

Mail after recording to: Southeast Regional Land Conservancy, Inc., 6111 Peachtree-Dunwoody Road, Building E, Suite 102, Atlanta, Georgia 30328. This instrument was prepared by: Christopher W. Derrick, P.C., One Town Square Blvd., Suite 339, Asheville, North Carolina 28803.

Notice of Subsequent Transfer and Subsequent Transfer Conveyance Contribution Required: See Article VI(A).

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**CONSERVATION EASEMENT  
AND  
DECLARATION OF RESTRICTIONS AND COVENANTS**

THIS CONSERVATION EASEMENT AND DECLARATION OF RESTRICTIONS AND COVENANTS (this "Conservation Easement") is made effective this 30<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2019, by and between Clear Prong Partners, LLC ("Owner"), an Alabama limited liability company with an address of Post Office Box 430223, Birmingham, Alabama 35243, and Southeast Regional Land Conservancy, Inc. ("SERLC"), a North Carolina non-profit corporation with an address of 6111 Peachtree-Dunwoody Road, Building E, Suite 102, Atlanta, Georgia 30328.

**RECITALS**

A. Owner is the owner of all surface rights in that certain parcel of real property consisting of approximately 202.60 acres near the intersection of Willow Leaf Drive and Rock School Road, near the city of Westover, Shelby County, Alabama (the "Property"), as more fully described in the Property Description attached hereto and incorporated herein as "Exhibit A." The Property is also depicted and described as that certain parcel designated as "Clear Prong Partners, LLC 202.60 Acres" on that certain survey prepared for Owner by Ray & Gilliland, P.C. and certified by Christopher M. Ray, Alabama LLS No. 26017, bearing a plat preparation date of July 15, 2019, a true and accurate copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated herein as "Exhibit B" (the "Survey").

B. Owner intends that all of the area of the Property as described in the Property Description (and depicted on the Survey) be conserved, maintained and preserved as conservation area (the "Conservation Area"). Accordingly, the Conservation Area has a total area of approximately 202.60 acres.

  
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C. SERLC is a tax exempt public charity under Sections 501(c)(3) and 509(a)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, is authorized by the laws of the State of North Carolina to accept, hold, and administer conservation easements, possesses the authority to accept and is willing to accept this Conservation Easement under the terms and conditions hereinafter described, and is a "qualified organization" and an "eligible donee" within the meaning of Section 170(h)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and regulations promulgated thereunder.

D. Owner recognizes the natural, open space, aesthetic, and special character of the Conservation Area, and has the purpose of the conservation and protection in perpetuity of the Conservation Area as "a relatively natural habitat of wildlife or plants or similar ecosystem" as well as for the purpose of "preservation of open space (including farmland and forestland) where such preservation is for the scenic enjoyment of the general public or pursuant to a clearly delineated Federal, state or local governmental conservation policy, and will yield a significant public benefit" as those phrases are used in Public Law 96-541, 26 U.S.C. Section 170(h)(4)(A)(ii) and (iii); as amended and in regulations promulgated thereunder, by placing voluntary restrictions upon the use of the Conservation Area and by providing for the transfer from Owner to SERLC of affirmative rights for the protection of the Conservation Area.

E. Specifically, preservation of the Conservation Area shall serve the following conservation purposes:

(1) Natural Habitat. The Conservation Easement will provide for the permanent protection of areas that serve as relatively natural habitat and corridors for native and rare plant and animal species, in addition to protection of water quality in support of these habitats, as further described in the Baseline Documentation (as defined below), and which is summarized as follows:

(a) The Conservation Area contains a variety of habitats, including maturing and young pine stands, mixed pine-hardwood forest, small wildlife fields, open grassland conditions, a clear-flowing creek, and mature hardwood forests along the creek corridor, which in combination promote preservation of diverse native plant and animal species. The Conservation Easement will serve to protect two natural communities specifically identified for conservation emphasis in the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources ("DCNR") State Wildlife Action Plan. These significant habitats are Mesic Hardwood Forest and Anthropogenic Habitats.

(b) The Conservation Area contains at least 157 species of plants, including approximately 36 species of trees. A variety of mammals, amphibians, migratory birds, and predatory birds are likely to use the land within the Conservation Area due to its habitat varieties. Because of the Conservation Area's relatively large size, variety of natural communities, and proximity to known occurrences of rare species, there is potential for occurrences of rare species within the Conservation Area. Of the numerous rare animal and plant species currently recorded for Shelby County, the Conservation Area provides appropriate habitat particularly for Mole Kingsnake, Bewick's Wren, Southern Hognose Snake, Wherry's Phlox, Alabama Skullcap, Eastern Coralsnake, Northern Pinesnake, Coal Skink, Southeastern Five-lined Skink, Tiger Salamander, Thornytail Crayfish, Painted Devil Crayfish, Blue Shiner, Basil Bee-balm, Silky Camellia, Georgia Aster, Narrow-leaved Trillium, Gray Bat, Indiana Bat, and Rainbow Snake.



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(c) The Conservation Easement will serve to provide important water quality protection for water features found within the Conservation Area. The Conservation Easement will protect a reach of Clear Prong Creek which is within the significant Coosa River Basin Watershed. This watershed is designated for the highest conservation priority actions in the Alabama DCNR State Wildlife Action Plan for improving water and habitat quality throughout the basin by land protection. The Conservation Area is also located within the Yellowleaf Creek Strategic Habitat Unit, a watershed identified by a consortium of federal and state agencies as being of great conservation importance for protection of habitat and water quality. Protection of the water features existing within the Conservation Area will serve to help sustain several important public benefits, including reduced storm water runoff, ground water recharge, retention of permeable surfaces, filtering runoff water, decreasing sedimentation to downstream water bodies, and protecting channels and banks from scour and erosion. In addition, the water features within the Conservation Area provide a habitat for aquatic organisms, reproductive habitat for terrestrial amphibians, and drinking sources for wildlife. The Conservation Easement will further aid in protection of rare aquatic species identified by the Alabama Natural Heritage Program as occurring approximately one mile downstream of the Conservation Area.

(2) Open Space Protection. Preserving the Conservation Area will serve to protect forestland and open space as follows:

(a) Wildlife and Forestry Management; Preserved Land Continuity. This Conservation Easement will serve to permanently sustain the ecological values and Conservation Values (as defined below) of the Conservation Area through economical and sustainable conservation management principles, including: maintenance and enhancement of wildlife habitat; maintenance of soil productivity and control of soil erosion; protection of unique and fragile natural areas; maintenance of the Conservation Area as sustainable forestland consistent with best management practices and with the Conservation Values; and maintenance of the value of the Conservation Area as significant open space, thereby avoiding land fragmentation. Continuity, such as that afforded by the relatively large Conservation Area, is an important ecological concept for sustainable habitat for plant and animal populations as well as ecological communities. Within an approximate six-mile radius of the Conservation Area are several preserved state and private lands comprising over 10,000 acres. Habitat value is enhanced exponentially when land connectivity occurs because habitat potential and diversity are increased, and larger contiguous land areas, such as the Conservation Area along with the proximal protected land, promote better genetic diversity and larger foraging and nesting habitats.

(b) Support of Government Conservation Policy. The Conservation Easement represents a voluntary, private initiative in support of clearly delineated federal and state conservation policies, as follows:

(i) Pursuant to the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-127), also known as the 1996 Farm Bill, the National Resources Conservation Service, a division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (“USDA”), established the National Conservation Buffers Initiative to encourage landowners in agricultural and other urban and rural settings, such as the Conservation Area, to install buffer strips around water sources primarily to improve water quality in the United States. The Conservation Easement



will serve to directly support this federal government conservation policy by requiring Stream Buffer Zones (as defined below) around all riparian water sources within the Conservation Area.

(ii) The Conservation Easement will serve to support natural habitat communities and watershed specifically identified in the Alabama DCNR State Wildlife Action Plan, a comprehensive strategy to protect specifically identified high priority habitats and watersheds, such as those described as existing in and downstream from the Conservation Area. The objective of this state conservation policy is, in part, to conserve Alabama's animals, plants, and natural habitats through proactive measures emphasizing voluntary and incentive-based conservation initiatives on private lands, such as conservation easements.

(iii) The Conservation Easement will serve to support the Forest Legacy Program, a federal conservation program administered by the U.S. Forest Service ("USFS") in partnership with state agencies to promote the protection of privately-owned forest lands threatened by conversion to non-forest use through means such as conservation easements. The location of the Conservation Area, Shelby County, is specifically identified by the USFS as a Priority I County within the North Central Alabama Forest Legacy Area.

F. As described in the Recitals hereinabove, the Conservation Area possesses natural and open space values (collectively, "Conservation Values") of great significance to Owner, SERLC, and the general public. Owner recognizes the traditional uses of the Conservation Area for wildlife game management and other naturalistic purposes, which uses have fostered and preserved the Conservation Values described herein. Owner also recognizes that preservation of the Conservation Area will protect habitat for wildlife through long-term conservation of habitat for various species of animals and plants, as well as other uses that are compatible with the conservation and protection of the Conservation Area.

G. The ecological significance of the Conservation Area and the Conservation Values have been established in the reports, plans, accompanying photographs, documentation, and exhibits, including the baseline documentation prepared by SERLC (collectively referred to as the "Baseline Documentation").

H. Owner intends that the Conservation Values of the Conservation Area be maintained and preserved, and Owner further intends, as owner of the Conservation Area, to convey to SERLC the right to preserve and protect the Conservation Values of the Conservation Area in perpetuity.

