



T-5750/1

State of North Carolina
Department of Natural Resources and Community Development
512 North Salisbury Street • Raleigh, North Carolina 27611

James G. Martin, Governor

S. Thomas Rhodes, Secretary

July 17, 1985

Brigadier General J. B. Knotts
Commanding General, United States Marine Corps
Camp Lejeune
Camp Lejeune, North Carolina 28542

Dear General Knotts:

It is my pleasure to accept the Memorandum of Understanding, initiated by Major General L. H. Buehl, designating the Camp Lejeune Longleaf Pine Natural Area and the Wallace Creek Natural Area as protected management areas on Camp Lejeune Marine Corps Base and recognizing both sites on the North Carolina Registry of Natural Heritage Areas. I have co-signed the Memorandum of Understanding and enclose a copy.

We appreciate the actions of the United States Marine Corps to protect these exceptional natural areas. I look forward to presenting framed certificates of recognition to you at a convenient date.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "S. Thomas Rhodes".

S. Thomas Rhodes

STR/wwd

Attachment

cc: W. W. Davis, Director
Division of Parks and Recreation

✓ Julian I. Wooten, Director
Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs

Faint handwritten text, possibly a signature or name, located in the lower-left quadrant of the page.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
AND THE
MARINE CORPS BASE, CAMP LEJEUNE
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
FOR
DESIGNATION AND MANAGEMENT OF HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT NATURAL AREAS
ON CAMP LEJEUNE, AND RECOGNITION OF THOSE AREAS ON THE
NORTH CAROLINA REGISTRY OF NATURAL HERITAGE AREAS

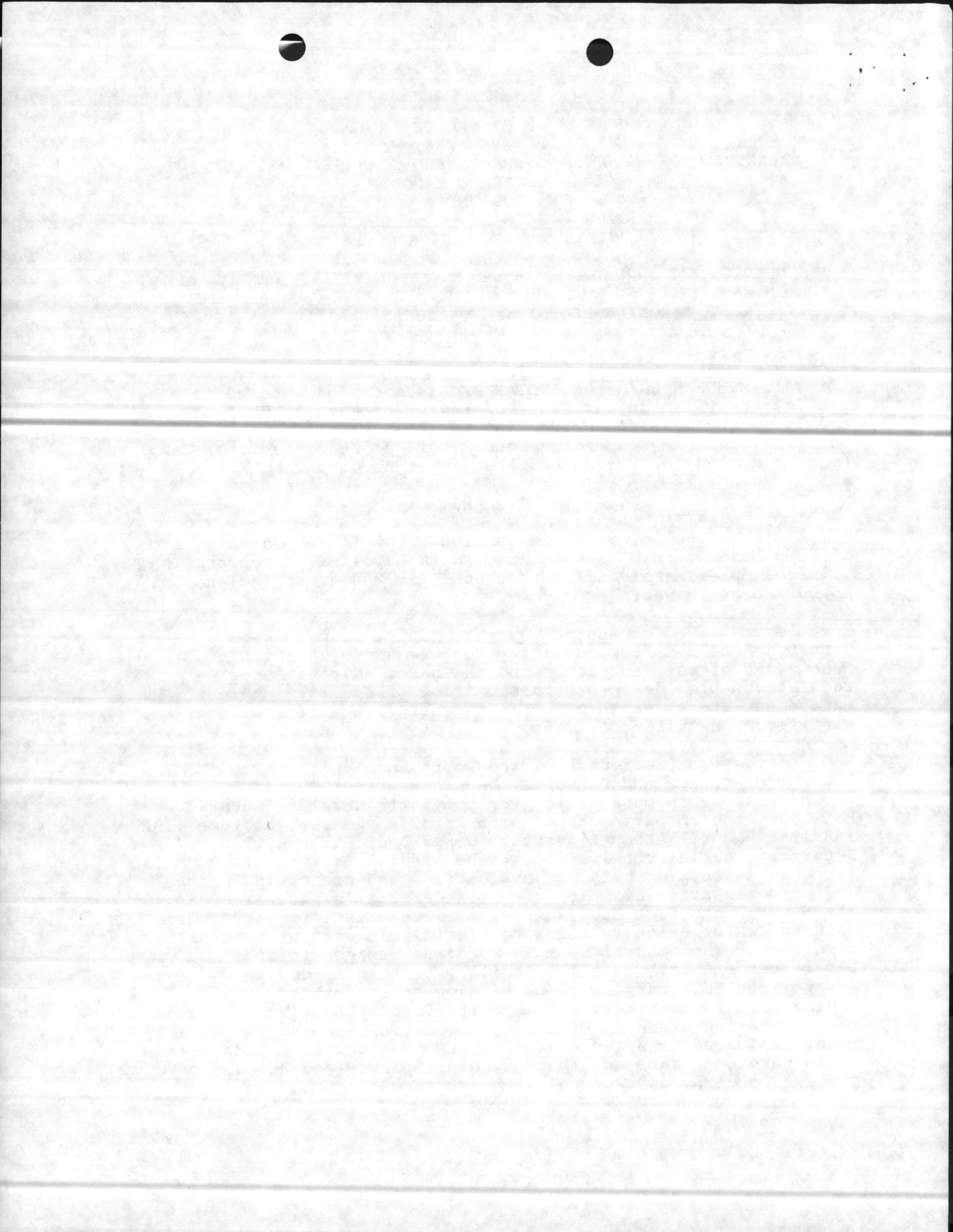
This MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING is made and entered into by the Secretary, North Carolina Department of Natural Resources and Community Development, acting for the State of North Carolina, and the Commanding General of Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune acting for the United States Marine Corps.

