

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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600-ACRE TRACT ALONG BROAD RIVER PRESERVED

***Conservation Easement Believed To Be The First
In Union County's History***

Upstate Forever announced today that it has received a conservation easement that will permanently protect approximately 600 acres along the Broad River in Union County. It is believed to be the first conservation easement recorded in the history of Union County.

A conservation easement is a legal agreement between the landowner and a land trust, such as Upstate Forever, that permanently restricts the development and alteration of the land. Both Congress and the South Carolina General Assembly have provided significant tax incentives to landowners to protect their properties through conservation easements.

The property, owned by Broad River Plantation, LLC, has about ___ feet of frontage along the Broad River, with over 200 acres of bottomland hardwoods. The rest of the property consists of open fields and mixed hardwoods and pines. Under the terms of the easement, the owner can build no more than two residences on the property. Wildlife impoundments may be constructed, and timber can be harvested in accordance with best management practices.

Dana Leavitt, Upstate Forever's Land Trust Coordinator, said, "This conservation easement is a win-win: The owner continues to use and enjoy the property, and this beautiful tract right next to one of the Southeast's most important rivers is preserved forever."

Upstate Forever is a nonprofit organization which manages a land trust program for protecting significant lands and natural resources in Greenville, Spartanburg, Cherokee, Pickens, Anderson, Laurens, and Oconee Counties. To date it has received ten conservation easements protecting more than 2,600 acres of land in the region. For more information about Upstate Forever's land trust program, please call 864-250-0500 or visit their website, www.upstateforever.org.

Contact: Dana Leavitt, 864-250-0500

Enclosure: Compact disc with ___ photographs of the property