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by: Tamela T. Baker
Register of Deeds
BOOK 371 PAGE 1837

TYPE OF DOCUMENT: CONSERVATION EASEMENT AND EASEMENTS OF INGRESS AND EGRESS

GRANTOR: HBR INVESTMENTS, LLC

GRANTEE: NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DRAWN BY: A. A. ADAMS

MAIL TO: JIMMY L. CAUDLE
DIVISION RIGHT OF WAY AGENT
P.O. BOX 250
NORTH WILKESBORO, NC 28659

CONSERVATION EASEMENT and
EASEMENTS OF INGRESS AND EGRESS

THIS INSTRUMENT DRAWN BY A. A. Adams CHECKED BY Jimmy L. Caudle

RETURN TO: Jimmy L. Caudle
Division Right of Way Agent
P.O. Box 250
North Wilkesboro, NC 28659

BOOK 371 PAGE 1838

State of North Carolina
Avery County
Banner Elk Township

I.D. No. **R-2237 WM**
State Project: **6.739003T**
F.A. Project: **N/A**
Parcel No.: **WM**
Route:

THIS CONSERVATION EASEMENT and EASEMENTS OF INGRESS AND EGRESS, made this 25th day of July, 2003 by and between HBR Investments, LLC; hereinafter called the "Grantor(s)" and by the North Carolina Department of Transportation, hereinafter called the "NCDOT," provides the following:

W I T N E S S E T H

WHEREAS, the Grantor is the sole owner in fee simple of certain real property in Banner Elk Township of Avery County, North Carolina, as more particularly described in Book 038, Page 147B of the Avery County Registry, North Carolina, which land is hereinafter referred to as "the Property";

WHEREAS, the NCDOT is an agency of the State of North Carolina whose purpose includes the construction of transportation projects for public use and who has the authority to acquire land for the purpose of mitigating environmental impacts of these transportation projects;

WHEREAS, the NCDOT desires to restore 3,462 feet of stream in Avery County on the said Property:

WHEREAS, the Grantor is willing to grant a perpetual Conservation Easement over 9.82 acres of the Property (the Conservation Easement Area), thereby restricting and limiting the use of land within the Conservation Easement Area to the terms and conditions and for the purposes hereinafter set forth, and to further grant a Permanent Access Easement of Ingress and Egress to the Conservation Easement Area upon and along the Property as more particularly set forth hereinafter;

WHEREAS, the Uniform Conservation and Historic Preservation Agreements Act, N.C.G.S. § 121-34 et. seq., provides for the enforceability of restrictions, easements, covenants or conditions appropriate to retaining land or water areas predominantly in their natural, scenic or open condition or in agricultural, horticultural, farming or forest use;

WHEREAS, the NCDOT, under a Section 404 permit granted by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), must conduct certain off-site trout stream enhancement to mitigate for impacts to trout streams resulting from the construction of highway improvement projects in HU#06010103 of the Watauga River Basin;

WHEREAS, the USACE has reviewed and approved the use of the Conservation Easement on the Property to mitigate for the stream impacts, and such will satisfy the said permit condition after the completion of the stream monitoring period;

WHEREAS, the purposes of this Conservation Easement are to protect the mitigation activities performed by the NCDOT, to preserve and protect the conservation values of the Conservation Easement Area, to prevent any use of the Conservation Easement Area that will significantly impair or interfere with these purposes, and to maintain permanently the dominant woodland, scenic and natural character of the Conservation Easement Area designated on the Property as hereinafter described.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the sum of $1.00 (One Dollar) and other valuable considerations to the Grantor in hand paid by the NCDOT, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, and in further consideration of the mutual covenants, terms, conditions, and restrictions hereinafter set forth, the Grantor hereby grants and conveys unto the NCDOT and its successors or assigns forever and in perpetuity a Conservation Easement, pursuant to the USACE Section 404 permit requirements, of the nature and character and to the extent hereinafter set forth,

in respect to the land of the grantor situated in Avery County, North Carolina, as described in **Exhibit A**, and hereinafter referred to as the "Conservation Easement Area"; together with a Permanent Access Easement of Ingress and Egress ("Permanent Access Easement") over and upon that portion of the remaining Property of the Grantors described in Plat Book 038, Page 147B of the Avery County Registry as a means of ingress and egress to and from the Conservation Easement hereinabove described, as more particularly described in **Exhibit B.** For a plat of the above described Conservation Easement and Easements of Ingress and Egress, please see plat titled "Conservation Easement" recorded in Plat Book 38, Page 2278 of the Avery County Registry.

