



Prince William Wildflower Society

September 19, 2005

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
Attn: Virginia Land Conservation Foundation
203 Governor Street, Suite 326
Richmond, VA 23219

Gentlemen:

The Prince William Conservation Alliance is applying for funding from the Virginia Lands Grant to protect Merrimac Farm. The Prince William Wildflower Society would like to indicate our strong support for purchasing this wonderful piece of property and we request that you approve their grant application.

This property sits at the headwaters of the Occoquan Reservoir, making it critical to protecting our watershed, not to mention the possibility of providing a site for public education and recreation, including hunting, fishing and enjoying nature.

The U.S. Marine Corps at Quantico, Virginia, recognizes the importance of Merrimac Farm – it will protect the borders of the Marine base. Additionally, the Corps will be able to construct a 10-acre wetland bank at the site.

We understand that the Marine Corps has committed to providing \$1.75 million, 50% of the \$3.5 million price. The Prince William Conservation Alliance's grant requests that you provide the remaining amount. Please help us save this beautiful piece of Prince William County.

Sincerely,

The Board of Directors

Charles Smith, President
Martha Slover, Vice President
Charlotte Cochard, Secretary
Diane Flaherty, Treasurer

**A Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 83, Manassas, Virginia 20110**