
APPENDIX D

WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ELIGIBILITY

INTRODUCTION

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

Congress enacted the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA) in 1968 to preserve select river's free-flowing condition, water quality and outstandingly remarkable values. The most important provision of the WSRA is protecting rivers from the harmful effects of water resources projects. The WSRA also directs that each river in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (National System) be administered in a manner to protect and enhance a river's outstanding natural and cultural values. It allows existing uses of a river to continue and future uses to be considered, so long as existing or proposed use does not conflict with protecting river values. The WSRA also directs building partnerships among landowners, river users, tribal nations, and all levels of government.

Beyond the immediate protection afforded to the eight rivers in the enabling legislation, the WSRA established a process for building a legacy of protected rivers. Rivers may be identified for study by an act of Congress under Section 5(a), or through federal agency-initiated study under Section 5(d)(1). By the end of 2002, Congress had authorized 138 rivers for study. Section 5(d)(1) directs federal agencies to consider the potential of WSRs in their planning processes, and its application has resulted in numerous individual river designations, and state and area-specific legislation.

Both Sections 5(a) and 5(d)(1) studies require determinations to be made regarding a river's eligibility, classification and suitability. Eligibility and classification represent an inventory of existing conditions. Eligibility is an evaluation of whether a river is free-flowing and possesses one or more outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs). If found eligible, a river is analyzed as to its current level of development (water resources projects, shoreline development, and accessibility) and a recommendation is made that it be placed into one or more of three classes—wild, scenic or recreational.

The final procedural step, suitability, provides the basis for determining whether to recommend a river as part of the National System

Rivers are added to the National System by act of Congress or by the Secretary of the Interior. Secretarial designation requires that a river be a part of a state river protection system and the

state governor to make application to the Secretary. Currently 163 rivers are protected, consisting of over 11,000 total river miles nationwide.

FMS Study Process

Through this plan revision, a comprehensive WSR inventory was conducted to determine eligible rivers. As a result of the following process, 17 rivers were considered, with 8 found eligible and subsequently classified. Specific steps of the process include:

1. Determine which rivers should be studied for eligibility. Based on this guidance, seventeen rivers were identified from the Nationwide Rivers Inventory, the South Carolina Rivers Assessment, from internal information/comments and from public comment.

The Land and Resource Management Planning Handbook, Forest Service Handbook 1909.12, Chapter 8, gives direction for identification and evaluation of rivers.

2. Divide the identified rivers into homogeneous sections for analysis.

3. Determine that each section/segment is free flowing. For a stream to be eligible for designation to the Wild and Scenic Rivers System, it must be free-flowing. A free-flowing river is defined in section 16(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act as “existing or flowing in natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip-rapping, or other modification of the waterway.”

4. Develop criteria for determining eligibility, that is, whether or not a feature is an outstandingly remarkable value within this region or nation. The Sumter National Forest required 2 sets of criteria. One set for the Southern Appalachian Piedmont section (Enoree and Long Cane Ranger Districts) and one for the Southern Appalachian Blue Ridge section (Andrew Pickens Ranger District). The evaluation criteria for each resource were prepared by consulting sections 1(b) and 2(b) of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, FSH 1909.12, Chapter 8, Interagency Guidelines, and Federal Register, Vol. 47, No. 173.

5. Collect resource information on rivers, by segment. An interdisciplinary team conducted field surveys on each of the rivers.

6. Identify river values that may be outstandingly remarkable.

7. Determine which rivers contain outstandingly remarkable values.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

For a stream to be eligible for designation to the Wild and Scenic Rivers System, it must be free-flowing and possess an “outstandingly remarkable” value(s) from the following list:

- Scenic
- Recreational
- Fisheries/Aquatic
- Wildlife
- Geological
- Botanical/Ecological
- Cultural/Historical

For each resource, rivers are rated as one of the following:

Class A. This classification refers to those rivers whose values are of unusual or outstanding quality when compared to other rivers in the Southern Appalachian Piedmont Section or Blue Ridge Mountain Section.

Class B. This classification refers to those rivers whose values may be unusual locally, but qualities are typical for rivers throughout the Southern Appalachian Piedmont Section or Blue Ridge Mountain Section.

Class C. This classification refers to those rivers with few or no unusual values when compared to other rivers in the Southern Appalachian Piedmont Section or Blue Ridge Mountain Section.

Since there are two physiographic provinces within the Forest, resource values for each river being evaluated are compared with values of other rivers in the same physiographic province.

The determination of whether a river or river segment contains outstandingly remarkable values is a judgment based on the qualities of a river relative to the other rivers in the physiographic province. Listed below are the eligibility criteria established for the Sumter National Forest.

Eligibility Criteria By Resource for *Southern Appalachian Piedmont Section*

If a river or segment of river is found to have a *Class A* value for any of the resource values and is free-flowing, it would be eligible. The determination is based on professional judgment of Forest Service specialists.

Scenic Values

The general scenic eligibility criteria are listed below, some of the features that were looked at to help define classes include landform, rock features, vegetative cover, stream aesthetics, manmade features and views.

Class A. The landform adjacent to the river is characterized by ridges with slopes above 20% and areas with abrupt topographic changes or rock outcroppings. Gravel and sand bars are present but not dominant. There are a variety of vegetation types in interesting patterns and textures. Forest cover is mostly continuous and is characterized by large trees. There is a high degree of vegetative patterns (trees, shrubs and ground cover) and unusual diversity in plant species. Water appears clear most of the year with a variety of still water and ripples, or even cascades present. Not many manmade structures are apparent from the river. No roads or utility corridors are evident.

Class B. There are some steep banks or slopes to river, but generally the landscape is characterized by broad ridges with long gently to strongly sloping side slopes 5 – 20 % and dissected with short drainages. Gravel and sand bars are common sites, both near banks and mid-river. There is some variation in vegetative types. Pine is more predominant. Forested areas contain smaller to medium sized trees. Forest regeneration areas and pasture and farmland are visible though not predominate features. Water appears clear part of the year. Water flow typically is slow moving and meandering with some still areas or ripples. Downed trees cause some of the ripples and still areas. Views of structures (homes and barns), roads and utility corridors are evident through pasture and farmland adjacent to river. Views of these structures are interspersed with forest cover by the forest cover is still predominant.

Class C. There are only a few steep banks or slopes. Gradual slopes are more common. Low hills and flat lands with less than 5 % slope are common. There is little variation in vegetative types and patterns. Pine is common throughout the landscape and views through the forest are limited. Pastures and forest regeneration are common. Water often appears muddy. Still areas or ripples are the exception, although downed trees in the river cause some. Views of manmade structures, barns, homes, utility corridors, and roads are common.

Recreation Values

The general recreation eligibility criteria are listed below, some of the features that were looked at to help define classes include swim/picnic/hike, fish/hunt, variety of opportunities, wildlife viewing, whitewater rafting, accessibility, quality/uniqueness of recreation facilities.

Class A. Visitors are willing to travel from outside the Southern Appalachian Piedmont Section area or the state to recreate along the river and its corridor. Visitors are willing to travel long distance to use the river resources for recreational purposes. River has been included or featured in national river rafting or river trail publications. River provides unusual opportunities for canoeing and boating. The river contains a variety of rapids, including those with an international rating or Class II or higher. This is potential for access points along the river to

provide a variety of recreational opportunities. The river provides opportunities for swimming and other water sports. Fishing success rate and size of take are unusual for the Southern Appalachian Piedmont Section.

Class B. Visitors are willing to travel from other locations in the Southern Appalachian Piedmont Section to recreate along the river and its corridor. The river has been included or featured in statewide river rafting or river trail publications. The river provides opportunities for canoeing and boating. River may contain some rapids, including those with an international rating Class I or II. There are some river access points. River provides opportunities for swimming or other water sports but these opportunities may be limited by low water flows or by water quality and clarity. Visitors do not often travel long distances to visit the river for recreational purposes. Most of the visitors are from the local area. Fishing success rate and size of catch may be above average for the local area, but are common throughout this section.

Class C. The river provides opportunities for canoeing and boating. The river does not contain any rapids. Access is limited. Low water flows in the summer limit opportunities for swimming and other water sports. Fishing success rate and size of catch are common for the area.

Fisheries/Aquatic Values

The general fisheries/aquatic eligibility criteria are listed below, some of the features that were looked at to help define classes include species diversity, species uniqueness, habitat uniqueness, habitat quality and water quality.

Class A. These rivers contain resident fisheries populations or aquatic communities, which occur only because of the character of the river. The area within the river corridor provides exceptionally high quality habitat for fish or aquatic organisms or national importance or may provides unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for federal proposed, endangered, threatened, or C1 species. Diversity of habitats is an important consideration and could in itself, lead to a determination of outstandingly remarkable. Water quality is higher than most rivers with the Southern Appalachian Piedmont Section. The river is given Outstanding Resource Water rating by SC DHEC.

Class B. These rivers contains high quality fisheries or aquatic community habitat, which is uncommon in the local area by, may be common throughout this section. This area within the river corridor may provide unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for State or Forest listed sensitive species.

Class C. These rivers contain fisheries or aquatic community habitats that are not unique, rare or critical. These habitats are common throughout the section.

Wildlife Values

The general wildlife eligibility criteria are listed below; some of the features that were looked at to help define classes include species diversity, species uniqueness, habitat uniqueness, habitat quality, and habitat diversity.

Class A. These rivers and their riparian areas contain resident wildlife populations that occur only because of the character of the river and/or the riparian vegetation adjacent to the river. The area within the river corridor provides exceptionally high quality habitat for wildlife of national significance or may provide unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for federally proposed, threatened, endangered or candidate (C1 or C2) species, or species with Nature Conservancy rating of G1, G2, or G3.

Class B. These rivers and their riparian areas contain high quality wildlife habitat, which is uncommon in the local area, but may be common throughout the Southern Appalachian Piedmont Section. The area within the river corridor may provide unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for State or Forest listed sensitive species. Diversity of habitats is unusual in the area, although that diversity may be common throughout the Southern Appalachian Piedmont Section.

Class C. These rivers and their riparian areas contain wildlife habitat, which is common to the Southern Appalachian Piedmont Section and indicates that wildlife and wildlife habitats are not significant, rare or critical.

Geologic Values

The general geologic eligibility criteria are listed below some of the features that were looked at to help define classes include geologic formation and opportunities to study caves.

Class A. These rivers may contain an example of a geologic feature, process, or phenomena within the river or within the river corridor that is rare, unusual, one-of-a-kind or unique within the Southern Appalachian Piedmont Section. The features may also represent a significant or rare combination of geologic features.

Class B. These rivers may contain geomorphic features and formations that are significant in the local area, but are typical of those commonly found in the Southern Appalachian Piedmont Section.

Class C. These rivers may contain geomorphic features and formations that are locally common and offers no significant geologic features.

Botanical/Ecological Values

The general botanical/ecological eligibility criteria are listed below, some of the features that were looked at to help define classes include species diversity, species uniqueness, habitat uniqueness, and habitat quality.

Class A. These rivers are surrounded by riparian forests within the river corridor, which are contiguous, with little man-made fragmentation. Geologic features may harbor plant communities in the river corridor, which are rare throughout the section. The area will provide habitat for federally listed proposed, endangered, and threatened species, candidate species (C1 or C2), or species with Nature Conservancy ratings of G1, G2, or G3.

Class B. The riparian forest along the river corridor remains largely contiguous, with little man-made fragmentation caused by human activity. Locally significant plant communities or plants rare within the state may be present along the river corridor. There may also be some uncontrolled invasions of exotic weedy species.

Class C. These rivers and their riparian areas contain plant species and or communities that are common to the area. Forests may be greatly disturbed by artificial means and/or highly fragmented. Other disturbed and/or artificial communities and uncontrollable invasion of exotics may be present.

Heritage/Cultural Values

The general heritage/cultural eligibility criteria are listed below, some of the features that were looked at to help define classes include National Register or Historic Places eligible present or probable and rural historic landscapes.

Class A. Cultural sites within the corridor have unusual characteristics or exceptional research or interpretive values of national significance. These river corridors contain sites of national importance and meet the criteria for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) (36 CFR 60). These sites would garner public interest from outside the local area or state.

Class B. The river corridor contains cultural sites of state and local significance that meet the criteria for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Sites may be similar to other sites known throughout the region, but are unique to the local area. Some sites may have been disturbed prior to be archeologically recorded. This also includes known sites that have not been evaluated respective to National Register of Historic Places criteria.

Class C. The river corridor contains sites common to the Southern Appalachian Piedmont Section. Sites have been determined ineligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. This includes rivers with high probability area for occurrence of heritage resources, but where no surveys have been conducted.

Eligibility Criteria By Resource for *Blue Ridge Mountain Section*

If a river or segment of river is found to have a *Class A* value for any of the resource values and is free-flowing, it would be eligible. The determination is based on professional judgment of Forest Service specialists.

Scenic Values

The general scenic eligibility criteria are listed below, some of the features that were looked at to help define classes include landform, rock features, vegetative cover, stream aesthetics, manmade features and views.

Class A. Slopes or banks to river are steep, with dissected slopes. Slopes generally exceed 60%. Rock outcroppings and boulders are present and dominate the scenery and are unusual in size, color, or location. The rivers may flow through a gorge with steep narrow walls. There are a variety of vegetation types in interesting patterns and textures. Forest cover is continuous, or if broken, has a high diversity of trees, shrubs, and ground cover as well as an unusual diversity plant species. Large trees are often present. High seasonal color contrasts are commonly found in the corridor. Water flow has a lot variety, and river corridors contain many waterfalls, cascades, rapids, pools and meanders. Water appears clear most of the year. Not many structures are apparent from the river. No roads or utility corridors are evident.

Class B. There are some steep banks or slopes to river, by generally the slopes are more moderate (30% to 60%) and generally uniform with some dissection. Rock features are obvious, but do not dominate the landscape. Boulders and other rock outcrops have no unusual characteristics. Some sand or gravel bars may be present. There is some variation in vegetative types. Pine is more common. Forest cover is somewhat continuous, but regeneration areas and pastures and farmlands are visible, though not the predominate features. There is a common variety in trees, shrubs, and ground cover and a common diversity of plant species. Seasonal color within the corridor is common. Some large trees are present, but not predominant. Water appears clear part of the year. Water flow is variable, and corridor contains some waterfalls, cascades, rapids, or pools and meanders. Views of structures (homes and barns), roads and utility corridors are evident through pasture and farmland adjacent to the river. Views of these structures are interspersed with forest cover but the forest cover is still predominant.

Class C. The terrain have little variety in slope, and slopes are generally 0% to 30% and not dissected. (Steeper slopes may exist within the corridor, but most slopes do not exceed 30%.) Rock features are not obvious and there are few boulders. Sand bars and gravel beds are common in the corridor. There is little variation in vegetative types (trees, shrubs, and ground cover) and patterns. There is a common diversity of plant species in the area. Large trees are scattered throughout the corridor, but are not common. Pastures and forest regeneration areas are common. Water often appears muddy. River corridors contain little variety in flow characteristics, although some riffles and small rapids may be present. Views of structures, barns, homes, utility corridors and roads are common.

Recreation Values

The general recreation eligibility criteria are listed below, some of the features that were looked at to help define classes include swim/picnic/hike, fish/hunt, variety of opportunities, wildlife viewing, whitewater rafting, accessibility, quality/uniqueness of recreation facilities.

Class A. Visitors are willing to travel from outside the geographic section or state to recreate along the river and its corridor. Visitors are willing to travel long distances to use the river resources for recreational purposes. The river has been included or featured in national river rafting or river trail publications. The river provides unusual opportunities for canoeing, rafting, or kayaking. River contains a variety of rapids, including those with an international rafting Class of III or higher. Access points along the river provide for a variety of trip lengths that users can tailor to their needs (day trips, ½ day trips, or overnight trips). The river provides opportunities for swimming or other water sports. Fishing success rate and size are unusual for the geographic section.

