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"I applaud the U.S. Endowment and Enviva for this innovative and positive agreement to ensure conservation and management of our critical forested wetland habitats. This agreement is the model of how corporate America can and should work to truly define sustainability for the future."

H. Dale Hall, CEO, Ducks Unlimited Inc./Former Director,
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The Enviva Forest Conservation Fund (EFCF) is a \$5 million, 10-year initiative designed to protect and conserve tens of thousands of acres of sensitive bottomland forests in northeast North Carolina and southeast Virginia.

The EFCF, which is being administered by the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities (Endowment), will award matching-fund grants to nonprofit organizations to protect ecologically sensitive areas and conserve working forests over the next decade. The goal is to attract additional

conservation investments to the region and preserve 35,000 acres of bottomland forests.

At its outset, the EFCF will focus on about 35 North Carolina and Virginia counties that include 6 million acres of forests of all types. Of this total, about 20 percent are bottomland forests – low-lying, marshy areas near rivers and streams that are home to tree species such as cypress, gum and oak. This area is also home to three wood pellet production facilities and a deep-water marine terminal owned by Enviva.





In addition to the \$5 million grant program, the EFCF also includes two other initiatives that will protect the region's forests and environmentally sensitive areas.

First, through consultation with leading academic and environmental organizations, the Endowment has identified four specific bottomland forest ecosystems that will be priority conservation targets. Enviva does not take wood from these sensitive areas and is working with its suppliers and landowners to preserve them.

Second, the Endowment has appointed a panel of experts to develop enhanced, science-based forestry practices for working bottomland forests. This "blue-ribbon committee" will recommend specific policies and procedures that Enviva intends to incorporate into its supply practices.



#### 2016 Enviva Forest Conservation Fund Grant Recipients

## The Nature Conservancy North Carolina Chapter: Roanoke River Preserve

"Support from the Enviva Forest Conservation Fund will help the Conservancy add important new lands to the Roanoke River Project with large expanses of cypress-tupelo swamps and stands of Atlantic white cedar."

Katherine D. Skinner, Executive Director

### Triangle Land Conservancy, Raleigh, North Carolina: Beaverdam Lake Easement

"We are excited by the opportunity to leverage our efforts and resources with support from the Enviva Forest Conservation Fund to further protect forested ecosystems in the Raleigh area, one of the fastest growing regions in the South."

Sandy Sweitzer, Executive Director

# Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation: Lower Nottoway River Project

"Our partnership with the Enviva Forest Conservation Fund will allow us to conserve another key property along the State Scenic Nottoway River, protecting more ecological and scenic resources, and helping to build a legacy for future generations in southeast Virginia."

Clyde Cristman, Director

### The Nature Conservancy Virginia Chapter: Meherrin River Easement

"The Enviva Forest Conservation Fund grant will help ensure Virginia's forests continue to harbor wildlife, support recreation and forestry, and clean the air we breathe and the water we drink."

Michael Lipford, Executive Director

To learn more about the Enviva Forest Conservation Fund and to apply for an Enviva Forest Conservation Fund matching-fund grant, please visit www.envivaforestfund.org



