replenish the fund. The restricted land could then be used for forestry or agricultural purposes but could not be developed.

State Forester Ken Stewart, a member of the Land Conservation Council, is developing a process to strategically align the State’s conservation needs with the ability to steward the land through public-private partnerships. Federal funds from the U.S. Forest Service Forest Legacy program are one example of this partnership. Through the Forest Legacy program, 2,507 acres of working forest land along the ridge, west of Callaway Gardens, have been placed under a perpetual easement. Controlled public access is allowed for recreation and environmental education and the forest lands are under sustainable management following Sustainable Forestry Initiative protocols. The project links public forest lands to protected private forests. Restoration of the Montane longleaf pine ecosystem is currently underway.

Contact: Elizabeth S. Crane, Forest Legacy Program, Southern Region (Region 8), 404-347-5214; E-mail: ecrane@fs.fed.us

Florida's Anti-Encroachment Initiative

A month after the 2001 terror attacks on New York City and Washington, D.C., a speaker at the Land Trust Alliance conference in Baltimore worried that land preservation was now a very low priority in the minds of most Americans. But he may have spoken too soon, as Florida and other States launched programs to make sure creeping growth doesn't strangle military training areas.

Over the years, base commanders have come under pressure from new neighbors who complain about the noise. People living near bases present a safety hazard if a shell or an airdropped package goes astray. The bright lights of suburbia can make it impossible for special-operations troops to train with electronic night-vision devices. Florida's bond-funded land program, "Florida Forever," provides a tool for making large land purchases that will cushion the bases and fit neatly into making wildlife corridors between existing preservation areas. The rotating list of Florida Forever projects now has two projects with that dual goal, which are:

1) The **Clear Creek-Whiting Field** project that calls for buying 5,026 acres around Whiting Field Naval Air Station, near Pensacola. Most of this land has been used for tree farming, but planners say there's a high development potential for the property. Buying the 90 parcels in this area will take about \$1.6 million. Marty Martin is the Aviation Community Planner for Whiting Field and also the Encroachment Chair for the Florida Defense Alliance. "Encroachment is more than people living next door," said Martin. "Floodlights, bird habitats near flight areas and electronic interference from various devices can all cause problems, he said. Even electronics from tollbooth scanners have caused problems. The biggest thing is to make sure there is no upzoning," said Martin, referring to single-family properties that become townhouse developments, and

2) The **Camp Blanding-Osceola Greenway** project, which is designed to make sure the north Florida forests near Camp Blanding remain open. This has 153,000 acres

stretching about 25 miles from West to East. It also makes a wildlife corridor by touching the boundaries of several other natural areas. The assessment for tax value of all the parcels in the project is \$28 million, but the Florida Department of Environmental Protection plans to use conservation easements as much as possible for this project.

The States of North Carolina and Arizona are facing this same issue. North Carolina Governor Mike Easley is looking for ways to keep growth from smothering Fort Bragg and Camp Lejeune. Arizona Senator John McCain and State officials in Arizona are trying to keep the suburbs of Phoenix from creeping up to the fences of Luke Air Force Base.

Contact: Tom Butler, Government Operations Consultant, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, (850) 245-2771; E-mail: Tom.Butler@dep.state.fl.us

Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition and State Land Staff Hold Fourth Annual Planning Retreat

On a recent weekend, 45 staff and volunteers of the Massachusetts land trust community and staff from the State's land conservation programs met for two days to talk about joint goals and coordination of projects. This is the fourth such meeting these groups have had over the past several years. The first retreat occurred when land trust and State staff realized that communication and coordination on land conservation projects needed improvement. This meeting was facilitated by a staffer of the Vermont Land Trust and resulted in several agreements on improving communication.

As a result of this meeting, the State agencies developed a "Guide to State Land Acquisition"—a detailed document outlining the goals for land conservation and specific

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steps involved closing a land deal for all six major State land agencies and programs. This document helped guide land trusts to the most appropriate program for assistance and gave them a realistic assessment of the steps involved. State agency staff also committed to reviewing requests for assistance and giving a “yes” or “no” answer quickly. Land trust representatives agreed to work through the agency staff rather than using the State legislature as a vehicle to moving projects forward. This first retreat has set a solid foundation for our work together.

