Release

from the South Carolina Forestry Commission

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Conservation partners celebrate dedication of SC's 7th state forest

Acquisition protects prized land from development, establishes multiple-use working forest

YEMASSEE, S.C.—Leaders from the SC Forestry Commission, Open Space Institute, Beaufort County government, the SC Conservation Bank, the SC Office of Resilience and Open Land Trust today gathered to dedicate South Carolina's newest publicly held land, Pocotaligo Station State Forest.

A coalition of public and non-profit conservation organizations partnered to acquire the land that was dedicated today as Pocotaligo Station State Forest south of Yemassee. Pictured, from left to right, are Beaufort County Green Space Program Advisory Committee Chair Mike McShane, SC State Forester Scott Phillips, Open Space Institute Chief Land Protection Officer Nate Berry, Open Land Trust Director of Conservation Caylor Romines, SC Office of Resilience Chief of Staff Eric Fosmire and Beaufort County Councilman Gerald Dawson.

Held on the 2,821-acre property that spans Beaufort, Hampton and Jasper counties, the dedication event officially established South Carolina's seventh state forest and marked the culmination of a years-long collaborative conservation effort.

Not only does the project conserve land that was vulnerable to development in one of the state's fastest-growing areas, but it adds to an expansive patchwork of other protected, undeveloped lowcountry properties that stretch all the way from west of Charleston to the Savannah River.

"The creation of a new state forest is cause for celebration," said State Forester Scott Phillips. "We look forward to managing these lands for recreation, education and sustainable forestry, ensuring they continue to thrive and delight for generations to come."

The new state forest will provide public outdoor recreation, safeguard wildlife habitat, ensure sustainable active forest management and provide revenue for local schools. As with all SCFC-managed lands, 25 percent of revenue generated through responsible timber and pine straw sales or lease income will be paid to school districts in Beaufort, Jasper and Hampton counties, adding to the forest's long-term benefits to the community.

Dive deeper

- Read the more detailed release from the conservation organizations that led the effort.
- View/download the Pocotaligo State Forest map.
- See the photos from today's dedication event.

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In addition to being recreational hotspots for hiking, biking, hunting, camping and horseback riding, the Commission's state lands are demonstration forests for ecological responsibility and productivity.