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## State Purchases 3 Coastal Tracts

BEAUFORT — Sanford businessman Charles M. Reeves Jr. and Sam Q. Bass of Morehead City have received a \$1.5 million check from the state of North Carolina for purchase of three key tracts on the Outer Banks which will form part of the Cape Lookout National Seashore.

The acquisition of the three tracts leaves only one more tract, owned by the Core Banks Road and Gun Club, to be bought. The land, which is being condemned, has a value of \$3.6 million, according to a special commission of appraisers. The state has appealed the value in superior court.

The acquisition of the tracts at Cape Lookout marks the nearing of the end of an eight-year project of the federal government to establish a 58-mile national seashore from Ocracoke Island to Cape Hatteras. Federal funds will not be forthcoming for the project until the state has purchased approximately 20,000 acres. The gun club owns 1,000 acres.

William Bondurant, secretary of the North Carolina Department of Administration, said that the state has accepted an offer from Reeves and Bass in which they will give the state an additional 180 acres appraised at \$800,000. The land is not under condemnation but touches the other land being purchased.

Bondurant said that Reeves purchased the land more than 20 years ago to develop a resort not readily accessible

by automobile. When the North Carolina Seashore Park Commission expressed an interest in the land, Reeves held up development to allow the state to determine which portion of the land it desired, Bondurant said.

Judge Robert Rouse of Farmville, resident superior court judge, signed a judgment Wednesday in which the state and property owners consented to the terms for the transfer of the land.

The three tracts are on the Core Banks. A hearing Feb. 8 in Farmville determined that Reeves owned a two-thirds undivided interest and Bass a one-third undivided interest in two tracts at Cape Lookout. Reeves owns a 100 per cent interest in one tract just north of old Drum Inlet.

The total acreage of the tracts is 468.17 acres. The tracts were originally appraised last year by a court at more than \$1.8 million.