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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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N.C. Clean Water Management Trust Fund Awards \$1 Million to Carolina Thread Trail

Charlotte, NC – The North Carolina Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF) has awarded the Carolina Thread Trail \$1 million for permanent land conservation and trails along regional waterways as part of its 2010 grant allocation. The funds will be used to support local communities as they acquire land for trail segments along waterways throughout the 11 North Carolina counties within The Thread's 15-county footprint.

This award brings the total CWMTF monies awarded to The Thread to \$4 million, making CWMTF the largest source of public funding for this project. CWMTF monies are allocated by the Fund's Board of Trustees to support projects that enhance or restore degraded waters, protect unpolluted waters, or contribute toward a network of riparian buffers and greenways for environmental, educational, and recreational benefits.

"We're so grateful to the North Carolina Legislature for supporting this program as a vital component of our state's natural resource protection, and to the Clean Water Trustees for their vote of confidence," said Ruth Shaw, Chair of The Thread's Governing Board. "We are already working with partners throughout the region to ensure that these funds are invested back into communities to protect our shared water resources and advance The Thread's network of trails."

Since its launch in 2007, The Thread's Governing Board and Grants Committee have awarded over \$1 million in catalytic private funding to communities to protect land and advance The Thread throughout the region. The Thread is funded through a private capital campaign, which is then used to leverage public funding sources such as CWMTF.

More than 160 counties, municipalities, civic organizations and agencies have signed resolutions of support for The Thread project to date. Eight counties have fully-adopted master plans. Four counties are in the active planning stage and three counties are engaged in the citizen outreach phase.

About The Carolina Thread Trail

The Carolina Thread Trail (The Thread) is a 15-county, two state initiative designed to inspire and facilitate the creation of a regional network of trails, blueways, and conservation corridors that is growing together to link more than 2.3 million citizens. With technical resources and catalytic funding from The Thread, local communities plan and implement their portions of this green interstate system. Catawba Lands Conservancy is the lead agency for The Thread, working in partnership with Foundation For The Carolinas and many other local partners.

Land Trust Partners:

- *Catawba Lands Conservancy*

- *Davidson Lands Conservancy*
- *Foothills Conservancy of North Carolina*
- *Katawba Valley Land Trust*
- *Nation Ford Land Trust*

Additional Resources:

- *www.carolinathreadtrail.org*
- *www.catawbalands.org*
- *www.davidsonlands.org*
- *www.foothillsconservancy.org*
- *www.kvlt.org*
- *www.nationafordlandtrust.org*

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