

Upstate Forever protects Rainey land

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GREENVILLE — Upstate Forever has partnered with John S. and Robert M. Rainey to protect Cherokee Farms, a 182-acre parcel of land in Belton.

According to a statement from Upstate Forever, the Anderson County property is primarily composed of pastures and hay fields. It also includes a riparian buffer of hardwood forest around tributaries to Cherokee Creek and three small ponds, providing habitat for wildlife.

The Raineys plan to protect additional acreage in the future, the statement said.

The tract is now permanently protected by a conservation agreement. A voluntary contract between a landowner and a qualified land trust, a conservation agreement retains private ownership for the landowner, who relinquishes some or all of the rights to develop a property.

Upstate Forever's Land Trust program now holds conservation agreements on 81 properties, protecting a total of 15,799 acres in the Upstate region.

Upstate Forever is a nonprofit, membership-based organization promoting sensible growth and the protection of special places in the Upstate region of South Carolina.

Upstate Forever's three program areas are land trust, sustainable communities and clean air and water. Founded in 1998, Upstate Forever now has more than 1,800 members, two offices and a staff of 18. For more information, see www.upstateforever.org.



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