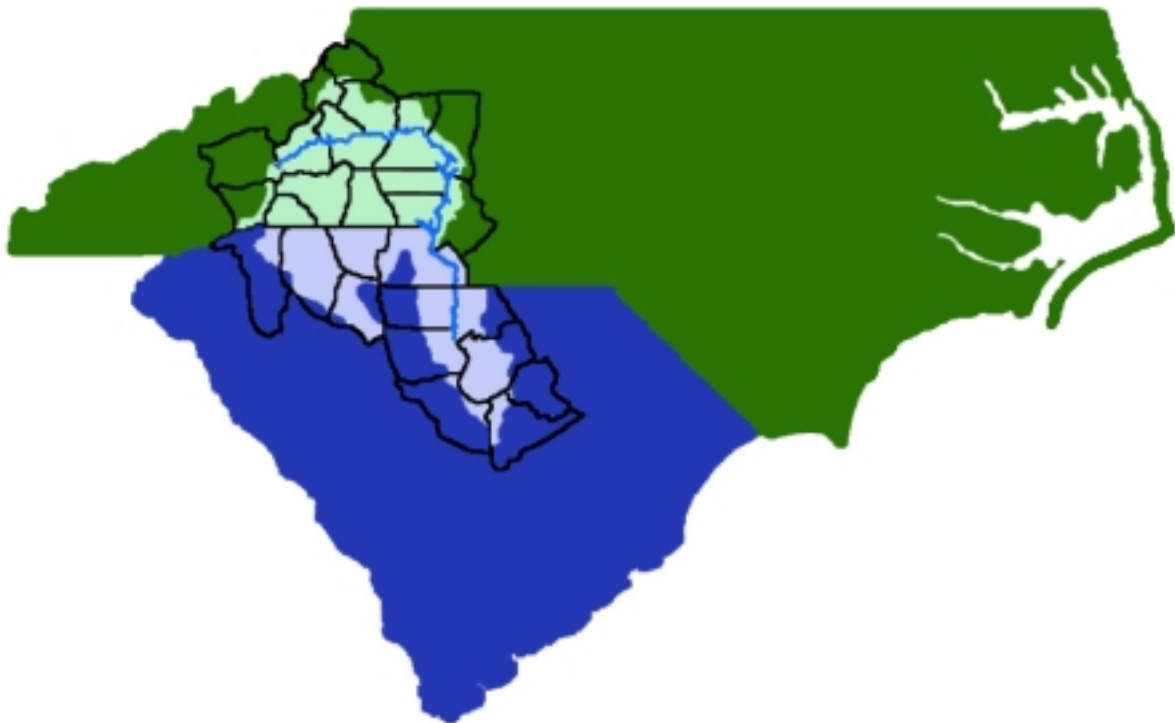


CATAWBA RIVER BASIN CONSERVATION EASEMENT FUND

**Sponsored by Crescent Resources
a subsidiary of Duke Power**

**Administered by:
The Strom Thurmond Institute,
Clemson University
&
The UNC Charlotte Urban Institute,
University of North Carolina at Charlotte**



Purpose :

To enhance water quality by encouraging and aiding landowners in protecting land along the Catawba River and its tributaries.

Method :

Crescent Resources is providing a fund of \$500,000 to reimburse landowners the direct costs associated with creating a conservation easement on land encompassing or adjacent to the Catawba River or its tributaries. These costs may include professional fees for survey, appraisal and legal services. This fund is to last through September 20, 2006.

Conservation Easement :

A conservation easement is a legal tool designed to protect the natural environment. It is a negotiated agreement between a landowner and a land trust that permanently limits uses of the land in order to protect its conservation values. The landowner continues to own and use the land and may sell it or pass it on to heirs.

When a conservation easement is donated to a land trust some rights associated with the land are given up. These rights are negotiated between the landowner and the land trust.

Conservation easements offer great flexibility since they are negotiated. An easement on property containing rare wildlife habitat might prohibit any development, for example, while one on a farm might allow continued farming, including timbering, as well as the building of additional structures. An easement may apply to just a portion of the property, and need not require public access.

If the conservation easement benefits the public by permanently protecting important resources and meets other federal tax code requirements it can qualify as a tax-deductible charitable donation.

Additionally, conservation easements can be essential for passing land on to the next generation. By removing the land's development potential, the easement lowers its market value, which in turn lowers estate tax. Whether the easement is donated during life or by will, it can make a critical difference in the heirs' ability to keep the land intact.

Land Trust :

A land trust is a nonprofit organization that actively works to conserve land by undertaking or assisting direct land transactions, primarily by accepting land donations or conservation easements. Local and regional land trusts, organized as charitable organizations under federal tax laws, are directly involved in conserving land for its natural, recreational, scenic, historical and productive values.

Land trusts are very closely tied to the communities in which they operate and their nonprofit status provides a variety of tax benefits to the landowner. Donations of land, conservation easements or money may qualify the donor for income, estate or gift tax savings. Moreover, because they are private organizations, land trusts are flexible, creative and can act quickly in saving land.

To participate in the Catawba River Basin Conservation Easement Fund or to learn more about conservation easements and land trusts please contact one of the land trusts or grant administrators listed below.

South Carolina Grant Administrator:

Michael Mikota
Strom Thurmond Institute
Pearman Blvd.
Clemson University
Clemson, SC 29634
Phone: 864-656-4700
Email: mikota@clemson.edu
www.strom.clemson.edu/primelands/catawba/index.html

North Carolina Grant Administrator:

Anne-Marie Mills
UNC Charlotte Urban Institute
9201 University City Blvd
Charlotte, NC 28223
Phone: 704-687-2712
Email: amills@email.uncc.edu
www.ui.uncc.edu/Crescent2003default.htm

North Carolina Land Trusts:

Catawba Lands Conservancy

105 W Morehead St
Charlotte, NC 28202-1815
Phone: (704) 342-3330
Fax: (704) 342-3340
Area of Operation: Lower Catawba River Basin; all or portions of Catawba, Gaston, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Iredell and Union Counties.
Founded: 1991
e-mail: clands@bellsouth.net
www.catawbalands.org

Foothills Conservancy

PO Box 3023
Morganton, NC 28680-3023
Phone: (828) 437-9930
Fax: (828) 437-9912
Area of Operation: Foothills region, including Alexander, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Cleveland, Lincoln, McDowell, and Rutherford Counties.
Founded: 1994
e-mail: info@foothillsconservancy.org
www.foothillsconservancy.org

South Carolina Land Trusts:

Congaree Land Trust

2231 Devine Street, Suite 100
Columbia, SC 29205-2419
Phone: (803) 988-0000
Fax: (803) 988-0202
Area of Operation: Richland, Lexington, Sumter, Kersaw, Calhoun, Fairfield, Orangeburg, & Bamberg Counties.
Founded: 1992
e-mail: info@congarzelt.org
www.congarzelt.org

Katawba Valley Land Trust

PO Box 1776
Lancaster, SC 29721-1776
Phone: (803) 285-9455
Fax: (803) 283-9181
Area of Operation: Catawba River Valley (mostly Lancaster, Chester and Kershaw Counties)
Founded: 1992
e-mail: info@kvlt.org
www.kvlt.org

Nation Ford Land Trust

PO Box 431
Fort Mill, SC 29716-0431
Phone: (803) 547-8140
Fax: (803) 547-6006
Area of Operation: York County.
Founded: 1989
e-mail: nflt@comporium.net