

## Upstate Forever to host conservation conference Feb. 3

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

With dramatically increased federal tax incentives for land protection scheduled to expire at the end of this year, there has never been a better time to learn about conservation agreements.

Upstate Forever will host the conference, entitled "Conservation Agreements: The Voluntary Protection of Land," on Feb. 3 from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. to explain and discuss conservation agreements with

landowners, professional advisers, and concerned citizens.

A conservation agreement, sometimes known as a conservation easement, is a contract between a landowner and a qualified organization like Upstate Forever in which the landowner voluntarily limits some uses, such as mining or subdivision. By permanently protecting the property, often the landowner becomes eligible for significant tax benefits.

The conference will provide information about the most dramatic improvements in the tax code for conservation in more than 25 years. These increased incentives are set

to expire at the end of this year.

Sessions will be led by highly-qualified experts experienced in advising landowners on the legal and financial issues associated with conservation agreements. A panel of landowners will also explain why they decided to utilize conservation agreements to protect their properties, and will take questions from the audience. Continuing education credits will be available for accountants, attorneys, city and regional planners, financial planners, and foresters.

To register for the conference, visit [www.upstateforever.org](http://www.upstateforever.org) or call 864-250-0500.

— article submitted