This fall’s retreat included presentations on several successful partnerships between State and land trust staff as well as inspirational talks by the lead ecologist of the Massachusetts Audubon Society and the assistant director of the Vermont Land Trust. Discussions included expanding work in urban areas (summarizing the recent Urban Land Conservation Conference the group recently held), incorporating the work of local foresters in land conservation and supporting local community goals for affordable housing and working farms and forests via acquisitions. Participants agreed to work with a 5-town rural economic and natural resource initiative of the University of Massachusetts to find ways to incorporate land conservation into local goals. An important part of the annual retreat is networking and social time. Each year the land trust and State staff share dinner and breakfast cooking duties. The retreats are held at Harvard University’s research forest near the beautiful Quabbin Reservoir.

Contact: Bob O’Connor, Director of Land and Forest Conservation, Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, (617) 626-1170; Email: robert.oconnor@state.ma.us

One North Carolina Naturally—
Innovative, coordinated conservation for North Carolina’s present and future

As the population of North Carolina rapidly increases, so does the need to identify and conserve our most important natural resources. The One North Carolina Naturally

initiative promotes and coordinates long-term conservation of the State’s threatened land and water resources.

Three program areas bring together a variety of land and water protection programs and strategies, which include: 1) Forever Natural: Conserving Natural Areas for Future Generations - North Carolina has one of the most diverse natural environments in the nation, stretching from the mountains to the sea. Permanent protection of critical areas contributes to the integrity of ecosystems that support water and air quality, plant and wildlife populations, and natural resources; 2) Working Lands: Stewardship of Working Farms and Forests - Working landscapes provide opportunities for land and water conservation through sound management. Conservation of these working landscapes requires multiple, integrated programs that will aid private landowners and public land managers to maintain natural resources and continue the sustainable use of their lands; and 3) Working on the Water: Protecting and Restoring Coastal Habitats - North Carolina’s coastal region includes areas critical for their unique biological and landscape values.

The adoption of the Coastal Habitat Protection Plan by the Marine Fisheries, Coastal Resources and Environmental Management commissions was an important accomplishment. The Coastal Habitat Protection Plan goals include: 1) Improving the effectiveness of existing rules and programs protecting coastal fish habitats; 2) Identifying, designating and protecting Strategic Habitat Areas; 3) Enhancing and protecting habitats from physical impacts; and 4) Enhancing and protecting water quality.

The NC Department of Environment & Natural Resources’ Office of Conservation & Community Affairs leads the development and implementation of the One NC Naturally comprehensive statewide conservation plan, involving government agencies, private organizations, landowners and the public. Ongoing efforts support community-based decision making about

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ECONOMIC STRATEGIES FOR PUBLIC LAND MANAGERS
Eastern Lands and Resources Council -
Western States Land Commissioners Association
Joint Spring Conference



March 26-29, 2006
Doubletree Hotel, 1515 Rhode Island Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C.

February 2006

TO COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC LANDS AND LAND MANAGEMENT ADMINISTRATORS:

The Eastern Lands and Resources Council (ELRC) and the Western States Land Commissioners Association (WSLCA) will hold their 2006 Joint Spring Conference at the Doubletree Hotel, east of Dupont Circle in Washington, D.C., from March 26 through March 29. This year we are focusing on "Economic Strategies for Public Land Managers."

In addition to an impressive agenda, the conference provides an outstanding opportunity to develop effective working relationships with officials in the Administration and Congress and to hear about how State colleagues are managing their current issues.

We urge all ELRC and WSLCA members to participate and to encourage officials in their Federal and State counterpart agencies to attend. The agenda is designed to benefit both policymakers and program managers. Representatives from non-member States, Federal agencies, non-profit organizations, and guests are also welcome.

*Registration materials are enclosed. Please return your registration form, activity sheet, and payment by March 10. Please contact the Doubletree Hotel Washington DC directly for your accommodations at (202) 232-7000, Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST. The rate for conferees is \$153 for a single or a double room per night for reservations guaranteed with a credit card by **March 3**. Rates for the ELRC/WSLCA block of rooms apply on a first-come, first-served basis for the period of March 25 through 29.*

We hope that you will join us to discuss how to make our partnership with the Federal land and environmental management agencies more productive, from land exchanges to energy policy to managing endangered species habitat.

If you have any questions, please contact Elinor Schwartz at (703) 920-5389, or es@elinorschwartz.com.