Class B. Visitors are willing to travel from other locations in the section or state to recreate along the river and its corridor. The river has been included or featured in statewide river rafting or river trail publications. The river provides opportunities for canoeing or kayaking. Opportunities for rafting are limited. River contains some rapids, including those with an international rating of Class II or above. There are river access points, but opportunities for flexibility in trip planning are more limited (ie. Length between access points requires a day trip). The river provides opportunities for swimming or other water sports but these opportunities may be limited by low water flows or by water quality and clarity. Fishing success rate and size of catch may be above average for the area.

Class C. Visitors do not often travel long distances to visit the river for recreational purposes. Most visitors are from the local area. River provides few opportunities for canoeing, rafting, or kayaking. River contains few rapids. River access is limited. Low water flows in the summer limit opportunities for swimming and other water sports. Fishing success rate and size of catch are common for the local area.

Fisheries/Aquatic Values

The general fisheries/aquatic eligibility criteria are listed below, some of the features that were looked at to help define classes include species diversity, species uniqueness, habitat uniqueness, habitat quality and water quality.

Class A. River contains resident fisheries populations or aquatic communities which occur only because of the character of the river. The area within the river corridor provides exceptionally high quality habitat for fish or aquatic organisms of natural importance or may provide unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for federal proposed, endangered, threatened or C1 species. Diversity of habitats is an important consideration and could in itself, lead to a determination of outstandingly remarkable. Water quality is higher than most rivers with the

Blue Ridge Mountains Section. South Carolina DHEC rates the river as Outstanding Resource Water or Natural Trout water.

Class B. The river contains high quality fisheries or aquatic community habitats which are uncommon in the local area but may be common throughout the Blue Ridge Mountains Section. The area within the river corridor may provide unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for State or Forest listed sensitive species. The river is listed as a put, grow and take Trout Water by the SC DHEC.

Class C. The river contains fisheries or aquatic community habitats that are not unique, rare or critical. These habitats are common throughout the Blue Ridge Mountains Sections.

Wildlife Values

The general wildlife eligibility criteria are listed below; some of the features that were looked at to help define classes include species diversity, species uniqueness, habitat uniqueness, habitat quality, and habitat diversity.

Class A. Rivers and their riparian areas include resident wildlife populations that occur only because of the character of the river and/or the riparian vegetation adjacent to the river. The area within the river corridor provides exceptionally high quality habitat for wildlife of national significance or may provide unique habitat or critical link in habitat conditions for federally proposed, threatened, endangered or candidate (C1 or C2) species, or species with Heritage ratings of G1, G2 or G3.

Class B. Rivers and their riparian areas contain high quality wildlife habitat, which is uncommon in the local area, but may be common throughout the Blue Mountain Section. The area within the river corridor may provide unique habitat or critical link in habitat conditions for State or Forest listed sensitive species.

Class C. Rivers and their riparian areas contain wildlife habitat, which is common to the Blue Ridge Mountain Section and indicates that wildlife and wildlife habitats are not significant, rare or critical.

Geologic Values

The general geologic eligibility criteria are listed below some of the features that were looked at to help define classes include geologic formation and opportunities to study caves.

Class A. These rivers may contain examples of a geologic feature, process or phenomena within the river or the area within the river corridor that is rare, unusual, one-of-a-kind or unique with the Blue Ridge Mountain Section. The features may represent a significant or rare combinations to the

Class B. These rivers may contain geomorphic features and formations, which may be significant within the state, but are typical of those commonly found in the Blue Ridge Mountains Section.

Class C. These rivers contain geomorphic features and formations that are locally common to the Blue Ridge Mountains Section and offer no significant geological features.

Botanical/Ecological Values

The general botanical/ecological eligibility criteria are listed below, some of the features that were looked at to help define classes include species diversity, species uniqueness, habitat uniqueness, and habitat quality.

Class A. These rivers are surrounded by riparian forests within the river corridor, which are contiguous, with little man-made fragmentation. Geologic features may harbor plant communities in the river corridor, which are rare throughout the section. Plant communities in the river corridor are rare throughout the section and have little evidence of human disturbance and invasion by exotics. The area will provide exceptional habitat for federally listed proposed, endangered, and threatened species, candidate species (C1 or C2), or species with Nature Conservancy ratings of G1, G2, or G3.

Class B. The riparian forest along the river corridor remains largely contiguous, with little man-made fragmentation caused by human activity. Locally significant plant communities or plants rare within the state may be present along the river corridor. There may also be some uncontrolled invasions of exotic weedy species.

Class C. Plant species and/or communities are common to the area. Forest may be greatly disturbed by artificial means and/or highly fragmented. Other disturbed and/or artificial communities and uncontrollable invasion of exotics may be present..

Heritage/Cultural Values

The general heritage/cultural eligibility criteria are listed below, some of the features that were looked at to help define classes include National Register or Historic Places eligible present or probable and rural historic landscapes.

Class A. Cultural sites within the corridor have unusual characteristics or exceptional research or interpretive values of national significance. These river corridors contain sites of national importance and meet the criteria for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) (36 CFR 60). These sites would garner public interest from outside the local area or state.

Class B. The river corridor contains cultural sites of state and local significance that meet the criteria for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Sites may be similar to other sites known throughout the region, but are unique to the local area. Some sites may have been

disturbed prior to be archeologically recorded. This is also includes known sites that have not been evaluated respective to National Register of Historic Places criteria.

Class C. The river corridor contains sites common to the Blue Ridge Mountain Section. Sites have been determined ineligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. This includes rivers with high probability area for occurrence of heritage resources, but where no surveys have been conducted.

Classification Criteria

The second step is a determination of the classification. The National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (Section 2 (b)) states that “if included (in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, each river) shall be classified, designated, and administered” as a WILD, a SCENIC, or a RECREATIONAL river area. The classification selection is based on the conditions of the river and the adjacent land at the time of the evaluation. A river may be divided into segments by these classifications, based on current conditions.

A classification determination is needed to guide management of the stream and surrounding lands during the period before a Wild and Scenic River’s suitability study is made. In addition to protecting and, to the extent practical, enhancing the outstandingly remarkable values, management and development of a river identified as eligible for designation and its corridor will not be modified to the degree that eligibility or classification will be affected.

The following three river classifications are possible:

Wild River Areas: Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted. These represent vestiges of primitive America.

Scenic River Areas: Those rivers or sections that are free of impoundments, with shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads.

Recreational River Areas: Those rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have some development along their shorelines, and that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past.

Suitability

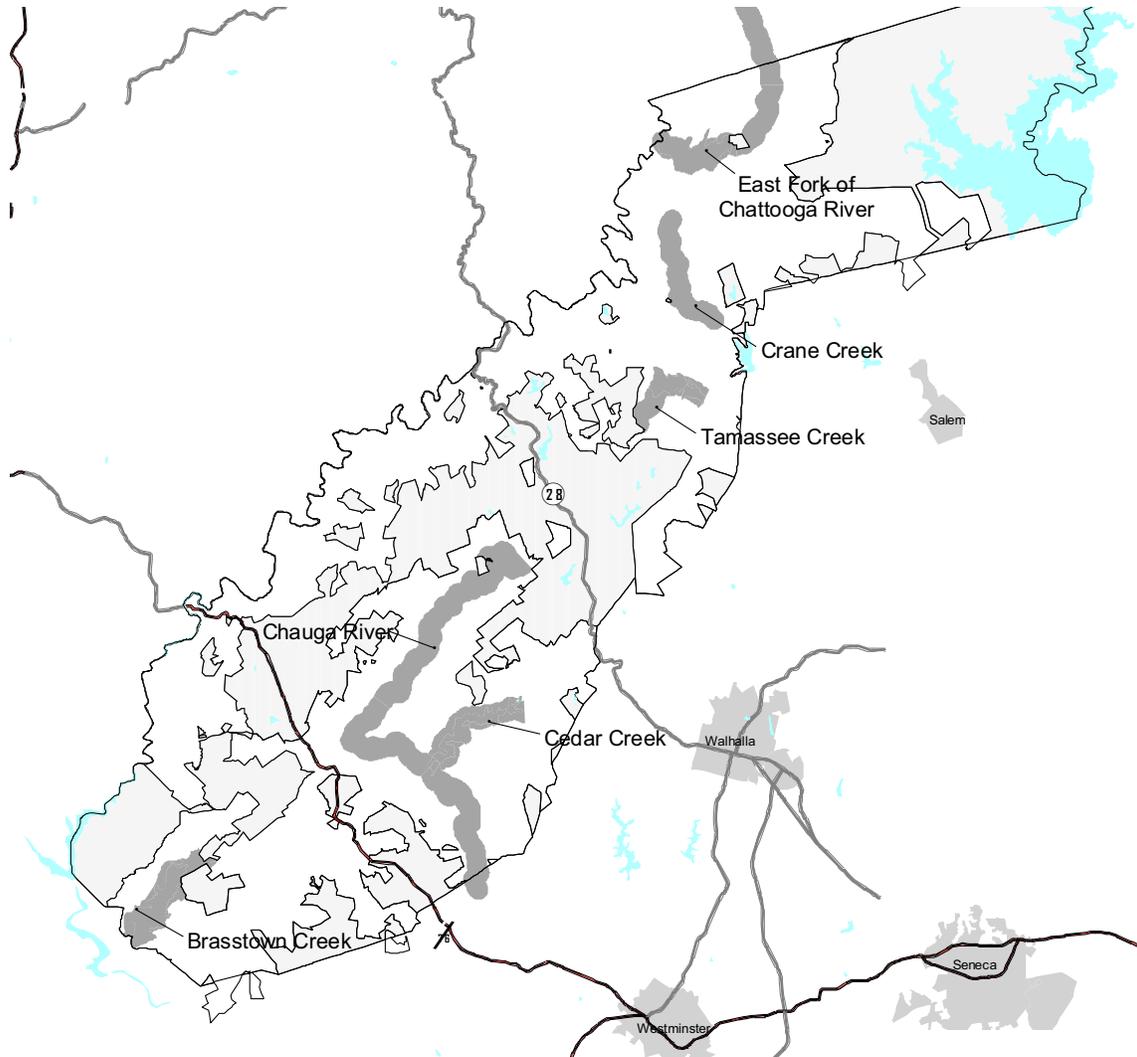
Determination of the suitability of rivers found eligible is deferred. Until such time as suitability is complete, the eligible rivers will be managed as detailed in Chapter 2 of the Revised Land and Resource Management Plan for the Sumter National Forest.

Table B-1 lists the eligible rivers on the Sumter National Forest with their preliminary classification and the outstandingly remarkable values they possess.

Table B-1. Eligible Rivers on the Sumter National Forest and their Classification and Outstandingly Remarkable Value.

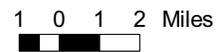
District	River	Segment	Miles	Outstandingly Remarkable Value(s)	Classification
Long Cane	Turkey	N/A	12.5	Wildlife Fish/Aquatic Botanical/Ecological	Scenic
	Stevens	N/A	13.4	Wildlife Botanical/Ecological	Recreational
Andrew Pickens	Brasstown Creek	N/A	3.9	Botanical/Ecological	Wild
	Cedar Creek	N/A	4.2	Botanical/Ecological	Scenic
	Chauga	I	7.9	Scenic Recreation Geologic Botanical/Ecological	Scenic
		II	4.1	Scenic Recreation Geologic Botanical/Ecological	Wild
		III	4.0	Scenic Recreation Geologic Botanical/Ecological	Scenic
	Crane	N/A	3.1	Fish/Aquatic	Scenic
	East Fork, Chattooga River	I	2.5	Fish/Aquatic	Recreational
		II	2.2	Fish/Aquatic	Wild
		III	.2	Fish/Aquatic Recreation	Recreational
		IV	2.4	Fish/Aquatic Recreation Botanical/Ecological	Wild
	Tamassee Creek	N/A	1.7	Botanical/Ecological	Wild

Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers
on the
Andrew Pickens Ranger District
Sumter National Forest



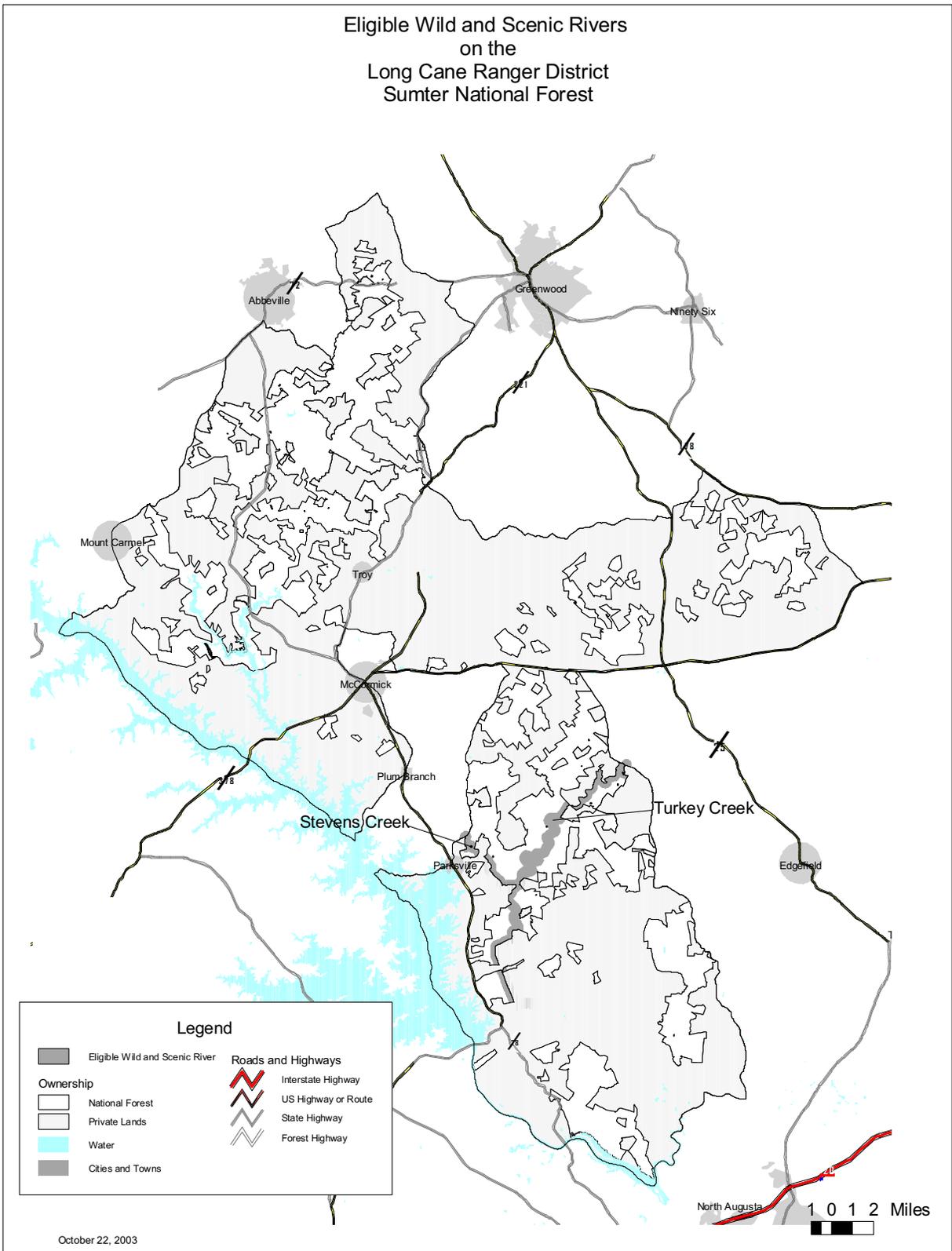
Legend

	Eligible Wild and Scenic River		Interstate Highway
Ownership			US Highway or Route
	National Forest		State Highway
	Private Lands		Forest Highway
	Water		
	Cities and Towns		



October 22, 2003

Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers
on the
Long Cane Ranger District
Sumter National Forest



EVALUATION OF INDIVIDUAL RIVERS

Brasstown Creek - River Evaluation

	Total River	Eligible Segment	State-owned Segment
Segment Miles	9.2	3.9	1.0
NF & Mixed Ownership Lands	4.4	3.9	0
Private Lands	3.8	0	0
State Lands	1.0	0	0

1. Is the waterway navigable? What is the average size of the stream? Does the water flow year round? Is it floatable for canoes? Flat-bottom boats? What is the rate of flow, and how much does it vary year round?