PURPOSE

Whereas, the United States Marine Corps is the administrator of Camp Lejeune in Onslow County, North Carolina, which totals in size approximately 111,208 acres -- 85,208 acres in land and 26,000 acres in water.

Whereas, the Commanding General, Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, has responsibility for the administration and management of the land composing the base. Marine Corps regulations provide for the designation of special-interest management areas, which may be managed for the protection of significant natural resources.

Whereas, the Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Natural Resources and Community Development (DNRCD) has administrative responsibility for the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 113A-164 (the Natural Areas Registration and Dedication Act) and Department Administrative Code. The Natural Heritage Program is responsible for identifying, evaluating, and protecting unique and representative examples of North Carolina's natural areas. The Natural Heritage Program serves as the State's central data bank for information relating to special elements of natural diversity. The Natural Heritage Program manages for the Department of North Carolina Registry of Natural Heritage Areas. The Secretary, with permission of landowners, may register and designate areas in North Carolina having rare or representative examples of plant communities, geologic landforms, aquatic systems, soil types, habitats for endangered or threatened plants and animals, other plants and animals of special concern, and special interest wildlife habitats.



Whereas, definitions of terms used in this agreement relating to the NC DNRCD Natural Heritage Program and the U. S. Marine Corps Department of Defense are:

(1) "Natural Area" means a physical or biological area which either has reestablished its natural character, although it need not be completely undisturbed, and which typifies native vegetation and associated biological and geological features, or provides habitat for endangered or threatened animal or plant species, or includes geologic or other natural features of scientific or educational value.

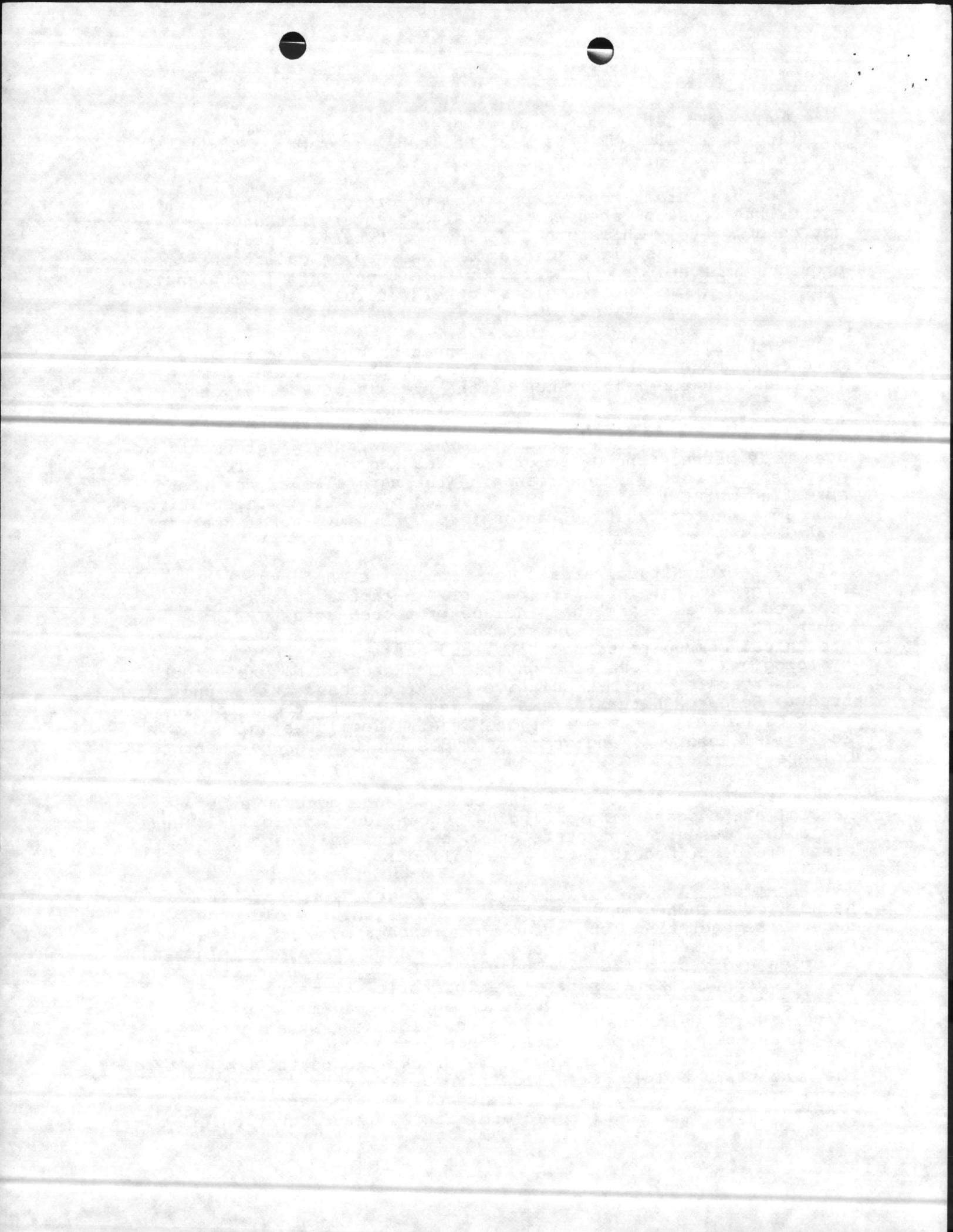
(2) "Natural Heritage Area" means that natural area recommended by the NC DNRCD Natural Heritage Program that is of special importance to the maintenance of the state's natural diversity.

