

15A NCAC 12J .0307 GRANT AGREEMENT

Comment - (Southern Environmental Law Center on behave of the North Carolina Conservation Network, Pamlico-Tar River Foundation, Clean Air Carolina, Appalachian Voices, Cape Fear River Watch, Western North Carolina Alliance, Clean Water for North Carolina, Environmental Defense Fund, Neuse Riverkeeper Foundation, and North Carolina League of Conservation Voters):

Ultimately, while DPR continues to operate a program that processes applications for federal funds allocated by the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the rules explaining that program, and how it can be used by the public to access funding, are necessary. Assuming there has been no objection to these rules, they should therefore be labeled "necessary without substantive public interest."

Agency Response:

We have made the final determination as Necessary with Substantive Public Interest and will consider your comments during the readoption process.

Comment - (Friends of State Parks):

While the aforementioned rules all address the acquisition and management of natural resources by the State, DPR also adopted rules governing the allocation of financial resources to the State through the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Act established a revenue stream to support the development of parks and outdoor recreation opportunities.³⁵ The rules in Subchapter 12J implement this Act, first by establishing a state program to process applications for, and distribute federal allocations of, such funding.³⁶ Another rule dictates who (the state liaison officer) heads this program and has authority to administer LWCF funds.³⁷ Additional rules address important details about the program, including the scope of available awards, the funding cycle, and the annual program review.³⁸ Still other rules explain how interested municipalities can apply for LWCF funding.³⁹ When combined, these rules provide necessary guidance to both DPR and the public regarding access by North Carolinians to available federal funding in fulfillment of DPR's mission.

Agency Response:

We have made the final determination as Necessary with Substantive Public Interest and will consider your comments during the readoption process.