2008004704
MCDOWELL CO, NC FEE $44.00
STATE OF NC REAL ESTATE EXTX
$93.00
PRESENTED & RECORDED:
07-21-2008 04:10:53 PM
PATRICIA A. REEL
REGISTER OF DEEDS
BY: CAROLYN I REEL
DEPUTY REGISTER OF DEEDS
BK: CRP 969
PG: 443-453

WHE

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**CONSERVATION EASEMENT**

**MCDOWELL COUNTY**
**SPO File Number 059-R**
Prepared by: Office of the Attorney General
Property Control Section
Return to: NC Department of Administration
State Property Office
1321 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1321
Excice Tax $93.00

APPROVED TO RECORD
TAX DEPARTMENT
APPROVED BY An 7/21/08
CRA
WATERSHED ADMINISTRATOR

**THIS CONSERVATION EASEMENT DEED,** pursuant to the provisions of N.C. General Statutes Chapter 121, Article 4 and made this 17 day of July, 2008, by **Larry Randolph and Jerry Randolph, ("Grantor")**, whose mailing address is **205 Sain Road, Nebo, NC 28761**, to the State of North Carolina, (**"Grantee"**), whose mailing address is State of North Carolina, Department of Administration, State Property Office, 1321 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1321. The designations Grantor and Grantee as used herein shall include said parties, their heirs, successors, and assigns, and shall include singular, plural, masculine, feminine, or neuter as required by context.

**WITNESSETH:**

**WHEREAS,** pursuant to the provisions of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 143-214.8 et seq., the State of North Carolina has established the Ecosystem Enhancement Program (formerly known as the Wetlands Restoration Program) within the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for the purposes of acquiring, maintaining, restoring, enhancing, creating and preserving wetland and riparian resources that contribute to the protection and improvement of water quality, flood prevention, fisheries, aquatic habitat, wildlife habitat, and recreational opportunities; and

**WHEREAS,** The State of North Carolina is qualified to be the Grantee of a Conservation Easement pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 121-35; and

**WHEREAS,** the Ecosystem Enhancement Program in the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has approved acceptance of this instrument; and

**WHEREAS,** the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the North Carolina Department of Transportation and the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District entered into a Memorandum of Agreement, (MOA) duly executed by all parties in Greensboro, NC on July 22, 2003. This MOA recognizes that the Ecosystem Enhancement Program is to provide for compensatory mitigation by effective protection of the land, water and natural resources of the State by restoring, enhancing and preserving ecosystem functions; and



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**WHEREAS,** the acceptance of this instrument for and on behalf of the State of North Carolina was granted to the Department of Administration by resolution as approved by the Governor and Council of State adopted at a meeting held in the City of Raleigh, North Carolina, on the 8th day of February 2000; and

**WHEREAS,** Grantor owns in fee simple certain real property situated, lying, and being in Dysartsville Township, McDowell County, North Carolina (the "**Property**"), and being more particularly described as that certain parcel of land containing approximately 147.95 acres and being conveyed to the Grantor by deed as recorded in **Deed Book 687 at Page 760** of the McDowell County Registry, North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS,** Grantor is willing to grant a Conservation Easement over the herein described areas of the Property, thereby restricting and limiting the use of the included areas of the Property to the terms and conditions and purposes hereinafter set forth, and Grantee is willing to accept such Conservation Easement. This Conservation Easement shall be for the protection and benefit of the waters of ***South Muddy Creek***.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** in consideration of the mutual covenants, terms, conditions, and restrictions hereinafter set forth, Grantor unconditionally and irrevocably hereby grants and conveys unto Grantee, its successors and assigns, forever and in perpetuity, a Conservation Easement of the nature and character and to the extent hereinafter set forth, over a described area of the Property, referred to hereafter as the "**Easement Area**", for the benefit of the people of North Carolina, and being the **14.47** acres of land as identified as "**Lot 2**" as shown on a plat of survey entitled "Conservation Easement for the State of North Carolina" dated November 9, 2007, certified by Kenneth D. Suttles, and **recorded in Plat Book 015, Page 075,** McDowell County Registry. The Easement Area being more particularly described in "**Exhibit A**" attached and incorporated hereinto:

The purposes of this Conservation Easement are to maintain, restore, enhance, create and preserve wetland and/or riparian resources in the Easement Area that contribute to the protection and improvement of water quality, flood prevention, fisheries, aquatic habitat, wildlife habitat, and recreational opportunities; to maintain permanently the Easement Area in its natural condition, consistent with these purposes; and to prevent any use of the Easement Area that will significantly impair or interfere with these purposes. To achieve these purposes, the following conditions and restrictions are set forth:

## I. DURATION OF EASEMENT

Pursuant to law, including the above referenced statutes, this Conservation Easement shall be perpetual and it shall run with, and be a continuing restriction upon the use of, the Property, and it shall be enforceable by the Grantee against the Grantor and against Grantor's heirs, successors and assigns, personal representatives, agents, lessees, and licensees.