The terms, conditions and restrictions of the Conservation Easement are as hereinafter set forth:

ARTICLE I. DURATION OF EASEMENTS; ACCESS

A. Conservation Easement. This Conservation Easement shall be perpetual. It is an easement in gross, runs with the land and is enforceable by the NCDOT or its successors and/or assigns against the Grantor(s), Grantor(s) heirs, devisees, successors and assigns, lessees, agents and licensees.

B. Temporary Access Easement . It is specifically understood by all parties to this document that a Temporary Access Easement over the Property is granted over the area of that portion of the Property as indicated on Exhibit D, Sheet 2-D of the Site Construction Plans, and will be valid until the completion of the construction and monitoring of the stream mitigation project within the Conservation Easement Area of said Property of the Grantor. The NCDOT and authorized representatives of the NCDOT, shall have the right to access the Conservation Easement Area through the Property within the Temporary Access Easement in order to conduct the mitigation activities, and shall have the right to place equipment and materials on the property within the Temporary Access Easement. NCDOT shall restore the Property to the same condition as it existed prior to the conduct of mitigation activities by NCDOT or its agents. Upon completion of the monitoring period of said stream mitigation project, as described in **Exhibit C**, the Conceptual Restoration Plan, the Temporary Access Easement will dissolve.

C. Permanent Access Easement. In addition to the access provided by the Temporary Access Easement described above, and continuing in perpetuity after said Temporary Access Easement has dissolved, the NCDOT, and authorized representatives of the NCDOT, shall have the right in perpetuity to enter the Conservation Easement Area through the property over this Permanent Access Easement, as described more particularly in **Exhibit B,** at all reasonable times to undertake additional mitigation activities as determined to be necessary by the NCDOT.

Further, the NCDOT, and authorized representatives of the NCDOT, shall have the right in perpetuity to enter the Conservation Easement Area through the Property over this Permanent Access Easement in perpetuity, at all reasonable times for the purpose of inspecting said Conservation Easement Area to determine if the Grantor is complying with the terms, conditions, restrictions, and purposes of this Conservation Easement. The NCDOT will notify the Grantor by phone, email, or other correspondence before entering the Property for this purpose. However, if the NCDOT in its sole discretion determines that circumstances require immediate entry, such party is not required to notify Grantor prior to entry but will notify Grantor within two business days of such entry.

D. Public Access. The easement rights granted herein do not include public access rights. However, the public has the right to view the Conservation Easement Area from any adjacent publicly accessible area.

ARTICLE II. PROHIBITED, RESTRICTED AND RESERVED ACTIVITIES

Any activity on, or use of, the designated Conservation Easement Area inconsistent with the purposes of this Conservation Easement is prohibited. Unless expressly reserved as a compatible use herein, any activity in, or use of, the Conservation Easement Area by the Grantor is prohibited as inconsistent with the purposes of the Conservation Easement. The Conservation Easement Area shall be maintained in its natural, scenic and open condition and restricted from anydevelopment that would significantly impair or interfere with the conservation values of this Conservation Easement Area. Any rights not expressly reserved hereunder by the Grantor have been acquired by the NCDOT.

Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the following activities and uses are expressly prohibited, restricted or reserved as indicated hereunder:

1. Disturbance of Natural Features. Any changes, disturbance, alteration or impairment of the natural, scenic and aesthetic features of the Conservation Easement Area or any introduction of non-native plants and/or animal species is prohibited unless the NCDOT shall give its prior written consent or unless otherwise expressly permitted herein.

