

News Advisory

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Contact: Mary Kay Greer
Senior Vice President, Corporate Communications
Resource Management Service, LLC
mgreer@resourcemgt.com
(205) 980-7304

RMS Land Sale Enhances Pinhoti Trail

Project with The Conservation Fund Involves 375 Acres in Alabama

Birmingham, Alabama – August 17, 2020: Resource Management Service, LLC (RMS), one of the world's leading managers of forest investments for institutional investors, announced today that it has completed the sale of 375 acres of working forestland in Alabama to The Conservation Fund, a national environmental non-profit. The transaction will enhance the safety and hiking experiences for thousands of outdoor enthusiasts who hike the popular Pinhoti Trail, a 337-mile route through much of Alabama that links to the southern terminus of the Appalachian Trail.

The sale in Talladega County is a keystone property required to connect a vital link of the Pinhoti Trail at the southern end of the Talladega National Forest to other lands owned by The Alabama Forestry Commission at the southernmost extremis of the Appalachian Mountains – the site of a historic stone observation tower that was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the Depression of the 1930s. The sale will allow about four miles of the Pinhoti Trail to be moved from public roads into a forested landscape, which will enhance the hiking experience and make the trail safer for those who use it.

"RMS has a long history of working with public agencies and private conservation groups, like our friends at The Conservation Fund, to conserve or provide access to working forestlands that have important public or societal values," said Jimmy Bullock, Senior Vice President of Forest Sustainability. "This transaction is an excellent example of our partnership producing a win-win outcome because our investor owner benefited from the sale of the lands and the public benefited from perpetual conservation of a key part of an important recreational and conservation asset – the Pinhoti Trail."

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The Pinhoti Trail is recognized by hikers as one of the premier long-distance trails in the southern Appalachians. It bisects both Alabama and Georgia for a distance of 337 miles and is the longest hiking trail in either state. The southern trailhead of the Pinhoti is at Flagg Mountain near Weogufka, Alabama. It traverses the full 140-mile length of the Talladega National Forest and portions of the Chattahoochee National Forest before connecting with the Benton MacKaye Trail and the Appalachian Trail at Springer Mountain in North Georgia. The Appalachian Trail continues all the way to Mt. Katahdin, in Maine and has a total distance of 2,590 miles.

“The Pinhoti Trail is a special resource, not only for people who hike the trail, but for a diverse array of wildlife species who rely on its surrounding forestland,” said Andrew Schock, Georgia and Alabama Director at The Conservation Fund. “Over the last several years, we’ve worked with RMS and other partners to acquire nearly 10 properties like this one, protecting more than 8,000 acres and adding more than 20 miles to the trail, to support recreational activities and valuable ecology.”

According to Bullock of RMS, the lands the company sold to The Conservation Fund have a strong aesthetic appeal, which will enable the relocated trail to meander along a beautiful creek and several rock bluffs that feature scenic vistas. The transaction will be used by The Conservation Fund to create momentum that will hopefully result in the purchase of additional tracts from other private landowners. This will allow the remainder of the Pinhoti Trail to be converted to a true and complete "off-road" hiking experience.

About 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.resourcemgt.com.

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