The river is too small to be navigable. The width ranges from 6 feet to 30 feet.

2. Water quality. SC DHEC ratings.

No SC DHEC rating.

3. Is any segment dammed or been channelized. If so, explain.

Part of the upper portion of the river appears to be channelized to bypass some pastureland. There are no known dams along the river.

4. List public access points for canoeing, fishing, swimming, or wading. Are there any developed FS access points, picnic or camping facilities, or there any private facilities?

State Highway 48 parallels the river for about 2 to 3 miles and then FDR 751 parallels the river and then dead ends. A primitive access trail then takes hikers through the to the falls areas. There is a primitive camping area at the beginning of the trail.

5. What type of recreation use does the river typically receive? Who are the typical users (how far do they travel to use the river)? How much recreation use is there along and on the river? Are there any know commercial operations for canoeing, fishing, etc. on the river?

Typical recreation users include local anglers and other local day users. Most people are local by some come fro other areas to view the waterfalls. SC State Parks publishes a waterfall brochure which may bring users from other areas. There are no known commercial operations along the river.

6. Are there any major developments along the river (industry, homes)? Do any roads, power lines, or pipelines run parallel to or cross the river?

There are several agricultural fields along the upper portion of the river. Also, there are several residences in that area as well. There is some private land for sale occasionally in the area.

7. Have there been any recent (since last aerial photos) changes in the vegetation patterns along the rivers and riverbanks? (Regeneration, agriculture, development).

Generally the vegetation patterns and land use patterns have been stable for many years.

8. What are the general forest types along the river? Are there any unusual forest communities?

Received a Class 2 rating in the SC River Assessment in the Natural Features category. Was rated (by Tom Kohlstatt, SC Heritage Trust Program) with a high score (30 points) for the quality criteria of this category. This criterion refers to the age, maturity, size, diversity and composition of a natural community, or size, vigor & stability of a species.

9. Are there any unusual geologic or topographic features along the river? Rock outcroppings? Waterfalls? Islands?

The river contains Brasstown Falls, which is a series of four large water features in a row. There is a large shoals waterfall area, a large chute area and finally a large waterfall. In the area there are several large rock and rock outcrops.

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

1. Scenic

The scenery along the river varies. The headwaters of the river parallel SC Highway 48 for some distance as well as FS 752. The river meanders through private land consisting of several agricultural fields. The river is in relatively flat country until reaches a series of three water features, cascades, shoals and waterfalls. The total elevation change for these features is 125 feet with a few miles. After these water features the river is relatively flat again with only minor elevation changes. The slopes for the river are generally moderate (Between 30% and 60%). The vegetation ranges from hay and crops in the upper reaches of the river to mature mixed hardwood evergreen forest with common understory communities. There are large trees in the lower reaches of the river. Seasonal color in the river corridor is common. Water is clear. There are several manmade features that dominate the landscape in the upper reaches of the river. Further down the river more natural conditions prevail. One power line is visible from the corridor and crosses the river in the upper half.

Rating: Class B

2. Recreational

The recreation opportunities include many day-use activities as well as some camping. These activities include hiking, picnicking, photography, wildlife viewing, and water play. Fishing is a popular activity. This river is used by the local area residents. The visitors feel a sense of enclosure in the lower reaches of the river but in upper reaches are surrounded by many pastures and farmlands. Generally, the river provides common recreational opportunities for the area.

Rating: Class B

3. Geologic

Situated within the Brevard fault zone, generally accepted as the boundary between the Blue Ridge Mountains and the Southern Appalachian Piedmont. The Brevard Fault zone has a complex geology history, significant in that it is newer geologically than much of the adjoining areas due to the faulting and thrusting which occurred there during the late Paleozoic. Exposure of underlying Brevard Belt stratigraphy is second only to the Chauga River in quality. Brasstown Creek represents the historical course of the Chauga River as it flows within the Brevard Zone south of the Chauga River capture.

Rating: Class B

4. Wildlife

No PETS wildlife have been documented from this area, but little sampling had occurred. The quality of habitat for variety of wildlife species is high, due to the continuity of older forest cover, variety of rock outcrops and waterfall spray zone, and abundant hardwood including mesic oak-hickory habitat. This continuous habitat becomes fragmented in private land, where continuous pasture occurs with the river valley.

Rating: Class C

5. Fish and Aquatic Communities

There are no known T&E or C1 or sensitive species known to occur here. Fish and aquatic community is average for the area with no outstanding species.

Rating: Class C

6. Botanical and Ecological

One of the richest areas for noteworthy plant communities and plant species on the Andrew Pickens, second only to Tamassee Creek. Outstanding rich coves, mesic oak-hickory, and waterfall spray zones communities extend from the upper falls to the end of F. S. property on lower Brasstown Creek. Total number of sensitive species: 11. Total

number of rare plant populations documented: 20. Total number of regionally rare species: 5. Mixture of sub tropical flora with Southern Appalachian endemics. Lower Brasstown is the only site on the district for narrow-leaved glade fern (*Athyrium pycnocarpon*), southern nodding trillium (trillium (*Trillium rugelii*; G3), including some of the largest populations for this species. Habitat fragmentation, and the opportunity for the invasion of exotics, is high due to the abundance of highly disturbed private land along the creek corridor. Little or low quality old growth.

Rating: Class A in parts

7. Cultural and Historic

River corridor contains sites of state and local interest that meet criteria for listing in the NRHP. The corridor is a high probability area for prehistoric and early historic Indian Sites.

Rating: Class B

Broad River - River Evaluation

	River Miles
Segment Miles	37.0
NF Lands	6.2
Private Lands	18.0
Mixed Ownership Lands	12.8

1. Is the waterway navigable? What is the average size of the stream? Does the water flow year round? Is it floatable for canoes? Flat-bottom boats? What is the rate of flow, and how much does it vary year round?

Yes, the river is navigable. It is the largest river in the eligibility study with the average size of the river is greater than 100 feet and is navigable year-round.

2. Water quality. SC DHEC ratings.

Broad River had a freshwater rating from SC DHEC.

3. Is any segment dammed or been channelized. If so, explain.

There is a millrace which siphons the entire river for a hydroelectric plant at Lockhart, SC. This plant supplies electricity for the mill plant which is currently not in operation. However, the water is still being diverted in the millrace. This diversion is located on the northern FS proclamation boundary. The river bed is virtually dry for the length of the millrace.

SC Electric & Gas (SC E & G) operates the Neal Shoals Dam. This dam has been in operations since 1908. Drop over the dam is approximately 40 to 50 feet. Main water flow is from the left side of the channel to the extreme right side of the channel thru the turbines. Excess water flows over the top of the dam. Below the dam the water flow is adequate to maintain a natural-appearing channel.

Parr Shoals dam is located 10.7 miles below the Hwy 34 Bridge. The northern portion of the Parr reservoir comes to the southern part of the FS proclamation boundary.

4. List public access points for canoeing, fishing, swimming, or wading. Are there any developed FS access points, picnic or camping facilities, or there any private facilities?

There are five access points along the Broad River inside the proclamation boundary. Four are developed sites and one is user developed. The developed sites include, Broad River boat ramp, Wood's Ferry Recreation Area, South Sandy boat ramp, and a boat ramp just below the Hwy 34 Bridge maintain by the State. The one user-developed access point is at the end of Forest Road 304. The only one of these access points with complimentary facilities is Wood's Ferry. Camping and picnicking facilities are available there.

5. What type of recreation use does the river typically receive? Who are the typical users (how far do they travel to use the river)? How much recreation use is there along and on the river? Are there any know commercial operations for canoeing, fishing, etc. on the river?

The rivers main use is from people fishing and duck hunters. Secondary to this is use from canoeists; however this use is very low in number. Most of the users are local residents. The average travel distance is 30 miles or less. No commercial recreation development.

6. Are there any major developments along the river (industry, homes)? Do any roads, power lines, or pipelines run parallel to or cross the river?

It received a class 2 rating in the undeveloped category in the SC Rivers Assessment for the segment in the FS proclamation boundaries. Most of the lands adjacent to Broad River are forested, with limited development (pasture, croplands, or homes).

7. Have there been any recent (since last aerial photos) changes in the vegetation patterns along the rivers and riverbanks? (Regeneration, agriculture, development).

Some harvesting of timber has occurred along the corridor on private ownership. It is not generally viewed from the river.

8. What are the general forest types along the river? Are there any unusual forest communities?

There are wet riverfront forests and wet mesic bottomland hardwood forests including river birch-sycamore forest, eastern cottonwood-willow forest, sycamore-sweetgum-American elm forest, sweetgum-mixed bottomland oak forest and sugarberry American elm-green ash forest.

National Forest land adjacent to the river is included in management areas 12, 13, and 17 in the Sumter LRMP. Henderson Island is included in the broad river – Henderson island scenic area with an emphasis on managing for non-game wildlife species and the “unusual botanical species found with the hardwood stand.”

9. Are there any unusual geologic or topographic features along the river? Rock outcroppings? Waterfalls? Islands?

It has a broad floodplain, few granite rock outcroppings with mountain laurel, few shoals, no waterfalls, some sandbars and one significant island- Henderson Island. Nothing is very unusual geologically or topographically.

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

1. Scenic

Combination of landform and vegetation are unusual in the area due to the low occurrence of pastures, farmlands and buildings adjacent to the river, the land on both sides of the river, both National Forest and private are mainly forested. There are some regeneration areas that are visible from the river. There is little variety in the vegetation types and some variety in size. Overall, the view from the river is generally common in the Southern Appalachia Piedmont. There is some rock features associated with the riverbed, but these are not abundant enough to be uncommon. Water is generally muddy most of the year. Seasonal color is moderate to minimal. There are some manmade features which have visual impacts such as power lines ROW's, transmission line ROW's, state highway bridge and railroad bridges and ROW's.

Rating: Class C

2. Recreational

Visitors generally travel less than 50 miles to visit the river for fishing and other water sports. Fishing is the main recreation use of this portion of the river. The river contains no rapids; it is described as fast flat water with some bouncy paddling in Paddling South Carolina. Water can be floated year round due to the size of stream. No ranking by SCDNR for fishing. Fishing size take and success rate are average for areas. This river received a Class 2 rating for inland fisheries and for recreational fishing in the SC River Assessment.

Rating: Class C

3. Geologic

Geology is locally common to the Southern Appalachian Piedmont Section.

Rating: Class C

4. Wildlife

There are a few high quality older bottomland and riverfront forest communities. There is no known state or federally listed species occurring along the corridor, but it has not been well surveyed. Within habitat diversity is high, but across habitat diversity is generally low due to fairly continuous forest conditions. Good interior habitat quality for neo-tropical birds and large mammals. River is used as a flyway by bald eagles, but no documented nesting sites are known. Used by a variety of ducks and other waterfowl.

Rating: Class B

5. Fish and Aquatic Communities

There is no known T&E or C1 species or sensitive species in the river. The fish and aquatic community is normal for the area with no know outstanding values.

Rating: Class C

6. Botanical and Ecological

Moderate quality older bottomland and riverfront forest communities. There are no known state or federally-listed species, and no know rare communities occurring along the corridor, but it hasn't been well survey. Within habitat diversity is high, but across habitat diversity is generally low due to fairly continuous forested conditions. There is generally low evidence of human disturbance, though exotics including Chinese privet, Japanese honeysuckle and microstegium vimineum occur here.

Rating: Class C

7. Cultural and Historic

This river corridor contains sites of state and local interest which are on or are potentially eligible for the NRHP. Exceptional sites include Mississippi Period Blair Mound and village, McCollum mound and village. The Powell's Shoals site contains stratified undisturbed early-late archaic period deposits (The mounds are all on private lands). Probably pre-historic fish wiers also occur along the river. Significant historic period sites include the 1820's Lansford Canal and the 1780 Fishdam Ford Battlefield.

Rating: Class B

Cedar Creek - River Evaluation

	Total River	Eligible Segment
Segment Miles	6.2	4.2
NF and Mixed Ownership Lands	6.2	4.2
Private Lands	0	0

1. Is the waterway navigable? What is the average size of the stream? Does the water flow year round? Is it floatable for canoes? Flat-bottom boats? What is the rate of flow, and how much does it vary year round?

Cedar Creek is not considered SC Navigable Water. The average size of the stream is 10 feet wide. The stream is not floatable for canoes or boats.

2. Water quality. SC DHEC ratings.

There is no SC DHEC rating.

3. Is any segment dammed or been channelized. If so, explain.

No.

4. List public access points for canoeing, fishing, swimming, or wading. Are there any developed FS access points, picnic or camping facilities, or there any private facilities?

There is 1 access point for located just beyond Cedar Creek Rifle range. The rifle range is located upstream from the proposed study area boundaries. A popular access point is FDR 2658 and FDR 2659 which access Blue Hole, a popular local wading, fishing and sightseeing location. There are no developed FS picnic or camping facilities within the corridor, and there are no private facilities.

5. What type of recreation use does the river typically receive? Who are the typical users (how far do they travel to use the river)? How much recreation use is there along and on the river? Are there any know commercial operations for canoeing, fishing, etc. on the river?

The river is typically used doe wading fishing and sightseeing by local visitors. Visitors come occasionally from larger towns such as Greenville. This corridor is used by hunters and other visitors due to rifle range and due to habitat along corridor. The amount of recreation is relatively low when compared to other rivers in the area. There are no commercial outfitting operations.

6. Are there any major developments along the river (industry, homes)? Do any roads, power lines, or pipelines run parallel to or cross the river?

There are no major developments along the river. Most of the land in the corridor is NF land. Presbyterian Lake, now a recreation area, is located within the 1/4 mile study corridor. This pond is stocked with catfish. No power lines or pipelines parallel or cross the river. FDR 744 parallels Cedar Creek on the east, southeast side of the creek. Much of this road is just on the boundary of the study area. But portions of the road enter the corridor. FDR 2658 and FDR 2659 approach Cedar Creek from the terminus of FDR 744, but do not cross the river. One additional road, FDR 239C enters the 1/4 mile corridor. None of the roads are visible from Cedar Creek. FDR 726 accesses the rifle range. Parking for the range is on the west side of the river. Visitors park their vehicles and cross a foot bridge to access the range itself. FDR 726 is located upstream from the proposed boundary.

7. Have there been any recent (since last aerial photos) changes in the vegetation patterns along the rivers and riverbanks? (Regeneration, agriculture, development).

Six regeneration areas are evident on 1991 aerial photography. No regeneration has occurred within the corridor since that time. There is no agriculture within the corridor.

8. What are the general forest types along the river? Are there any unusual forest communities?

Received a Class 2 rating in the SC rating in the SC Rivers Assessment in the Natural Features category. Was rated by Tom Kohlsatt (SC Heritage Trust Program) with a high score (30 score) in the condition criteria. The condition criteria relates to the relative physical condition of a habitat.

9. Are there any unusual geologic or topographic features along the river? Rock outcroppings? Waterfalls? Islands?

One prominent waterfall is located above Blue Hole. This waterfall flows through a rock gorge and cascade down. Fall is approximately 50 feet tall. Downstream from Blue Hole, river flows over rock terrace.

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

1. Scenic

This river is characterized by mature forested hardwoods and evergreens with common understory of mountain laurel and rhododendron. The forest cover is nearly continuous. The river has moderately steep slopes on the upper reaches of the river and steeper slopes on the lower sections. Large trees are present throughout the river area. There generally aren't long vistas for the majority of the river. The visitor sees mostly foregrounds views throughout the river corridor however there are four regeneration area that impact the

views along the river. The water is clear and seasonal color is common. There are some waterfalls and or water features along this river including Blue Hole.

Rating: Class C

2. Recreational

The recreational opportunities along this river include opportunities for day use, such as hiking and picnicking. There are not any opportunities to use the river for rafting, canoeing etc.