(3) "Registry of Natural Heritage Areas" means the NC DNRCD's list of natural heritage areas for which voluntary agreement has been made between the owner of the area and the DNRCD for the purposes of protecting and managing the natural area for its specified natural values. (Established by N. C. Administrative Code 15, Chapter 12H.0200; authorized by N. C. General Statute 113A-164).

(4) "Research Natural Areas" (or "Ecological Reserves") on Federal government lands are part of a national series of reserved natural areas that include protected areas representative of the full array of North American ecosystems, biological communities, habitats, and geological and hydrological functions and conditions. Research Natural Areas are reserved for non-manipulative research, observation, and study. Research Natural Areas are designated by the landholding agencies which are members of the Federal Committee on Ecological Reserves, and which includes the U. S. Department of Defense.

Whereas, the lands composing Camp Lejeune contain several natural areas possessing biological, botanical, zoological, and ecological resources of state and national significance. These areas are described in summary as follows:

(A) Longleaf Pine Natural Area - The 26-acre longleaf pine stand (see attached map) represents one of the few old-growth, natural regenerating longleaf pine forests remaining on the Coastal Plain region. The longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*) stand occupies a dry sand ridge. The old flat-topped pine trees with trunk scars or box-faces remain as historic artifacts of the naval stores industry that was once an economic mainstay of eastern North Carolina. There is no evidence that any trees have been cut or stumps removed since before the turn of the twentieth century. Other than fire breaks around the border of the pine stand and a few shallow fire breaks extending into the stand, there are no signs of recent human manipulation. The preserve serves as an historic and natural interpretation and