2. Agricultural, Grazing and Horticultural Use. Agricultural, grazing and horticultural use, including landscaping, of the Conservation Easement Area is prohibited. Livestock shall access the stream for water at areas designated as stream crossings on the plat entitled "Conservation Easement" recorded in Plat Book 38 Page 227B, of the Avery County Registry. In an emergency situation, in which no other water source is available, livestock may access the stream for water at areas designated on the plat entitled "Conservation Easement" recorded in Plat Book 38 Page 227B of the Avery County Registry. Such emergency access is limited to one side of the stream for a length not to exceed 30 linear feet and the Grantor shall notify the NCDOT in writing at the address shown above within three business days of such access.

3. Stream Crossings. The Grantor, for itself, its successors, assigns, invitees and licensees, hereby reserves the right to maintain the stream crossings and pathways agreed upon in the Conceptual Restoration Plan, **Exhibit C** and shown on the plat entitled "Conservation Easement" recorded in Plat Book 38 Page 227B of the Avery County Registry. Specifically for this property this includes 4 crossings within the conservation easement area. These channel crossings shall not exceed twenty (20) feet in width and shall consist of a ford at bed elevation or a bridge or other span crossing above bed elevation of the channel. The grassed and paved pathways shall not exceed ten (10) feet in width. The crossings and pathways shall be constructed in a way that minimizes negative impacts to the stream and riparian vegetation. The NCDOT may agree to the Grantor moving existing stream crossings, installing new crossings or widening the existing stream crossings and construction and access easements, if needed in the future, provided that any such request is consistent with the purposes of this Conservation Easement and the Grantor obtains prior written approval from the NCDOT, and will be done with all necessary state and federal permits. These crossings and construction and access easements shall not exceed a width of fifty (50) feet and will be constructed in such a way that minimizes negative impacts to the stream and riparian vegetation.

4. Silvicultural Use and Land Clearing. There may be no destruction or cutting of trees or plants in the Conservation Easement Area, except in accordance with the Conceptual Restoration Plan, attached hereto as **Exhibit C**, or upon written approval of the NCDOT. The gathering of firewood in the Conservation Easement Area shall be limited to dead trees, such that the gathering is consistent with purposes of this Conservation Easement. Removal of large live trees may be allowed in some cases provided that any such request is consistent with the purposes of this Conservation Easement and the Grantor obtains prior written approval from the NCDOT.

5. Hunting and Fishing. Grantor expressly reserves for itself, its successors, assigns, invitees and licensees the right to hunt, fish, and hike on the Conservation Easement Area and to control access of all persons for the purpose of hunting, fishing and hiking; provided that these activities do not impact the protection and conservation of any animal/trout habitat or other conservation values of the Conservation Easement Area.

6. Dumping or Storage. Dumping or storage of soil, trash, ashes, garbage, waste, abandoned vehicles, appliances, machinery, or hazardous substances, or toxic or hazardous waste, or any placement of underground or aboveground storage tanks or other materials on the Conservation Easement Area is prohibited.

7. Mineral Use, Excavation, Dredging. There shall be no filling, excavation, dredging, mining or drilling; no removal of topsoil, sand, gravel, rock, peat, minerals or other material, and no change in the topography of the land in any manner on the Conservation Easement Area nor shall there be any activities conducted on the Conservation Easement Area or on adjacent property if owned by the Grantor and his successors which would cause erosion or siltation on the Conservation Easement Area.

8. Industrial Use. Industrial activities in the Conservation Easement Area are prohibited.

9. Residential Use. Residential use of the Conservation Easement Area is prohibited.

10. Commercial Use. Commercial activities in the Conservation Easement Area are prohibited.

11. New Construction. There shall be no building, shed, facility, mobile home, or other structure constructed or placed in the Conservation Easement Area; provided, however, that the NCDOT expressly reserves the right to install, operate and maintain structures for the purpose of reestablishing, protecting, and enhancing stream functional values, including those described in the Conceptual Restoration Plan, **Exhibit C**, for the Conservation Easement Area.

