

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LAND ADJOINING JOCASSEE GORGES PROPERTY DONATED TO STATE

Greenville residents Lucy S. Tiller and Georgia Mills Craig have donated to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (DNR) approximately 44 acres of undeveloped land that directly adjoin the Jocassee Gorges property. The tract is located near the intersection of Highway 178 and Rocky Bottom Church Road in Pickens County

The 33,000-acre Jocassee Gorges property is one of the most beautiful and ecologically significant areas in North America. The area is home to over 2,000 species of plants and animals, including the largest population of black bear in the Southern Appalachians. A dozen streams plummet over some of the highest waterfalls in the Southeast and provide rich habitat for trout, including naturally reproducing brook trout. Over the last four years, the Jocassee Gorges property has been acquired by DNR from Duke Power Company's subsidiary, Crescent Resources, Inc., through a collaborative effort involving the Richard King Mellon Foundation, The Conservation Fund, and many other organizations and agencies.

In announcing the donation, Mrs. Tiller said, "I feel very strongly that our land should be protected and made a part of the wonderful Jocassee Gorges property. It's the right thing to do." Mrs. Craig added, "This is a special piece of land that I want the public to be able to use and enjoy."

Paul Sandifer, Executive Director of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, praised Mrs. Tiller and Mrs. Craig for the gift: "I'm sure there were a lot of developers interested in this property since it's right next to a wilderness area and just a

stone's throw from Highway 178. It's a wonderful addition to the Jocassee property, and we are deeply grateful to Mrs. Tiller and Mrs. Craig for their generosity."

The property is subject to a conservation easement granted by Mrs. Tiller and Mrs. Craig to Upstate Forever, a non-profit organization that manages a land trust program for the upstate region of South Carolina. Brad Wyche, Executive Director of Upstate Forever, said, "The easement will ensure that the property is forever preserved for the use and enjoyment of generations to come."

Mrs. Craig and Mrs. Tiller are also donating a separate one-acre tract to the Rocky Bottom Independent Baptist Church.

For more information, please call Lucy Tiller, 864-288-4348
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