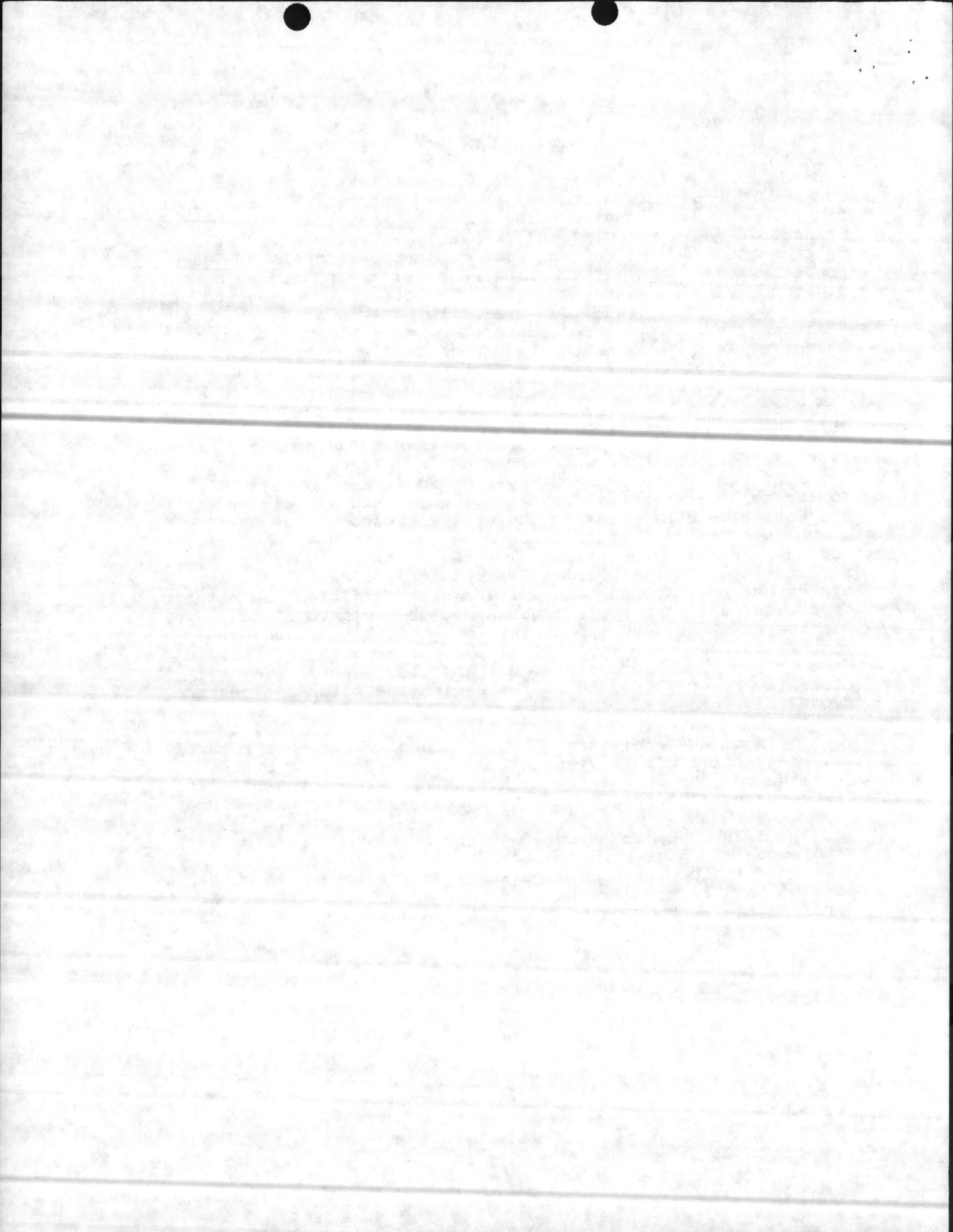


research area. A variety of biological processes are depicted, especially the life history of a natural reproducing longleaf pine forest and the effects of fire management on a fire-dependent natural community. An active colony of the red-cockaded woodpecker, a federally-listed endangered species, is found in this old longleaf pine stand. Other wildlife species using this habitat include black bear, deer, and wild turkey. To the east and south of the pine-dominated ridge is a high pocosin natural community dominated by widely scattered pond pine and evergreen shrub species. The creeks on the north and west sides of the pine ridge drain the pocosin areas and are vegetated by a swamp forest natural community. The pocosin and swamp wetlands surrounding the pine forest service as an effective natural buffer and isolate the pine stand from disturbances.

(B) Wallace Creek Natural Area - 115 acres (see attached map). An old-growth bald cypress stand survives as a remnant of the historic millpond that was impounded on Wallace Creek by the old Montford Dam, which was destroyed by Hurricane Hazel in 1954. Most such cypress stands have previously been cut elsewhere in the Coastal Plain. Massive, beautiful cypress trees tower over a subcanopy of hardwoods and an open understory with scattered red bays and palmetto palms. The swamp forest above the old impoundment is a high quality example of a blackwater swamp system due to its undisturbed hydrologic condition and maturity of the forest. The cypress-gum swamp grades into a small blackwater stream subtype dominated by black gums and other mixed hardwoods along the three upper tributaries of Wallace Creek. The swamp forest provides important habitat for a diversity of wildlife and connects with the marshes along the New River.

And, Whereas, these areas possess exceptional natural values justifying their recognition by the State of North Carolina and the United States Marine Corps as outstanding parts of the natural heritage of North Carolina and the United States.

