



Courtesy photo

Bill and Margarit Gray have placed Gray Meadows, their 311 acres in southwestern Anderson County, into a trust with Upstate Forever.

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Couple puts land in conservation trust

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Bill and Margarit Gray's 311 acres in Anderson will remain as forests and fields forever.

The couple put their property, Gray Meadows, in a trust with Upstate Forever, a conservation group that arranges permanent preservation of land.

The landowner keeps the title of a property placed in such a trust and is free to sell the land under the terms

of most of the trust deals. The land protection part of the agreements, however, designates what can and cannot be done on the property.

The Grays' agreement does not allow for industrial, commercial, retail, residential subdivision, parking lot, billboard or mining uses. It does permit hunting, farming and timber harvests.

Those restrictions would stay in place even if the Grays sell their land or pass it on to some other person or group.

Margarit Gray is a biology profes-

sor at Anderson University, and her husband is an avid hunter and outdoorsman. Their interest in the outdoors is why the couple agreed to the conservation deal, said Dana Leavitt, Upstate Forever Land Trust director.

The property includes substantial frontage on Beaver and Tugaloo creeks in the southwestern part of Anderson County.

Upstate Forever has arranged 73 such agreements, protecting 14,284 acres of farms, fields and forests in a 10-county area in the Upstate.