

SOUTHERN FORESTS PROJECT

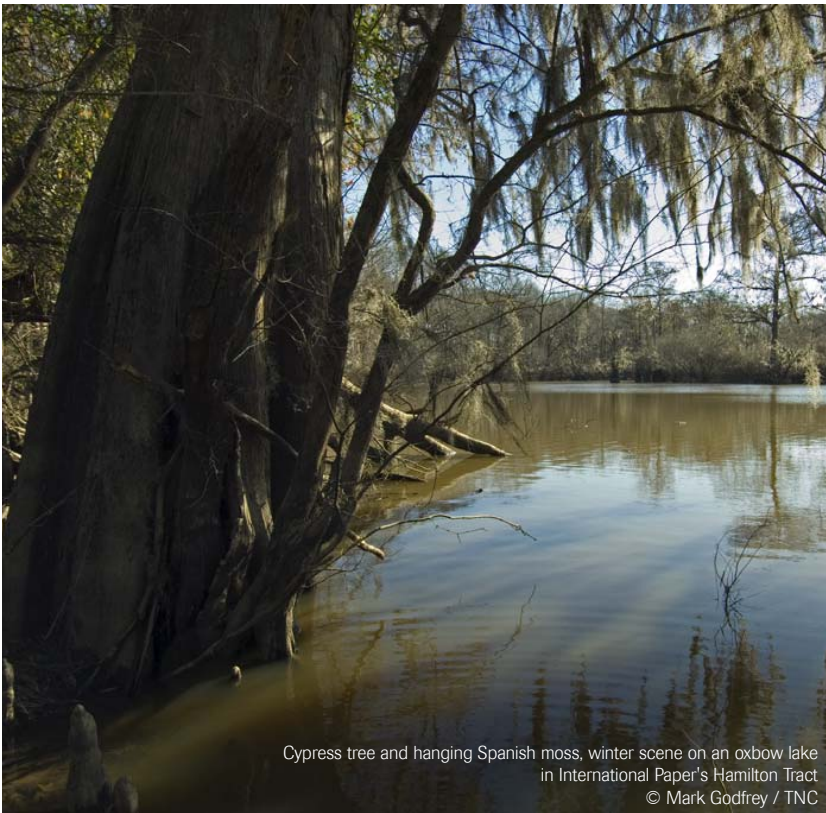
SOUTH CAROLINA



The Nature Conservancy, International Paper and The Conservation Fund have undertaken a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to protect ecologically important forests, rivers and streams in 10 southern states. The Nature Conservancy and The Conservation Fund will acquire more than 218,000 acres in the largest private land conservation project in the history of the southern U.S. Partners include state governments, federal agencies, the Department of Defense and timber investment entities.



Flowing towards the southeast, the unique confluence of the brown water Pee Dee River as it merges with the tea-colored water of the Little Pee Dee River at the eastern tip of International Paper's Woodbury Tract.
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Cypress tree and hanging Spanish moss, winter scene on an oxbow lake in International Paper's Hamilton Tract
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total area 38,949 acres
hamilton ridge 13,281 acres
woodbury 25,668 acres

representative species

kentucky warbler
louisiana waterthrush
rusty blackbird
robust redhorse
swallow-tailed kite
swainson's warbler

project partners

The Conservation Fund
International Paper
The Nature Conservancy
State of South Carolina

THE PROJECT

The Conservation Fund and The Nature Conservancy are protecting nearly 39,000 acres of forestland in South Carolina. The two parcels, known as the Woodbury and Hamilton Ridge tracts, will serve as working forests and will enhance recreation lands and wildlife habitat across the state.

HAMILTON RIDGE

13,281 acres

- o Located on Savannah River in Hampton County, South Carolina, just across the border from Georgia, the project complements over 38,000 acres of protected land along the river in Georgia.
- o Consists of lower coastal plain habitat with pine uplands with scattered live oaks and bottomlands with some remaining mature hardwoods. A distribution of fields, openings, hardwood drainages and isolated wetlands are scattered throughout the uplands.
- o Bordered by over 12,000 acres of state-owned conservation lands, including the Webb Wildlife Center and the Palachucola Wildlife Management Area.
- o The Webb Wildlife Center is home to 13 active colonies of red-cockaded woodpeckers; it is hoped that with similar management of Hamilton Ridge those colonies may spread onto the property.
- o The Hamilton Ridge tract, on the Savannah River, helps protect the water supply for Beaufort and Jasper counties in South Carolina and for the cities of Savannah, Georgia and Hilton Head Island, South Carolina.
- o With 12 miles of river frontage, the Hamilton Ridge Tract is the largest unprotected property on the Savannah River.
- o The Hamilton Ridge Tract provides essential habitat for bobwhite quail, white-tailed deer, wild turkey, wood ducks, Mississippi kites, and swallow-tailed kites.

WOODBURY

25,668 acres

- o Located at the confluence of the Pee Dee , and Little Pee Dee rivers in Marion County, South Carolina, the Woodbury tract is surrounded on three sides by rivers and serves as a critical migration corridor for neotropical birds.
- o The project safeguards approximately 275 miles of river frontage on the Pee Dee River and the Little Pee Dee River.
- o More than half of the forest is wetlands, and a portion of the landscape is covered with stands of longleaf pine forest. As these forests mature, they will serve as important habitat for the red-cockaded woodpecker.
- o Public management of the property would support ongoing federal recovery efforts for the woodpecker by providing additional foraging and nesting habitat.
- o The Pee Dee River has one of the state's two largest known populations of the federally endangered shortnose sturgeon.
- o The Woodbury tract, on the Pee Dee River, helps protect the water supply for Myrtle Beach and Georgetown, South Carolina.
- o Of historical significance, the Woodbury tract was associated with the Revolutionary War battles of General Francis Marion, including at least one skirmish with Tory loyalists. In addition, Revolutionary War Brigadier General William Woodberry is buried on the property.
- o Once transferred to public ownership, the land will be open to the public for outdoor recreational activities.
- o Approximately 2,600 acres of the Woodbury property are within the Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge boundaries.

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