

2007-2008 2 Year Report Executive Summary

The State Lands Acquisition Fund (SLAF) has been instrumental in the efforts to acquire lands for preservation and conservation across the entire state of Tennessee. Since the inception of the real estate transfer tax, the SLAF serves as the facilitating entity when structuring collaborative land purchases involving multiple funding sources, non-profit agencies, and state agencies. These unique and creative partnerships utilizing SLAF brought availability of these gems for future generations to enjoy and treasure.

The SLAF leveraged funding from sources that included the Heritage Conservation Trust Fund, the Land and Water Conservation Trust Fund, Forest Legacy Program, the American Battlefield Protection Program, Federal Highway Department, Tennessee's Department of Transportation Enhancement and View shed Programs, private dollars and non-profit organizations. The success of SLAF was accomplished with the work of non-profit organizations such as the Nature Conservancy, the Conservation Fund, The Land Trust for Tennessee, Tennessee Greenways and Trails, and the Cumberland Trail Conference. The outstanding achievements of SLAF, over the past two years, are a direct result of packaging together the efforts of the various funding sources involved in land acquisitions.

From January 2007 to December 2008, SLAF has acquired 10,490.32 acres for natural areas, state parks, state forests, historic sites, and archaeological sites. The State Land Acquisition Fund provided, through the real estate transfer tax, approximately \$7,543,283.29 towards the protection of these lands. However, the more significant fact is that the SLAF funds leveraged an additional \$13,142,551.80 from other funding sources to protect these 10,000+ acres.