Rating: Class C

3. Geologic

Occurs within the Brevard fault zone, which is generally accepted at the boundary between the Blue Ridge Mountains and the Southern Appalachian Piedmont. The Brevard fault zone has a complex geological history, significant in that is newer geologically than the adjoining areas due to the faulting and thrusting within occurred there during the late Paleozoic. The Brevard fault is only 1 to 2 kilometers wide, extending from Alabama to the North Carolina-Virginia border.

Cedar Creek has rock folds and deformed rock features, which are unusual for the region. A unique type of amphibolite occurs here, which has acquired the name Cedar Creek Amphibolite.

Rating: Class B

4. Wildlife

One PETS animals is known to occur here, but high potential habitats exists for several others. Much of the creek corridor is in older forest providing necessary habitat for bear and Neotropical migrant birds. No roads cross the creek with the lower reaches; fragmentation is low yet diversity of habitats is high.

Rating: Class B

5. Fish and Aquatic Communities

There are no known T&E or C1 or sensitive species occurring here. Fish and aquatic community is average for the area with no outstanding species.

Rating: Class C

6. Botanical and Ecological

Cedar Creek is home for at least 21 populations and 11 species of rare plants. Most species are considered rare within the state, as the Brevard fault provides unique habitat for both subtropical flora and for Southern Appalachian endemics. Only three species are regionally rare. Cedar Creek has unusually rich sedge diversity, including rich coves, white pine-hemlock-hardwood forest, and mesic oak-hickory and waterfall spray zones. The area around Blue Hole is especially rich. Some old growth occurs on upper creek. Few exotics occur and also little fragmentation along the creek corridor.

Rating: Class A

7. Cultural and Historic

River Corridor contain sites common the Southern Appalachians. No exceptional research or cultural values have been identified.

Rating: Class C

Chauga River - River Evaluation

	Total River	Segment 1	Segment 2	Segment 3
Segment Miles	17.5	7.9	4.1	4.0
NF Lands	15.8	7.6	4.1	4.0
Private Lands	1.4	0	0	0
Mixed Ownership Lands	0.3	0.3	0	0

1. Is the waterway navigable? What is the average size of the stream? Does the water flow year round? Is it floatable for canoes? Flat-bottom boats? What is the rate of flow, and how much does it vary year round?

Yes, waterway is considered a navigable stream by SC. Average size of stream is 30'. Water flows year round, but is not always floatable for canoes/kayaks. Flatbottom boats are not used. Water flows can fluctuate rapidly. Pastures and apple orchards on private lands near upper stream reaches, and Village and East Village Creeks contribute sediment and turbidity during storm events.

2. Water quality. SC DHEC ratings.

Chauga is rated as an Outstanding Resource Water by SC DHEC. It rated Class 1 for Water Quality in the SC Rivers Assessment.

3. Is any segment dammed or been channelized. If so, explain.

No.

4. List public access points for canoeing, fishing, swimming, or wading. Are there any developed FS access points, picnic or camping facilities, or there any private facilities?

No private facilities. SC DNR river in Segment 1 at Grapevine Branch (FS 746), Land Bridge (County Road), Blackwell Bridge (SC 193), and Cassidy Bridge (SC 290); in Segment 2 at FS 770; and in Segment 3 at Cobb Bridge (County Rd.). Cassidy Bridge Hunt Camp is located within the corridor in Segment 1 on SC 290, just east of the Chauga.

Public access points for canoeing, kayaking and rafting include: Blackwell Bridge (private land) and Cassidy Bridge Hunt in segment 1; and Cobbs Bridge (private land) in Segment 3. There are no public access points for boaters in Segment 2. Cassidy Bridge Hunt camp is used most summer weekends and is full throughout the hunting season. There are 9 dispersed campsites along the Chauga. Those in Segment 1 are located at: Land Bridge, Hell Hole Creek, Grapevine Branch, Blackwell Bridge, and Miller Field. One in Segment 2 is located at Woodall Shoals (Double Branch). Those in Segment 3 are located at: Riley Moore Falls, Chauga Bottoms, and Barton Creek Ford. Camping occurs at dispersed campsites at Woodall Shoals (on Chauga River) and Riley Moore Falls on most weekends throughout the summer months.

5. What type of recreation use does the river typically receive? Who are the typical users (how far do they travel to use the river)? How much recreation use is there along and on the river? Are there any know commercial operations for canoeing, fishing, etc. on the river?

No commercial operations. Local outfitters/guides have evaluated river, but determined there are not enough days floatable to be worth while. River corridor is used by local people for fishing, camping, hiking, and sightseeing. Canoeing/kayaking/rafting/tubing are also uses. Some people who use river travel from adjoining states. Those who travel distances to use the river often come to kayak at higher water flows for the challenge of the class II – IV rapids, and for the relative solitude of the Chauga river experience.

6. Are there any major developments along the river (industry, homes)? Do any roads, power lines, or pipelines run parallel to or cross the river?

Upstream from the boundary of Segment 1, there are several roads within corridor: Verner Mill Road (CH33) is the northernmost crossing. There are various roads accessing private homes and farmlands/orchards between the confluence of Village and East Village creeks and Land Bridge (SC 196).

Segment 1

An old railroad grade crosses the river between Verner Mill Road Bridge and the Land Bridge. Utility lines run to the private homes within the corridor boundaries upstream

from Blackwell Bridge. No other utilities are within corridor or cross the river. Downstream from the Land Bridge, much of the ownership is NF lands. Road crossings and FS roads which approach river are listed: SC 196, FS 737, FS 2295 and FS 2662, FS 725, SC 193, FS 764, FS 736, FS 738 and 738A, FS 739D, FS 747, SC 290 and FS 745.

Segment 2

Road crossings and FS roads which approach river are listed: FS 742, FS 743, FS 770, and FS 2516 and 748H.

Segment 3

Two wildlife openings, maintained by the SC DNR are located in Chauga Bottoms, just north of Cobbs Bridge. Road crossings and FS roads which approach river are listed: FS 748I, FS 744C, FS 748B, FS 748C and 2606, FS 748D and FH 110.

7. Have there been any recent (since last aerial photos) changes in the vegetation patterns along the rivers and riverbanks? (Regeneration, agriculture, development).

A tornado in 1994 crossed the Chauga River in Segment 2 between Spider Valley Creek and Double Branch Road (FDR 742). The Chauga River Corridor between SC 193 and Cobbs Bridge is encompassed by the Chauga River Scenic area. From the beginning of Segment 1 at Land Bridge, to the FS proclamation boundary, there has been no even aged regeneration on NF lands.

8. What are the general forest types along the river? Are there any unusual forest communities?

Received a Class 1 rating in Natural Features in the SC River Assessment. Received a high rating in the condition and quality criteria for the category.

9. Are there any unusual geologic or topographic features along the river? Rock outcroppings? Waterfalls? Islands?

There is a small island at the Narrows, located south of Cassidy Bridge. Two main waterfalls on the River, Woodall Shoals and Riley Moore Falls. There are several smaller falls on Chauga itself through the gorge section and also along the tributary creeks. There are no active mining claims.

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

1. Scenic

The scenery along the river is characterized by steep forested slopes, often greater than 50%. The steepness of the slopes confines the majority of views to the areas within the immediate foreground of the river. There are few chances to see any distance, occasionally at locations of valleys. The gorge area is particularly rugged with steep rock walls. These are large boulders and rock outcrops present throughout the length of river.

The forest cover is mature mixed hardwoods and evergreens with common understories of mountain laurel and rhododendron. Large trees are seen throughout the area. There are a number of small tributaries which feed into the Chauga River and add interest with such features as waterfalls. The water is clear and has a good flow rate. There are two large waterfalls and several small waterfalls on the river itself. There are very few manmade features which detract from the natural scenery.

The majority of the river had outstandingly remarkable scenic values.

Rating: Class A (All segments)

2. Recreational

Opportunities – There is great potential for photography opportunities, wildlife and nature viewing, all of which are dependant on good scenery. The surroundings are extremely scenic. There is potential for dispersed camping.

Currently there is some use of canoes and kayaks. Use is limited by water levels (floatability) and by skill level required. The Chauga is generally considered to be an whitewater alternative to the Chattooga River. The river received a Class 1 rating in the whitewater boating category by the SC Rivers Assessment. Many publications divide the Chauga River into sections. Most sections begin at Blackwell Bridge and run to Cassidy Bridge, next from Cassidy Bridge to Cobb Bridge, and the third to just above the confluence with Lake Tugaloo. All descriptions vary between publications, but the section Blackwell Bridge to Cassidy Bridge contains mostly Class II and III drops and ledges; 15 foot waterfall and 100 foot chute, and Class IV rapid at Chauga Narrows. Rivers drops close to 70 feet in the next river mile. First 5.5 miles drop 159 feet total, or 29 feet per mile. The section from Cassidy Bridge to Cobbs Bridge is known as Chauga Gorge. This section is considered very difficult and is only recommended for very experience paddlers. In this section, the river drops 415 feet or 42 feet per mile. This 9.6 mile section contains Class II – IV rapids.

The Chauga River has been highlighted in various regional and nation publications. Regional publications include various canoeing and kayaking books which provide information on paddling opportunities in South Carolina in the surrounding region. Visitors come for water sports from outside SC, mostly within the SE area. This is some overflow of visitor from the Chattooga River.

Rating: Class A (All segments)

3. Geologic

This river occurs within the Brevard fault zone, generally accepted as the boundary between the Blue Ridge Mountains and the Southern Appalachian Piedmont. The Brevard fault zone had a complex geological history, significant in that is newer geologically that much of the surrounding areas due to faulting and thrusting which

occurred there historically. The Brevard fault is on 1 to 2 kilometers wide, extending from Alabama almost to the NC/VA border. The sedimentary rocks originating during the late Precambrian or early Paleozoic followed by folding, metamorphism and a later faulting, produced the gneisses, schistose and phyllitic rocks that make the lithology of the Chauga River gorge the most diverse and distinct within the zone.

The river corridor falls steeply in elevation from 426.7m to 243.8m between Blackwell Creek and the boundary of the Andrew Pickens Ranger district.

Blackwell Creek to Cassidy Bridge known as the Chauga Gorge, begins with a long cove and continues through a dramatic gorge-bound reach, passes through Little Woodall Shoals then at Spider Valley junction, it bends and changes from a southwestern to an eastern direction then into a complex section of cataracts, among steep cliffs, finally drops through two sets of falls. Curiously, the floodplains were once well above the river, as indicated by the polished stones from soil samples in the area.

A well-known geologist, Dr. R. Hatcher, says the geology of the Chauga is unique for three reasons. First the sequence of rocks (stratigraphy) exposed here is not found anywhere else in the Blue Ridge, and hence the name Chauga River Formation. A unique rock type is found here called Knox dolomite (named from Knox county Tennessee) which was transported from the ridge and valley province.

Secondly, the quality of the exposure is unique. Rocks are exposed which occur 6-7 kilometers below ground in most other areas.

Thirdly, 100 years up from Blackwell Bridge, on a tributary come from the west, can be found a 100+ year old Lime Kiln unlike anything found anywhere else in the Blue Ridge.

Rating: Class A (All segments)

4. Wildlife

This river provides a home for at least two PETS animal species, and high quality potential habitat for several others. Diversity of habitats is high, with a mixture of various successional stages of pine, hardwood, and mixed stands. Potential old growth and continuous forest cover exists with the exception of two major road crossings.

Rating: Class B (All segments)

5. Fish and Aquatic Communities

There are no known T&E or C1 or sensitive species in the river. The fish and aquatic community is average for the area. There are some populations of wild trout in the river although it is mainly sustained by stocking of brown and rainbow trout.

Rating: Class B (All segments)

6. Botanical and Ecological

This river corridor is home for at least 23 populations and 15 species of rare plants. Of the 15 species, 5 are considered regionally rare. A regionally rare moss called gorge moss (C2; *Plagiomnium carolinianum*) occurs here. The Chauga River provides habitat for a mixture of sub-tropical flora and Southern Appalachian endemics. Plant communities are diverse include rich coves, white pine-hemlock-hardwood forest, mesic oak-hickory, and waterfall spray zone. The corridor provides older forest, which is patchily distributed among 11-30 year old and 30-6- year old age classes, creating some fragmentation which could affect seed dispersal and pollination.

Rating: Class A (All segments)

7. Cultural and Historic

Known sites include Pits Grist Mill, Sawmill and Rifle Gun Factory near the Southern Boundary of the study area, the exact location is unknown.

This river corridor contains sites of state and local significance that are potentially eligible for the NRHP. One site on private land is one of a dwindling number of the historic Cherokee settlements. Most such settlement has been destroyed by reservoir construction, agriculture, or development. Another site contains significance cultural resources pertain to the little known ceramics of the Mississippi period in the NW South Carolina. The flood plan of the Chauga River is expected to contain further as yet unidentified significant cultural resources.

Rating: Class A (All segments)

Crane Creek - River Evaluation

	Total River	Eligible Segment
Segment Miles	3.1	3.1
NF and Mixed Ownership Lands	3.1	3.1
Private Lands	0	0

1. Is the waterway navigable? What is the average size of the stream? Does the water flow year round? Is it floatable for canoes? Flat-bottom boats? What is the rate of flow, and how much does it vary year round?

The river is too small to be navigable. The width averages 4 to 5 feet at Big Bend Road and 10 feet at Tamassee Road. Waterway is not considered floatable by canoe or kayak. Water flows fluctuate rapidly.

2. Water quality. SC DHEC ratings.

Currently no SC DHEC rating. Legislation is pending to classify as Natural Trout water.

3. Is any segment dammed or been channelized. If so, explain.

No.

4. List public access points for canoeing, fishing, swimming, or wading. Are there any developed FS access points, picnic or camping facilities, or any private facilities?

There are no developed access points to Crane Creek, but the stream is accessible at the following road crossings: FDR 709 (Big Bend Road), SC Highway 107, and FDR 710 (Tamassee Creek road). Winding Stairs trail, a historic trail, is located within the river corridor on the east side of SC Hwy. 107. Rose Bud Picnic Area lies within ¼ mile of Crane Creek, but is on the opposite (west) side of SC Highway 197. There are no private facilities within the river corridor, all lands within the corridor are National Forest lands.

5. What type of recreation use does the river typically receive? Who are the typical users (how far do they travel to use the river)? How much recreation use is there along and on the river? Are there any know commercial operations for canoeing, fishing, etc. on the river?

Fishing and hiking the Winding Stairs trail are the most common uses of the river and river corridor. There is no commercial operation for canoeing or fishing on the river. Winding Stairs Trail is mainly used by visitors to Cherry Hill Campground. Brown trout fingerlings are periodically stocked in Crane Creek. Fingerlings are typically stocked at FDR 710 crossings. Most recreation users (including anglers) live within Oconee County or surrounding counties. Fishing access is difficult, especially in the upper reaches of the river, so fishing is limited to avid anglers. (Crane Creek received a rating of 3 in the Recreational Fishing category in the SC Rivers Assessment).

6. Are there any major developments along the river (industry, homes)? Do any roads, power lines, or pipelines run parallel to or cross the river?

As described earlier, FDR 709, SC 107 and FDR 710 cross Crane Creek. FDR 2061 is closed to public travel and is the historic Burrell's Ford Road. This road parallels Crane Creek within the river corridor from the headwaters to its intersection with FDR 709. SC Hwy. 107 lies within ¼ mile of Crane Creek for about 1 mile in the vicinity of Rose Bud Picnic Area. There are no power lines or pipelines within the corridor.

7. Have there been any recent (since last aerial photos) changes in the vegetation patterns along the rivers and riverbanks? (Regeneration, agriculture, development).

Approximately one mile above the confluence with Townes Creek is included within White Rock Scenic Area. Commercial timber harvest is not allowed within the area

except for recreation facility construction, insect and disease control, salvage, or fire control. No timber harvest has occurred within the study corridor since the 1970's or early 1980's. There has not been any change to vegetation patterns outside small pockets of natural mortality.

