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To fulfill this requirement, the land trust partnered with Clemson University to conduct the necessary research and the NOAA Coastal Services Center to help land trust members use GPS devices to map the locations of important cultural and historical features.

"We also needed all the community to climb on board," Brailsford says.

Coming to Consensus

Skidmore worked to pull together a coalition of stakeholders that included community leaders, state and county agency staff members, business owners, and representatives from churches and property owners' associations to help develop the management plan.

"We had to step back and really look at what we value, what we want to be, what the threats are, and how we want to respond," Skidmore says. "There was really a consensus here. People want to remain rural. They want clean water and air. They want their grandchildren to go crabbing and fishing, and do the types of things that are traditional here."

A nonprofit organization was created during the process, which will implement the management plan.

"Basically, the national scenic byway designation has two major benefits," Brailsford says. "It brings credibility and prestige, and it will increase tourist dollars and open funding doors."

She adds, "It's already opening doors for us. We're very hopeful that good things will come." ❖

For more information on designation as a national scenic byway, visit www.byways.org/explore/. For more information about Edisto's experience, contact Marian Brailsford at (843) 869-9004, or eiolt@bellsouth.net, or Bud Skidmore at (843) 327-4007, or emskidmore@bellsouth.net.

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