



LAND & WATER CONSERVATION FUND REQUEST | FISCAL YEAR 2010

Project Name

Wesser Bald, North Carolina
Nantahala National Forest

Parcel: 75 acres

LWCF request: \$270,000

Total project value: \$450,000

Natural Resources

High-elevation, remote forest
Little Tennessee River watershed
Nantahala National Forest
Appalachian Trail corridor

Significance

Watershed protection
Contiguous wildlife corridor
Open space protection
High quality wildlife habitats

The Appalachian Trail passes within 200 feet of this land as it traverses North Carolina's Wesser Bald. Foreground views from the A.T. occur at several locations near the tract's northern boundary, and from the viewing platform atop the old Wesser Bald Firetower (view pictured above), maintained for the use of A.T. hikers. This platform provides unrestricted 360-degree views encompassing the Smoky Mountain skyline, Cheoah Bald, the Nantahala Mountains, and Brasstown Bald in north Georgia.

The eastern 35 acres of this tract adjacent to the A.T. have been acquired from a willing seller by the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy using a bridge loan from The Conservation Fund. The \$270,000 appropriation will be used to repay The Conservation Fund and place the 35 acres under the permanent stewardship of the USDA Forest Service. Forty additional acres of the original tract have also been conserved through a conservation easement by the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy in cooperation with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy.

Appalachian Trail Wesser Bald Vicinity Tract

Macon County, North Carolina