I. Owner and SERLC intend this document to be a "conservation agreement" as defined in §35-18-1(1) of the Alabama Code and as set forth in Title 35, Chapter 18 of the Alabama Code (the "Alabama Conservation Easement Law"); provided, however, the continued existence of this Conservation Easement shall not be dependent on the continued existence of the Alabama Conservation Easement Law.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, as an absolute charitable gift with no monetary consideration, but in consideration of the mutual covenants, terms, conditions, restrictions, and promises contained in this Conservation Easement, and intending to be legally bound hereby, Owner hereby voluntarily, unconditionally and absolutely grants and conveys unto SERLC, its successors and assigns, the easements, covenants, prohibitions and restrictions set forth in this Conservation Easement, in perpetuity, to protect the Conservation Values and to benefit the people of Alabama. SERLC hereby accepts the grant of such easements and agrees to hold such easements



exclusively for the protection of the Conservation Values and to enforce the terms of the restrictive covenants set forth in this Conservation Easement.

## **ARTICLE I: GRANT OF PERPETUAL EASEMENT**

Owner hereby voluntarily grants and conveys unto SERLC and its successors and assigns, as an absolute and unconditional charitable gift, a perpetual easement in gross over the Conservation Area for the purpose of preserving and protecting the Conservation Values and enforcing the restrictive covenants set forth below, in order to maintain permanently the open space values of the Property and the dominant woodland, open and natural character of the Conservation Area, including land and water resources, rare plants, animals, and plant communities, and to prevent any use of the Conservation Area that will impair or interfere with the Conservation Values or interest of the Conservation Area.

## **ARTICLE II: RETAINED RIGHTS AND PROHIBITED AND RESTRICTED ACTIVITIES**

Any activity on or use of the Conservation Area inconsistent with the purposes of this Conservation Easement is prohibited. The Conservation Area shall be maintained in its natural and open condition and be restricted from any development that would impair or interfere with the Conservation Values of the Conservation Area.

All rights reserved herein by Owner are considered to be consistent with the conservation purposes of this Conservation Easement and, except as specifically stated otherwise herein, require no prior notification to or approval by SERLC. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Owner and SERLC have no right to agree to any activity that would result in the termination of this Conservation Easement.

In addition to the foregoing, the following specific activities as set forth in this Article II are prohibited, restricted, or reserved as the case may be with respect to the Property and the Conservation Area.

A. Disturbance of Natural Features. Any change, disturbance, alteration or impairment of the natural, open and aesthetic features of the Conservation Area is prohibited, except in furtherance of the conservation purposes of this Conservation Easement as specifically set forth herein, or as otherwise permitted herein.

B. No Industrial, (Large-Scale Commercial) Agricultural or Residential Use. Industrial and large-scale commercial agricultural activities are prohibited on the Conservation Area. However, agricultural activities related to personal use (including those activities described in Article II, Section C below), ecological restoration, and habitat enhancement improvement are permitted. The Conservation Area shall not be used for a residence.

C. Hunting and Recreational Activities; Certain Limited Agricultural Activities. Subject to and in accordance with all applicable law and regulations and the provisions of this Conservation Easement, Owner reserves the right to use the Conservation Area for hunting with or without dogs, shooting, fishing, hiking, biking, and horseback riding and other passive recreational activities and recreational uses not inconsistent with the purposes of this Conservation Easement. Any open areas not within the Stream Buffer Zones (as defined and described in Article II, Section G below) may be maintained as open areas for the purposes of





serving as food plots for hunting on the Conservation Area as provided herein; provided, however, no crop farming shall be conducted on the Conservation Area.

D. Facilities and Construction. No development of the Conservation Area shall be permitted, and no building, facility, or structure of any kind shall be built, erected, installed, placed, affixed or assembled within or upon the Conservation Area; provided, however, Owner shall retain the following rights with respect to construction on the areas within the Conservation Area:

(1) Utility Infrastructure. Subject to SERLC's prior written approval as required pursuant to Article II, Section P below, and only where such infrastructure cannot be otherwise placed on areas outside the Conservation Area and when conducted in accordance with all applicable governmental regulations, Owner may construct and maintain underground power lines, underground water distribution lines, and similar infrastructure that may cross or be within the Conservation Area and supply power, water, and other utilities to the Additional Structures (as such term is defined below), provided that any and all such infrastructure shall (a) be designed to produce no material adverse effect on the Conservation Area, (b) be located immediately adjacent to or under an Existing Road (as such term is defined below), and (c) not be located within the Stream Buffer Zones (as defined and described in Article II, Section G below).

(2) Existing Structures. Owner may repair, maintain and replace all structures and improvements existing on the Conservation Area as of the date of the Baseline Documentation (the "Existing Structures"); provided, however, the replacement structure for any Existing Structure shall be limited to and shall not exceed the current aggregate ground surface area of such Existing Structure as of the date of the Baseline Documentation.

(3) Additional Structures on Conservation Area. Owner may construct, replace and maintain certain additional non-dwelling structures on the Conservation Area that are consistent with the conservation purposes described in this Conservation Easement, including sheds, picnic shelters, pavilions, stands, blinds, decks, and other similar improvements for hunting, horseback riding, fishing and wildlife observation, and other permitted recreational activities (hereinafter "Additional Structures") provided that: (a) the aggregate ground surface covered by all such Additional Structures shall not exceed two hundred (200) square feet; (b) all such construction and maintenance is conducted in a manner designed to produce no material adverse effect on any of the Conservation Values; (c) such Additional Structures shall not be located within the Stream Buffer Zones (as defined and described in Article II, Section G below); (d) such Additional Structures shall be designed and located so as to avoid tree removal; (e) SERLC approves any proposed Additional Structures with a cost in excess of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000), in accordance with Article II, Section P before any construction or earth disturbance commences; and (f) such Additional Structures shall not be amenities constructed for the sole or specific benefit of any properties or areas outside the Conservation Area, any and all of which shall not be permitted within the Conservation Area.

E. Roads.

(1) Existing Roads; Expansion/Improvement of Access Road. This Conservation Easement shall be subject to all existing roads and right of ways as of the date hereof (the "Existing Roads"), as specifically depicted on the Baseline Documentation and that



certain map prepared for Owner by Engineering Design Group, LLC, a true and accurate copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated herein as "Exhibit C" (the "Road Map"). Owner shall be permitted to construct an expansion of and/or improvements to the Existing Road specifically designated on the Road Map as the "Existing Dirt Access Road, 50.00 Access Easement" (the "Access Road"). The expansion/improvement of the Access Road is subject to SERLC's prior written approval as required pursuant to Article II, Section P below. The Access Road may be paved but shall be no wider twenty-eight (28) feet, including curbing and drainage guttering. All construction activity for the Access Road shall be confined to the area within the roadbed of the Access Road.

(2) New Roads. There shall be no construction of new roads or any other new right of ways on the Conservation Area.

(3) Maintenance. Owner reserves the right to maintain the Existing Roads in passable condition, and to re-grade, resurface and improve the Existing Roads and the Access Road as permitted under the terms of this Article II, Section E. Owner shall be responsible for the proper maintenance of, and the prevention of soil erosion, on the Existing Roads. Maintenance of all roads on the Conservation Area shall be subject to the restrictions on herbicide use set forth in Article II, Section L(2) below and shall be limited to removal of dead vegetation, necessary pruning or removal of hazardous trees and plants, application of permeable materials necessary to correct or impede erosion, grading, and maintenance of roadside ditches; provided, however, that the Existing Roads may also be maintained through the resurfacing of such roads and the replacement of any culverts and bridges.

(4) Vehicles. Use of vehicles larger than personal all-terrain vehicles shall be restricted to the Existing Roads (as provided above) and other right of ways. All activities permitted on the Conservation Area may be conducted using all-terrain vehicles, such as 4-wheelers and the like; provided, however, all vehicles shall be used in such a manner as to avoid soil disruption and destruction of plant life, and recreational use of such vehicles shall be prohibited within the Stream Buffer Zones (as defined and described in Article II, Section G below), other than that as permitted by Article II, Section F(2) below.

F. Trails; Firebreaks.

(1) Existing Trails; Additional Trails. This Conservation Easement shall be subject to all existing trails as of the date hereof and as depicted on the Baseline Documentation and/or the Survey (the "Existing Trails"). The Existing Trails may be maintained, but may not otherwise be expanded or enlarged. Owner may, however, construct and maintain additional walking trails ("Additional Trails") on the Conservation Area of natural, permeable surfaces; provided, however, such Additional Trails shall be no more than three (3) feet in width and shall not exceed two (2) miles in length in the aggregate, and shall not be located within the Stream Buffer Zones (as defined and described in Article II, Section G below). Subject to the restrictions on herbicide use set forth in Article II, Section L(2) below, maintenance of all Existing Trails and Additional Trails shall be limited to removal of dead vegetation, and necessary pruning or removal of hazardous trees and plants.

(2) Firebreaks. Owner shall be permitted to construct firebreaks on the Conservation Area ("Firebreaks"); provided, however, (i) the location and construction of any Firebreaks are subject to SERLC's prior written approval as required pursuant to Article II,

Section P below, (ii) Firebreaks shall not be located within the Stream Buffer Zones (as defined and described in Article II, Section G below), and (ii) all Firebreaks shall be no wider than the minimum necessary width.

G. Water, Water Quality and Drainage Patterns. Owner shall manage the Conservation Area in a manner so as to prevent pollution, alteration, or depletion of surface water, natural watercourses, subsurface water, or any other water bodies. All areas within 100 feet of any rivers, creeks, streams, natural wetlands, and ravines (or other such intermittent water drainages) located within the Conservation Area are designated as "Stream Buffer Zones," and shall not be disturbed (other than that as permitted by Article II, Section G(2) below) and shall retain a permanently protected vegetated buffer. Diking, draining, damming, filling or removal of any wetlands is prohibited on the Conservation Area.