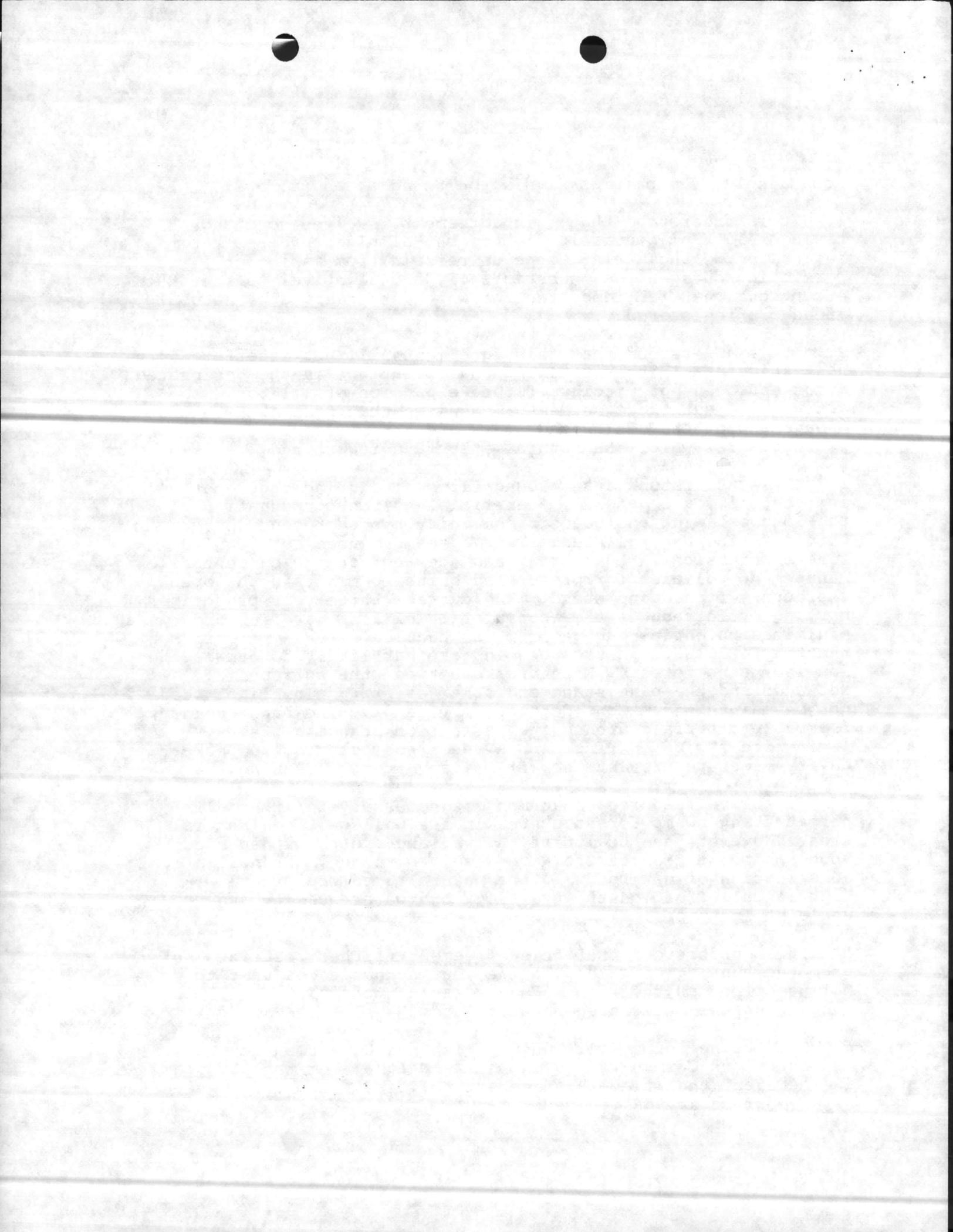
THEREFORE, it is agreed between the parties signing this Memorandum of Understanding that the natural areas further described in the attached maps and survey accounts which are a part of this agreement, shall be entered on the official North Carolina Registry of Natural Heritage Areas on the _____ day of _____, 1985.



AGREEMENT

Accordingly, the parties signing below agree as follows:

1. It is understood that this agreement involves no change of title or loss of ownership rights, but simply expresses the intentions of the Marine Corps to refrain from making or permitting changes that substantially and negatively affect the exceptional natural resources for which the designated natural areas are registered.
2. It is understood that this agreement will not interfere with non-vehicular military training and operations in the designated areas and does not preclude future expansion of military activities, but the agreement recognizes that present uses and management of the designated areas are beneficial to the natural resources for which the natural areas are registered.
3. It is understood that ground fires, including those set incidentally, are generally beneficial to the perpetuation of the longleaf pine and pocosin community types present in the Longleaf Pine Natural Area. This agreement does not require fire suppression in that area, and does not change current fire management policies for prescribed burns to maintain the open character of the pine stand. The current three-year prescribed burning cycle reduces the accumulation of fuel material and minimizes potential damage from unscheduled fires. Wildfires that may originate in the pocosins are not likely to damage the longleaf pine forest. Fire breaks between the surrounding wetlands and the pine stand and other existing plow lines need not be maintained. Consideration may be given to hand raking flammable materials around the resin-rich standing stumps, living trees with box-face scars, and red-cockaded woodpecker cavity trees to prevent them from inadvertently burning.
4. No active resource management is necessary for the self-perpetuating swamp forest system in the Wallace Creek Natural Area. However, the health of the wetland system is dependent upon the protection of the watershed. Ditching, channelization, construction of new roads in the natural area would have detrimental effect on the hydrology and water quality and, thus, would be inappropriate.
5. It is understood that this agreement neither restricts nor promotes hunting of game wildlife, but acknowledges that the Marine Corps has the right and discretion to permit or prohibit hunting on the designated natural lands.
6. The Marine Corps will consult with the Department of Natural Resources and Community Development's Natural Heritage Program in the event that timber management policies for the designated natural areas may be revised.