Sincerely,

Kevin Carter
 President, WSLCA

Robert O'Connor
 President, ELRC



ECONOMIC STRATEGIES FOR PUBLIC LAND MANAGERS
Eastern Lands and Resources Council -
Western States Land Commissioners Association
Joint Spring Conference



March 26-29, 2006

Doubletree Hotel, 1515 Rhode Island Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C.

Sunday, March 26

4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Registration
 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. Joint Membership Meeting for ELRC & WSLCA
 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Reception

Monday, March 27

7:00 – 8:30 a.m. Breakfast
 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Registration
 7:30 – 8:20 a.m. Breakfast Discussion: Implications of Hurricane Katrina for Land Management
 8:30 – 11:45 a.m. Welcome: ELRC & WSLCA Presidents; **Mike Nedd**, State Director, BLM-Eastern States
 Roll Call
Scott Cameron, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Interior; Open Forum on e-Government
 Luncheon Discussion: **H. Dale Hall**, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 “From Walden to Wall Street: Frontiers of Conservation Finance”
 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. Protecting the Water Supply: Using Highway Mitigation Funds in North Carolina and Other
 1:45 – 3:15 p.m. Approaches to Conserve Lands
 3:45 – 5:00 p.m. Reception
 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Reception

Tuesday, March 28

7:00 – 8:30 a.m. Breakfast
 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Registration
 7:30 – 8:20 a.m. Breakfast Discussion: Multi-state Strategies to Protect Chesapeake Bay through Riparian Buffers
 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. Senator (to be announced)
 9:45 – 10:45 a.m. Tackling Problems in Conservation Easements
 11:00 – 11:45 a.m. Point – Counterpoint: Update on NEPA and Wetlands Cases
 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. Lunch Discussion: **Philip Sharp**, President, Resources for the Future
 1:45 – 3:00 p.m. Emerging Issues in Appraisals and Land Transactions
 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. ELRC & WSLCA Membership Meetings

Wednesday, March 29

7:00 – 8:30 a.m. Breakfast
 7:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Registration
 7:30 – 8:20 a.m. Breakfast Discussion: Anatomy of a Texas Wind Power Deal
 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. **Concurrent Sessions**
Environmental Management
 Forest Certification Revisited: Market Responses and Navigating the Approval Process
 Legislative Update on the Reauthorizing the Endangered Species Act
 Meeting Challenges in the Forest Legacy Program

Energy
 Legislative Update on Energy and Mining Initiatives
 Designating Energy Corridors
 Leasing Offshore Wind Energy Projects
 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. Working Lunch: Planning for the 2007 Joint Spring Conference
 1:45 – 4:00 p.m. Tour

A detailed agenda will be posted at www.elrc.org.



ECONOMIC STRATEGIES FOR PUBLIC LAND MANAGERS
Eastern Lands and Resources Council -
Western States Land Commissioners Association
Joint Spring Conference



March 26-29, 2006

Doubletree Hotel, 1515 Rhode Island Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C.

Please register **now** with a separate form for each person.

NAME _____
 TITLE _____
 ORGANIZATION _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
 PHONE _____ FAX _____ E-MAIL _____
 GUEST _____

REGISTRATION FEE

\$50 for each non-member fee can be applied to the 2006 ELRC or WSLCA membership dues for States joining before or at the conference. **The conference fee covers the meeting, three breakfasts, two lunches, two receptions, and the tour.**

- _____ \$365 per person for member States* whose registration is received by **February 20**
- _____ \$365 per person for member States* with registrations received by **March 10** for 4 or more participants
- _____ \$415 per person for other member States*
- _____ \$450 per person for non-member States
- _____ \$125 per person for a single day
- _____ \$2,495 for 8 full-time participants or their equivalent with up to 15 part-time participants
- _____ \$20 per guest at each breakfast
- _____ \$38 per guest at each lunch
- _____ \$38 per guest at Reception - Monday, **March 27**
- _____ TOTAL

* Member States include Federal Agency Liaisons to the ELRC & WSLCA and their colleagues

PAYMENT FOR REGISTRATION

Payment: _____ check enclosed _____ purchase order _____ credit card [Visa/MasterCard]
 _____ Payment will be mailed

Payments will not be returned for cancellations after March 20. If possible, please mail checks with registration payable to: ELRC/WSLCA CONFERENCE. **Please mail or fax registration and activity list so they are received by March 10, 2006, to:**

Mr. William Brice, ELRC Treasurer
 Division of Lands and Minerals
 Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
 500 Lafayette Road
 St. Paul, MN 55155-4045
 651-296-5939 (fax)

Contact Jeanne Mittelstadt at 651-259-5408, 651-296-5939 (fax), or jeanne.mittelstadt@dnr.state.mn.us for payment by **credit card** with information on name, card type, number, billing address, expiration date, and 3-digit code on the back of the card.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Please make hotel reservations directly with the Doubletree Hotel, in Washington, D.C., Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST, at 202-232-7000, **before March 3**, for conference rate of \$153 for singles or doubles, and guarantee them with a credit card.