8. What are the general forest types along the river? Are there any unusual forest communities?

Forested communities occurring along the river corridor include shortleaf pine, mixed mesophytic, xeric, and mesic mixed hardwood, pitch, mesic oak and white oak. No unusual plant communities are known to occur here.

9. Are there any unusual geologic or topographic features along the river? Rock outcroppings? Waterfalls? Islands?

None known. There is a waterfall in the portion of the stream which parallels Winding Stair trail, but this waterfall is fairly typical of the waterfalls on the Andrew Pickens Ranger District.

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

1. Scenic

The scenery around Crane Creek consists predominately of mature forest vegetation. There is a continuous overstory throughout the length of the creek, except at road crossings. There is vegetation diversity and good seasonal color. There are some waterfalls along this creek, the largest about 12-15 feet. The water is clear most of the year. The scenery is typical of the Blue Ridge Section streams.

Rating: Class C

2. Recreational

Crane Creek is small in size and not navigable. The fishing found on this stream is locally significant because of the naturally reproducing trout populations. There are occasional hikers; Winding Stairs trail parallels the stream for a short distance. There is an opportunity for photography, sightseeing and wildlife viewing, similar to other streams in the Blue Ridge Section

Rating: Class B

3. Geologic

Crane Creek occurs within the Brevard fault zone, which is generally accepted as the boundary between the Blue Ridge Mountains and the Southern Appalachian Piedmont. The Brevard fault zone has a complex geologic history, significance in that it is newer

geologically than the adjoining areas due to faulting and thrusting, which occurred there during the late Paleozoic. The Brevard fault is only 1 to 2 kilometers wide, extending from Alabama to the North Carolina- Virginia border.

Rating: Class B

4. Wildlife

This stream has an abundance of older, interior forest, which provides excellent habitat for several Neotropical bird species. It is part of a larger tract of older, interior forest, which links with the White Rock Scenic Area and Ellicott Rock Wilderness on the northern part of the Andrew Pickens Ranger District.

Crane Creek provides moderate to low quality habitat for white-tailed deer and wild turkey, which require patches of early succession

Rating: Class B

5. Fish and Aquatic Communities

There are no known T&E or C1 species in this stream. Water quality is higher than most streams with the Blue Ridge Mountains Section. Crane Creek sustains some populations of native trout, which are native to the Blue Ridge Mountain. There are also, some populations of brown and rainbow trout, which result from stocking. Because there is a presence of native trout in the headwaters and the water quality is significant, the SC DNR is putting forth legislation to reclassify the stream from freshwater to trout natural.

Rating: Class A

6. Botanical and Ecological

There are no known T&E or C1 species in this corridor. There are no known sensitive species found within the corridor with the exception of Fraser's loosestrife, a regionally rare species, which occurs in the upper reaches of the watershed. Continuity of forest cover is very good.

Rating: Class B

7. Cultural and Historic

There are no recorded sites on Crane Creek. However, the area adjacent to the creek has been surveyed for heritage resources. Some sites are known for nearby areas and the potential for significant or potentially National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligible sites are high in the areas adjacent to this creek. Historic mines and minerals prospecting pits and adits (a vertical shaft) are known on the West Fork of Townes Creek. Prehistoric Indian soapstone mining sites and historic mineral prospecting adits and pits are also known on the west side of SC Hwy.107 about ¼ mile west of where Crane Creek

crosses the highway. This historic Winding Stairs trail climbs the ridge between Crane and West Fork Creek. This trail used by Indian and was an early route used by whites in the areas.

Rating: Class C

East Fork, Chattooga River - River Evaluation

	Total River	Segment 1	Segment 2	Segment 3	Segment 4
Segment Miles	7.4	2.5	2.2	0.2	2.4
NF Lands	0	0	1.9	0	2.4
Private Lands	0	0	0	0	0
Mixed Ownership Lands	0	0	0	0	0
State Lands	0.5	0	0.3	0.2	0

1. Is the waterway navigable? What is the average size of the stream? Does the water flow year round? Is it floatable for canoes? Flat-bottom boats? What is the rate of flow, and how much does it vary year round?

The stream is too small for floating by canoes or kayaks. Floating is also not permitted in this area. Water does flow year round in the stream.

2. Water quality. SC DHEC ratings.

Rated an Outstanding Resource Water form NC line to the confluence with Indian Camp Branch. (Sections 1 and 2). Rated Natural Trout Water from Indian Camp Branch to the confluence with the Chattooga River. (Sections 3 and 4)

3. Is any segment dammed or been channelized. If so, explain.

There is a small dam in Section 3 just below the confluence with Indian Camp Branch which necessary for operation of the trout hatchery located there.

4. List public access points for canoeing, fishing, swimming, or wading. Are there any developed FS access points, picnic or camping facilities, or there any private facilities?

USFWS Trout Hatchery located in Section 3 at confluence with Indian Camp Branch is expected to be transferred to the State of South Carolina in 1996.

Section 3 contains Chattooga Picnic Area located along the creek adjacent to the hatchery. There is a barrier-free fishing pier and boardwalk located within the picnic area. Bank fishing is also popular along the stream. A trail runs along the river beginning in Section 3 and running though Section 4 from the hatchery to the confluence

with the Chattooga River, which is popular with hikers and anglers. This is a popular access point to enter the wilderness area which is adjacent to the picnic area.

5. What type of recreation use does the river typically receive? Who are the typical users (how far do they travel to use the river)? How much recreation use is there along and on the river? Are there any know commercial operations for canoeing, fishing, etc. on the river?

This river received a Class 1 rating in the Recreational Fishing Category of the SC Rivers Assessment. Brown and rainbow trout are typically caught.

6. Are there any major developments along the river (industry, homes)? Do any roads, power lines, or pipelines run parallel to or cross the river?

There is a road that goes to the hatchery, which connects to SC Hwy. 107 that crosses the upper part of the river. This bridge, Sloan's Bridge, divides Sections 1 and 2. Power lines also are present at the hatchery. This power line runs through section 2, but is not conspicuous.

7. Have there been any recent (since last aerial photos) changes in the vegetation patterns along the rivers and riverbanks? (Regeneration, agriculture, development).

No.

8. What are the general forest types along the river? Are there any unusual forest communities?

Received a Class 1 rating in the natural features category on the SC Rivers Assessment. Received a high score in the quality and condition criteria for that category.

9. Are there any unusual geologic or topographic features along the river? Rock outcroppings? Waterfalls? Islands?

No unusual features.

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

1. Scenic

The river is characterized by a continuous mature forested overstory and common understory. The river meanders through Ellicott Rock Wilderness. Slopes along the river range from relatively flat to moderate slopes. There are generally no long vistas. The views are limited to foreground views for visitor, except for a few small valleys. The river runs through the Walhalla Fish Hatchery and is impacted by the developments within this facility, including several buildings, outbuildings and fenced run areas. The river is affected by other manmade features including a wooden foot bridge which

crosses the river to enter the wilderness area. Also, in the upper reaches SC State Highway 107 crosses the river. The water is clear and there are no large waterfalls or water features along the river.

Rating: Class B (All sections)

2. Recreational

Segments 1 and 2 of this river provide some recreation opportunities, mainly for fishing and hiking. Segment 1 parallels SC Scenic Highway 107. There is easy access from the road to the stream for fishing this segment. The Foothills Trail parallels Segment 2. Even though the stream is less accessible for fishing in this segment, the trail draws use from the tri-state area.

Rating: Class B for Segments 1 and 2

Segments 3 and 4 of this river receive extensive recreational use. This river is a tributary to the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River. The Fish Hatchery is located about midway along the river in section 3. The hatchery attracts people locally as well as from other areas. The extensive trail system allows hikers to travel from North Carolina and beyond to the Chattooga River and into Georgia. The combination of the Chattooga River, the trail system, the excellent fishing opportunities, the day-use opportunities, and the access to the Ellicott Rock Wilderness makes these sections outstanding, recreationally.

Rating: Class A for Segment 3 and 4

3. Geologic

The geology is typical of the Blue Ridge Mountain Section, comprised of Tallulah falls with schist geology.

Rating: Class C (All sections)

4. Wildlife

Three PETS animals have been found here. The river corridor provides diverse older forest and an abundance of downed woody debris. Quality and quantity of habitat for wildlife is generally typical for the Blue Ridge, but the older forest is outstanding.

Rating: Class B (All sections)

5. Fish and Aquatic Communities

There are no known aquatic T&E species or sensitive species located within the river. This river contains a resident population of wild brown trout due mainly to the diversity of the habitat and high quality of the stream. Due to the nutrient residue from the fish

hatchery, the brown trout population standing crop on Section 4 is the highest in the Southeast.

Rating: Class A (All sections)

6. Botanical and Ecological

Continuity of forest cover is very good, though forest composition is fairly typical of that occurring throughout the Blue Ridge, particularly at higher elevations.

Rating: Class C (Sections 1, 2 and 3)

Gaddy calls this area the most diverse and significance natural area in the northern portion of the district. Five species of trillium and over 20 species of carex occur here. Eight rare species and 14 rare populations occur here. Three species (large-flowered trillium (*Trillium grandifolium*), Fort Mountain sedge (*Carex amplisquama*), and pretty sedge (*Carex woodii*), are know nowhere else in South Carolina. Although most of the plant species are rare only within the state, five are considered rare within the region. The only record for *Carex Appalachia* in the Chattooga River watershed occurs here.

Plant communities are rich and include older mixed mesophytic forest, acidic coves and mesic oak-hickory forests. Paul Carlson's old growth study for the Chattooga watershed identifies both Class A and Class B communities occurring along the East Fork within the Ellicott Rock Wilderness Area. The eastern hemlock and white pine near the fish hatchery are very large and may be state records, several approaching four feet in diameter.

Rating: Class A (Segment 4)

7. Cultural and Historic

No survey work has been completed in this corridor. This drainage does contain high probability areas for the occurrence of heritage resources.

Rating: Class C (All Sections)

Enoree River - River Evaluation

	Total River
Segment Miles	36.7
NF Lands	10.9
Private Lands	11.2
Mixed Ownership Lands	14.6

1. Is the waterway navigable? What is the average size of the stream? Does the water flow year round? Is it floatable for canoes? Flat-bottom boats? What is the rate of flow, and how much does it vary year round?

Yes, the Enoree River is classified as SC Navigable water. Average stream size is 50-70'. Water flows year round and is floatable for canoes and flatbottom boats. Water may be low in the summer, but floating is usually possible.

2. Water quality. SC DHEC ratings.

Rated as a Freshwater by SC DHEC.

3. Is any segment dammed or been channelized. If so, explain.

None of the segments within the FS proclamation boundaries have been dammed or channelized, and are not affected by any dam or channelization.

4. List public access points for canoeing, fishing, swimming, or wading. Are there any developed FS access points, picnic or camping facilities, or there any private facilities?

There are five access points for canoeing, fishing, swimming or wading. Two are at the end of Forest Roads 334 and 336A, these are primitive in development. The remaining three all have a defined access point to put in or take out small watercraft. They are located at the end of FS Road 339, Brazzelman's Bridge and Keitt's Bridge. All have small parking areas and information boards. The two are Road 339 and Brazzelman's Bridge has toilet facilities. One user developed access point exists on the western boundary of the Forest. It is Jones Bridge and is on private ownership. There are no facilities.

5. What type of recreation use does the river typically receive? Who are the typical users (how far do they travel to use the river)? How much recreation use is there along and on the river? Are there any know commercial operations for canoeing, fishing, etc. on the river?

It received a Class 1 rating in the Backpacking boating category in the SC Rivers Assessment. Backcountry boating category assessed river which provide opportunities for extended overnight trips (>10 mile segments) and have natural, undeveloped shorelines.

Main use is floating the river either by canoe or raft. Travel distance is generally less than 45 miles. Use is currently low but increasing as access has been recently improved. Information requests for outfitter/guide permits have been received by the district. No commercial operations.

6. Are there any major developments along the river (industry, homes)? Do any roads, power lines, or pipelines run parallel to or cross the river?

No major developments along the river. The river is crossed three times by a pipeline and once by a railroad. There are four bridges that cross the river. These are on County Highway 98, State Highway 121/176/72, County Highway 81 and County Highway 45.

7. Have there been any recent (since last aerial photos) changes in the vegetation patterns along the rivers and riverbanks? (Regeneration, agriculture, development).

Some harvesting of timber but this is not generally seen from the river.

8. What are the general forest types along the river? Are there any unusual forest communities?

Mostly loblolly pine forest or successional loblolly pine-hardwood forest including loblolly pine with Florida sugar maple, sweetgum, red maple, sourwood, white oak, and southern red oak.

9. Are there any unusual geologic or topographic features along the river? Rock outcroppings? Waterfalls? Islands?

Few unusual geologic or topographic features, including rock outcroppings.

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

1. Scenic

The combinations of landform, vegetation are common for the Southern Appalachian Piedmont. The variety of vegetative species is common for this area. The views from the river are mainly forest lands, with relatively few pastures, farmlands, or buildings. There are some regeneration areas that are seen from the river. Rock and water features are rare or absent, sandbars are common during low water. The landscape is generally rolling with gentle to moderate slopes in the river corridor. Some utility corridors and roads are visible from the river. Water in the river appears muddy most of the year. Fall color is average for this area, not extremely colorful overall, depending on the year.

Rating: Class C

2. Recreational

The recreational opportunities along the river are typical for this area, including fishing, canoeing and boating, and similar water-related day-use activities. Visitors to the river generally travel less than 50 miles one way. The Enoree River is listed as a SC River Trail within the Sumter NF boundaries. The river is included in Paddling South Carolina, a guidebook to canoe trails. There are no rapids on the segment within the FS Proclamation boundaries. The river is rated as fast flatwater, and flatwater for this portion to the confluence with the Broad River.

Rating: Class C

3. Geologic

Geological features are typical of those found in the Southern Appalachian Piedmont Section.

Rating: Class C

4. Wildlife

Quality of habitat for wildlife is good for many game species. A good diversity of habitats occurs due to a variety of age classes and abundant hardwoods within the corridor.

Rating: Class C

5. Fish and Aquatic Communities

There are no known T&E or C1 species or sensitive species in the river. The fish and aquatic community is average for the area with no known outstanding species.

Rating: Class C

6. Botanical and Ecological

Botanical and ecological values are typical of those found in the Piedmont Southern Appalachian Section. Evidence of human disturbance and fragmentation are high; forest communities are predominately early to mid-successional. Two PETS exist here and two others are known to occur historically.

Rating: Class C

7. Cultural and Historic

This river corridor contains known sites common to the central SC Piedmont. Ten sites have been determined potentially eligible for the National Register within the corridor, but none of these appear to be of regional interest. Broad floodplains along the river corridor have not been surveyed. Many are on private land and may contain significant cultural resources, particularly of the Mississippi Period, similar to those found on the nearby Tyger and Broad Rivers.

Rating: Class C

Fairforest Creek - River Evaluation

	River Miles
Segment Miles	9.6
NF Lands	5.1
Private Lands	3.0
Mixed Ownership Lands	1.5

1. Is the waterway navigable? What is the average size of the stream? Does the water flow year round? Is it floatable for canoes? Flat-bottom boats? What is the rate of flow, and how much does it vary year round?

Yes, Fairforest Creek is classified as SC Navigable water. The average size of the stream is 40' to 50'. Water flows year round, but is low in the summer. There is limited floatability.

2. Water quality. SC DHEC ratings.

No SC DHEC rating.

3. Is any segment dammed or been channelized. If so, explain.

No.

4. List public access points for canoeing, fishing, swimming, or wading. Are there any developed FS access points, picnic or camping facilities, or any private facilities?

There are no developed access points along the river.

5. What type of recreation use does the river typically receive? Who are the typical users (how far do they travel to use the river)? How much recreation use is there along and on the river? Are there any know commercial operations for canoeing, fishing, etc. on the river?

There is recreational fishing use along the river.

6. Are there any major developments along the river (industry, homes)? Do any roads, power lines, or pipelines run parallel to or cross the river?

There are two bridges that cross this river. They are at County Highways 49 and 16.