## II. GRANTOR RESERVED USES AND RESTRICTED ACTIVITES

The Easement Area shall be restricted from any development or usage that would impair or interfere with the purposes of this Conservation Easement. Unless expressly reserved as a compatible use herein, any activity in, or use of, the Easement Area by the Grantor is prohibited as inconsistent with the purposes of this Conservation Easement. Any rights not expressly reserved hereunder by the Grantor have been acquired by the Grantee. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the following specific uses are prohibited, restricted, or reserved as indicated.

**A. Recreational Uses.** Grantor expressly reserves the right to undeveloped recreational uses, including hiking, bird watching, hunting and fishing, and access to the Easement Area for the purposes thereof. Usage of motorized vehicles in the Easement Area is prohibited, except as they are used exclusively for management, maintenance, or stewardship purposes, and on existing trails, paths or roads.

**B. Educational Uses.** The Grantor reserves the right to engage in and permit others to engage in educational uses in the Easement Area not inconsistent with this Conservation Easement, and the right of access to the Easement Area for such purposes including organized educational activities such as site visits and observations. Educational uses of the property shall not alter vegetation, hydrology or topography of the site.

**C. Vegetative Cutting.** Except as related to the removal of non-native plants, diseased or damaged trees, and vegetation that obstructs, destabilizes or renders unsafe the Easement Area to persons or natural habitat, all cutting, removal, mowing, harming, or destruction of any trees and vegetation in the Easement Area is prohibited.

**D. Industrial, Residential and Commercial Uses.** All are prohibited in the Easement Area.

**E. Agricultural Use.** All agricultural uses within the Easement Area including any use for cropland, waste lagoons, or pastureland are prohibited.

**F. New Construction.** There shall be no building, facility, mobile home, antenna, utility pole, tower, or other structure constructed or placed in the Easement Area.

**G. Roads and Trails.** Grantor reserves the right to future construction of one twenty-foot wide crossing over South Muddy Creek as shown on attached **Exhibit B**. There shall be no construction of roads, trails, walkways, or paving in the Easement Area. Existing roads or trails located in the Easement Area may be maintained by Grantor in order to minimize runoff, sedimentation and for access to the interior of the Property for management, maintenance, stewardship purposes, or undeveloped recreational and educational uses of the Easement Area. Existing roads, trails or paths may be maintained with loose gravel or permanent vegetation to stabilize or cover the surfaces.

**H. Signs.** No signs shall be permitted in the Easement Area except interpretive signs describing restoration activities and the conservation values of the Easement Area, signs

identifying the owner of the Property and the holder of the Conservation Easement, signs giving directions, or signs prescribing rules and regulations for the use of the Easement Area may be allowed.

I. **Dumping or Storing.** Dumping or storage of soil, trash, ashes, garbage, waste, abandoned vehicles, appliances or machinery, or other material in the Easement Area is prohibited.

J. **Grading, Mineral Use, Excavation, Dredging.** There shall be no grading, filling, excavation, dredging, mining, or drilling; no removal of topsoil, sand, gravel, rock, peat, minerals, or other materials.

K. **Water Quality and Drainage Patterns.** There shall be no diking, draining, dredging, channeling, filling, leveling, pumping, impounding or diverting, causing, allowing or permitting the diversion of surface or underground water. No altering or tampering with water control structures or devices, or disruption or alteration of the restored, enhanced, or created drainage patterns. All removal of wetlands, polluting or discharging into waters, springs, seeps, or wetlands, or use of pesticide or biocides is prohibited. In the event of an emergency interruption or shortage of all other water sources, water from within the Easement Area may temporarily be used for good cause shown as needed for the survival of livestock and agricultural production.

