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Conference to tout tax advantages of land conservation

Generous federal tax incentives set to expire in 2009

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By Staff Reports
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GREENVILLE — Upstate Forever is holding a conference next week to educate property owners on land conservation agreements and how they could take advantage of generous federal tax incentives set to expire at the end of 2009.

The conference, called "Conservation Agreements: The Voluntary Protection of Land," is scheduled from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday at the Carolina First Center, One Exposition Dr., in Greenville.

Experts experienced in advising landowners on the legal and financial issues associated with conservation agreements will explain the [tax benefits](#) about the most dramatic improvements in the [tax code](#) for conservation in more than 25 years. The tax incentives, which will expire at the end of the year, are used as a means of protecting privately owned natural, scenic, agricultural and historic lands.

Also known as conservation easements, landowners typically agree they will voluntarily limit some uses on their land, such as mining or subdivision.

By permanently protecting the property, which also safeguards wildlife habitats, often the landowner becomes eligible for significant tax benefits.

Aside from experts, participants also will hear from a panel of landowners who will explain why they decided to utilize conservation agreements and will take questions from the audience.

Continuing education credits also would be made available for accountants, [attorneys](#), city and regional planners, financial planners and foresters.

Registration is \$100 per person and the fee includes continental breakfast, lunch and refreshment breaks.

A complete agenda is available at <http://www.upstateforever.org> on the Web. For more information, contact Erin Knight at (864) 250-0500, ext. 26.

Upstate Forever is a non-profit organization covering a 10-county Upstate area, including Oconee and Pickens. The group's three main programs, [Land Trust](#), Sustainable Communities and Clean

Air and Water, promote sensible growth and protection of special places in the region.

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