Subject to the foregoing, Owner reserves the following rights:

(1) Provided that no such wells are located within the Stream Buffer Zones, Owner shall be permitted to continue to operate, maintain, or replace existing ground water wells and to add new wells incident to all permitted uses on the Conservation Area (including wildlife management purposes, agricultural purposes, and water service to the Existing Structures and the Additional Structures).

(2) Owner shall be permitted to perform work, including the removal of vegetation or disturbance of land, within the vicinity of existing water courses or regulated wetlands; provided, however, that such work may take place only if such work shall restore natural stream channel morphology and natural wetland hydrology as part of an approved restoration or mitigation program, and only after obtaining the prior written approval of SERLC in accordance with Article II, Section P following Owner obtaining, and providing SERLC with copies of, all applicable local, state, and federal permits and approvals necessary for such activity.

H. Plants and Wildlife. There shall be no introduction of plant or animal species within the Conservation Area except those native to the area in which the Conservation Area is located.

I. Signage. Display of billboards, signs or advertisements is prohibited on or over the Conservation Area, except for (1) no trespassing signs, (2) directional signs to allowed activities (which shall not exceed four (4) square feet in area), (3) interpretive trail signs identifying the Conservation Values of the Conservation Area, and/or (4) signs identifying the Owner as owner of the Conservation Area.

J. Topography. Except as reasonably necessary for the construction and maintenance of the improvements allowed under this Conservation Easement and for the purpose of combating erosion or flooding, there shall be no (1) filling, excavating, dredging, mining or drilling; (2) removal of topsoil, sand, gravel, rock, minerals or other materials; or (3) any dumping or changing of the topography of the land in the Conservation Area in any manner.

K. Dumping. The dumping of soil, trash, ashes, garbage, waste, abandoned vehicles, appliances, or machinery, or other materials on the Conservation Area is prohibited.



L. Vegetation.

(1) Removal of Vegetation. Owner reserves the right to cut vegetation, or remove or destroy trees or vegetation within the Conservation Area under only the following conditions and only for the following purposes: (a) to clear and restore vegetative cover that has been damaged or disturbed by forces of nature or otherwise; (b) to remove invasive plant species; (c) to remove dead, dying or damaged trees near trails, roads, or structures that may reasonably pose a danger or create hazardous conditions; (d) to remove trees to the minimum extent necessary to install or construct the items permitted to be constructed under this Conservation Easement; and (e) to use such removed wood as firewood for allowed activities on the Conservation Area.

(2) Use of Herbicides Prohibited. Wide area spraying of the Conservation Area with herbicides by aerial or ground means for removal or control of vegetation is specifically prohibited and is not permitted under any circumstances. Use of herbicides of any kind shall be limited to spot treatment of vegetation that is otherwise permitted to be removed under the terms of this Conservation Easement. Herbicides may only be applied in such manner so as avoid damage or destruction to surrounding vegetation and trees, and may not be used within ten (10) feet of any natural water source.

M. Subdivision. As more specifically stated in the Baseline Documentation, Owner and SERLC recognize and agree that the Conservation Area should be preserved in perpetuity as a single, undivided parcel for the protection of the Conservation Area and its conservation purposes, and the preservation of the Conservation Values. The parties therefore covenant and agree that the division, subdivision, de facto subdivision or partition in kind of the Conservation Area, whether by legal or physical process, into two or more parcels of land or partial or separate interests (including but not limited to the partition of undivided interests) is prohibited. At all times Owner shall own and convey the Conservation Area as a single parcel, which shall be subject to the provisions of this Conservation Easement, regardless of whether the Conservation Area now consists of separate parcels, was acquired as separate parcels, or is treated as separate parcels for property tax or other purposes. Owner may own the single parcel by joint tenancy or tenancy in common; provided, however, Owner shall not undertake any legal proceeding to partition, subdivide, or partition in kind in any manner such undivided interests in the single parcel.

N. Quiet Enjoyment. Owner reserves to itself, its agents, representatives, successors and assigns, all rights accruing from its ownership of the Conservation Area, including the right to engage in or permit or invite others to engage in all uses of the Conservation Area that are not expressly prohibited or restricted herein and are not inconsistent with purposes of this Conservation Easement. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, Owner expressly reserves the right of access to the Conservation Area and the right of quiet enjoyment of the Conservation Area.

O. Mineral Use, Excavation, Dredging. Exploration for, or the extraction of, oil, hydrocarbons, natural gas, minerals, soil, or other materials located on or below the surface of the Conservation Area, or using any exploration or extraction method that disturbs the surface or subsurface of the land is prohibited. To the extent held by Owner, Owner shall not transfer, lease or otherwise separate the minerals or mineral rights from the Conservation Area.



P. Notification of Exercise of Certain Reserved Rights.

(1) In addition to any other notification requirements set forth herein, Owner must notify SERLC in writing at least sixty (60) days before Owner begins, or allows, any exercise of the following reserved rights (the "Prior Notice Reserved Rights") on the Conservation Area:

(a) the placement of any facilities, underground utilities or any utility or power lines within the Conservation Area pursuant to Article II, Section D;

(b) the construction of any Additional Structures on the Conservation Area with a cost in excess of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) pursuant to Article II, Section D(3);

(c) the expansion and/or improvement of the Access Road pursuant to Article II, Section E(1);

(d) the location and construction of any Firebreaks pursuant to Article II, Section F(3);

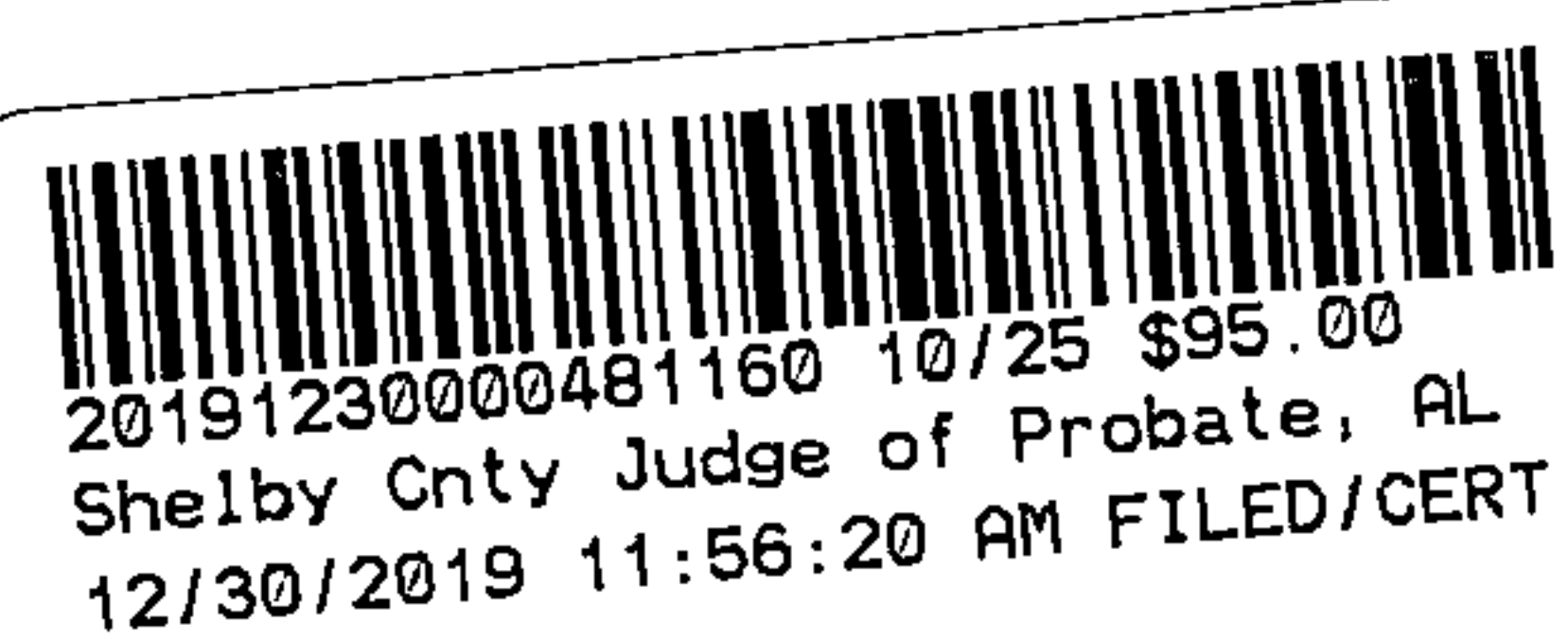
(e) the performance of any work (including the removal of vegetation or disturbance of land) within the vicinity of existing water courses or regulated wetland pursuant to Article II, Section G;

(f) the election by Owner to terminate otherwise reserved and permitted "commercial recreational activities" pursuant to Article VI, Section B(6) hereof; and

(g) the exercise of any reserved rights where the potential result of such exercise would impair the Conservation Values or violate the conservation purposes of this Conservation Easement.

(2) In order to exercise a Prior Notice Reserved Right, Owner must first obtain prior written approval from SERLC evidencing SERLC's satisfaction that any use or activity done in the exercise of the Prior Notice Reserved Right will have no material adverse effect on the Conservation Values or on the significant environmental features of the Conservation Area described in the Baseline Documentation. Under no circumstances whatsoever may Owner exercise a Prior Notice Reserved Right without first obtaining the prior written approval of SERLC.

