JOBS CARS HOMES APARTMENTS SHOPPING CLASSIFIEDS FORECLOSURES
E-NEWSPAPER HELP
News Sports Downtown Entertain Entrepreneurs Natural Beauty Opinion Living
FEATURED Obituaries e-editions Talk Greenville Restaurant Guide Ticker DealChicken
SEARCH
ADVERTISEMENT

Lake Keowee gets a new place to play

Feb 28, 2013 Comments

A A



Easley property

Written by Mike Foley

FILED UNDER Entertainment

In the past years, five land owners in Pickens County have signed protective covenants saving their land from development.

The conservation agreements are partnerships with Upstate Forever to protect a total 699 acres of valued land. While most conservation easements simply protect land from development — but keep the land in private ownership — one of the latest agreements will result in a public park. That 183-acre tract in Six Mile has both Lake Keowee and Craig Creek frontage, said Erin Knight, the director of Upstate Forever's Land Trust Program.

Knight and Nancy Fitzer, education director for Upstate Forever, said the land is dominated by mature hardwood forests and provides important habitat for wildlife. Owned by Keowee Investment Properties, plans for the parcel include establishing a park on the property that will be open to the public.

Knight said a total of 25 parcels protected by conservation agreements with Upstate

ADVERTISEMENT

Most Popular Most Commented More Headlines

1 Deputy coroner: Public health risk from Blythe student's mysterious death unlikely

2 Upstate businesses, residents brace for sequester effects

3 NASCAR suspends Jeremy Clements indefinitely for remark

4 Bart Wright: New facility brightens baseball future at Furman

Most Viewed

ADVERTISEMENT



Lake Keowee land

Forever have public use. Those include 2,915 acres out of the total of 17,117 acres of land Upstate Forever has protected. Three of the more popular parcels are:

• **Lake Conestee Nature Park** — 378 acres, Greenville County.

• **Stumphouse Mountain** — 517 acres, Oconee County.

• **Nine Times** — 560 acres, Pickens County.



Liberty property

Knight said plans are incomplete at this point for the Lake Keowee tract as it could be a private park or come under control by a local government. Two other tracts of land where Upstate Forever recently partnered with the Pickens County land owners will remain private.

One is a 115-acre cattle farm near Easley that includes 3,500 feet of frontage along George's Creek. The land adjoins a 13-acre site with several historically significant structures, including the 1850s-era home of Robert Elliot Holcombe, who helped establish the City of Easley and was elected its first mayor in 1874.

Also protected are the Lenhardt School and a small store, both dating from the early 20th century. The landowners simultaneously protected the adjacent property through an agreement with Palmetto Trust for Historic Preservation. The other protected property is located near Highway 123 in Liberty. The 92-acre tract is primarily forest and also contains a small wetland and pasture.

Knight said when these conservation agreements are arranged, it's often due to word-of-mouth from other landowners.

"People in the community advocate for this," Knight said. "They have more influence than we do."

View Comments () | Share your thoughts »