7. It is understood that this agreement does not promote or provide for public access. The Marine Corps may control public access to the designated areas as it sees necessary. The Marine Corps reserves the right to grant or deny permission to gain access to the designated areas. Neither the Marine Corps nor the DNRCD offer any assurance as to the safety conditions on the land or for the safety of persons thereon. Registration of the natural areas does not effect the landowner's liability for injury to visitors or their property.

8. This agreement does not preclude the designation of additional special-interest natural areas on the base by mutual agreement in the future, particularly as a result of findings of ecological significance during the course of the national wetlands inventory project, now in progress.

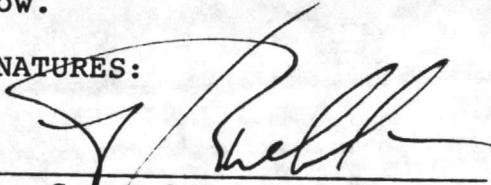
9. This agreement promotes the use of the designated natural areas for purposes of protection and perpetuation of the ecological systems that distinguish the areas.

10. The N. C. Department of Natural Resources and Community Development encourages the U. S. Marine Corps to consider designation of the registered areas to the system of Federal Research Natural Areas (Ecological Reserves) pursuant to Department of Defense procedures.

11. Either agency entering this agreement may terminate this Memorandum of Understanding by providing 30 days written notice to the other party. Unless so terminated, this agreement will remain in force indefinitely.

These Camp Lejeune Natural Areas are hereby registered as protected North Carolina Natural Heritage Areas. This Memorandum of Understanding is executed as of the last date below.

SIGNATURES:



Major General L. H. Buehl III
Commanding General
Marine Corps Base
Camp Lejeune, North Carolina
28542-5000



S. Thomas Rhodes
Secretary
North Carolina Department of
Natural Resources & Community
Development
State of North Carolina
Post Office Box 27687
Raleigh, North Carolina 27611

6-14-85

Date

7/18/85

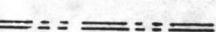
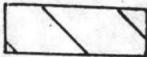
Date