12. Signs. No signs shall be permitted in the Conservation Easement Area except interpretive signs describing restoration activities and the conservation values of the Conservation Easement Area, signs identifying the owner of the Protected Property and the holder of the Conservation Easement, and signs giving directions or proscribing rules and regulations for the use of the Conservation Easement Area.

13. Subdivision. In the event the burdened parcel is subdivided, it is understood that the rights and duties under this conservation easement run with the subdivided parcels and do not change.

14. Development Rights. No development rights which have been encumbered or extinguished by this Conservation Easement shall be transferred pursuant to a transferable development rights scheme or cluster development arrangement or otherwise.

15. Utilities. The installation of utility systems, including, without limitation, water, sewer, power, fuel, and communication lines and related facilities is prohibited except and limited to the existing and proposed utility easements as shown on the plat entitled "Conservation Easement" recorded in Plat Book 38 Page 2278 of the Avery County Registry which include two sanitary sewer easements that are further described in the Plans of John T. Coxey, Consulting Engineering, P.A., dated May, 2002 (Project 20017). The plan is incorporated by reference. If there are existing utility easements (rights of way) located in the Conservation Easement Area or affecting the Conservation Easement, Grantor shall endeavor to notify the NCDOT if right of way clearing or other work in the Conservation Easement Area is scheduled by the utility. Any such installation or clearing should be in keeping with the intent of the Conservation Easement.

16. Water Quality and Drainage Pattern. Grantor shall conduct no activities in the Conservation Easement Area that would be detrimental to water quality or to any of the plants or habitats within the Conservation Easement Area, or that would alter natural water levels, drainage, sedimentation and/or flow in or over the Conservation Easement Area, or cause soil degradation or erosion. Diking, dredging, alteration, draining, filling or removal of wetlands or stream by the Grantor is prohibited. In addition, Grantor is prohibited from diverting or causing or permitting the diversion of surface or underground water into, within or out of the Conservation Easement Area by any means; polluting or discharging into waters, springs, seeps, or wetlands; or using pesticides or biocides in the Conservation Easement Area unless agreed to in writing by the NCDOT.

17. Grantor's Rights. The Grantor, for itself, its successors, assigns, invitees and licensees, hereby reserves the right to quiet enjoyment of the Conservation Easement Area; the right of ingress and egress to the Conservation Easement Area and all adjacent property of the Grantor; the right to continue such uses as exists as of the date of this grant not inconsistent with this Conservation Easement; and the right to sell, transfer, gift or otherwise convey the Conservation Easement Area, in whole, provided such sale, transfer or gift conveyance is subject to the terms of this Conservation Easement and written notice is provided to the NCDOT in accordance with the provisions herein below.

18. NCDOT's Rights. The NCDOT reserves the right to use the Conservation Easement Area in any way necessary, consistent with the terms herein, to undertake any activities to protect, restore, manage, maintain, or enhance stream functional values, and monitor the restoration resources, as described in the Conceptual Restoration Plan (**Exhibit C**) for the Conservation Easement Area, in order to mitigate for impacts to streams resulting from road construction. These mitigation activities include, but are not limited to, construction of new stream channels; restoration/stabilization of existing stream channels; installation of natural and man-made materials as needed to direct in-stream, above ground, and subterraneous water flow; planting of trees, shrubs and herbaceous vegetation; and utilization of heavy equipment to grade, fill, and prepare the soil. The NCDOT further reserves the right to

monitor the results of the mitigation activities in perpetuity and to repair or restore any damage to the Conservation Easement Area occurring after initial completion of the construction associated with mitigation activities.

ARTICLE III. ENFORCEMENT AND REMEDIES

Nothing contained herein shall be construed to entitle the Grantor to bring any action against NCDOT for any injury or change in the Property resulting from causes beyond the NCDOT's control including fire, flood, storm, war, acts of God or third parties, or from any prudent action taken in good faith by NCDOT under emergency conditions to prevent, abate, or mitigate significant injury to life, damage to property or harm to the Conservation Easement Area resulting from such causes, in accordance hereunder.

