

Land agreement conference slated for Upstate Forever

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One of the most popular and widely used means of protecting natural, scenic, agricultural and historic lands in the United States will be the subject of a conference at the Carolina First Center in Greenville.

Upstate Forever will host the conference, titled "Conservation Agreements: The Voluntary Protection of Land," on Sept. 30 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. to explain and discuss conservation agreements with landowners, professional advisers and concerned residents.

A conservation agreement, sometimes known as a conservation easement, is essentially a contract between a landowner and an organization like Upstate Forever in which the landowner voluntarily

limits some rights to develop the property. By permanently protecting the property, often the landowner becomes eligible for significant tax benefits.

However, some federal tax benefits apply only to transactions closed in 2006-09.

Sessions will include a panel of owners, who will explain why they decided to use conservation agreements to protect their properties.

Continuing education credits will be available for accountants, attorneys, city and regional planners, financial planners and foresters.

To register, visit www.upstateforever.org or call Erin Knight (864) 250-0500, ext. 26 or e-mail eknight@upstateforever.org.