S. J. ...

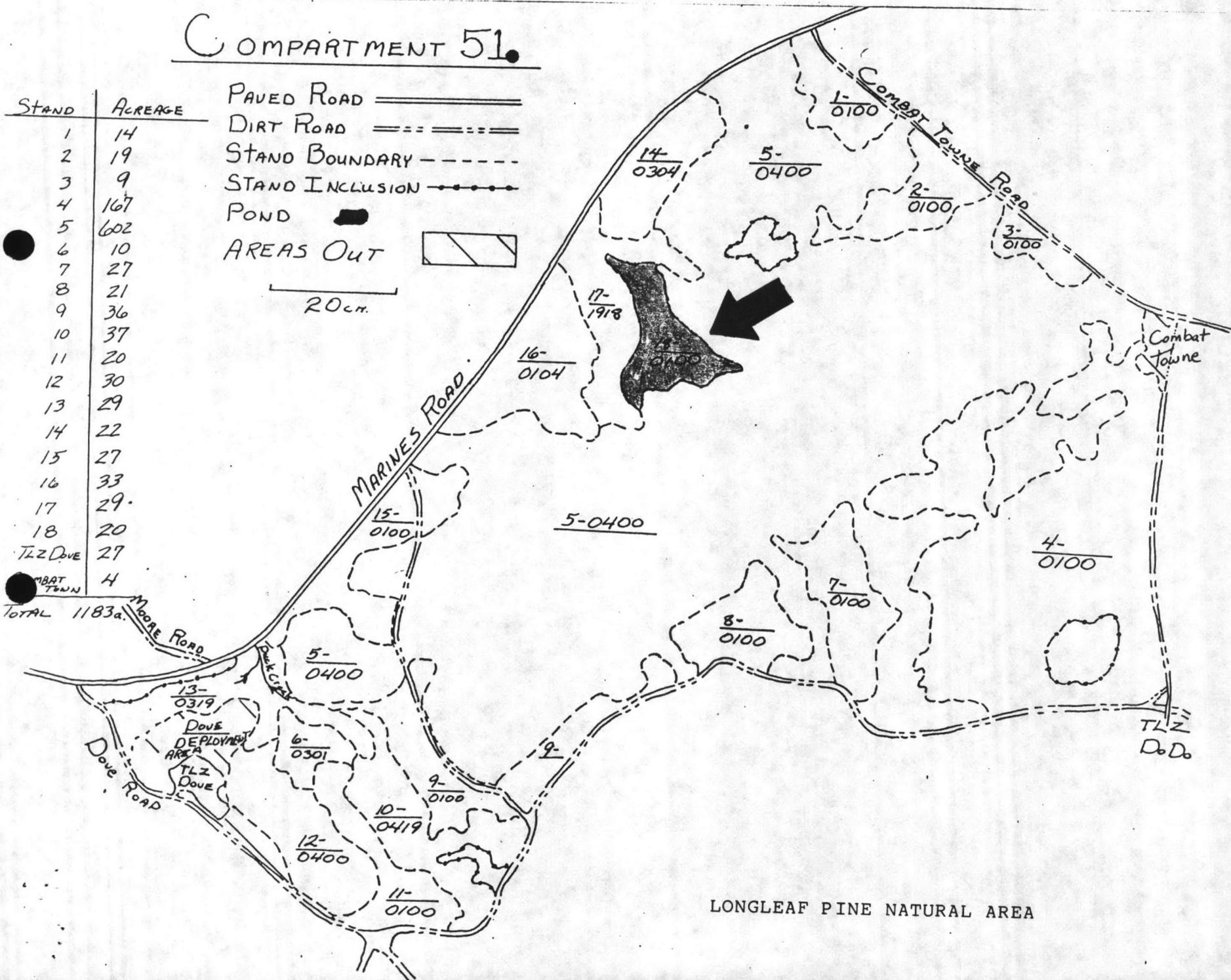
4/18/1917

COMPARTMENT 51.

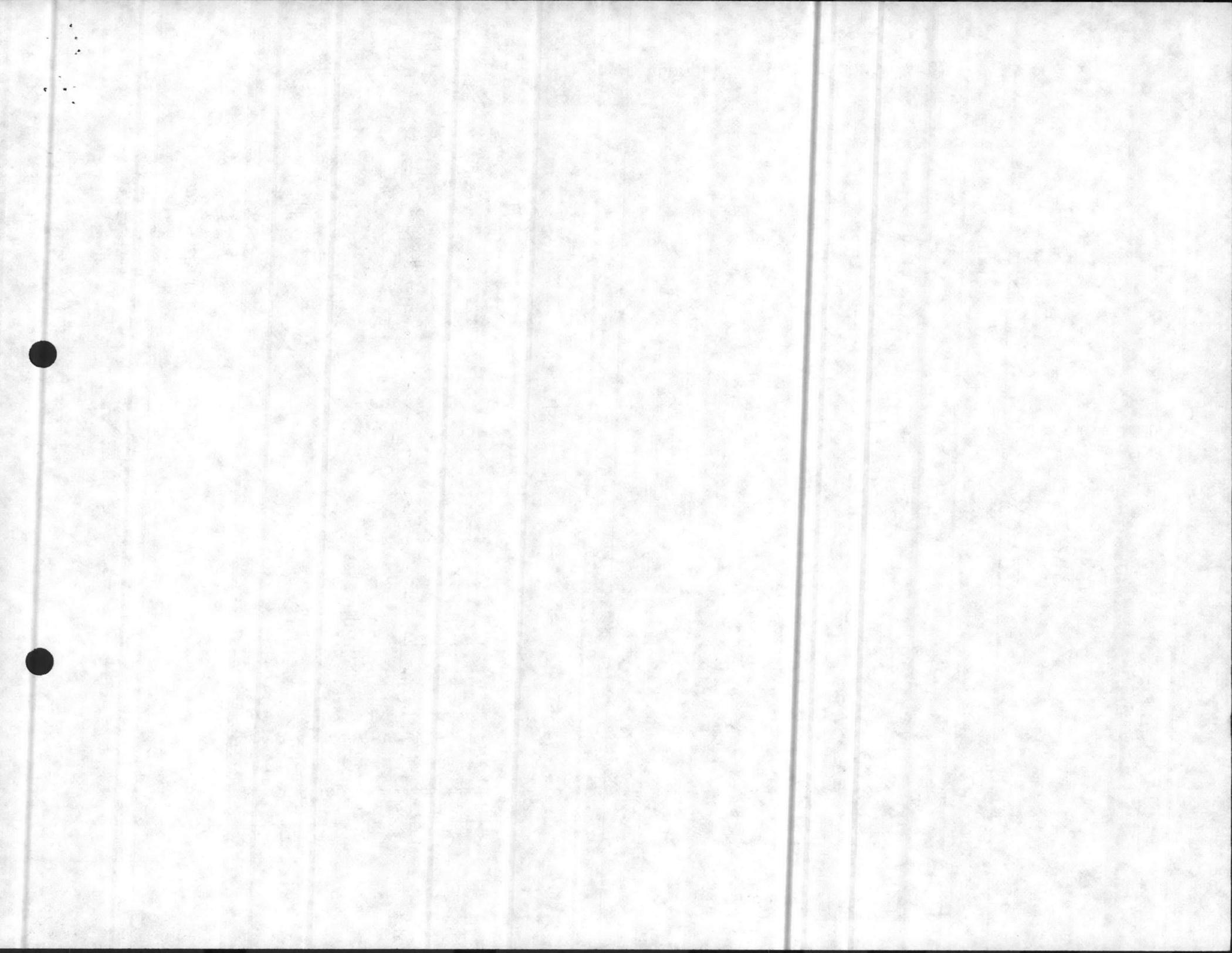
STAND	ACREAGE
1	14
2	19
3	9
4	167
5	602
6	10
7	27
8	21
9	36
10	37
11	20
12	30
13	29
14	22
15	27
16	33
17	29
18	20
TLZ DOVE	27
MBAT TOWN	4
TOTAL	1183a.

