



April Donnelly, government relations director for The Nature Conservancy in South Carolina © Cara Chancellor/TNC

## Q&A: Why Care about the Conservation Bank?

Our government relations director breaks down the facts

### Many people have never heard of the South Carolina Conservation Bank.

#### What is it?

The Conservation Bank is the only statewide fund that helps willing landowners and organizations conserve South Carolina forests, farmland and other natural resources. It's a great investment in our drinking water, tourism industry, forestry jobs and our state's most beautiful natural places.

#### Why is it in the news now?

Because its future is uncertain. The Bank was passed in a bipartisan effort in 2002, but that legislation mandated that it be renewed at specific time intervals. The State House and Senate are both considering Bank renewal bills this legislative session. If they don't pass, the Bank's future will be in jeopardy—along with its benefits.

#### What would be different if the Bank isn't renewed?

It would become much, much harder to conserve our state's natural resources. Last year, the Bank funded land protection efforts ranging from working lands in Allendale—which support forestry jobs—to Rocky Point Community Forest, a treasured public-use park in Georgetown County. There is no other state resource like this that helps towns, landowners and organizations create a natural legacy for South Carolina's future generations.

#### How can people support the Bank?

Call your state senators and representatives. Tell them how you use natural lands—for hunting, fishing and hiking—and how you value the clean drinking water these lands provide. And then tell them you want to see more lands protected by renewing the South Carolina Conservation Bank.

For more information on the South Carolina Conservation Bank and contacting your local legislators, visit [nature.org/electedofficials](http://nature.org/electedofficials).

## NATURE SOUTH CAROLINA

### Fast Facts: Conservation Bank Benefits

The Bank isn't just good for nature. Protecting South Carolina's natural resources also boosts our economy.

- The forestry industry supports 90,000 jobs statewide and is the state's number one cash crop.
- Fishing, hunting and wildlife-watching added \$2 billion to South Carolina's economy in 2011.
- Healthy forests reduce the costs of treating drinking water supplies.
- Matching funds from the Bank have helped secure more than \$14 million in federal grants for our state.



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### Speak up for South Carolina!

Our state and federal legislators need to hear from you about how they can help keep South Carolina healthy and beautiful!

Sign up to "Use Your Outside Voice" and bookmark our action center. We'll share opportunities when your call, letter or vote can make a difference for nature.

### Sign up today!

Make your voice heard at [nature.org/electedofficials](http://nature.org/electedofficials).



The Nature Conservancy  
2231 Devine Street, Suite 100  
Columbia, SC 29205

South Carolina  
[southcarolina@tnc.org](mailto:southcarolina@tnc.org)  
[nature.org/SC](http://nature.org/SC)

Facebook: [facebook.com/NatureConservancySC](https://www.facebook.com/NatureConservancySC)  
Twitter: [twitter.com/nature\\_sc](https://twitter.com/nature_sc)