(3) SERLC's prior written approval of the exercise of Prior Notice Reserved Rights described in this Article II, Section P may be granted, conditionally granted or declined by SERLC according to the procedure provided in this Section. Upon the request of SERLC, Owner shall provide SERLC with plans depicting in such detail, as SERLC reasonably requests, the construction or other use or activity, and location thereof, which Owner intends to undertake with respect to the proposed exercise of the Prior Notice Reserved Rights. SERLC may request additional information or details not provided by Owner regarding Owner's proposed exercise of Prior Notice Reserved Rights as SERLC reasonably believes necessary to determine compliance with this Article. Within sixty (60) days from its receipt of the notice required pursuant to Article II, Section P(1) above (or, if later, receipt of any additional information regarding the proposed use or activity requested by SERLC), SERLC may make one of the following determinations:





(a) Approve the Owner's proposed exercise of a Prior Notice Reserved Right in accordance with the materials submitted by the Owner. Approval on such terms shall constitute a covenant by Owner to exercise the Prior Notice Reserved Right solely in accordance with the notice and other information submitted to SERLC, which covenant shall be enforceable by SERLC as fully as if set forth in this Conservation Easement;

(b) Approve the Owner's proposed exercise of a Prior Notice Reserved Right in accordance with the materials submitted by the Owner but subject, however, to such qualifications and conditions as SERLC may impose in its notice of approval. Approval on such terms shall constitute a covenant by Owner to exercise the Prior Notice Reserved Right, if at all, only in accordance with the notice and other information submitted to SERLC, as modified or supplemented by the qualifications and conditions that SERLC imposed, which covenant shall be enforceable by SERLC as fully as if set forth in this Conservation Easement; or

(c) Decline to grant approval of Owner's proposed exercise of a Prior Notice Reserved Right on the basis of the notice and other materials submitted, in which case SERLC shall set forth in writing the grounds for such decline in detail and will cooperate in good faith with Owner in attempting to develop acceptable modifications or alternatives.

In the event that SERLC fails to make a determination as provided above within sixty (60) days, Owner's proposed exercise of the Prior Notice Reserved Right shall be deemed declined, in which case SERLC will cooperate in good faith with Owner in attempting to develop acceptable modifications or alternatives.

(4) SERLC may condition consideration of a proposal for exercise of Prior Notice Reserved Rights upon the deposit of a sum of money with SERLC to secure payment of SERLC's reasonable costs of review. The time period for SERLC's consideration of the Owner's request shall not run until such deposit is made. Owner shall be responsible, as a condition of the right to exercise the Prior Notice Reserved Rights, for payment of SERLC's reasonable costs and expenses, including legal and consultant fees, associated with review of the Owner's request for approval.

Q. Limitations on Reserved Rights. No assurance is given that any of the above reserved rights (including the Prior Notice Reserved Rights) may be exercised, in such manner as Owner might propose, without adversely affecting the Conservation Values or other significant ecological values of the Conservation Area. The foregoing procedure is established for the purpose of making that determination, and Owner's proposed exercise of a Prior Notice Reserved Right shall be deemed declined if SERLC fails to make a determination within sixty (60) days, as provided in Article II, Section P(3) above. The Prior Notice Reserved Rights may not be exercised under any circumstances unless and until SERLC has provided prior written approval evidencing that SERLC is satisfied that the exercise of the Prior Notice Reserved Right for which approval is sought, and in the manner proposed by the Owner, can be done without an adverse effect on the Conservation Values or other significant ecological values of the Conservation Area. Owner hereby waives, for Owner, and Owner's heirs, successors, legal representatives, and assigns, to the fullest extent allowed by law, any and all right to seek or recover damages from SERLC in any litigation or other legal action arising from a dispute over SERLC's exercise of its rights, obligations or interpretations under this Article II and agrees that the sole remedy or legal right to seek redress arising from any decision of SERLC pursuant to



this Article II shall be to seek a declaratory judgment or other legal declaration by a court of competent jurisdiction as to the rights of Owner hereunder.

### **ARTICLE III: ENFORCEMENT AND REMEDIES**

A. Upon any breach of the terms of this Conservation Easement by Owner, which (1) Owner fails to cure within thirty (30) days from written notice thereof from SERLC to Owner, or (2) under circumstances where the breach cannot reasonably be cured within such thirty (30) day period, Owner fails to begin curing such violation within the thirty (30) day period or fails to continue diligently to cure such violation until finally cured, SERLC may enforce the conservation restrictions and prohibitions by appropriate legal proceedings, including but not limited to the exercise of the right to require that the Conservation Area be restored promptly to the condition required by this Conservation Easement. The foregoing shall not limit any of the rights or remedies available to SERLC as specifically set forth in any law or in this Conservation Easement.

B. No failure on the part of SERLC to enforce any covenant or provision hereof shall discharge or invalidate such covenant or any other covenant, condition, or provision hereof or affect the right of SERLC to enforce the same in the event of subsequent breach or default.

C. Nothing contained in this Conservation Easement shall be construed to entitle SERLC to bring any action against Owner for any injury or change in the Conservation Area resulting from causes determined to have been entirely beyond the Owner's control, including, without limitation, fire, flood, storm, and natural earth movement, or from any prudent action taken in good faith by the Owner under emergency conditions to prevent, abate, or mitigate significant injury to life, damage to property or harm to the Conservation Area resulting from such causes.

D. This Conservation Easement may only be enforced by the parties hereto, and their respective successors and assigns, and no third-party beneficiary rights, including but not limited to third party rights of enforcement, are created hereby. SERLC's remedies described in this Article shall be cumulative and concurrent and shall be in addition to all remedies now or hereafter available or existing at law or in equity.

E. Without limitation of any other rights of SERLC in this Conservation Easement, SERLC's right of enforcement of this Conservation Easement shall include the right to seek specific performance by Owner of the restoration of the Conservation Area to its original condition as established in the Baseline Documentation or to its condition prior to any activity that violates this Conservation Easement or as otherwise may be necessary to remedy any violation of any easement, covenant, prohibition or restriction in this Conservation Easement, as SERLC may elect.

F. In the event that SERLC acts, after notice to Owner, to enforce this Conservation Easement or any obligation hereunder, all reasonable expenses incurred by SERLC shall be charged to and paid by the Owner, including reasonable attorneys' fees regardless of whether an action or proceeding is commenced. All such expenses, together with costs of collection (including reasonable attorneys' fees) if the Owner is determined by a court to have violated this Conservation Easement, shall be recoverable by SERLC and be liens upon the Conservation Area, and collection thereof may be enforced by foreclosure and sale of the Conservation Area. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, this Conservation Easement shall not merge with any



interest in the Conservation Area upon such sale and title shall be transferred subject hereto in accordance with the laws of the State of Alabama.

G. In the event that the Owner or anyone acting by, through, under or on behalf of Owner, commences litigation against SERLC to enforce any rights hereunder or to dispute any actions or inaction of SERLC, to enforce any alleged duty or obligation of SERLC hereunder, or to seek damages or specific performance against SERLC, Owner shall reimburse SERLC on demand for all costs and expenses, including attorneys' fees, reasonably incurred by SERLC in its defense in such litigation, unless SERLC is finally determined by a court of competent jurisdiction, beyond right of appeal, to have acted in an arbitrary or capricious manner and contrary to the terms of this Conservation Easement.

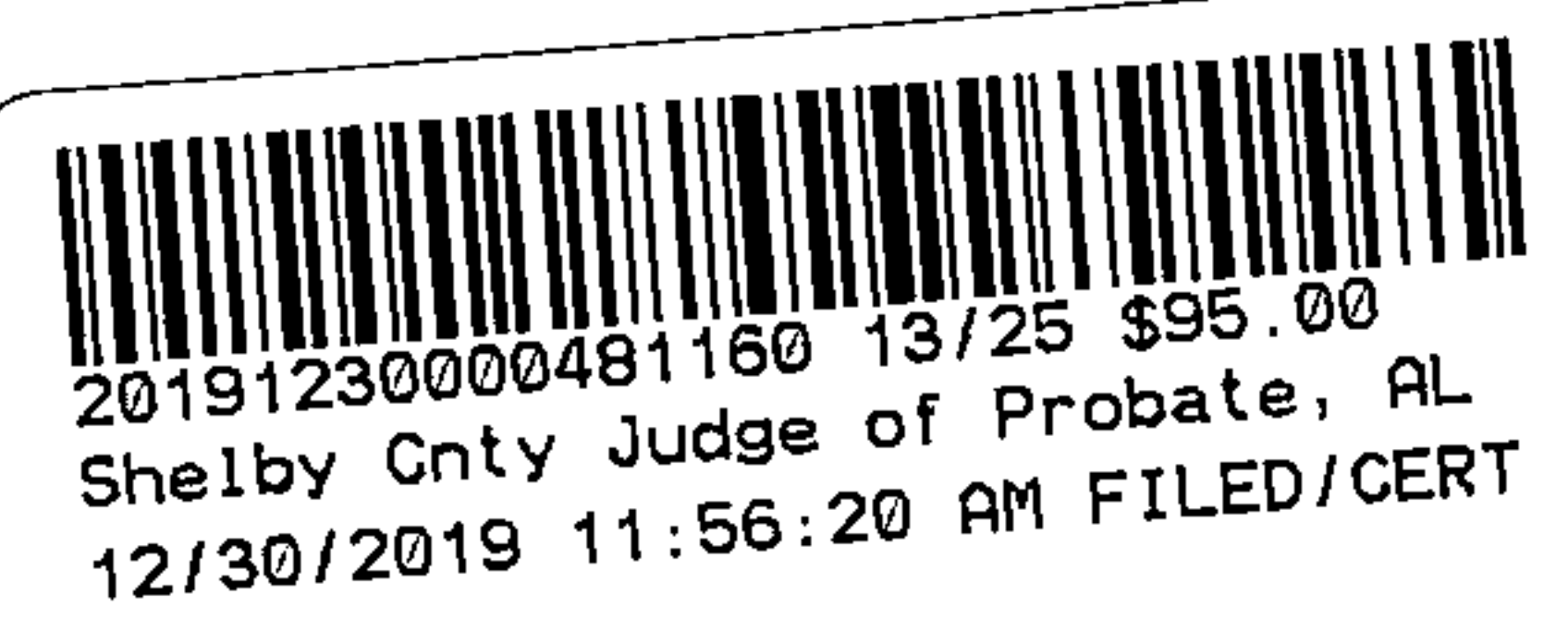
#### **ARTICLE IV: PUBLIC ACCESS**

Owner agrees to allow visual access from points outside the Conservation Area to the general public. Owner may, at Owner's sole discretion and from time to time, grant physical access to groups, organizations, and individuals studying the Conservation Values of the Conservation Area or enjoying its recreational values. However, the granting of this Conservation Easement does not convey to the public the right to enter the Conservation Area and nothing herein shall require Owner to allow physical access to the general public.