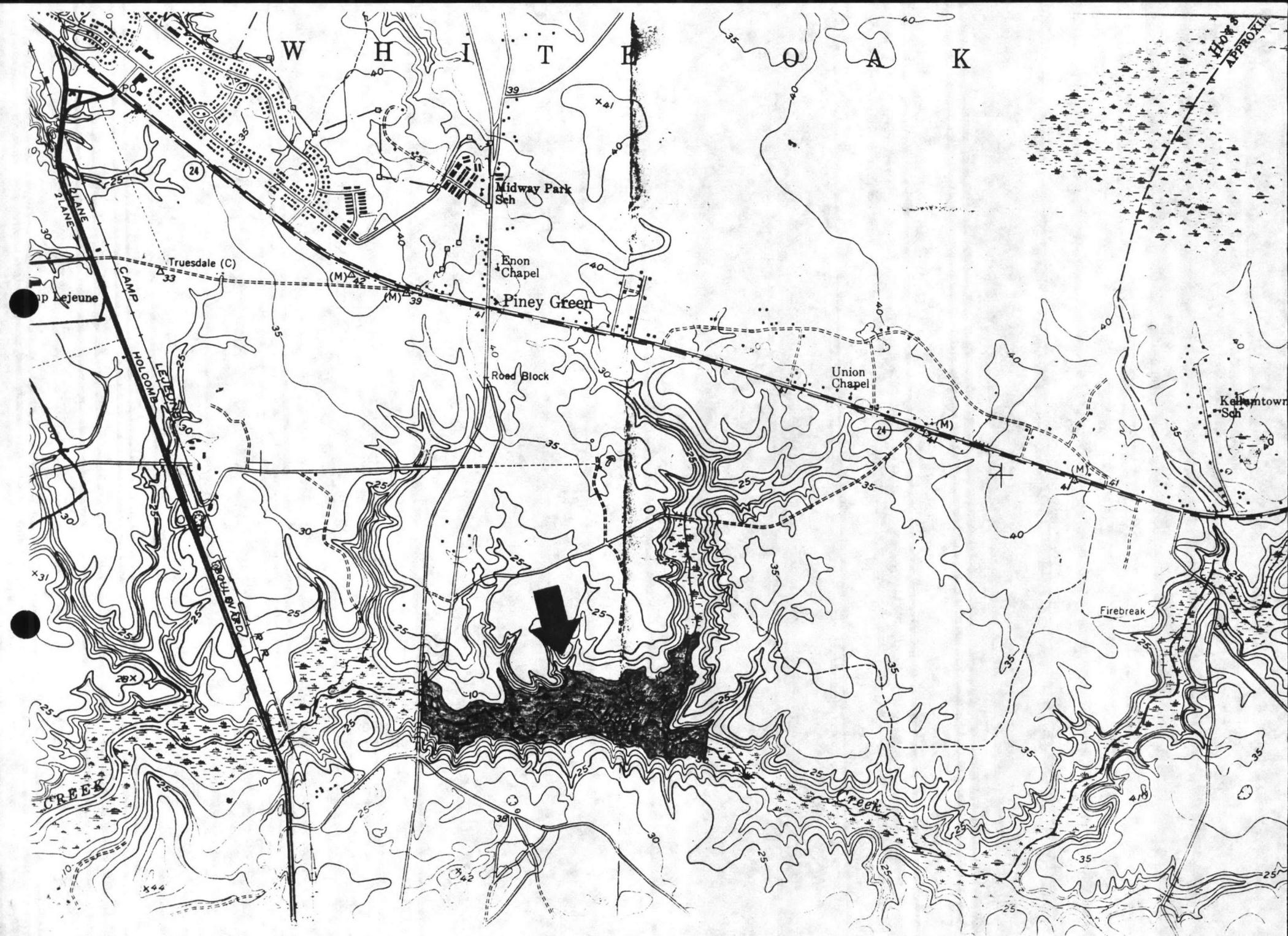
PAVED ROAD 
 DIRT ROAD 
 STAND BOUNDARY 
 STAND INCLUSION 
 POND 
 AREAS OUT 


20 ch.



LONGLEAF PINE NATURAL AREA





W H I T E O A K

WALLACE CREEK NATURAL AREA