7. Have there been any recent (since last aerial photos) changes in the vegetation patterns along the rivers and riverbanks? (Regeneration, agriculture, development).

Some harvesting of timber has occurred but is not generally seen from the river corridor.

8. What are the general forest types along the river? Are there any unusual forest communities?

Yes, Riverside Shoal and stream bar complexes and forested canebrakes. Forest communities are not particularly unusual. National Forest lands adjacent to the river are included in Management areas 13 and 17 in the Sumter LRMP.

9. Are there any unusual geologic or topographic features along the river? Rock outcroppings? Waterfalls? Islands?

There are no unusual geological or topographic features, rock outcrops, waterfalls or islands. Several sand bars are present.

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

1. Scenic

The combination of landform, vegetation and water features are generally common for all rivers in the Southern Appalachian Piedmont. The upper portion of the river within the FS proclamation boundaries flows predominately through private lands. These private lands include forest lands, pasture, and farmlands. Pastures and farmlands are readily visible from the river, from this section. Where the river enters National forest land on both sides, forested lands predominate. Some regeneration is visible from the river, but it does not dominate the view. Seasonal color is moderate to minimal. Water appears fairly clear part of the year. The slopes are gentle in the immediate floodplain. The terrain adjacent to the floodplain is moderately steep to rolling. The manmade features along the river that impact the views include bridges.

Rating: Class C

2. Recreational

The recreational opportunities are limited. There is limited access. The visitors to the river are mainly local people who come to fish.

Rating: Class C

3. Geologic

Geologic features are typical of those commonly found within the Southern Appalachian Piedmont Section.

Rating: Class C

4. Wildlife

Habitats are typical of those found within the Southern Appalachian Piedmont Section. No state or federally-listed species are known to occur here.

Rating: Class C

5. Fish and Aquatic Communities

There are no known T & E or C1 or sensitive species. The fish and aquatic community is average for the area with no outstanding species.

Rating: Class C

6. Botanical and Ecological

Botanical and ecological values are common for the Southern Appalachian Piedmont Section.

Rating: Class C

7. Cultural and Historic

Rating: Class C

King Creek - River Evaluation

	Total River
Segment Miles	3.2
NF Lands	3.2
Private Lands	0
Mixed Ownership Lands	0

1. Is the waterway navigable? What is the average size of the stream? Does the water flow year round? Is it floatable for canoes? Flat-bottom boats? What is the rate of flow, and how much does it vary year round?

This is not a navigable stream due to its small size. Water flows year round.

2. Water quality. SC DHEC ratings.

Rated Outstanding Resource Water by SC DHEC.

3. Is any segment dammed or been channelized. If so, explain.

No.

4. List public access points for canoeing, fishing, swimming, or wading. Are there any developed FS access points, picnic or camping facilities, or there any private facilities?

Burrell's Ford Campground is a primitive walk-in campground adjacent to the creek. There is a trail that runs alongside the creek from its confluence with the Chattooga River to the falls.

5. What type of recreation use does the river typically receive? Who are the typical users (how far do they travel to use the river)? How much recreation use is there along and on the river? Are there any know commercial operations for canoeing, fishing, etc. on the river?

The creek is primarily used for fishing and by visitors wishing to view the waterfall.

6. Are there any major developments along the river (industry, homes)? Do any roads, power lines, or pipelines run parallel to or cross the river?

A FS road used only for work access crosses the creek at its lower level.

7. Have there been any recent (since last aerial photos) changes in the vegetation patterns along the rivers and riverbanks? (Regeneration, agriculture, development).

Some regeneration has occurred along the Burrell's Ford Road.

8. What are the general forest types along the river? Are there any unusual forest communities?

Received a Class 2 rating in the Natural Features Category of the SC Rivers Assessment. Rated with a high score (30 points) in the scarcity criteria (relative abundance and associations of species or natural communities)

9. Are there any unusual geologic or topographic features along the river? Rock outcroppings? Waterfalls? Islands?

King Creek Falls is located here and is a popular attraction for visitors to the area.

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

1. Scenic

Mature forested hardwoods and evergreens and common understory characterize the river. There is little variety in species or vegetation. The vegetation is generally continuous. Some regeneration occurs along the Burrell's Ford Road, which parallels the river for some length. This vegetation and the road adversely impacts scenery adjacent to the river. Large trees predominate. The slopes are moderately steep and generally uniform with some dissection. King's Creek Falls are locally very popular and also draws people from other than local areas. The water is clear, year-round. There are some manmade features, which impact the scenery along the river, a bridge at the campground and two other bridges.

Rating: Class C

2. Recreational

This river provides hiking and other day-use opportunities such as photography, wildlife viewing, fishing, hunting and sightseeing. Fishing for brown and rainbow trout is popular in the creek. There are no opportunities to canoe, kayak or raft because of the size of the river. Visitor often use the existing trail to see King Creek Falls. These falls are published in publications about waterfalls in the upstate of South Carolina. The recreation opportunities are generally common in this part of the state.

Rating: Class C

3. Geologic

Geology is typical of that commonly found within the Blue Ridge Mountain Section.

Rating: Class C

4. Wildlife

Good quality habitat for wildlife with much older forest and continuous forest cover. Fragmentation occurs from crossing at Burrell's Ford Road.

Rating: Class C

5. Fish and Aquatic Communities

No known aquatic T&E or sensitive species are located within the creek. King Creek serves as a refuge for resident brown trout during the warmer weather due to its cooler temperatures and high water quality. The section of King Creek upstream from the falls has historically contained native brook trout. Brook trout may still be present in this stream. Brook trout are not common in streams in South Carolina, but are more commonly found in streams throughout the Blue Ridge Mountain Section.

Rating: Class B

6. Botanical and Ecological

Six PETS populations including five different species and one threatened species called small whorled pogonia, *Isotria medeoloides*, occur along this creek corridor. Plant communities are not exceptional in quality, though this creek corridor. Fragmentation and presence of exotics is low.

Four sites for small whorled pogonia occur along this corridor however, three have been extremely small fewer than 6 individuals for the last ten years. Although 14 individuals were found at one site as late as 1991, only 6 were found in 1995. The stronghold for small whorled pogonia in South Carolina appears to be in Ellicott Rock Wilderness, where over 50 individuals were found in 1995.

One C2 species, *Isotria verticillate*, has been reported from here, as has *Carex manhartii* (G2/3), totally three regionally rare species.

Rating: Class B

7. Cultural and Historic

No survey work has been done in this river corridor. This drainage does contain high probability area for the occurrence of heritage resources.

Rating: Class C

Limber Pole Creek - River Evaluation

	River Miles
Segment Miles	2.0
NF Lands	1.3
Private Lands	0
Mixed Ownership Lands	0.7

1. Is the waterway navigable? What is the average size of the stream? Does the water flow year round? Is it floatable for canoes? Flat-bottom boats? What is the rate of flow, and how much does it vary year round?

Waterway is not navigable. Water generally flows year-round, but is not considered floatable for canoes and flatbottom boats.

2. Water quality. SC DHEC ratings.

No SC DHEC rating.

3. Is any segment dammed or been channelized. If so, explain.

No, although adjacent to SC 171 the river is tapped to provide bottle water which is commercially sold by Fountainhead Water Company.

4. List public access points for canoeing, fishing, swimming, or wading. Are there any developed FS access points, picnic or camping facilities, or there any private facilities?

No developed or private access points along this stream. Access is difficult.

5. What type of recreation use does the river typically receive? Who are the typical users (how far do they travel to use the river)? How much recreation use is there along and on the river? Are there any know commercial operations for canoeing, fishing, etc. on the river?

Received a Class 1 rating in the Recreational Fishing category of the SC Rivers Assessment. Rated high scores in the fishing quality, water character and scenic criteria. Level of use is rated as below average with local demand. "Excellent small rainbows." Vegetation is overgrown along the creek and fishing is difficult. This overgrown vegetation somewhat decreases the fishing pressure due to difficult fishing conditions. Most recreation use is from local residents who fish along the stream.

6. Are there any major developments along the river (industry, homes)? Do any roads, power lines, or pipelines run parallel to or cross the river?

Fountainhead Water Company is located on Limper Pole Creek and obtains water from tributary to commercially as bottled water. This industry is located just off of SC 171. SC 171 crosses Limber Pole Creek, off of NF lands. There is no other development along the river.

7. Have there been any recent (since last aerial photos) changes in the vegetation patterns along the rivers and riverbanks? (Regeneration, agriculture, development).

None known.

8. What are the general forest types along the river? Are there any unusual forest communities?

Mixed oak-hickory, shortleaf pine. No unusual geologic or topographic features along the river.

9. Are there any unusual geologic or topographic features along the river? Rock outcroppings? Waterfalls? Islands?

None of any significance.

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

1. Scenic

The river has a very enclosed feeling, access is difficult. The mature forested character of the river confines views to the foreground of the visitor. There are large older trees and common communities. There is some seasonal color with the corridor. There are no known waterfalls on the river. The water is clear. SC State Highway 130 crosses the river in two places. A private road crosses the river in one place.

Rating: Class C

2. Recreational

River received limited use from local residents. Some visitors may come from just across the state line in the NC, but travel distance is still limited for those visitors. The river does not offer the general public opportunities for boating. Limber Pole Creek received a Class I rating for recreation fishing based on quality of experience, size of take, scenic quality and water quality.

Rating: Class C

3. Geologic

Geology is primarily granite and is fairly common found with the Blue Ridge Mountain Section.

Rating: Class C

4. Wildlife

Diversity and quality of habitats is high with much older forest. No PETS animals occur here.

Rating: Class C

5. Fish and Aquatic Communities

There are no known T&E or C1 or sensitive species here. There is a reproducing population of rainbow trout in this river. Reproducing populations of rainbow trout are unusual in South Carolina, but not in the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Rating: Class B

6. Botanical and Ecological

Diversity and quality of habitats in this creek are generally high, with an abundance of older forested habitats. One PETS species and one population are known to occur here.

Rating: Class C

7. Cultural and Historic

No survey work has been done in this river corridor. This drainage does not contain high probability area for the occurrence of heritage resources.

Rating: Class C

Little River - River Evaluation

	River Miles
Segment Miles	6.2
NF Lands	6.2
Private Lands	0
Mixed Ownership Lands	0

1. Is the waterway navigable? What is the average size of the stream? Does the water flow year round? Is it floatable for canoes? Flat-bottom boats? What is the rate of flow, and how much does it vary year round?

Yes, Little River is classified as SC Navigable water. Pool elevation of Clark Hill reservoir is 330'. Much of the area surrounding Little River is floodplain just above the 330' level, appears there is a lot of potential for flooding in the area.

2. Water quality. SC DHEC ratings.

It rated a Freshwater resource by SC DHEC.

3. Is any segment dammed or been channelized. If so, explain.

From 0.4 miles north of SC 39 to confluence with Clark Hill Reservoir is not free-flowing due to the effect of Clark Hill Dam. The normal pool elevation of Clark Hill Reservoir is 330'. Little River will be considered free-flowing from 0.4 miles north of SC 39 to the forest proclamation boundary. There is an impoundment for the Calhoun Mill, which still operates on a limited basis. Impoundment is approximately 15' high, with constant water flow. Impoundment itself is north of the FS proclamation boundary, and river is free-flowing on NFS lands as described above.

4. List public access points for canoeing, fishing, swimming, or wading. Are there any developed FS access points, picnic or camping facilities, or any private facilities?

Public boat ramp (FS) at SC 81 crossing. Used for boating and fishing access. This access is not in the free-flowing section. SC 19 crossing is a potential, undeveloped access point, but currently has a 10' to 15' drop to the river. A boat access on NF land is planned off FS 536 just south of Calhoun Mill. Some boaters/floaters access on private land on east side of river just below Calhoun Mill dam (north of proclamation boundary). Flooding in 1993 reached the 100 year flood levels. This flooding created a lot of erosion at the Calhoun Mill area, and required extensive restorations.

5. What type of recreation use does the river typically receive? Who are the typical users (how far do they travel to use the river)? How much recreation use is there along and on the river? Are there any know commercial operations for canoeing, fishing, etc. on the river?

Typical users are local people knowledgeable about the river. Some people may visit the river from Georgia, but travel radius is limited (typically less than 50 miles one way). Currently, the personnel from the Long Cane RD and from John de la Howe School are planning to construct a trail, which will be located on SC lands at John de la Howe School and on NF land. Some of this trail would be located within the study corridor.

6. Are there any major developments along the river (industry, homes)? Do any roads, power lines, or pipelines run parallel to or cross the river?

Four roads (FDR 536, 550B, 3051, and 550A) parallel the Little River within the ¼ mile study boundary. FDR 550B and 3051 are located across the river from each other.

However, these roads are most likely not readily viewed from the river due to the topography and vegetation. Roads were built to access wildlife openings and timber harvests.

Calhoun Mill is still operational just north of the proclamation boundary. NF lands with the ¼ mile corridor contain recent (0-10) timber harvests and managed wildlife openings. Private lands within the corridor contain mostly timberlands and pastures. There are no major utility corridors; power lines follow existing road rights of way.

7. Have there been any recent (since last aerial photos) changes in the vegetation patterns along the rivers and riverbanks? (Regeneration, agriculture, development).

None known.

8. What are the general forest types along the river? Are there any unusual forest communities?

No unusual forest communities known. The river corridor is currently within MA 13 General Forest Area in the Sumter LRMP

9. Are there any unusual geologic or topographic features along the river? Rock outcroppings? Waterfalls? Islands?

None known.

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

1. Scenic

Scenery is typical of landform, vegetation, and water found within Piedmont. No known rock features of significance. Water is generally muddy most of the year, especially after rain events. There is a nearly continuous overstory within the Forest Service ownership. The terrain is typically rolling and short slopes lead to the river. The landscape becomes flatter with the influence of the Clark's Hill Reservoir. The width of the river in the lower portion allows for long vistas. These long views are not typical of Piedmont streams however it has been drastically influenced by the reservoir.

Rating: Class C

2. Recreational

Visitors do not travel long distances. Most visitations are from locals, from Aiken SC or Augusta GA areas. Visitors generally travel 50 miles or less one way to visit river. Edisto River Canoe and Kayak Commission is interested in developing the river into a canoe trail for commercial use, but that idea is not yet developed. Little River does provide opportunities for canoeing or kayaking or with flatbottom boats. Access is

generally from private land or at road crossings for the free-flowing portion of the river. River level fluctuates so it is not easily floatable year round and there are downed trees and debris in the river. However, due to influence of Clark Hill dam, Little River offers more days per year where it is floatable than do many other Piedmont Rivers.

Rating: Class C

3. Geologic

Geologic features are typical of those commonly found within the Southern Appalachian Piedmont Section.

Rating: Class C

4. Wildlife

Diversity and quality of habitats is common for the Southern Appalachian Piedmont Section. No state or federal listed species are known to occur here. Good hunting.

Rating: Class C

5. Fish and Aquatic Communities

There are no known T & E or C1 or sensitive species. The fish and aquatic community is average for the area with no outstanding species.

Rating: Class C

6. Botanical and Ecological

Botanical and ecological values are common for the Southern Appalachian Piedmont Section. Evidence of past human disturbance is high. No known state or federally listed species occur here.

Rating: Class C

7. Cultural and Historic

This river corridor contains cultural sites of state and local significance that are eligible for the NRHP. Mississippi period sites Tyger Village contain significant information pertaining to the Mississippi Period ceramic sequence that is poorly defined for this portion of the state. Important historic period sites include the 18th and 19th century Otterson's Fort and cemetery and an 18th –early 19th century blacksmith.

Rating: Class B

Long Cane Creek - River Evaluation

	River Miles
Segment Miles	29.2
NF Lands	12.6
Private Lands	7.1
Mixed Ownership Lands	9.5

1. Is the waterway navigable? What is the average size of the stream? Does the water flow year round? Is it floatable for canoes? Flat-bottom boats? What is the rate of flow, and how much does it vary year round?