L. **Subdivision and Conveyance.** Grantor voluntarily agrees that no subdivision, partitioning, or dividing of the underlying fee that is subject to this Easement is allowed. Unless agreed to by the Grantee in writing, any future conveyance of the underlying fee for the Easement Area and the rights as conveyed herein shall be as a single block of property. Any future transfer of the fee simple shall be subject to this Conservation Easement. Any transfer of the fee is subject to the Grantee's right of unlimited and repeated ingress and egress over and across the Property to the Easement Area for the purposes set forth herein.

M. **Development Rights.** All development rights are removed from the Easement Area and shall not be transferred.

N. **Disturbance of Natural Features**. Any change, disturbance, alteration or impairment of the natural features of the Easement Area or any intentional introduction of non-native plants, trees and/or animal species by Grantor is prohibited.

The Grantor may request permission to vary from the above restrictions for good cause shown, provided that any such request is consistent with the purposes of this Conservation Easement. The Grantor shall not vary from the above restrictions without first obtaining written approval from the N.C. Ecosystem Enhancement Program, whose mailing address is 1652 Mail Services Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1652.

## III. GRANTEE RESERVED USES

**A. Ingress, Egress, and Inspection.** The Grantee, its employees and agents, successors and assigns, receive the perpetual right of unlimited and repeated ingress and egress to the Easement Area over the Property at reasonable times to undertake any activities to restore, manage, maintain, enhance, and monitor the wetland and riparian resources of the Easement Area, in accordance with restoration activities or a long-term management plan. Unless otherwise specifically set forth in this Conservation Easement, the rights granted herein do not include or establish for the public any access rights.

**B. Restoration Activities.** These activities include planting of trees, shrubs and herbaceous vegetation, installation of monitoring wells, utilization of heavy equipment to grade, fill, and prepare the soil, modification of the hydrology of the site, and installation of natural and manmade materials as needed to direct in-stream, above ground, and subterraneous water flow.

## IV. ENFORCEMENT AND REMEDIES

**A. Enforcement.** To accomplish the purposes of this Conservation Easement, Grantee is allowed to prevent any activity within the Easement Area that is inconsistent with the purposes of this Easement and to require the restoration of such areas or features of the Easement Area that may have been damaged by such activity or use. Upon any breach of the terms of this Conservation Easement by Grantor, their successors or assigns, that comes to the attention of the Grantee, the Grantee shall, except as provided below, notify the Grantor, their successors or assigns in writing of such breach. The Grantor shall have ninety (90) days after receipt of such notice to correct the conditions constituting such breach. If the breach remains uncured after ninety (90) days, the Grantee may enforce this Conservation Easement by appropriate legal proceedings including damages, injunctive and other relief. The Grantee shall also have the power and authority, consistent with its statutory authority: (a) to prevent any impairment of the Easement Area by acts which may be unlawful or in violation of this Conservation Easement; (b) to otherwise preserve or protect its interest in the Property; or (c) to seek damages from any appropriate person or entity. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Grantee reserves the immediate right, without notice, to obtain a temporary restraining order, injunctive or other appropriate relief if the breach of the term of this Conservation Easement is or would irreversibly or otherwise materially impair the benefits to be derived from this Conservation Easement. The Grantor and Grantee acknowledge that under such circumstances damage to the Grantee would be irreparable and remedies at law will be inadequate. The rights and remedies of the Grantee provided hereunder shall be in addition to, and not in lieu of, all other rights and remedies available to Grantee in connection with this Conservation Easement.

**B. Inspection.** The Grantee, its employees and agents, successors and assigns, have the right, with reasonable notice, to enter the Easement Area over the Property at reasonable times for the purpose of inspection to determine whether the Grantor, their successors or assigns are complying with the terms, conditions and restrictions of this Conservation Easement.

**C. Acts Beyond Grantor's Control.** Nothing contained in this Conservation Easement shall be construed to entitle Grantee to bring any action against Grantor, their successors or assigns, for any injury or change in the Easement Area caused by third parties, resulting from causes beyond the Grantor's control, including, without limitation, fire, flood, storm, and earth movement, or from any prudent action taken in good faith by the Grantor under emergency conditions to prevent, abate, or mitigate significant injury to life, damage to property or harm to the Property resulting from such causes.

**D. Costs of Enforcement.** Beyond regular and typical monitoring, any costs incurred by Grantee in enforcing the terms of this Conservation Easement against Grantor, their successors or assigns, including, without limitation, any costs of restoration necessitated by Grantor's acts or omissions in violation of the terms of this Conservation Easement, shall be borne by Grantor.

