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Map shows Cape Lookout seashore area of Outer Banks

State Acquires Seashore Tract

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Staff Writer

A major step toward concluding land acquisitions for Cape Lookout National Seashore was taken Wednesday by the Council of State.

Purchase of 1,000 acres of land on Core Banks — about one-third of the total amount needed — was approved by the council during a meeting with Gov. Bob Scott.

The property was purchased for \$150,000 from Mr. and Mrs. Alston Ramsay, Mr. and Mrs. Walter B. Mayer, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph R. Shull, Mr. and Mrs. Minor C. Hunter and Sarah M. Scott. It is located about one

and a half miles south of the Core Banks Gun Club property, which is one of the largest remaining tracts still sought by the state.

Director of Administration William Turner commented after the Council of State accepted the deed to the 1,000-acre tract: "This gives us a large chunk — a good start toward winding up the project."

Just south of the newly-acquired 1,000-acre tract lies a tract owned by Sanford industrialist Charles Reeves-Reeves, a member of the State Banking Commission and

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former member of the State Board of Conservation and Development, built an A-frame home there in 1962.

The Reeves property near Cape Lookout and the Core Banks Gun Club are the last sizeable land holdings which are still unacquired. Numerous small parcels remain to be acquired also.

The Property Control Division of the Department of Administration has now obtained approximately 90 per cent of the 20,000-plus acres needed for establishment of the national seashore on the Tar Heel coast. The state is obtaining Core Banks and Portsmouth Island and will turn the property over to the National Park Service. The federal government is buying the third Outer Banks strip needed for the seashore — Shackleford Banks.

The project was authorized by former President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1966 and land acquisitions by the State have been under way since then.

Slow Process

Purchase of the last remaining 3,000 acres has been a relatively slow process, and legal action by the state to condemn some of the land for public use is seen as a possibility.

The total amount of land sought during the windup negotiations has been variously reported as from 2,000 to 2,500 acres. The figure 3,000 is probably more accurate, meaning that Wednesday's 1,000-acre purchase brought the project one-third of the way to completion, Asst. Atty. Gen.

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