Yes, Long Cane Creek is classified as SC Navigable water. Water flows year round, but levels fluctuate. The river is not always at levels convenient for floating in canoe, kayak, or flat bottom boats.

2. Water quality. SC DHEC ratings.

It rated as a Freshwater Resource by SC DHEC.

3. Is any segment dammed or been channelized. If so, explain.

The bottom portion is influenced by Clark Hill Dam. The mean water level of Clark Hill lake is 330' mean sea level. Free-flowing portion begins upstream of the Hwy 28 boat access. (There is no good point to define actual end of free-flowing portion, upstream from confluence of Linkay Creek.)

4. List public access points for canoeing, fishing, swimming, or wading. Are there any developed FS access points, picnic or camping facilities, or any private facilities?

There are two developed boat access points on the lower portion of the river. Neither access point is on the free-flowing portion. No picnic or camping facilities are within the corridor, nor are there any private access facilities.

5. What type of recreation use does the river typically receive? Who are the typical users (how far do they travel to use the river)? How much recreation use is there along and on the river? Are there any know commercial operations for canoeing, fishing, etc. on the river?

Proximity of river to Greenwood and Abbeville results in steady recreational use of the river. Typical uses include fishing, hiking, horseback riding, and some canoeing, kayaking and flat bottom boating. Visitors are typically local; that is they travel 50 miles or less one way to access the river. Long Cane Horse Trail and Cedar Springs Motorcycle Trail are two developed trails in the local area. Long Cane Horse trail crosses the river in two locations (end of FDR 530, and near SC 31). Cedar Springs Motorcycle Trail enters the ¼ mile corridor between the Seaboard Coast Railroad and SC

133. Motorcycle trail users and horse trails users are willing to travel greater distances, their use is trail related, not necessarily river related. Also, the horse trail currently follows Long Cane Creek for some distance. Horse riders generally prefer that the trail not be located in riparian areas. There are no known commercial operations on Long Cane Creek.

6. Are there any major developments along the river (industry, homes)? Do any roads, power lines, or pipelines run parallel to or cross the river?

Within the FS proclamation boundary, 9 SC or county roads cross the river. One pipeline, two major power lines, and 1 railroad cross the river. Most of these developments cross the river upstream from the Long Cane Scenic Area. In fact, downstream from the Scenic Area, there are no utility or railroad crossings, and only 3 road crossings. North of the Scenic Area, there are 7 short FDR road segments located within the ¼ mile corridor which approach the river. One of these segments, FDR 505E crosses the river with a wooden bridge. Downstream (south) of the Scenic Area, 9 FDR road segments are within the ¼ mile corridor and approach the river, 2 road segments parallel the river within the corridor.

Private lands along the river contain a variety of uses; homes, pastures, and timberlands. Homes are more common in the upper reaches, near Abbeville and Greenwood. The city of Abbeville has a pumping station located on FDR 505E. This pumping station is no longer in use.

7. Have there been any recent (since last aerial photos) changes in the vegetation patterns along the rivers and riverbanks? (Regeneration, agriculture, development).

There are some recent (0-10 years) regeneration areas on NF lands within the corridor.

8. What are the general forest types along the river? Are there any unusual forest communities?

Long Cane Scenic Area contains 10 “spots” of long cane (*Arundinaria gigantea*) and contains the SC Champion Shagbark Hickory.

Most of the river corridor is included in MS 12 and 13 in the existing Sumter LRMP. The Long Cane Scenic area is MA 7, which restricts timber harvest and other activities.

9. Are there any unusual geologic or topographic features along the river? Rock outcroppings? Waterfalls? Islands?

There are no known unusual geological or topographic features. No significant rock outcrops or waterfalls. There are 3 oxbows located between SC 33 and Long Cane Scenic Area.

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

1. Scenic

Scenery is generally typical of that found along Piedmont streams. Utility corridors and frequent road crossings upstream from Long Cane Scenic area make the scenery on this river typical of the region. Land uses on interspersed private lands render the landscape typical of a Piedmont river, with the exception of the views from the river with the Scenic Area. Water appears clear part of the time, and is typically muddy mainly after large storm events. There is little variety in species, color or textures along the river corridor. The slopes along the river are moderate to gentle. Seasonal color is moderate to minimal most years.

Rating: Class C

2. Recreational

Visitors do not often travel long distances (more than 50 miles) to reach the river, with the possible exception of the horseback riding use, and that use is not river dependent. Long Cane Creek provides opportunities for canoeing and boating, but does not contain rapids. Low water flows in the summer limit opportunities for water sports.

Rating: Class B

3. Geologic

Geology is typical of that commonly found within the Southern Appalachian Piedmont Section.

Rating: Class C

4. Wildlife

No PETS wildlife species are known to occur within the river corridor, but it has been little surveyed. A diversity of habitats occur here due to the variety of age classes and river depths due to the damming upstream.

Rating: Class B

5. Fish and Aquatic Communities

There are no known T & E or C1 or sensitive species. The fish and aquatic community is average for the area with no outstanding species known to occur.

Rating: Class C

6. Botanical and Ecological

Two PETS plan populations including three PETS species are known to occur here. High quality older forest bottomland hardwood communities are known to occur here. Fragmentation is high due to the large amount of human disturbance historically.

Rating: Class C

7. Cultural and Historic

This corridor contains sites common to the piedmont of South Carolina. Three potentially eligible sites probably do not contain information of regional significance. An Indian mound reported in the corridor in the 19th century has not been relocated. Areas in the corridor have a high probability for undiscovered significant sites.

Rating: Class C

Stevens Creek - River Evaluation

	Total River	Eligible Segment
Segment Miles	24.2	13.5
NF Lands	4.2	2.0
Private Lands	9.8?	1.6?
Mixed Ownership Lands	10.2	9.8

1. Is the waterway navigable? What is the average size of the stream? Does the water flow year round? Is it floatable for canoes? Flat-bottom boats? What is the rate of flow, and how much does it vary year round?

Yes, Stevens Creek is classified as SC Navigable water. Average stream width is 40' to 70'. Water flows year round and is floatable much or the year. Boating and canoeing can be limited in summer due to low water flows. There is evidence of much fluctuation in water levels resulting from rains.

2. Water quality. SC DHEC ratings.

It rated as a Freshwater Resource by SC DHEC. There are 17 documented point sources of pollution with permitted discharges totaling more than 5.6 MGD of effluent to the Stevens Creek sub basin. (*Freshwater Mussel Inventory of the Stevens Creek Sub basin, Long Creek Ranger District, Sumter National Forest, South Carolina*). The town of McCormick plans to construct an additional wastewater disposal into Stevens Creek north of the Forest Proclamation Boundary.

3. Is any segment dammed or been channelized. If so, explain.

Segment 1: There is an impoundment north of the Forest proclamation boundary at Hwy 283. The impoundment has an approximate 40' drop. Stream channel quickly reverts to natural below Hwy 283. There is an impoundment for Price's Mill. The water generally flows freely over this 15' dam. The stream channel quickly reverts to natural below the actual dam.

Segment 2: The Stevens Creek Dam on the Savannah River backs up the water approximately to SC 53. From SC 53 to the confluence with the Savannah River, Stevens Creek is not free flowing due to the influence of the Stevens Creek Dam on the Savannah River. Spillway elevation at Stevens Creek is 187'.

4. List public access points for canoeing, fishing, swimming, or wading. Are there any developed FS access points, picnic or camping facilities, or any private facilities?

There is an undeveloped access on private land (N. of FS Proclamation Boundary, at SC 283). Access points highlighted in *Paddling South Carolina* are SC 283, SC 227 (Turkey Creek), SC 23, and Stevens Creek Park at SC 53. Undeveloped access point within the FS proclamation boundary occur at all major road crossings. SC 21 had an undeveloped access point, which is on private land. There are 2 parking areas developed for access on National Forest lands. One area is at the confluence of Turkey and Stevens Creeks.

5. What type of recreation use does the river typically receive? Who are the typical users (how far do they travel to use the river)? How much recreation use is there along and on the river? Are there any know commercial operations for canoeing, fishing, etc. on the river?

Recreation use is typical for the Southern Appalachian Piedmont including hiking, biking, wildlife viewing, photography, hunting and fishing. There are no commercial operations for canoeing or fishing.

6. Are there any major developments along the river (industry, homes)? Do any roads, power lines, or pipelines run parallel to or cross the river?

Segment 2: Two main power lines that originate at Clarks Hill dam enter the corridor and cross the river, one near the confluence of Turkey and Stevens Creeks, the other just north of SC 53. One SC highway, SC 230 parallels Stevens Creek within the corridor for approximately 1-½ miles to its intersection with SC 53.

There is an FAA tower/administrative site just outside the river corridor off of C654. The segment from SC 88 to SC 53 consists mainly of private lands. Some of the private lands in this segment contain pastures and some are in industrial forestlands. There is a housing subdivision with the ¼ mile corridor boundary. These homes are located between the power line from the Clarks Hill dam and the river. However, even in this segment, with the exception of the subdivision and some pastures and farm ponds, most

of the land along the river is forested. As the river approaches SC 230, more homes appear with the corridor, on both sides of the river.

7. Have there been any recent (since last aerial photos) changes in the vegetation patterns along the rivers and riverbanks? (Regeneration, agriculture, development).

Much of the National Forest lands within Stevens Creek corridor, from SC 183 to just north of SC 88; lie with MA 7, Turkey and Stevens Creek Corridor. Timber management is restricted in this MA, which extends for 300 feet on each side of the river.

8. What are the general forest types along the river? Are there any unusual forest communities?

Bottomland hardwood, mixed mesic forests, and basic forest communities. Bald cypress and mountain laurel are unusual components of the vegetation.

Received a Class 1 rating in the Natural Features category in the SC Rivers Assessment. Rated with a high score in all 4 criteria (scarcity, quality, condition, and scientific value).

9. Are there any unusual geologic or topographic features along the river? Rock outcroppings? Waterfalls? Islands?

Several granite rock outcrops, and slate beds, and rocky shoals can be readily observed. From SC 23 to Hwy 88-143, Stevens Creek runs in a straight line which may follow a geologic fault line.

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

1. Scenic

The scenery consists of mainly forested lands, with some interspersed pasture and farmlands. There is more contiguous overstory in the upper reaches of the river where the Forest Service had more ownership. Further down the river where ownership patterns are interspersed the overstory is patchier. There are some steep, short slopes to the river to add interest and some rock outcrops scattered along the river. The occurrence of bald cypress (*taxodium distichum*) adds to the visual variety. However the majority of the vegetation is common throughout the area. Water appears clear part of the year. Seasonal color is moderate in the fall. There are several bridges and crossings that impact the visual quality of the river.

Rating: Class B

2. Recreational

Visitors are often willing to travel approximately 50 miles on way to the river. Most visitors come from Augusta, GA or neighboring communities. The presence of the

Turkey Creek Trail created an additional draw. River receives a lot of use in the spring and fall from fishing, canoeing, swimming, and hiking.

Upper portion (above S-88-143) is considered fast flatwater. From S-88-143 to Hwy 53, the water is considered flatwater. Limited floating opportunities in summer and early fall due to the low water levels. It received a Class 1 rating in the Whitewater Category in the SC Rivers Assessment for the segment from Hwy 283 to SR 21. It received a Class 1 rating in the flatwater category for the segment from SR 21 to Stevens Creek Park (near SC 53). It received a Class 2 rating in the Recreational Fishing Category of the SC Rivers Assessment.

Rating: Class B

3. Geologic

Stevens Creek Heritage Reserve has been noted for its unusual geology. Also, the occurrence of unusual calciphilic plants here suggests something unusual in the geology. However, nothing unusual is noted on geology maps available for the Piedmont. Rock outcrops were observed with the corridor.

Rating: Class B

4. Wildlife

Segment 1: Quality of habitat is good for many game species. A good variety of habitats occur related to the variety of age classes and abundant hardwoods within the corridor. Steep rocky bluffs and numerous rock outcroppings provides habitat for Webster's salamander (*Plethodon websteri*), a G3 species, which inhabits Stevens and Turkey Creeks in South Carolina. Older forests occurring along this creek providing a habitat component not commonly found anywhere else on the Piedmont.

Rating: Class A

Segment 2: Quality of habitat in this section is more broken due to more intensive forestry practices and agricultural uses on the adjacent private lands within the corridor.

Rating: Class B

5. Fish and Aquatic Communities

Several species of mussels occur within this watershed. The Turkey Creek subbasin with the Stevens Creek itself has a high diversity of mussels by Stevens Creek itself has a relatively poor diversity of mussels. The squawfoot mussel is found here and could be considered a sensitive species. The discharge of wastewater effluents into Stevens Creek has possibly affected the water quality in this subbasin.

Rating: Class C

6. Botanical and Ecological

Segment 1: Basic forest communities occurring along this river are unusual, as is the presence of older bottomland forests, which include bald cypress, a species typical of the coastal plain, and mountain laurel, a species typical of the mountains. One federally threatened plant, Florida gooseberry (*Ribes echinellum*) occurs in the corridor and at one location in Florida, and that is all. One C2, G2 species, shoal's spider lily (*Hymenocallis coronaria*), occurs among rocks with the river just below the SC Hwy 21 bridge. Faded trillium (*Trillium discolor*), rated G2, occurs abundantly here as well on several other drainages across the district.

Two exotic species, Japanese privet (*Ligustrum sinense*) and *Microstegium vimineum* occur here in abundance as well as in every other bottomland hardwood community in the piedmont. Several plant communities have been noted as unusual by the SC Heritage program. The presence of plants unusual for the piedmont gives it an exceptional rating.

Rating: Class A

Segment 2: This section does not contain the Florida gooseberry nor any known locations of Shoal's Spider lily. Bald cypress does occur in this segment, without the associated mountain laurel as occur in portions of Segment 1. This segment also contains an abundance of exotic species such as the Japanese privet.

Rating: Class B

7. Cultural and Historic

Segment 1: This corridor contains Price's Mill, which is on the National Register of Historic Places and six eligible or potentially eligible sites. These sites are common piedmont South Carolina types. However, a larger than expected number of early archaic and paleoindian artifacts have been found along Steven's Creek and the Stevens Creek drainage was a focus of late archaic cultures. These finds made Stevens Creek an area of scientific interest. The corridor may contain as yet unreported state or regionally significant prehistoric sites

Rating: Class B

Segment 2: Mims point is located just downstream from the free-flowing portion of Section II. Mims point is a multi-component of national significance. However, Mims point is located at the confluence of Stevens and Savannah River. This portion of the stream is impounded by the Stevens Creek Dam and is not free-flowing.

Rating: Class B

Tamassee Creek - River Evaluation

	Total River	Segment 1	Segment 2
Segment Miles	3.7	0.9	1.7
NF Lands	3.7	0.9	1.7
Private Lands	0	0	0
Mixed Ownership Lands	0	0	0

1. Is the waterway navigable? What is the average size of the stream? Does the water flow year round? Is it floatable for canoes? Flat-bottom boats? What is the rate of flow, and how much does it vary year round?

Tamassee Creek is not a SC Navigable Water. The stream averages 8 feet to 10 feet wide. It is not generally considered floatable for canoes and kayaks. This water flow fluctuates rapidly. In addition, stream courses range over a wide alluvial bottom, and changes course fairly frequently.

2. Water quality. SC DHEC ratings.

No SC DHEC rating.

3. Is any segment dammed or been channelized. If so, explain.

No.

4. List public access points for canoeing, fishing, swimming, or wading. Are there any developed FS access points, picnic or camping facilities, or there any private facilities?

A portion of the Foothills Trail crosses Tamassee Creek, near Lee Falls. Foothills Trail is the only public access point in the upper portion of the river. FDR 715A crosses Tamassee Creek closer to the FS Proclamation boundary. SC 107 is within ¼ mile of the stream, but there is no defined access to Tamassee Creek from the highway, except the Foothills Trail. FDR 715A provides access for fishing and hunting use. Fishing and hunting and hiking are the main uses within the study corridor. There are no developed access points, picnic or camping facilities along Tamassee Creek, nor are there any private facilities.