No Waiver. Enforcement of this Easement shall be at the discretion of the Grantee and any forbearance, delay or omission by Grantee to exercise its rights hereunder in the event of any breach of any term set forth herein shall not be construed to be a waiver by Grantee.

## V. MISCELLANEOUS

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

B. Any notices shall be sent by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested to the parties at their addresses shown above or to other address(es) as either party establishes in writing upon notification to the other.

C. Grantor shall notify Grantee in writing of the name and address and any party to whom the Property or any part thereof is to be transferred at or prior to the time said transfer is made. Grantor further agrees to make any subsequent lease, deed, or other legal instrument by which any interest in the Property is conveyed subject to the Conservation Easement herein created.

D. The Grantor and Grantee agree that the terms of this Conservation Easement shall survive any merger of the fee and easement interests in the Property or any portion thereof.

E. This Conservation Easement may be amended, but only in writing signed by all parties hereto, and provided such amendment does not affect the qualification of this Conservation Easement or the status of the Grantee under any applicable laws, and is consistent with the purposes of the Conservation Easement.

F. The parties recognize and agree that the benefits of this Conservation Easement are in gross and assignable provided, however, that the Grantee hereby covenants and agrees, that in the event it transfers or assigns this Conservation Easement, the organization receiving the interest will be a qualified holder under N.C. Gen. Stat. § 121-34 et seq. and § 170(h) of the Internal Revenue Code, and the Grantee 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 in perpetuity the conservation purposes described in this document.

## VI. QUIET ENJOYMENT

Grantor reserves all remaining rights accruing from ownership of the Property, including the right to engage in or permit or invite others to engage in only those uses of the Easement Area that are expressly reserved herein, not prohibited or restricted herein, and are not inconsistent with the purposes of this Conservation Easement. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Grantor expressly reserves to the Grantor, and the Grantor's invitees and licensees, the right of access to the Easement Area, and the right of quiet enjoyment of the Easement Area.

**TO HAVE AND TO HOLD** the said rights and easements perpetually unto the State of North Carolina for the aforesaid purposes.

**AND** Grantor covenants that Grantor is seized of said premises in fee and has the right to convey the permanent Conservation Easement herein granted; that the same are free from encumbrances and that Grantor will warrant and defend title to the same against the claims of all persons whomsoever.

**IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF**, the Grantor has hereunto set his hand and seal, the day and year first above written.

BY: Roberta Randolph (SEAL)

By: Larry Randolph (SEAL)
Larry Randolph

BY: Alice Randolph (SEAL)

By: Jerry Randolph (SEAL)
Jerry Randolph

**NORTH CAROLINA**

CRP 969 450

**COUNTY OF** McDowell

I, Fay B. Wright, a Notary Public in and for the County and State aforesaid, do hereby certify that Jerry Randolph & wife Alice Randolph, Grantor, personally appeared before me this day and acknowledged the execution of the foregoing instrument.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and Notary Seal this the 17 day of July, 2008.

Fay B Wright
FAY B. Wright
Notary Public

My commission expires:
2-8-2009

FAY B. WRIGHT
NOTARY
PUBLIC
MCDOWELL COUNTY, NC

**NORTH CAROLINA**

**COUNTY OF** McDowell

I, Fay B. Wright, a Notary Public in and for the County and State aforesaid, do hereby certify that Larry Randolph & wife Roberta Randolph, Grantor, personally appeared before me this day and acknowledged the execution of the foregoing instrument.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and Notary Seal this the 21 day of July, 2008.

Fay B Wright
Fay B. Wright Notary Public

My commission expires:
2-8-2009

FAY B. WRIGHT NOTARY PUBLIC MCDOWELL COUNTY, NC

Exhibit A

Lying and being in Dysartsville Township, McDowell County, NC; described as being a portion of Deed Book 687, Page 760 and further described as follows:

