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## PROJECT FISCAL SPONSORSHIP CONSIDERATIONS

Southern Conservation Partners, Inc., was incorporated in late 2014 and received IRS certification as a tax-exempt, public interest charity under IRC 501(c)(3). Its purposes are to help save, protect, honor, restore, and enhance important environmental resources and natural heritage assets of the southern U.S. A central program of Southern Conservation Partners (SCP) is fiscal sponsorship of projects that advance its mission.

# When might partnering with Southern Conservation Partners make sense for you and your conservation project?

1. Your anticipated project relates to one or more of SCP's objectives (see pages 2 - 3).

2. You anticipate that donors or private foundations or public agencies will give financial contributions or grants in support of your project, <u>but</u> they can only make their contributions to a qualified IRS-certified 501(c)(3) public charity [which SCP is, but your organization is <u>not</u>].

3. Your situation fits <u>any</u> of the following scenarios:

- Your organization or you individually has not yet formally established as a corporation and has not yet received IRS certification as a public charity to which donors can give tax-deductible financial contributions.
- You wish to start your project without delay and sooner than the year or more it will take to incorporate and receive IRS certification as a section 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, public charity.
- > You do not need or want to form a permanent corporation to accomplish your project.
- You are not yet certain that you want to incorporate, and you wish to start your project now, postponing the decision to incorporate your organization and establish public charity tax status for it.
- You wish to move forward on a time-limited project, for which you do not need or wish to establish a permanent, long-term corporate organization.
- You personally wish to continue to do the kinds of environmental conservation and protection projects you previously did for your former employer organization – and you have the skills, energy, and prospective financial donors willing to back you in your project endeavor.

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- You are a for-profit corporate business with a prospective client who needs your assistance to conduct a project that fits goals and objectives of Southern Conservation Partners, <u>and</u> that client has a prospective donor who wishes to financially assist but wants to contribute a <u>tax-deductible gift through a qualified 501(c)(3) charity</u> like SCP.
- None of your other allies backing your proposed project is able or willing to receive qualified tax-deductible financial contributions given by donors to finance the project.

If any of the above conditions apply, then application to Southern Conservation Partners, Inc., for project fiscal sponsorship may be appropriate for you.

Please contact SCP for more information and guidelines about its Project Fiscal Sponsorship Program, and for application instructions.

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### *Projects requesting fiscal sponsorship must strongly relate to the purpose of Southern Conservation Partners and one or more of its objectives:*

**Southern Conservation Partners, Inc.** exists to advance the conservation of land, water, native flora and wildlife, ecological and natural heritage resources, historic and scenic landscapes, community parks, gardens, and green spaces for the benefit of the general public and a healthy environment: by assisting other public and private organizations engaged in those activities, by sponsoring scientific studies and establishing conservation plans, by disseminating environmental educational information, and by recognizing and publicizing the successes, accomplishments, and exemplary performance of other conservation and community organizations.

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#### **Objectives of Southern Conservation Partners, Inc. are to**

1) promote and facilitate partnerships among public and private entities for purposes of enhancing, defending, protecting, and sustaining important land, water, biological, and other environmental resources;

2) provide advisory, instructional, and counseling services to strengthen and assist other organizations concerned with the conservation of land, water, native species, and other environmental resources;

3) serve as a means of information exchange and convener of gatherings among conservation organizations and community groups for dialogue, discussion, and education focused on protection of land, water, and other environmental resources;

4) sponsor scientific studies and inventories that identify important environmental resources in local communities and in larger geographic areas, and recommend actions to conserve and protect them;

5) contribute to expanded public awareness and community engagement in land, water, ecological, and environmental resource conservation;

6) recognize and honor conservation organizations, landowners, or communities for achievement, demonstration of best practices, and exemplary performance ;

7) provide free or deeply discounted advisory guidance to other conservation organizations and to landowners helping them to conserve environmental and natural resources beneficial to general public interests and to a healthy environment.

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