The NCDOT has the right to prevent any action on or use of the Conservation Easement Area that is inconsistent with the purpose of this Conservation Easement and to require the restoration of such areas or features of the Conservation Easement Area that may be damaged by any inconsistent activity or use. If the NCDOT determines that the Grantor is in violation of the terms of this Conservation Easement or that a violation is threatened, NCDOT shall give written notice to Grantor of such violation and demand corrective action sufficient to cure the violation and, where the violation involves injury to the Conservation Easement Area resulting from any use or activity inconsistent with the purpose of this Conservation Easement, to restore the portion of the Conservation Easement Area so injured. If Grantor fails to cure the violation within thirty (30) days after receipt of notice thereof from NCDOT, or under circumstances where the violation cannot reasonably be cured within a thirty (30) day period, fails to begin curing such violation within the thirty (30) day period, or fails to continue diligently to cure such violation until finally cured, NCDOT may bring an action at law or in equity in a court of competent jurisdiction to enforce the terms of this Conservation Easement, to enjoin the violation, ex parte as necessary, by temporary or permanent injunction, to recover any damages to which it may be entitled for violation of the terms of this Easement, including damages for the loss of conservation values, and to require the restoration of the Conservation Easement Area to the condition that existed prior to any such injury. If the NCDOT, in its sole discretion, determines that circumstances require immediate action to prevent or mitigate significant damage to the conservation values of the Conservation Easement Area, the NCDOT may pursue its remedies without prior notice to the Grantor. NCDOT shall exercise reasonable efforts to notify the Grantor and shall, in any event, notify Grantor within two business days after action is taken to explain the action undertaken.

NCDOT's remedies shall be cumulative and shall be in addition to any other rights and remedies available to NCDOT at law or equity. Any cost incurred by NCDOT in enforcing the terms of this Conservation Easement against Grantor or its successors or assigns, including, without limitation, costs of suit and attorney's fees, and any costs of restoration necessitated by Grantor's violation of the terms of this Conservation Easement shall be borne by Grantor.

No failure on the part of the NCDOT to enforce any covenant or provision hereof shall be a waiver to discharge or invalidate such covenant or any other covenant, condition, or provision hereof or affect the right of NCDOT to enforce the same in the event of a subsequent breach or default.

The Grantor reserves the right to take action against the NCDOT for use of the Conservation Easement Area in a way that is inconsistent with the purpose of this Conservation Easement. Any cost incurred by Grantor in enforcing the terms of this Conservation Easement against NCDOT or its successors or assigns, including, without limitation, costs of suit and attorney's fees, shall be borne by NCDOT.

ARTICLE IV. MISCELLANEOUS

A. Amendments. The NCDOT and Grantor may amend this Conservation Easement or Permanent Access Easement only by a jointly executed written agreement, and provided that no amendment will be allowed that is inconsistent with the purposes stated herein, and provided that it is approved by the USACE.

B. Exhibits. The attached Exhibit A, Exhibit B, Exhibit C and Plat recorded in Plat Book 39 Page 2225 of the Avery County Registry are incorporated in and made a part of this instrument by reference. The parties acknowledge that the Hanging Rock Stream Restoration Plan, developed by NCDOT (Exhibit C), a copy of which is on file at the office of the NCDOT, and incorporated

herein, describes the plan for mitigation activities in the Conservation Easement Area.

C. Title. The Grantors covenant and represent that the Grantors are the sole owner and are seized of the Property in fee simple and have good right to grant and convey the aforesaid Conservation Easement and Permanent Access Easements of Ingress and Egress; that the Conservation Easement Area and Permanent Access Easements are free and clear of any and all encumbrances, except easement and leases of record or in effect by prescriptive rights as of the date hereto, and Grantors covenant that the NCDOT shall have the use of and enjoy all of the benefits derived from and arising out of the aforesaid easements conveyed. The easements conveyed herein shall run with the land and must be made part of any transfer of title by the Grantors.

