



N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Release: IMMEDIATE
Date: February 2, 2004

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Distribution: Targeted

PROPERTY OWNERS TO RECEIVE INFORMATION ON RESTORATION INCENTIVES

RALEIGH -- State and federal officials will share information on Feb. 26 in Elizabeth City regarding financial incentives available to private landowners within the Pasquotank River area who choose to participate in initiatives to restore degraded wetlands and streams.

The meeting is scheduled from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Pasquotank County Cooperative Extension Building, located at 1209 McPherson St., and a light dinner will be provided. Individuals planning to attend must pre-register by calling the Pasquotank County Center of the N.C. Cooperative Extension Service at (252) 338-3954 before Feb. 18.

Officials from the N.C. Ecosystem Enhancement Program (EEP) will conduct the meeting, which is also sponsored by the Pasquotank County Cooperative Extension Service and the federal Natural Resources Conservation Service, a branch of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Over the past two years, a team of governmental, agricultural, educational and recreational representatives has conducted a technical watershed assessment in portions of Pasquotank, Camden and Gates counties. The effort was aimed at identifying degradation issues within stream drainages of the Pasquotank River, and potential solutions that could address water quality, habitat protection and flooding issues.

The meeting will present results of the watershed assessment, as well as a discussion of state and federal funding opportunities for both rural and urban landowners who wish to become involved in efforts to protect the Pasquotank River watershed. Project criteria, application requirements and program contact information will be discussed.

EEP is designed to improve habitat, stream and water-quality protection in North Carolina. The program was created in July 2003 under an agreement among the state Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the N.C. Department of Transportation and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

More information on the meeting is available by contacting Bonnie Mullen Duncan, eastern planning supervisor for the state Ecosystem Enhancement Program, at 919-733-5315 or by e-mail at Bonnie.Duncan@ncmail.net.

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