#### **ARTICLE V: COVENANTS OF OWNER**

A. Baseline Documentation. Owner has received and fully reviewed the Baseline Documentation in its entirety. Owner acknowledges that the Baseline Documentation is an accurate representation of the condition of the Conservation Area and accurately establishes the uses, structures, Conservation Values and condition of the Conservation Area as of the date hereof.

B. Title. Owner covenants and represents that: (1) Owner is the sole owner and is seized of the Conservation Area in fee simple and has good right to grant and convey this Conservation Easement; (2) the Conservation Area is free and clear of any and all security interests (except for security interests that have been properly subordinated prior to the conveyance of this Conservation Easement); (3) the Conservation Area is free and clear of any and all encumbrances, except for liens for taxes not yet due and payable and easements and road rights of way recorded prior to the date of this Conservation Easement in the place for the recording of such liens or encumbrances (the "Exceptions"); (4) none of the Exceptions affect the perpetuity of this Conservation Easement or otherwise adversely affect or impair any of the Conservation Values of the Conservation Area or the conservation purposes of this Conservation Easement; (5) SERLC shall have the use of and enjoy all of the benefits derived from and arising out of this Conservation Easement, and shall at all times have a reasonable, immediate, separate, legal means of access to all portions of the Conservation Area (such that there shall be no impairments of SERLC's right of inspection of the Conservation Area); and (6) Owner has made, within a reasonable time just prior to the conveyance of this Conservation Easement, a title examination of the Property (including the Conservation Area) that provides the reasonable basis for each of the foregoing covenants and representations.





## ARTICLE VI: MISCELLANEOUS

### A. Subsequent Transfers.

(1) Definition of Transfer. For purposes of this Conservation Easement, “Transfer” is defined as follows: (a) the direct or indirect sale, agreement to sell, assignment, conveyance, lease or other disposition of the Conservation Area or any portion of the Conservation Area; and/or (b) if a majority ownership interest in, or control of, the Conservation Area is changed as a result of the transfer of stock, membership, partnership or other ownership interests in the Owner. The occurrence of any of these events is a Transfer whether or not it is voluntary, involuntary, by operation of law, or otherwise.

(2) Notice Required. Nothing in this Conservation Easement shall limit the right of Owner, its successors or assigns to Transfer the Conservation Area, provided that any such Transfer shall be under and subject to this Conservation Easement (including, without limitation, the restrictions on subdivision set forth in Article II, Section M). Owner shall notify SERLC in writing of any Transfer, whether by operation of law or otherwise, not less than 60 days prior to such Transfer, and such notice shall include a description of the proposed Transfer, the proposed date of Transfer, and the name or names and addresses for notices of the transferee(s).

(3) Authorization Prior to Transfer. Owner authorizes SERLC to (a) contact the transferee(s) to whom the Conservation Area or any part thereof will be Transferred, and other persons representing Owner or the prospective transferees, to discuss with them this Conservation Easement and, if applicable, other pertinent documents; and (b) enter the Conservation Area to assess compliance with this Conservation Easement.

(4) Continuing Obligations and Liability. The Owner prior to Transfer is liable, on a joint and several basis with the Owner following the Transfer, for the correction of violations and discharge of other obligations of Owner under this Conservation Easement. The Owner prior to Transfer shall be relieved of liability for violations and discharge of other obligations of Owner occurring after the Transfer only in the event that SERLC has been notified of the Transfer, inspects the Conservation Area, and reports no violations observed during such inspection as of the date of the Transfer; provided, however, the Owner prior to Transfer shall remain liable for violations and the discharge of other obligations of Owner occurring prior to the Transfer.

(5) Conveyance Contribution. For each Transfer, the Owner shall pay the sum of \$2,500 (the “Conveyance Contribution”) to SERLC at the time of and with the written notice of Transfer to SERLC required by this Article VI, Section A(2) above. The Conveyance Contribution is to be adjusted as needed to maintain equivalent value with the U.S. Dollar as of the date of this Conservation Easement.

(6) Conveyance Obligations. Owner authorizes the attorney or other person handling closing of a Transfer to withhold, from funds otherwise payable to Owner as a result of the Transfer, the sums (if any) required to satisfy obligations to SERLC then outstanding or which become due upon Transfer as set forth above in this Section or otherwise itemized by SERLC in its statement rendered to Owner. Owner and its successors, representatives, administrators, and assigns further agree (a) to make specific reference to this Conservation Easement in a separate paragraph of any Transfer lease, deed or other legal instrument by which





any interest in the Conservation Area is Transferred; and (b) to provide any transferee of the Conservation Area with a copy of this Conservation Easement, the Baseline Documentation, and any other material documentation related to this Conservation Easement.

B. Conservation Purpose.

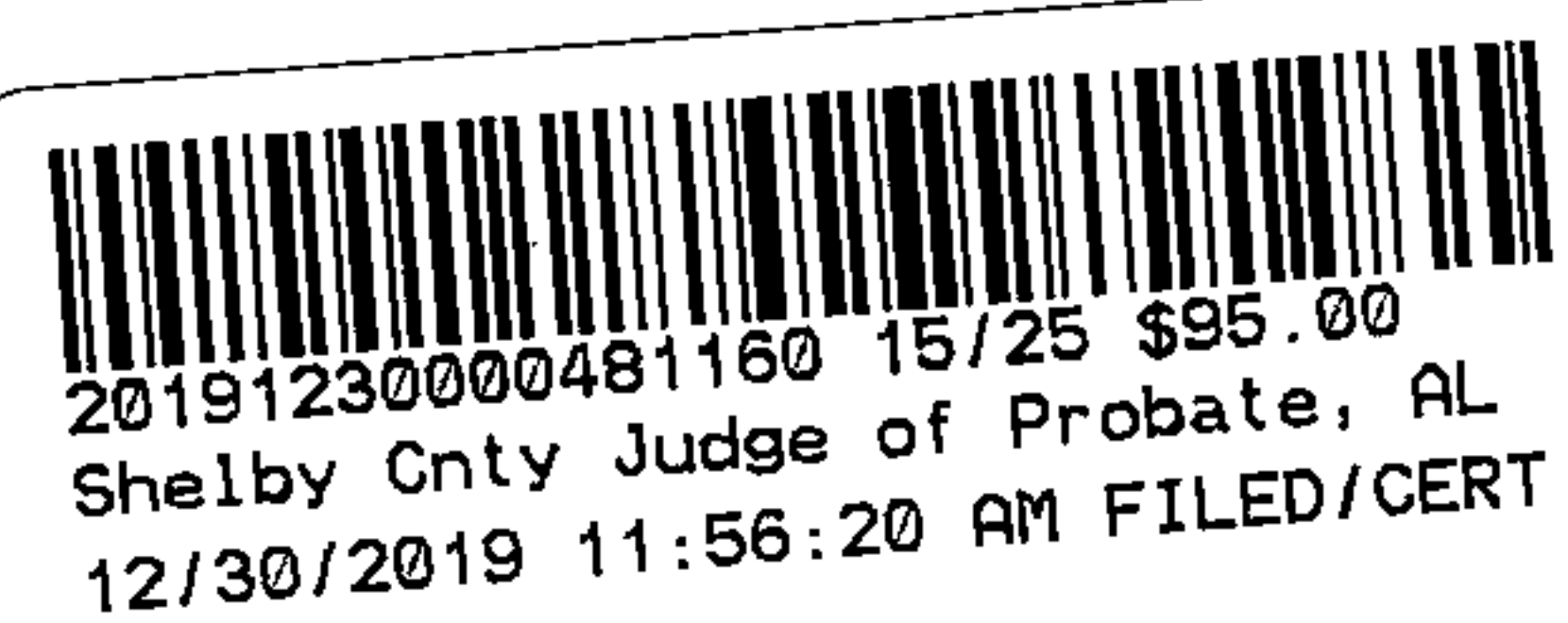
(1) Owner, for itself, its agents, successors, representatives, and assigns, agrees that this Conservation Easement shall be held exclusively for conservation purposes, as defined in Section 170(h)(4)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code.

(2) In accordance with Treas. Reg. 1.170A-14(g)(6)(ii), Owner acknowledges that this Conservation Easement gives rise to a perpetual real property right and interest, immediately vested in SERLC, that has "a fair market value that is at least equal to the proportionate value that the perpetual conservation restriction at the time of the gift, bears to the value of the property as a whole at that time." For purposes of this Conservation Easement, the fair market value of this Conservation Easement and SERLC's resulting property right and interest (which value shall remain constant) shall be equal to the difference between (a) the fair market value of the Conservation Area as if not burdened by this Conservation Easement and (b) the fair market value of the Conservation Area burdened by this Conservation Easement, as such values are determined as of the date of this Conservation Easement. If a change in conditions makes impossible or impractical any continued protection of the Conservation Area for conservation purposes, the restrictions contained herein may only be extinguished by judicial proceeding. Upon such proceeding and any subsequent sale, exchange or involuntary conversion of the Conservation Area, SERLC shall be entitled to a portion of the proceeds at least equal to the fair market value of this Conservation Easement (as determined through the equation stated above in this subsection) in accordance with Treas. Reg. 1.170A-14(g)(6)(ii). SERLC shall use its share of the proceeds in a manner consistent with the conservation purposes set forth in the Recitals herein.

