



**For Immediate Release**

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**UPSTATE FOREVER  
HAS A RECORD YEAR IN LAND PROTECTION!**

Despite the struggling economy, *Upstate Forever* is pleased to report that 2009 was a record year for land protection! Since this time last year, over 3,800 acres of farms, fields, forests, waters, and wildlife habitat have been protected by the conservation outfit based in Greenville, SC. This has been the most successful year for land conservation since the group opened their doors in 1998.

However it's not just the quantity, but the quality of the land protected that marks *Upstate Forever's* achievement. Among the almost 4,000 acres protected by the group in 2009 are five properties with frontage on SC Scenic Hwy 11, three public parks, three working farms, and a historically-significant geologic formation known as a monadnock! The conservation group intends to carry this momentum forward into 2010 and continue protecting lands with important natural and historic resources in our region.

To date, *Upstate Forever* has worked with 73 landowners to protect over 14,200 acres in a ten-county region.



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**Upstate Forever** is a nonprofit, membership-based organization promoting sensible growth and the protection of special places in the Upstate region of South Carolina. Our three program areas are: Land Trust, Sustainable Communities, and Clean Air and Water. Founded in 1998, **Upstate Forever** now has over 2,400 members, two offices, and a staff of 21. For more information, see [www.upstateforever.org](http://www.upstateforever.org).