

**Item Title:** Approve Agreement with State of North Carolina for Protection of Forest Land in Wake County

**Specific Action Requested:**

**That the Board of Commissioners approves the State of North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services Agreement for the Protection, Development and Improvement of Forest Land in Wake County, North Carolina and authorizes the Wake County Manager to sign the annual contract subject to the terms and conditions acceptable to the Wake County Attorney's Office.**

**Item Summary:**

**Purpose:** The Board of Commissioners is asked to approve this agreement with the North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services.

**Background:** Pursuant to N.C.G.S. §106-898, Counties must contribute to specified forestry management activities for State funds to be expended. County funds must comprise at least 25% of the total cost of the forestry program. The statute requires the Board of Commissioners to approve the agreement and authorize signature by the County Manager, subject to the approval of conditions by the Wake County Attorney's Office

This annually recurring agreement is funded through the Wake County Fire Tax District as part of System Wide Expenses. Funds support such forestry management services as controlled burns, seedling plantings, and wildfire response.

**Strategic Plan:** This action supports standard County operations.

**Fiscal Impact:** Funding has been included in the FY26 Fire Tax District budget; no additional funds are needed.

**Additional Information:**

None.

**Attachments:**

1. State of North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services Agreement (Forest Ranger)
2. NC Forestry FY2025 Memo and Proposed Budget
3. N.C.G.S. §106-898, Duties of forest rangers; payment of expenses by State and counties