Tract 2
Beginning on an existing axle, the second corner of said line agreement and the beginning corner of tract 1 described herein, said axle having Coordinates of N 695,439.010', E 1,151,229.828', Elevation 1,125.04' and lying N40-25-09 E - 516.29' from a 10" Spike, a GPS marker, having Coordinates of N 695,046.038', E 1,150,895.079', Elevation 1,129.45', and running thence, with said line agreement and crossing South Muddy Creek, S 6-37-47 E 384.35' to a 3/4" iron pipe set, a new corner common tot tract 1 described herein, thence, two new lines over the lands of Jerry and Larry Randolph, S 48-11-44 W, crossing Sain Road, SR 1768, 1473.17' to a 3/4" iron pipe set; thence, S 9-21-02 W - 61.85' to a 3/4" iron pipe set in said agreed boundary; thence, with said agreed boundary and lines common to tract 2 described herein, S 72 21-42 W - 80.83' to an existing 3/4" iron pipe; thence, S 25-21-42 W - 95.70' to an existing 3/4" iron pipe; thence, S 9-36-42 W - 198.00' to an existing 3/4" iron pipe; thence, S 41-06-42 w' - 206.25' to an existing 3/4" iron pipe, the last and ending corner of said line agreement, thence, crossing South Muddy Creek, N 8-08-18 W -165.00' to an existing 3/4" iron pipe, thence, N 30-38-18 W 126.57' to an un-monumented point, the Southwest corner of a 20' wide strip retained by Randolph for access to the Creek, said point lying S 30-38-18 E - 2,001.44' from an existing iron rod the beginning corner of D.B. 687, pg. 670 and S 30-38-18 E - 943.01' from an existing 3/4"rebar; thence, three new lines over the lands of Jerry and Larry Randolph, N 55-28-01 E - 20.05' to a 3/4" iron pipe set the Southeast corner of said access strip; thence, N 30-38-18 W - 207.22' to a 3/4"" iron pipe set the North east corner of said access strip; thence, N 46-59-51 E, crossing Sain Road, SR 1768, 2088.62' to the beginning containing 14.47 Acres. Save and except that 50 foot Right of Way for Sain Road as recorded in Deed Book 378, Page 438 conveyed January 22, 1988 to the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