(3) Whenever all or part of the Conservation Area is taken in exercise of eminent domain by public, corporate, or other authority so as to abrogate the restrictions imposed by this Conservation Easement, Owner and SERLC shall join in appropriate actions at the time of such taking to recover the full value of the taking and all incidental or direct damages resulting from the taking, which proceeds shall be divided in accordance with the proportionate value of SERLC's and Owner's interests as determined through the equation stated in Article VI, Section B(2) above. All expenses, including attorneys' fees, incurred by Owner and SERLC in such action shall be paid out of the recovered proceeds to the extent not paid by the condemning authority.

(4) Owner and SERLC agree that the terms of this Conservation Easement shall survive any merger of the fee and easement interests in the Conservation Area.

(5) The parties hereto recognize and agree that the benefits of this Conservation Easement are in gross and assignable to an assignee designated by SERLC; provided, however, that SERLC covenants and agrees, that in the event it transfers or assigns this Conservation Easement, the organization receiving the interest will be a qualified organization and an eligible donee as those terms are defined in Section 170(h)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or any successor section) and the regulations promulgated thereunder, which is organized or operated primarily for one of the conservation purposes specified in Section





170(h)(4)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code. SERLC further covenants and agrees that the terms of any such transfer or assignment will be such that the transferee or assignee will be required to continue to carry out in perpetuity the conservation purposes which the contribution was originally intended to advance, set forth in Article I herein.

(6) Owner represents that (a) the rights and activities reserved and permitted hereunder relating to recreational activities are consistent with the conservation purposes herein and as outlined in Section 170(h) of the Internal Revenue Code, and (b) such rights and activities do not constitute more than “de minimis” use of the Conservation Area for “commercial recreational activities” as those terms are used in Section 2031(c) of the Internal Revenue Code. Nevertheless, solely for the purpose of qualifying this Conservation Easement for the estate tax exclusion and any expansion thereof under Internal Revenue Code Section 2031(c), or its successor provisions, Owner (including Owner’s estate, successors and assigns) may elect in writing in recordable form to release and terminate otherwise reserved and permitted “commercial recreational activities” either inter vivos or, alternatively, post mortem, in accordance with Section 2031(c), to the extent permitted by said Section 2031(c), if necessary to qualify for the conservation easement estate tax exclusion under Internal Revenue Code Section 2031(c), such election to be recorded in the public records of Shelby County, Alabama. Owner shall notify SERLC in writing of such election in accordance with Article II, Section P.

C. Access. SERLC, its employees and agents and its successors and assigns, have the right, upon prior written notice to Owner, to enter the Conservation Area at reasonable times to inspect the Conservation Area to determine whether the Owner, its agents, representatives, successors or assigns are complying with the terms, conditions and restrictions of this Conservation Easement. Owner covenants and agrees that Owner shall at all times provide and ensure immediate means of legal access for SERLC to the Conservation Area via one or more public roads or private right of ways that run with the land (such that the Conservation Area is not considered to be “landlocked,” as such term may be defined by SERLC in its sole and absolute discretion).

D. Construction of Terms. This Conservation Easement shall be construed to promote the purposes of the Alabama Conservation Easement Law, which authorizes the creation of conservation easements for purposes including those set forth in the recitals herein, and the conservation purposes of this Conservation Easement, including such purposes as are defined in Section 170(h)(4)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code. The parties recognize the Conservation Values and have the common purpose of preserving these values. Any general rule of construction to the contrary notwithstanding, this Conservation Easement shall be liberally construed in favor of the grant to protect the Conservation Values and effect the policies and purposes of SERLC. If any provision in this Conservation Easement is found to be ambiguous, an interpretation consistent with its conservation purposes that would render the provision valid should be favored over any interpretation that would render it invalid. If any provision of this Conservation Easement is determined by final judgment of a court having competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such determination shall not have the effect of rendering the remaining provisions of this Conservation Easement invalid. The parties intend that this Conservation Easement, which is by nature and character primarily prohibitive (in that the Owner has restricted and limited the rights inherent in ownership of the Conservation Area), shall be construed at all times and by all parties to effectuate the conservation purposes of this Conservation Easement.



E. Amendment. If circumstances arise under which an amendment to or modification of this Conservation Easement would be appropriate and provide protection equal to or greater than this Conservation Easement, Owner and SERLC are free to jointly amend this Conservation Easement, provided that no amendment shall be allowed that will: (i) affect the status of this Conservation Easement as a “qualified real property interest” within the meaning of § 170(h)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code; (ii) cause this Conservation Easement to be contributed to an organization other than a “qualified organization” within the meaning of § 170(h)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; (iii) affect the status of SERLC as a “qualified organization” within the meaning of § 170(h)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; (iv) cause this Conservation Easement to be contributed other than “exclusively for conservation purposes” within the meaning of §§ 170(h)(1), (4), and (5) of the Internal Revenue Code; (v) affect the status of this Conservation Easement as a conservation easement within the meaning of the Alabama Conservation Easement Law; (vi) affect the qualification of this Conservation Easement or the status of SERLC under any applicable laws, including but not limited to, the Alabama Conservation Easement Law or § 170(h) of the Internal Revenue Code; (vii) increase or expand any of Owner’s reserved rights set forth herein; or (viii) confer to Owner any reserved rights in addition to those set forth herein. Any amendment shall be consistent with the intent and purpose of this Conservation Easement, shall not confer impermissible private benefit or private inurement to any party, shall not affect its perpetual duration, and shall provide protection equal to or greater than the protections herein established for the Conservation Values of the Conservation Area. Any such amendment shall be recorded and cross-referenced to this Conservation Easement in the official records of Shelby County, Alabama.

F. Successors and Assigns. This Conservation Easement and all of the covenants, indemnifications, releases, easements and restrictions set forth in this Conservation Easement shall run with the land and be binding upon Owner and Owner’s successors and assigns, unless otherwise expressly provided in this Conservation Easement. The term “Owner” used in this Conservation Easement shall mean and include the above-named Owner and any of Owner’s successors or assigns that are the legal owners of the Conservation Area or any part thereof. The term “SERLC” used in this Conservation Easement shall mean and include the above-named organization and its successors and assigns, it being understood and agreed that any assignee of the rights of SERLC hereunder must be a “qualified organization” as defined in Section 170(h) of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended, and shall carry out the obligations of SERLC and the intent of this Conservation Easement.

G. Limitation of Liability. Owner shall be and remain liable for any breach or violation of this Conservation Easement if such breach or violation occurs during such time as Owner is the legal or equitable owner of the Conservation Area or any part thereof or is in possession of the Conservation Area or any part thereof.

H. Indemnification. Owner covenants and agrees to indemnify, defend, reimburse, and hold harmless SERLC, its directors, officers, employees, representatives, consultants, attorneys, and agents (collectively, the (“SERLC Indemnitees”)) from, for and against any loss, cost (including, but not limited to, reasonable attorneys’ fees and witness and court fees and costs from any lawsuit or governmental administrative or law enforcement action which is commenced or threatened against any of the SERLC Indemnitees or to which any of the foregoing are made a party or called as a witness), liability, penalty, fine, and damage, of any kind or nature whatsoever, which any of the SERLC Indemnitees may suffer or incur which





arises out of or relates to the Conservation Area, including, without limitation, any of the following: the violation or alleged violation of any law in, upon or involving the Conservation Area; any breach or violation of Owner's agreements, covenants and/or restrictions contained in this Conservation Easement; the failure of Owner to provide SERLC with any notice required hereunder; any tax or assessment upon the Conservation Area; any death or injury to any person occurring on or about the Conservation Area; any lien or attempts to enforce a lien asserted against the Conservation Area; the costs of performing any work on the Conservation Area; any loss or damage to any property on or about the Conservation Area; any dispute regarding the interpretation or enforcement of this Conservation Easement; and/or any lawsuit (even if initiated by Owner or SERLC) or governmental administrative or law enforcement action which is commenced or threatened against any of the SERLC Indemnitees or to which any of the foregoing are made a party or called as a witness. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Owner shall have no obligation to indemnify, defend or reimburse SERLC or hold SERLC harmless against loss, cost, liability, claim, penalty, fine or damage which results solely from SERLC's own acts which are finally determined by a court of competent jurisdiction, beyond right of appeal, to have been the result of bad faith, gross negligence or willful misconduct of SERLC. Without limitation of anything herein to the contrary, Owner shall retain all responsibilities and shall bear all costs and liabilities of any kind related to the ownership, operations, upkeep, and maintenance of the Conservation Area, including, but not limited to, the general liability insurance coverage and obligation to comply with applicable law.

I. Control. Nothing in this Conservation Easement shall be construed as giving rise to any right or ability of SERLC to exercise physical or managerial control over day-to-day operations of the Conservation Area, or any of the Owner's activities on the Conservation Area, or otherwise to become an operator with respect to the Conservation Area within the meaning of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, as amended.

J. Taxes. Owner shall continue to pay all taxes, levies and assessments and other governmental or municipal charges that may become a lien on the Conservation Area, including any taxes or levies imposed to make those payments.