D. Notification. Except as otherwise provided herein, any notices shall be sent by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested to the parties at their addresses shown above or to other addresses as either party establishes in writing upon notification to the other.

E. Entire Agreement. This instrument sets forth the entire agreement of the parties with respect to the Conservation Easement and Easement of Ingress and Egress and supersedes all prior discussions, negotiations, understandings or agreements relating to the said easements. If any provision is found to be invalid, the remainder of the provisions of this Conservation Easement, and the application of such provision to persons or circumstances other than those as to which is found to be invalid, shall not be affected thereby.

F. Recording. The NCDOT shall record this instrument and any amendment hereto in timely fashion with the Office of the Register or Deeds of Avery County, North Carolina, and may re-record it at any time as may be required to preserve its right under this Conservation Easement.

G. Costs and Liabilities. The Grantor retains all responsibilities and shall bear all costs and liabilities of any kind related to the ownership, operation, upkeep, and maintenance of the Property, except however, Grantor shall have no responsibilities for the repair and maintenance of the stream or other mitigation activities unless necessitated by Grantor's violation of the terms of this Agreement.. Grantor shall pay before delinquency all taxes, assessments, fees, and charges of whatever description levied on or assessed against the property by competent authority (collectively, "taxes"), including any taxes imposed upon, or incurred as a result of, this Conservation Easement, and shall furnish NCDOT with satisfactory evidence of payment upon request.

H. Construction of Terms. This Conservation Easement shall be construed to promote the purposes of the North Carolina enabling statute set forth in N.C.G.S. □ 121-34, which authorizes the creation of Conservation Easements for purposes including those set forth in the recitals herein, and the conservation purposes of this Conservation Easement, including such purposes as are defined in Section 170(h)(4)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code.

I. Conservation Purpose. The NCDOT, for themselves, and their successors and assigns agree that this Conservation Easement shall be held exclusively for conservation purposes. The parties hereto recognize and agree that the benefits of this Conservation Easement are in gross and assignable, provided, however, that the NCDOT hereby covenants and agrees that in the event they transfer or assign this Conservation Easement they hold under, the organization receiving the interest will be a qualified organization as that term is defined in Section 170(h)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or any successor section) and the regulations promulgated thereunder, which is organized or operated primarily for one of the conservation purposes specified in Section 170(h)(4)(A) and section 2301 of the Internal Revenue Code, and the NCDOT further covenants and agrees that the terms of the transfer or assignment will be such that the transferee or assignee will be required to continue to carry out in perpetuity the conservation purposes that the contribution was originally intended to advance, set forth in the Recitals herein.

J. Indemnification. NCDOT shall indemnify and hold Grantor harmless from all damages, cost and liabilities, including reasonable attorney's fees arising out of the mitigation activities undertaken under this Conservation Easement.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the aforesaid Conservation Easement and Easement of Ingress and Egress unto the NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, its successors and assigns, forever. The rights and obligations set forth herein shall inure to and be binding upon the Grantor and the NCDOT, their heirs, executors, assigns and successors in title or interest.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have set their hands and seals and caused this

instrument to be signed in their respective names by authority duly given, the day and year first above written. **GRANTOR(S):**

HBR Investments, LLC

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BY: Robert C. Collett

(Manager)

State of North Carolina
County of Burke
I, Lisa A. Channell, a Notary Public for County and aforesaid State, certify that Robert C. Collett, Manager of HBR Investments LLC, a limited liability company, personally came before me this day and acknowledged the due execution of the foregoing instrument on behalf of the company.

Witness my hand and official seal, this the 15th day of July, 2003.

(Official Seal)

Lisa A. Channell
Notary Public

My commission expires: October 27, 2003.

LISA A. CHANNELL NOTARY PUBLIC BURKE COUNTY, N.C.

NCDOT:

ACCEPTED FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION BY:

SEP 19 2003

name and title

ASS'T MANAGER OF RIGHT OF WAY

NORTH CAROLINA, COUNTY OF Wake

I, Bonnie F. Tripp a Notary Public of Wake County do hereby certify that A. Doug Allison, of the North Carolina Department of Transportation, personally appeared before me this day and acknowledged the execution of the foregoing instrument. Witness my hand and official stamp or seal, this 15th day of September, 2003.

