

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

EXECUTIVE ORDER

COLUMBIA

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WHEREAS, South Carolina is a State steeped in tradition and rich in natural resources, and

WHEREAS, such resources constitute a substantial part of the heritage of South Carolina, and

WHEREAS, all citizens of South Carolina have a deep and abiding concern and interest in protecting the most important and valuable of such resources and in insuring that they will be available for the enjoyment of future generations, and

WHEREAS, this heritage cannot and should not be protected solely through the enactment of laws and regulations and therefore should involve the active and personal participation of citizens of South Carolina, and

WHEREAS, a number of on-going efforts in this regard are now being conducted by agencies of the State including the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism and the Department of Archives and History, and

WHEREAS, the effectiveness of the above referenced programs can and should be complemented by the cooperative efforts of all agencies concerned with the protection and continuation of our tradition and natural resources,

NOW, THEREFORE, I do hereby create the South Carolina Heritage Trust. The South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission shall have authority for the administration of the Heritage Trust Program and shall utilize the Wildlife and Marine Resources Department staff to carry out this responsibility.

To assist the Commission in the performance of its duties hereunder, I do hereby create the South Carolina Heritage Advisory Board. The Chairman of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission shall serve as Chairman of the Board.

- (1) The Executive Director of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Department;
- (2) The Chairman of South Carolina Parks, Recreation and Tourism Commission ;
- (3) The Chairman of South Carolina Land Resources and Conservation Commission;
- (4) The Director of South Carolina Department of Archives and History;
- (5) The State Forester;
- (6) The Chairman of the South Carolina Ports Authority;
- (7) One member representing the South Carolina Senate;
- (8) One member representing the South Carolina House of Representatives;
- (9) Seven (7) members to be appointed by the Governor from recommendations submitted by the Nature Conservancy.

The Commission and the Nature Conservancy, acting through the Chairman, shall enter into a cooperative effort to inventory the present lands within our State which are deemed vitally important heritage areas and to establish a comprehensive acquisition, protection and management program best suited to the needs of South Carolina.

Acknowledging the operation and existence of other programs now being conducted by state agencies in the areas of historical site preservation and recreational land purchase and development, the establishment of the Heritage Trust Fund is in no way intended to conflict or overlap with these programs. The Trust should, in fact, provide yet another dimension and resource which can be entirely compatible with ongoing efforts, and such programs should be operated with a high degree of cooperation among participating agencies.

It should be further noted that substantial work in the areas of research, inventory and evaluation of existing resources has already been conducted by agencies of the state, and such data can be of vital assistance in the activity of the Heritage Trust.

The Commission and the Board shall work with private citizens in the counties, regional planning councils, other State agencies, Federal agencies and private groups. The Advisory Board shall have the authority to appoint committees representative of local and specialized interests to assist the Commission and The Nature Conservancy in this cooperative effort .

In order for an area to be included in the Heritage Trust Program, the area must contain either natural, environmental, recreational, historical or archaeological resources of regional or statewide importance.

In addition to establishing and conducting this Program, the Commission, with the assistance of the Advisory Board, shall endeavor to obtain interests in such lands where possible by gift and donation, and shall establish the necessary management guidelines appropriate for their use and protection.

The Commission shall undertake the planning and research necessary to develop and recommend as soon as possible to the General Assembly the necessary legislation to provide adequate funding and administration for a continuing Heritage and Environmental Lands Program.

The Commission is authorized to apply for, accept and expend financial assistance from public and private sources in support of activities undertaken pursuant to this Order.



ATTEST:

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of South Carolina at Columbia, South Carolina this 27th day of February, 1974


O. Frank Thornton
Secretary of State


John C. West, Governor
State of South Carolina