RMS Closes Multi-Easement Deal in South Carolina's Largest Conservation Land Project

Seven partners unite in Pee Dee Basin Initiative to preserve 62,000 acres of forestland and habitat for 143 at-risk species

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (Oct. 29, 2025) — Resource Management Service, LLC (RMS), one of the world's largest and most experienced timberland investment management organizations (TIMOs), has closed four conservation easements spanning 62,000 acres of forestland, resulting in the largest conservation land protection project ever undertaken by a South Carolina state agency.

With a $50 million federal grant from the U.S. Forest Service's Forest Legacy Program and contributions from the state and additional funding partners, the Pee Dee Basin Initiative project preserves working forests while protecting water quality, maintaining important wildlife corridors and providing flood mitigation across three coastal counties facing increasing development pressure. The forestlands, managed by RMS on behalf of clients including Arbejdsmarkedets Tillægspension (ATP) and other private investors, will remain productive working forests under the conservation easements. The protected area spans 20 miles of forested land along or near the Pee Dee, Santee and Black Rivers and includes habitat for wood storks, northern long-eared bats and other federally listed or at-risk species, including South Carolina Species of Greatest Conservation Need.

“Increasingly, our investors and investors across our sector are looking for opportunities that achieve dual objectives — responsible stewardship and conservation outcomes," said Alex Hinson, RMS President and Chief Executive Officer. "By working closely with our partners, we've found the right balance to ensure forests remain productive and profitable while creating lasting environmental benefits for South Carolina's communities and ecosystems. This is what our investors expect, and it's what sustainable forestry leadership looks like."

RMS dedicated 18 months to working with public and private partners, including the South Carolina Forestry Commission (SCFC), Open Space Institute (OSI), South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR), South Carolina Office of Resilience (SCOR), Atlantic Packaging and South Carolina Conservation Bank to enable this complex, precedent-setting easement transaction to come to fruition.

"This was an exciting partnership where we all came to the table with varying goals and objectives, but we shared a commitment to finding alignment," said Scott Mooney, RMS Senior Vice President of Acquisitions and Dispositions. "The project was a huge undertaking but we

worked collaboratively with our partners, finding creative solutions for all parties, which ultimately led to the success of this historic transaction."

Under the conservation easements, RMS will continue managing the forestlands for sustainable timber production while conserving more than 20,000 acres of bottomland hardwood forests that provide flood protection, clean water and habitat for 115 priority plant and animal species. SCFC will be responsible for ongoing easement monitoring and compliance.

"The four easements restrict future development while ensuring these lands remain working forests. RMS employs sustainable management forestry practices and maintains Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI®) and Forest Stewardship Council (FSC®) certification across all managed lands. These third-party audited standards verify that these forests are responsibly managed for a wide variety of values including clean air, clean water, wildlife habitat and biodiversity, and forest products we all rely on every day. Bird-friendly forest management practices will be a primary focus in the bottomland hardwood areas," said Hinson.

The easements maintain the $23.2 billion local forest economy while reinforcing South Carolina's position as a leading timber producer. The conserved lands stay on the local tax rolls and will continue timber operations under RMS management, supporting more than 900 local jobs. The Pee Dee Basin Initiative also opens up new recreation opportunities in a state where strong outdoor recreation participation supports significant economic activity. Under the agreements, 7,500 acres will become publicly accessible, welcoming visitors for hunting, fishing, birdwatching and other activities through the SCDNR's Wildlife Management Area program. As part of the transaction, South Carolina also acquired 880 acres in fee to expand Wee Tee State Forest.

This landscape-scale project protects three major river systems that supply drinking water to 65,000 local residents while providing critical flood protection for downstream communities facing increasingly severe weather. RMS's protected bottomland forests will keep filtering water and absorbing floodwaters, offering essential climate resilience for South Carolina's coastal regions.

RMS and its partners will celebrate the Pee Dee Basin Initiative at a public event in South Carolina on October 29.

This release is for informational purposes only and does not constitute an offer to provide investment advisory services. All statements are believed to be accurate as of the date of distribution.

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About Resource Management Service, LLC

RMS is one of the world's largest and most experienced timberland investment and forestry management services providers. RMS is committed to being a leader in environmentally and socially responsible investing and practicing sustainable forest management on its clients' timberlands. As a company founded, owned and managed by professional foresters, RMS has

long been guided by a strong stewardship ethic, understanding that responsibly managing all forest resources meets the needs of its clients, customers, employees, society and future generations. RMS seeks to generate attractive risk-adjusted near-term cash yield and long-term asset appreciation by employing state-of-the-art systems and the world's most sustainable advanced forest management practices. As an independently owned and operated company, RMS has established a legacy by striving to optimize the biological, financial and societal values of every asset its team manages. Based in Birmingham, Alabama, RMS is a U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission-registered Investment Adviser with $5.5 billion of timberland assets under management in the United States and Brazil. Registration as an investment adviser does not imply a certain level of skill or training and is not an endorsement of the adviser by the Securities and Exchange Commission or any state securities regulator. For more information, please visit resourcemgt.com.