Bonnie F. Tripp
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: August 5, 2004

BONNIE F. TRIPP NOTARY PUBLIC WAKE COUNTY, N.C.

The foregoing Certificate(s) of Lisa A. Channel and Bonnie F. Tripp-NPs Notaries/Notary Public, is/are certified to be correct. This instrument and this certificate are duly registered at the date and time and in the Book and Page shown on the first page hereof. This the 15 day of October, 2003.

Pamela J. Baker
Register of Deeds For Avery County

BY: Rhonda Hollifield
Deputy/Assistant Register of Deeds

"EXHIBIT A" BOOK 371 PAGE 1845

The conservation easement area shown as North Carolina Department of Transportation Conservation Easement containing 9.82 acres, being more particularly shown and described on a plat entitled "Conservation Easement" and being recorded in **Plat Book** 38 **Page** 2278 of the Avery County Registry.

"EXHIBIT B"

Permanent Access Easement

The NCDOT and its authorized representatives shall have the right in perpetuity to enter the Conservation Easement Area at the permanent access easement bounded by survey lines 23, 24, 25, and 26, connecting the existing right of way on NC Highway 184 to the Conservation Easement Area. For a more specific location of said permanent access easement, see plat titled "Conservation Easement" recorded in **Plat Book** 35, **Page** 227B of the Avery County Registry.

"Exhibit C"

The Conceptual Restoration Plan, otherwise known as the Hanging Rock Stream Restoration Plan, on file at the office of the North Carolina Department of Transportation, the Project Engineer being Byron Moore, NCDOT and the Design Engineer being Kevin Tweedy, Buck Engineering. This plan is incorporated herein by reference.

"Exhibit D"

BOOK 371 PAGE 1848

CONSENT AND SUBORDINATION OF MORTGAGE

Branch Banking & Trust Company (the "Lender") and Ernie F. Dehnert, Trustee (the "Trustee"), named in that certain Deed of Trust (the "Deed of Trust") dated August 30, 2001, and recorded in Book 345, Page 2746, in the Avery County Registry, North Carolina, join herein for the purpose of consenting to the Grantor's conveyance and granting of the Conservation Easement and Easements of Ingress and Egress to NCDOT subjecting a portion of the Property described in the Deed of Trust to the covenants, conditions, restrictions, rights, privileges and easements in the foregoing instrument (collectively, the " Conservation Easements"). Furthermore, Lender and Trustee do hereby consent and agree to the subordination of the lien of the Deed of Trust to said Conservation Easements.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Lender and Trustee hereby set their hands and seals as of the 13th day of August, 2003.

LENDER:

ATTEST:

BRANCH BANKING & TRUST COMPANY

Asst Secretary

By:
Name: John Krazik
Title: Sen. Vice President

[CORPORATE SEAL]

TRUSTEE:

Ernie F. Dehnert [SEAL]
Ernie F. Dehnert, Trustee

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF MECKLENBURG

I, ELAYNA C BUYS, a Notary Public for said County and State, certify that CARRIE ALLISON personally came before me this day and acknowledged that he/she is ASST Secretary of Branch Banking & Trust Company, a North Carolina Corporation, and that by authority duly given and as the act of the corporation, the foregoing instrument was signed in its name by its SR VICE President, sealed with its corporate seal, and attested by himself/herself as its ASST Secretary.

Witness my hand and official seal, this the 13 day of AUGUST, 2003.

[Notarial Seal]

Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 6/15/2004

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF MECKLENBURG

I, ELAYNA C BUYS, a Notary Public for said County and State, do hereby certify that Ernie F. Dehnert, Trustee, personally appeared before me this day and acknowledged the due execution of the foregoing instrument.

Witness my hand and official seal, this the 13 day of August, 2003.

[Notarial Seal]

Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 6/15/2004