K. Tax Deduction. SERLC makes no warranty, representation or other assurance regarding the availability, amount or effect of any deduction, credit or other benefit to Owner or any other person or entity under United States or any state, local or other tax law to be derived from the donation of this Conservation Easement or other transaction associated with the donation of this Conservation Easement. Neither this Conservation Easement nor this donation is conditioned upon the availability or amount of any such deduction, credit or other benefit. SERLC makes no warranty, representation or other assurance regarding the value of this Conservation Easement or of the Conservation Area. As to all of the foregoing, Owner is relying upon Owner's own legal counsel, accountant, financial advisor, appraiser or other consultant and not upon SERLC or any legal counsel, accountant, financial advisor, appraiser or other consultant of SERLC. In the event of any audit or other inquiry of a governmental authority into the effect of this donation upon the taxation or financial affairs affecting Owner or Owner's successors or assigns or other similar matter (collectively, an "Audit"), Owner shall reimburse and indemnify SERLC for any cost or expense of any kind or nature whatsoever incurred by SERLC in responding or replying to such Audit. As a condition to obtaining SERLC's participation in responding to an Audit, SERLC may require Owner to provide a retainer in an



amount sufficient to cover SERLC's reasonably anticipated costs and expenses associated with the Audit (as determined by SERLC in its sole and absolute discretion), and Owner shall hold SERLC harmless from any and all penalties, damages, costs or expenses resulting from Owner's failure to provide such retainer and obtain SERLC's participation in the Audit.

L. Recording. This instrument shall be recorded in timely fashion in the official records of Shelby County, Alabama, and SERLC may re-record it at any time as may be required to preserve its rights under this Conservation Easement.

M. Notices. Any notices pursuant to this Conservation Easement must be: (i) in writing; (ii) addressed to the parties at their addresses shown hereinabove or to other address(es) as either party establishes in writing upon notification to the other; and (iii) via personal delivery, registered or certified mail (return receipt requested and postage prepaid), or nationally recognized overnight courier (with all fees prepaid). Owner acknowledges that Owner shall be liable for any and all damages arising out of Owner's failure to send or properly address any notices to SERLC pursuant to this Conservation Easement.

N. Mortgages; Deeds of Trust. All mortgages, deeds of trust and other liens or encumbrances upon all or any part of the Conservation Area that either come into existence or are recorded in the place for the recording of such liens or encumbrances after the date of this Conservation Easement will be subject to and subordinate to this Conservation Easement.

O. Compliance with Laws. Notwithstanding provisions hereof to the contrary, if any, Owner shall be solely responsible for complying with all federal, state and local laws and regulations in connection with the conduct of any use of the Conservation Area or the erection of any structure permitted hereunder, and Owner shall be solely responsible for obtaining any required permits, approvals and consents from the relevant governmental authorities in connection therewith.

P. Entire Agreement. This instrument sets forth the entire agreement of the parties with respect to the Conservation Easement and supersedes all prior discussions, negotiations, understandings or agreements relating to the Conservation Easement. If any provision is found to be invalid, the remainder of the provisions of this Conservation Easement, and the application of such provision to persons or circumstances other than those as to which it is found to be invalid, shall not be affected thereby.

Q. Counterparts. This Conservation Easement may be executed in counterparts, each of which shall be deemed to be an original, and taken together shall constitute one and the same instrument.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD unto the Southeast Regional Land Conservancy, Inc., its successors and assigns, forever. The covenants agreed to and the terms, conditions, restrictions and purposes imposed as aforesaid shall be binding upon Owner, its representatives, agents, successors and assigns, and shall continue as a servitude running in perpetuity with the Conservation Area.

*[Signatures on following page]*



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have set their hands and seals and caused these presents to be executed in their respective names by authority duly given, and their corporate seal affixed, the day and year above written.

Signed, sealed and delivered  
In the presence of:

Eduardo Hernandez  
Witness 1 Signature

Melissa Cearfoss  
Witness 2/Notary Signature

STATE OF Georgia  
COUNTY OF Cobb

I, Melissa Cearfoss, a Notary Public in and for said County and State do hereby certify that James C. Wright personally appeared before me this day and duly acknowledged that he is the Executive Director of Southeast Regional Land Conservancy, Inc. ("SERLC"), a North Carolina nonprofit corporation, and that by authority duly given and as the act of SERLC, the foregoing instrument was signed in its name.

WITNESS my hand and notarial seal, this 30<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2019.

Melissa Cearfoss (SEAL)  
Notary Public for Cobb Co, GA  
My commission expires: 12/28/2022

Signed, sealed and delivered  
In the presence of:

[Signature]  
Witness 1 Signature

[Signature]  
Witness 2/Notary Signature

STATE OF Alabama  
COUNTY OF Jefferson

I, Anaela Brothers, a Notary Public in and for said County and State do hereby certify that Jeffrey L. Smith personally appeared before me this day and duly acknowledged that (i) he is the Manager of Smith Development & Management, LLC, an Alabama limited liability company, (ii) Smith Development & Management, LLC is the Manager of Clear Prong Partners, LLC, an Alabama limited liability company, and (iii) by authority duly given, the foregoing instrument was signed in the name of Clear Prong Partners, LLC.

WITNESS my hand and notarial seal, this 30 day of December, 2019.

[Signature] (SEAL)  
Notary Public for Alabama  
My commission expires: 4/26/20

**SOUTHEAST REGIONAL LAND  
CONSERVANCY, INC.**, a North Carolina  
non-profit corporation [SEAL]

By: [Signature]  
James C. Wright, Executive Director

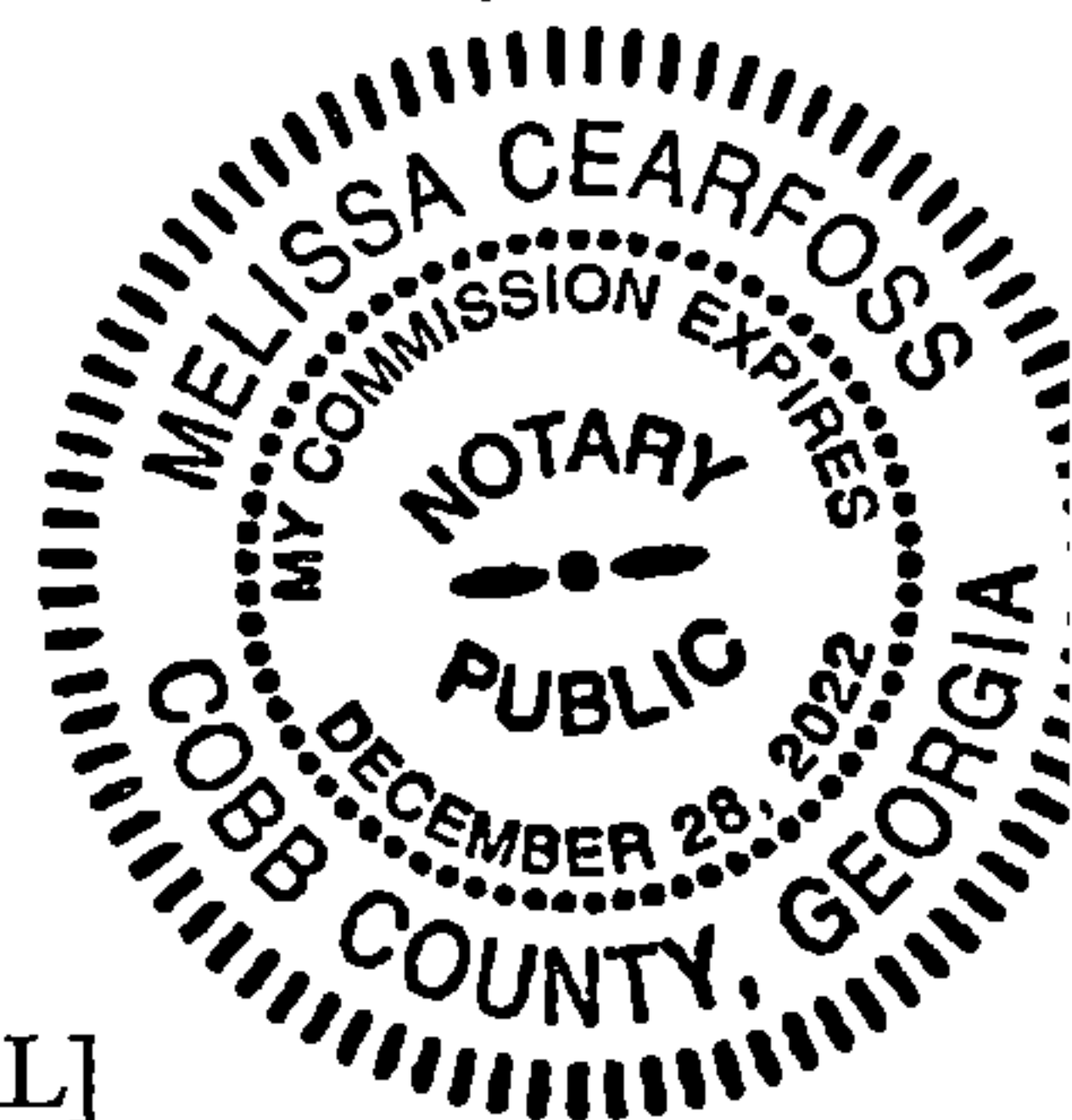
#### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

**OWNER:**  
**CLEAR PRONG PARTNERS, LLC**,  
an Alabama limited liability company [SEAL]

By: Smith Development & Management, LLC, an  
Alabama limited liability company, Manager of Clear  
Prong Partners, LLC

By: [Signature]  
Jeffrey L. Smith, Manager

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENT





**Exhibit "A"**  
**Property Description**


All that certain tract or parcel of land, lying and being in Sections 25, 26, and 35 of Township 19 South, Range 1 East, Shelby County, Alabama, containing 202.60 and being more fully described as follows:

