

Sanfordians

sell state

coastal land

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Two Sanford businessmen have agreed to sell 468 acres of land on the Outer Banks to the state of North Carolina for \$1.5 million.

Charles M. Reeves Jr. of Sanford and Sam Q. Bass of Sanford and Morehead City agreed to that purchase price — for three tracts of land on the Core Banks — in a judgment signed Wednesday by Superior Court Judge Robert Rouse of Farmville. That judgment spelled out terms of the land's transfer.

The acquisition of these three tracts by the state leaves only one more tract — 1,000 acres owned by the Core Banks Road and Gun Club — to be bought by the state before a 58-mile national seashore project (from Cape Hatteras to Ocracoke Island) can be established in the area by the federal government.

A Feb. 8 hearing in Farmville determined that Reeves owned a two-thirds undivided interest in two of the tracts, located at Cape Lookout, while determining that Bass owned one-third undivided interest in the same two tracts. The third tract, located just north of old Drum Inlet, is entirely owned by Reeves. The total acreage of the tracts is 468.17 acres.

North Carolina Department of Administration Secretary William Bondurant said that the state has also accepted an offer from Reeves and Bass in which they will give the state an additional 180 acres of land adjacent to the land just purchased by the state. The 180-acre tract has been appraised at \$800,000, but had not been condemned by the state for the seashore park project.

Reeves purchased the land more than 20 years ago, according to Bondurant, in order to develop a resort area. Reeves held up development of the land, however, when the North Carolina Seashore Park Commission expressed an interest in acquiring a portion of the land.

The three tracts just purchased by the state were appraised last year by a court at more than \$1.8 million.