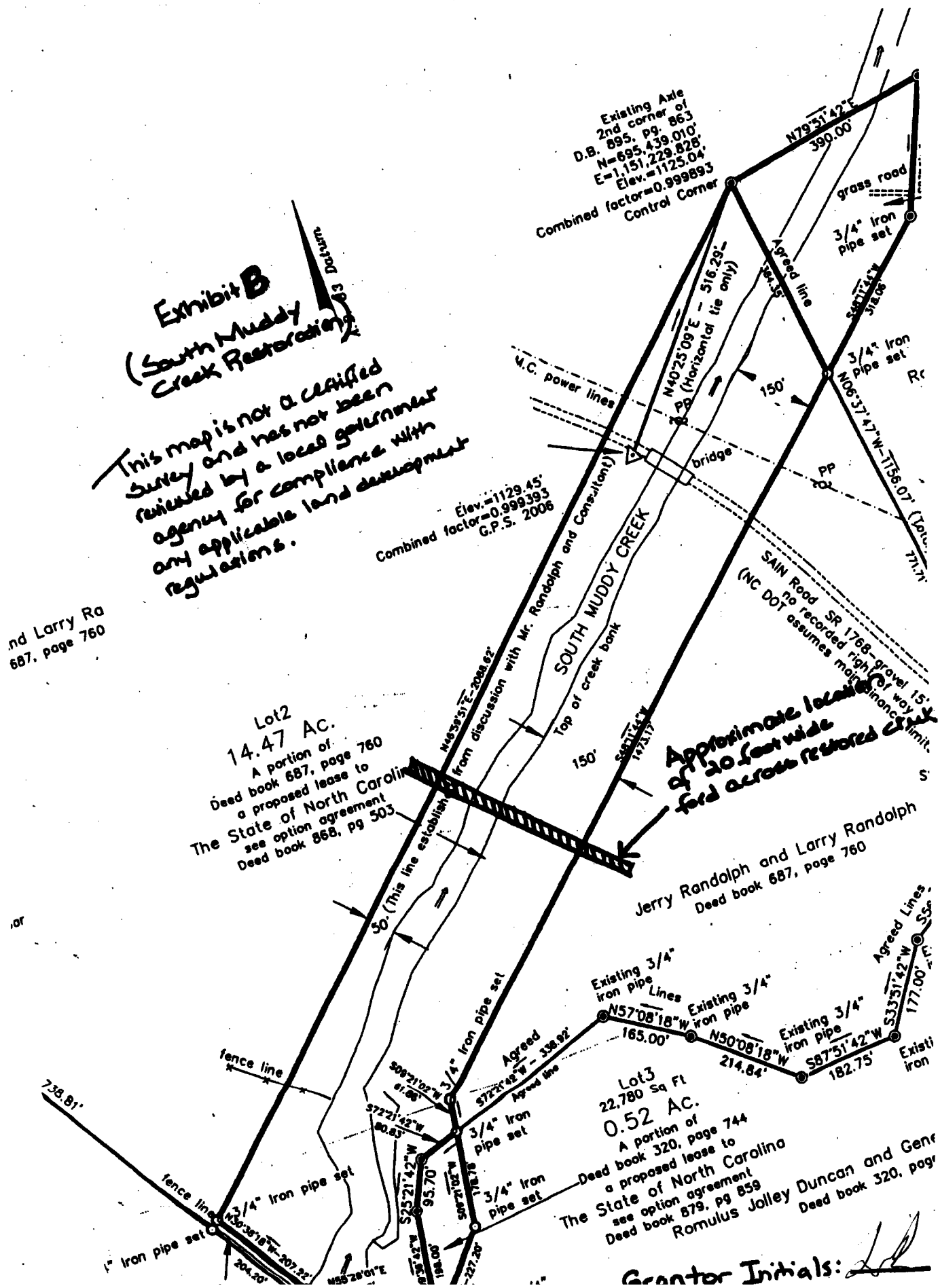
Exhibit B
(South Muddy Creek Restoration)
This map is not a certified survey and has not been reviewed by a local government agency for compliance with any applicable land development regulations.
Existing Axle
2nd corner of
D.B. 895, pg. 863
N=695,439.010'
E=1,151,229.828'
Elev.=1125.04'
Combined factor=0.999893
Control Corner
N79°51'42"E
390.00'
grass road
3/4" iron pipe set
Agreed line
N40°25'09"E - 516.29'
Pp (Horizontal tie only)
S83°51'42"W
3/4" iron pipe set
N06°37'47"W-1156.07'
150'
U.C. power lines
bridge
Pp
Elev.=1129.45'
Combined factor=0.999393
G.P.S. 2006
SOUTH MUDDY CREEK
Top of creek bank
SAIN Road SR 1768-gravel 15'
(NC DOT assumes maintenance limit
Approximate location of 20 foot wide ford across restored creek
Lot2
14.47 Ac.
A portion of
Deed book 687, page 760
a proposed lease to
The State of North Carolina
see option agreement
Deed book 868, pg 503
N46°39'51"E-2088.62'
from discussion with Mr. Randolph and Consultant)
50' (This line establish
150'
Jerry Randolph and Larry Randolph
Deed book 687, page 760
Agreed Lines
Existing 3/4" iron pipe
N57°08'18"W
165.00'
Existing 3/4" iron pipe
N50°08'18"W
214.84'
Existing 3/4" iron pipe
S87°51'42"W
182.75'
S33°51'42"W
177.00'
3/4" iron pipe set
Agreed
S72°21'42"W - 338.92'
Agreed line
fence line
738.81'
S09°21'02"W
61.08'
S72°21'42"W
80.83'
3/4" iron pipe set
Lot3
22,780 Sq Ft
0.52 Ac.
A portion of
Deed book 320, page 744
a proposed lease to
The State of North Carolina
see option agreement
Deed book 879, pg 859
Romulus Jolley Duncan and Gene
Deed book 320, page
S25°21'42"W
95.70'
N30°39'18"W-207.92'
204.20'
N59°28'01"E
Grantor Initials:

Patricia A. Reel
Register of Deeds

# Mcdowell County
# Register of Deeds

21 South Main Street, Suite A • Marion, NORTH CAROLINA 28752
Telephone 828-652-4727 • Fax 828-652-1537 • E-Mail preelmcdowell@titlesearcher.com

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Filed For Registration: 07/21/2008 04:10:53 PM

Book: CRP 969 Page: 443-453

Document No.: 2008004704

DEED 11 PGS 137.00

Recorder: CAROLYN I REEL

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State of North Carolina, County of McDowell

Filed for registration and Duly Recorded this 21ST day of JULY 2008.

PATRICIA A. REEL, REGISTER OF DEEDS

By: Carolyn I. Reel
DEPUTY REGISTER OF DEEDS

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DO NOT REMOVE!

This certification sheet is a vital part of your recorded document. Please retain with original document and submit when re-recording.