ECONOMIC STRATEGIES FOR PUBLIC LAND MANAGERS
Eastern Lands and Resources Council -
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Washington, D.C.

Please indicate which activities you or your guest will attend and send one form for *each participant* with your registration.

Please note if you need a **vegetarian** lunch or other accommodations _____

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Guest: _____

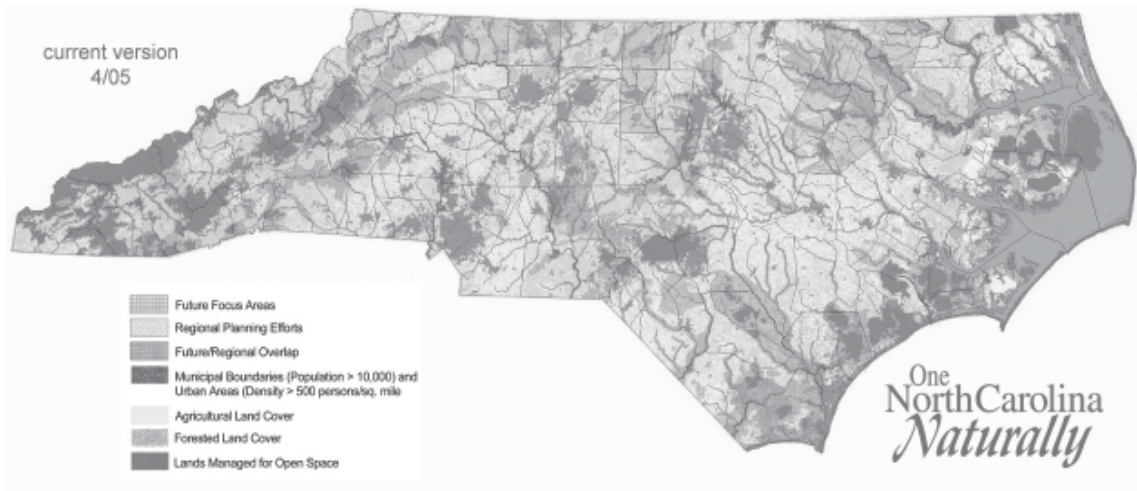
		Conferee	Guest
Sunday, March 26	Reception	_____	_____
Monday, March 27	Breakfast	_____	_____
	Lunch	_____	_____
	Reception	_____	_____
Tuesday, March 28	Breakfast	_____	_____
	Lunch	_____	_____
Wednesday, March 29	Breakfast	_____	_____
	Working Lunch to Plan the Joint Conference for 2007	_____	_____
	Tour: 1:45 - 4:00 p.m.	_____	_____
	Ride to National Airport after tour.	_____	_____

By March 10, please mail or fax this form with registration to:

Mr. William Brice, ELRC Treasurer
Division of Lands and Minerals
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4045
FAX: 651-296-5939

One North Carolina Naturally...continued from page 11

conservation and development; planners and citizens can easily locate a specific conservation area using the NC Conservation Lands Map Viewer at <http://www.onencnaturally.org/pages/mapviewer.html>.



This consolidated State map features:

- 1) Areas where population pressure impacts open space and natural resources;
- 2) Lands, both public and private, managed for open space;
- 3) Future focus areas/highest priority conservation sites for aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity; and
- 4) Regional plans developed by regional planning efforts across the State.

Protecting our State's open space areas in this coordinated manner facilitates the more effective use of limited funding sources.

Contact: Richard Rogers, North Carolina Department of Environment & Natural Resources, Office of Conservation & Community Affairs Director; E-mail: Richard.Rogers@ncmail.net or One North Carolina Naturally at <http://www.onencnaturally.org/>

Bob O'Connor, President
Eastern Lands and Resources Council (ELRC)
Massachusetts Executive Office of
Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02114

www.elrc.org