Commence at a 4" x 4" concrete monument in place being the Southwest corner of Section 26, Township 19 South, Range 1 East, Shelby County, Alabama, said point being the point of beginning. From this beginning point proceed North 00° 49' 35" East along the West boundary of the Southwest one-fourth of the Southwest one-fourth of said Section 26 for a distance of 1313.63 feet to a 4" x 4" concrete monument in place, being the Northwest corner of said quarter-quarter section; thence proceed North 87° 53' 09" East along a yellow painted line and along the North boundary of the Southwest one-fourth of the Southwest one-fourth, the Southeast one-fourth of the Southwest one-fourth, the Southwest one-fourth of the Southeast one-fourth and the Southeast one-fourth of the Southeast one-fourth for a distance of 5319.12 feet to a ½" rebar in place (PLS #30819), said point being the Northeast corner of the Southeast one-fourth of the Southeast one-fourth of said Section 26; thence proceed North 88° 52' 56" East along a yellow painted line and along the North boundary of the Southwest one-fourth of the Southwest one-fourth of Section 25 for a distance of 636.40 feet (set ½" rebar CA-0114-LS); thence proceed South 00° 01' 14" West for a distance of 480.56 feet (set ½" rebar CA-0114-LS); thence proceed South 68° 01' 49" West for a distance of 473.76 feet (set ½" rebar CA-0114-LS); thence proceed South 39° 23' 01" West for a distance of 544.36 feet (set ½" rebar CA-0114-LS); thence proceed North 90° 00' 00" West for a distance of 432.23 feet (set ½" rebar CA-0114-LS); thence proceed South 00° 00' 00" East for a distance of 463.41 feet (set ½" rebar CA-0114-LS); thence proceed North 75° 35' 59" West for a distance of 158.99 feet (set ½" rebar CA-0114-LS); thence proceed North 70° 47' 58" West for a distance of 457.82 feet (set ½" rebar CA-0114-LS); thence proceed North 70° 47' 58" West for a distance of 190.57 feet (set ½" rebar CA-0114-LS) to the P. C. of a concave curve left having an arc of 722.40 feet and a radius of 2049.98 feet; thence proceed Northwesterly along the curvature of said curve for a chord bearing and distance of North 80° 53' 41" West, 718.67 feet to the P. T. of said curve; thence proceed South 89° 00' 36" West for a distance of 466.36 feet (set ½" rebar CA-0114-LS); thence proceed South 00° 00' 00" East for a distance of 1446.28 feet (set ½" rebar CA-0114-LS), said point being located on the South boundary of the Northwest one-fourth of the Northeast one-fourth of Section 35; thence proceed South 87° 56' 45" West along a yellow painted line and along the South boundary of the Northwest one-fourth of the Northeast one-fourth and the South boundary of the Northeast one-fourth of the Northwest one-fourth for a distance of 820.69 feet to a 5/8" rebar in place; thence proceed South 87° 56' 41" West along a yellow painted line and along the South boundary of said Northeast one-fourth of the Northwest one-fourth for a distance of 681.56 feet to a 4" x 4" concrete monument in place being the Southwest corner of said quarter-quarter section; thence proceed North 00° 09' 17" East along a yellow painted line and along the West boundary of said quarter-quarter section for a distance of 1256.87 feet to a 4" x 4" concrete monument in place being the Northwest corner of said Northeast one-fourth of the Northwest one-fourth of Section 35; thence proceed South 85° 50' 53" West along a yellow painted line and along the South boundary of the Southwest one-fourth of the Southwest one-fourth of Section 26 for a distance of 1316.91 feet to the point of beginning.



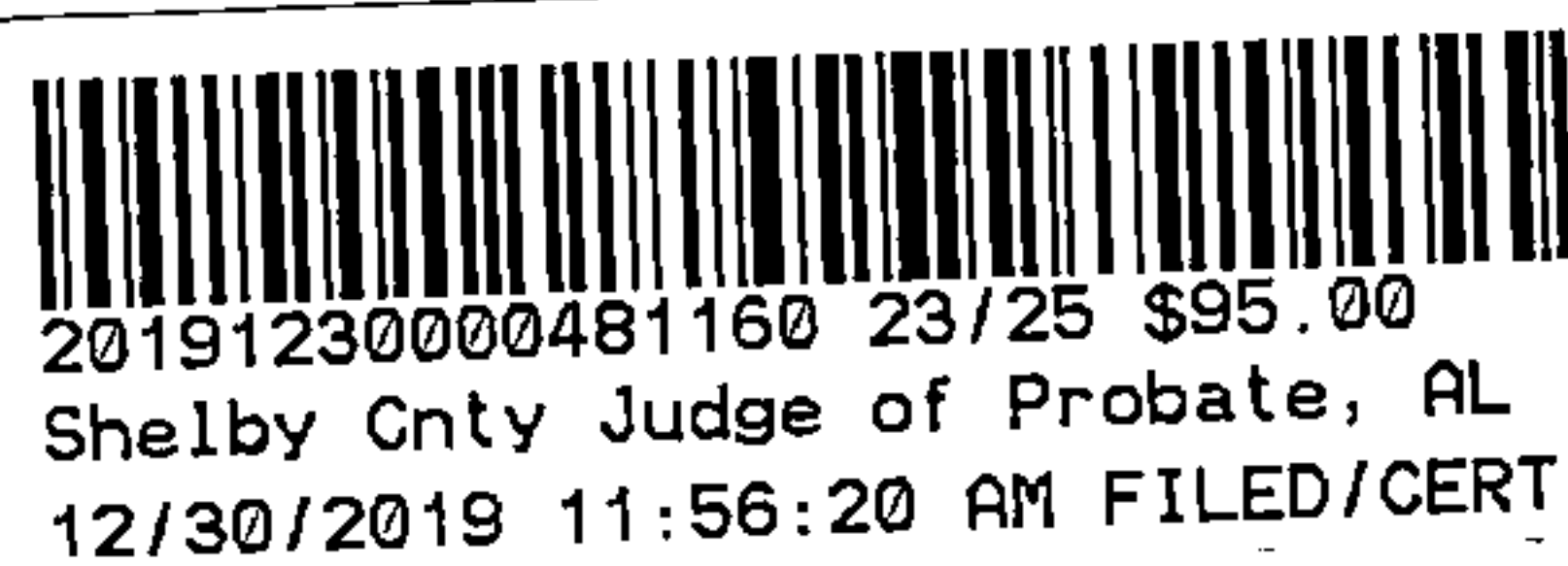
The above described land is located in the Southwest one-fourth of the Southwest one-fourth, the Southeast one-fourth of the Southwest one-fourth, the Southwest one-fourth of the Southeast one-fourth and the Southeast one-fourth of the Southeast one-fourth of Section 26; the Southwest one-fourth of the Southwest one-fourth of Section 25; the Northeast one-fourth of the Northeast one-fourth, the Northwest one-fourth of the Northeast one-fourth and the Northeast one-fourth of the Northwest one-fourth of Section 35, all in township 19 South, Range 1 East, Shelby County, Alabama and contains 202.60 acres.

AND ALSO SUBJECT TO AND GRANTED A PROPOSED PERMANENT 50 FOOT EASEMENT FOR INGRESS AND EGRESS being 25 feet in equal width on each side of the following described line: Commence at a ½" rebar in place (PLS# 30819) being the Northwest corner of the Southwest one-fourth of the Southwest one-fourth of Section 25, Township 19 South, Range 1 East, Shelby County, Alabama; thence proceed North 88° 52' 56" East along the North boundary of said quarter-quarter section for a distance of 304.79 feet to the centerline of said proposed permanent 50 foot easement, said point being the point of beginning. From this beginning point proceed South 04° 20' 14" West along the centerline of said proposed permanent 50 foot easement for a distance of 218.26 feet; thence proceed South 05° 57' 38" East West along the centerline of said proposed permanent 50 foot easement for a distance of 247.37 feet; thence proceed South 08° 57' 33" West along the centerline of said proposed permanent 50 foot easement for a distance of 151.78 feet; thence proceed South 20° 33' 31" West along the centerline of said proposed permanent 50 foot easement for a distance of 129.62 feet; thence proceed South 36° 00' 03" West along the centerline of said proposed permanent 50 foot easement for a distance of 190.76 feet; thence proceed South 41° 33' 19" West along the centerline of said proposed permanent 50 foot easement for a distance of 511.02 feet; thence proceed South 22° 27' 35" West along the centerline of said proposed permanent 50 foot easement for a distance of 109.92 feet; thence proceed South 01° 45' 57" East along the centerline of said proposed permanent 50 foot easement for a distance of 308.21 feet; thence proceed South 09° 58' 32" West along the centerline of said proposed permanent 50 foot easement for a distance of 207.76 feet to a point on the Northerly right-of-way of Rock School Road and the termination of said easement.

  
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Shelby Cnty Judge of Probate, AL  
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## Survey










## SIGNATORY PAGE

The undersigned agree and acknowledge that this Baseline Report, together with supporting photographic documentation, maps and figures, is an accurate representation of the Property at the time of the conveyance of the Conservation Easement thereon, and the Conservation Values as described therein, and that the Inventory was available to the Grantor and Grantee prior to conveyance of the Conservation Easement to the Southeast Regional Land Conservancy.

FOR THE GRANTEE - SOUTHEAST REGIONAL LAND CONSERVANCY, INC.:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
James C. Wright  
Executive Director


12/30/19  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

FOR THE GRANTOR – CLEAR PRONG PARTNERS, LLC:

By: Smith Development & Management, LLC  
As its: Manager

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeffrey L. Smith  
As its: Manager

12/30/19  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
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