



HOME SWEET HOME: Black bears are common in the Nine Times Tract.

Conservancy buys preserve

More than 500 acres of some of the most biologically significant land in the Upstate has been purchased by the state chapter of the Nature Conservancy for about \$2.8 million.

The 560-acre Nine Times Preserve, located just off state Route 11 in Northern Pickens County, has a high concentration of state-level rare species and species of federal concern such as the peregrine falcon, a bird only recently removed from the

Endangered Species List.

There are more than 134 kinds of native wildflowers located on the tract.

The Nature Conservancy purchased the 560 acres from Upstate Forever, which acquired the property from Crescent Resources at the end of last year. Upstate Forever also has the option to purchase the remaining 1,700 acres of the property. The two groups are working toward raising the money for that purchase.

- Charles Sowell