

## News Advisory

### For Immediate Use

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## RMS Aids in Swallow-Tailed Kite Conservation Efforts

### *Announces Commitment to Continue Sustainable Forest Management Practices to Preserve and Protect Critical Habitat*

*Birmingham, Alabama – July 7, 2021:* Resource Management Service, LLC (RMS), one of the world's leading managers of forest investments for institutional investors, announced today that it has joined a consortium consisting of forest owners and forest investment managers, prominent bird conservation organizations, and one of the world's largest paper and packaging companies, to aid ongoing conservation efforts in South Carolina for the swallow-tailed kite, one of America's most distinctive and recognizable birds of prey.

According to Jimmy Bullock, Senior Vice President of Forest Sustainability at RMS, the swallow-tailed kite is a migratory species that spends its winters in South America. Each spring, it travels north to summer in forests across the lower coastal plain in the U.S. Southeast. However, during the last several decades, the bird's habitat range in the U.S. has shrunk – a result of both forest loss and expanding residential and commercial development in the region. RMS and its consortium partners, which include The American Bird Conservancy, The Avian Research and Conservation Institute, White Oak Forest Management, International Paper and Forest Investment Associates, have joined forces to study the habitat requirements of the swallow-tailed kite, as well as the challenges the species faces, in South Carolina, where all six organizations have a significant presence.

The swallow-tailed kite is federally protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act but it is not listed as threatened or endangered by the U.S. Government. It is, however, a state-listed endangered species in South Carolina; a threatened species in Mississippi and Texas; and, a protected species in Alabama.

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“Understanding the habitat needs of the wildlife species that inhabit the forests we acquire and operate for our investors is an important element of our responsibilities as a sustainable forest investment management firm,” said Bullock. “This collaborative effort, which we hope will help us better understand how we can adapt our forest management practices to support and expand the swallow-tailed kite’s range and population density, also fits with our stewardship ethic and organizational values and we are very pleased to be working on this research with partners that share our priorities and commitments.”

The graceful swallow-tailed kite is recognized for its slender and aerodynamic frame; its four-foot-plus wingspan; its long, forked tail; and, its beautiful black and white feathers. With its distinctive hooked bill, the raptor is known for soaring high in the sky, sometimes completely out of site from the ground, while rarely flapping its wings to swoop and dive for prey. It often roosts near swamps and over rivers and other water courses and hunts mostly in the canopies of nearby pine forests. During migration, it often forms into flocks for the journey to and from the southeastern United States. For more information on the species: <https://www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/swallow-tailed-kite>

The research work being undertaken by RMS and its partners was launched by trapping three swallow-tailed kites in forests the firm manages near Georgetown, South Carolina – land from which International Paper, buys large volumes of logs for use in its nearby paper mill. Working under permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, wildlife biologists working with RMS and its partners fitted the three birds with global positioning system (GPS) transmitters to track their activity and travel behaviors. The data produced from the transmitters will be used to record, analyze and study their habitat requirements – and specifically their nesting, feeding and roosting habits. This data will, in turn, be utilized by RMS, by its conservation partners, and by other large forest owners and managers in South Carolina and elsewhere in the South, to adapt and continue forest management practices in ways that will support the bird’s habitat needs as well as those of a variety of other avian, mammal and amphibious species.

Later in the summer, the three swallow-tailed kites (named Peter’s Creek, Carver’s Bay and Big Branch) that have been fitted with GPS transmitters will begin their migration back to South America. Once their journey is underway, RMS will provide periodic updates on their progress via its social media channels, including LinkedIn and Instagram.

### **About Resource Management Service, LLC**

Resource Management Service, LLC (“RMS”) is one of the world’s largest and most experienced providers of timberland investment and forestry management services. Our focus is generating optimal, near-term cash yield and long-term asset appreciation by employing state-of-the-art systems and the most sustainable advanced forest management practices in the world. As an independently owned and operated company, RMS has established a legacy by optimizing the biological, financial and societal values for every asset we manage. Based in Birmingham, Alabama, RMS is a registered investment adviser with \$4.2 billion of timberland assets under management in the United States and Brazil. For more information, please visit us at: [www.resourcecmgt.com](http://www.resourcecmgt.com).

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