5. What type of recreation use does the river typically receive? Who are the typical users (how far do they travel to use the river)? How much recreation use is there along and on the river? Are there any know commercial operations for canoeing, fishing, etc. on the river?

Hiking, hunting, recreational gold-panning and fishing are the main uses along the river. Recreation use is moderate along this river. There are no commercial outfitting operations. Recreational gold-panning is allowed in Tamassee Creek.

6. Are there any major developments along the river (industry, homes)? Do any roads, power lines, or pipelines run parallel to or cross the river?

There are no major developments with the river segments included in this study. Downstream from the FS proclamation boundary, the stream is bordered predominately by agricultural lands and pastures. As mentioned previously, FDR 715A crosses the river. FDR 715A has a low water bridge across the creek. An unimproved road used for administrative purposes to access and maintain a series of 4 wildlife openings (Norton Fields) leaves FDR 715A, just on the east side of the stream. This road is gated to public use. One of the wildlife openings included a Northern Red Oak and White Oak progeny test.

7. Have there been any recent (since last aerial photos) changes in the vegetation patterns along the rivers and riverbanks? (Regeneration, agriculture, development).

There has been some regeneration harvesting within the study corridor in the last ten years. There is not any recent regeneration in the corridor.

8. What are the general forest types along the river? Are there any unusual forest communities?

It received a Class 2 rating in the Natural Features category in the SC Rivers Assessment. It received a high score in quality and condition and a low score in scarcity.

9. Are there any unusual geologic or topographic features along the river? Rock outcroppings? Waterfalls? Islands?

Lee Falls is the predominate waterfall along the river. Lee Falls is designated as a special management area in the Forest Plan and activities are restricted to maintain the scenic quality of the around the falls.

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

1. Scenic

This river is characterized by mature forested hardwood and evergreens and common understories of mountain laurel and rhododendron in the upper reaches of the river. Slopes are very steep and access is difficult. Further down the river, as the slopes become much gentler, the views turn from forested overstory to farmland and pastures. There are large older trees in the upper reaches. The views are confined to mostly foreground views in this area. Longer vistas only are possible when the viewer is in the lower stretches where the slopes become gentler and some overstory is absent. There is a variety of vegetation types with the corridor. Seasonal color is common. The water is clear in the upper reaches. There are some manmade features such as bridges and crossings. Also, there are many cultural influences like rural homes and farms, etc.

Rating: Class C

2. Recreational

This river has some potential for day-use activities in the upper reaches near Lee Falls. Fishing is popular along this river but these are common opportunities. Overall, the river offers opportunities that are common throughout this area.

Rating: Class C

3. Geologic

Occurs within the Brevard fault zone, generally accepted as the boundary between the Blue Ridge Mountains and the Southern Appalachian Piedmont. The Brevard fault zone had a complex geological history, significant in that it is newer geologically than much of the adjoining area due to the faulting and thrusting which occurred there during the late Paleozoic. The Brevard fault is only 1 to 2 kilometers wide, extending from Alabama almost to the North Carolina Virginia border.

Rating: Class B

4. Wildlife

No PETS animals are known to occur here, though the area had probably not been well sampled. Diversity of habitats is high due to a variety of age classes and the presence of wildlife openings. Quality of habitats for wildlife is high in some sections.

Rating: Class B

5. Fish and Aquatic Communities

There are no known T&E or C1 or sensitive species here. The fish and aquatic community is average for there are with no known outstanding species.

Rating: Class C

6. Botanical and Ecological

Tamassee Creek has possible the largest number of listed plants on the Andrew Pickens, primarily in and around the Lee Falls where it crosses the Brevard Belt exposing carbonate rock and talus slopes. Tamassee Falls is rich in fern species, providing a home for five list ferns, including the largest population of walking fern (*Asplenium resiliens*) on the district and possibly in the state. The only population of fernleaf phacelia (*phacelia bipinnatifida*) in the state is found here. Thirteen PETS plant species and 21

populations are known to occur along the drainage. Quality of habitats and continuity of forest cover is high in Section 1. The rich cove communities occurring in this section are rare within the Blue Ridge. The canopy approaching the falls has black walnut, white walnut (C2), basswood, hemlock, northern red oak, and very large tulip poplars.

Rating: Class A for Section 1

The plant communities occurring adjacent to the creek, as it flows out of Lee Falls, are highly disturbed having undergone farming historically, and management as wildlife openings in the more recent past. Several exotic species occur here. Intermingled with some rare species which have managed to survive the intensive land use immediately adjacent to the creek.

Rating: Class B for Section 2

7. Cultural and Historic

There are sites eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Just downstream from the proclamation boundary, near SC 375, is the Historic Cherokee Village of Tamasee, a type of site that has not been reported anywhere else. General Andrew Pickens settle here and took over the site from the Cherokee and continued farming in the bottoms near the creek. The creek’s floodplain has a high probability for additional prehistoric and historic Indian sites.

Rating: Class B

Turkey Creek - River Evaluation

	Total River
Segment Miles	12.5
NF Lands	6.7
Private Lands	0.1
Mixed Ownership Lands	6.7

1. Is the waterway navigable? What is the average size of the stream? Does the water flow year round? Is it floatable for canoes? Flat-bottom boats? What is the rate of flow, and how much does it vary year round?

Yes, Turkey Creek is classified as SC Navigable water. Average size of the stream is 40’ to 60’ feet. Water flow is adequate for canoes and flat bottom boats, but flow is limited in summer and early fall.

2. Water quality. SC DHEC ratings.

It is rated as a Freshwater Resource by SC DHEC.

3. Is any segment dammed or been channelized. If so, explain.

None

4. List public access points for canoeing, fishing, swimming, or wading. Are there any developed FS access points, picnic or camping facilities, or there any private facilities?

There are developed canoe access points (no ramps, but paved parking lots) at SC 283, County Road 68 (Key Bridge), and at the confluence with Stevens Creek. A bridge crosses the river at the FS proclamation boundary (SC 35) by access is difficult, and water levels are generally too low for boating/canoeing from this far upstream. There is no picnic or camping facilities either on National Forest lands or on private lands along the river.

5. What type of recreation use does the river typically receive? Who are the typical users (how far do they travel to use the river)? How much recreation use is there along and on the river? Are there any know commercial operations for canoeing, fishing, etc. on the river?

Fishing, swimming, and boating (canoeing) are the main recreational uses along the river. Typically, visitors are local people, or travel from Aiken, North Augusta, or Augusta area. Visitors also come to float the river from Columbia. Fishing and swimming use tend to be more local. Use has been increasing in the last few years. Some of this increased use is due to the improved parking and canoe access facilities along Turkey and Stevens creeks. There are no known commercial outfitters on this river. The Turkey Creek Trail parallels the river from the confluence with Stevens Creek to just north of the pipeline, which crosses the river. From this point, the trail leaves the river corridor and heads to SC 283. There is also a growing amount of mountain bike use, which originates at the Key Bridge parking lot. Bikers then cross the original Key Bridge and tie in with the Turkey Creek Trail.

6. Are there any major developments along the river (industry, homes)? Do any roads, power lines, or pipelines run parallel to or cross the river?

It received a Class 2 rating in the undeveloped category in the SC Rivers Assessment.

From the FS proclamation boundary at SC 35 to the bridge at County Road 283, the lands within the corridor consist mainly of forested lands, both on private and on National Forest. There is some pasture adjacent to the river near SC 35. A county road and FS 611A enter the river corridor for short segments in this section, and another short road goes from CR 283 toward the river. Some are not visible from the river. The section of Turkey Creek from 283 to Key Bridge contains mostly forested lands within the corridor. At CR 283, the Edgefield Work center is located just within the ¼ mile study corridor. A large regeneration area is located on private lands just downstream from SC 283, but there is a forested buffer to decrease the impact from the river. A pipeline crosses the

river toward the middle of the segment. FS roads L285-B and L286-1 parallel the river but it is not visible from the river and does not approach it. FS 8006 enters the river corridor from SC 68 and approaches the pipeline. The segment from SC 68 (Key Bridge) to the confluence with Stevens Creek is similar to the previous segments. Price's Bottoms is a large field that was established when the FS acquired the land. The Forest Service in conjunction with SC DNR maintains the bottoms as a wildlife opening. This opening is visible from the river, but there is a forested buffer to the river. Several regeneration areas exist on National Forest land along this segment. Six roads (L296-1, 618, 617B, 623, 629B and 629D) enter the corridor for short distances with this segment. None of these roads parallel the river.

7. Have there been any recent (since last aerial photos) changes in the vegetation patterns along the rivers and riverbanks? (Regeneration, agriculture, development).

No recent regeneration or other changes in the corridor.

8. What are the general forest types along the river? Are there any unusual forest communities?
Bottomland hardwood forests, oak-hickory forests, pine-oak forests, and mixed mesic forests are common here. Basic forests are unusual, and the presence of bald cypress and mountain laurel are unusual.

9. Are there any unusual geologic or topographic features along the river? Rock outcroppings? Waterfalls? Islands?

Rock outcrops and rocky shoals are found and are unusual; no waterfalls or islands are found.

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

1. Scenic

The combinations of landform and vegetation are unusual in the local area and in the Southern Appalachian Piedmont, due to the presence and amount of bald cypress within the river corridor. Pastoral landscapes are interspersed along the river but forested views dominate. There are some older trees throughout the area. Forest regeneration areas are typically visible from the river. Water in the river appears clear part of the year. There are some rocks in the river. Seasonal color is moderate to minimal. Rolling to moderately steep slopes surrounds the river.

Rating: Class B

2. Recreational

Visitors travel from within the Southern Appalachian Piedmont and from the adjacent state (GA) to recreation along the river. River provides a wide range of recreation

opportunities, fishing, boating, swimming, and hiking and mountain biking are common within the corridor due to the Turkey Creek Trail. There are no rapids in the river; the river would most likely be rated as fast flat water. The river is not known to note in any state or regional publications.

Rating: Class B

3. Geologic

Granite rock outcrops and slate beds are somewhat unusual within the Southern Appalachian Piedmont. Calciphilic flora suggests something unusual in the geology, but nothing shows up on geology maps available for the area.

Rating: Class B

4. Wildlife

Steep rocky bluffs and numerous rock outcroppings provide habitat for Webster's salamander (*Plethodon websteri*), a species rated G3 by the Nature Conservancy. Several sitings for Webster's salamander have been located throughout Turkey Creek and Steven's Creek. This is an unusual element for the Piedmont region. Large trees of a variety of species provide another element not commonly found in the Piedmont.

Rating: Class A

5. Fish and Aquatic Communities

Carolina heelsplitter (*Lasmigona decoratal*, endangered), Brook floater (*Alasmidonta varicose*, C2), and Yellow lampmussel (*Lampsilis cariosa*, C2) were located within Turkey Creek in April 1995. (Alderman, 1995). In the report "Freshwater Mussel Inventory of the Stevens Creek sub basin, Long Cane Ranger District, Sumter National Forest, South Carolina," John Alderman state that Turkey Creek should be considered the most important creek ecosystem in the Savannah River Basin (SC and GA) for freshwater mussel. Verbal conversations with Alderman indicate that the habitat available in Turkey Creek exceeds the quality of the habitat where the mussels occur in rivers in North Carolina.

Rating: Class A

6. Botanical and Ecological

Two state listed species occur here, including upland swampprivet (*Forestiera ligustrina*) and tuberous gromwell (*Lithospermum tuberosum*). Faded trillium (*Trillium discolor*), a regionally rare species rated G2, is common here as well as on several other drainages across the district. Bald cypress, which occurs here, is normally restricted to the coastal

plain. The floodplain on the lower section of Turkey Creek contains numerous very large trees including cherrybark oak, cottonwood, and slippery elm.

Rating: Class A

7. Cultural and Historic

This corridor contain four recorded potentially NRHP eligible sites. These sites are common piedmont South Carolina types and are not of regional or national significance. There is high potential for undiscovered NRHP eligible sites.

Rating: Class C

Tyger River - River Evaluation

	River Miles
Segment Miles	30.2
NF Lands	10.3
Private Lands	9.7
Mixed Ownership Lands	10.2

1. Is the waterway navigable? What is the average size of the stream? Does the water flow year round? Is it floatable for canoes? Flat-bottom boats? What is the rate of flow, and how much does it vary year round?

Yes, Tyger River is classified as SC Navigable water. The average size of the stream is 50' to 100'. Water flows year round, and is mostly floatable with canoes and flat bottom boats year round.

2. Water quality. SC DHEC ratings.

Rated a Freshwater resource by SC DHEC.

3. Is any segment dammed or been channelized. If so, explain.

No.

4. List public access points for canoeing, fishing, swimming, or wading. Are there any developed FS access points, picnic or camping facilities, or any private facilities?

There are four access points along the river. Two are on private ownership and are associated with a bridge. The other two are Rose Hill Boat Ramp and Beatty's Bridge Boat Ramp. No facilities other than the ramps and a small parking area are available. The two on private are located at Cedar Bluff Bridge, County Highway 49, and Gordon's Bridge, County Highway 54. Both are undeveloped.

5. What type of recreation use does the river typically receive? Who are the typical users (how far do they travel to use the river)? How much recreation use is there along and on the river? Are there any know commercial operations for canoeing, fishing, etc. on the river?

Recreation use is by canoe or raft in floating the river. Use is low with people traveling less than 45 miles to use the river. No commercial operations.

6. Are there any major developments along the river (industry, homes)? Do any roads, power lines, or pipelines run parallel to or cross the river?

Received a Class 2 rating in the Undeveloped Category for the SC Rivers Assessment.

No major developments exist along the river. A powerline, a railroad and a pipeline cross it. There are five bridges at County Highway 49, County Highway 16, State Highway 176, State Highway 72/121 and County Highway 54.

7. Have there been any recent (since last aerial photos) changes in the vegetation patterns along the rivers and riverbanks? (Regeneration, agriculture, development).

Some harvesting of timber has occurred but is not generally seen from the river corridor.

8. What are the general forest types along the river? Are there any unusual forest communities?

Loblolly pine and mixed pine-hardwood are predominate in the uplands. Hardwoods occurring with the loblolly pine include southern red oak, white oak, Florida sugar maple, sourwood, and sweetgum in the uplands. Sycamore, box elder, eastern cottonwood, hop hornbeam, and ironwood occur in the bottomlands. A few basic forest or mixed mesic forest communities occur adjacent to the Tyger River and are unusual. Mountain laurel may be found on isolated rock outcrops.

National forest lands along the river are included in Management Areas 5, 13, and 17 in the Sumter LRMP. Management Area 5 contains the Calhoun Experimental Forest. Research in the Calhoun Forest is directed toward littleleaf disease, southern pine beetle infestation, and deficient site conditions. Timber management is allowed, but is restricted.

9. Are there any unusual geologic or topographic features along the river? Rock outcroppings? Waterfalls? Islands?

A few rock outcrops may be found, but no waterfalls or islands. Topographic features are common.

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

1. Scenic

Mostly forest lands (NF and private ownership) can be viewed from the river. There are some pasture and farmlands, which can be viewed from the river, and some homes, particularly near major road crossings. Water in river appears muddy most of the year. Landform and vegetation within the corridor are typical of Southern Appalachian Piedmont Rivers. The slopes associated with this river are typically less than 15% in the last thirty miles that pass through the National Forest. The seasonal color is moderate to minimal. There are several manmade features, which detract for the scenery including power lines, transmission lines, and bridges. The scenery is common for this area.

Rating: Class C

2. Recreational

The recreational opportunities that are available include fishing, canoeing/boating and other water-related day use activities. There are access points along this river that facilitate these activities. Most visitations to the river are from local individuals. Rated as last flatwater in Paddling South Carolina. The Tyger River is featured as a SC River Trail.

Rating: Class C

3. Geologic

Geologic features are typical of those commonly found within the Southern Appalachian Piedmont Section.

Rating: Class C

4. Wildlife

Diversity and quality of habitats is common for the Southern Appalachian Piedmont Section. No state or federal listed species are known to occur here. Good hunting.

Rating: Class C

5. Fish and Aquatic Communities

There are no known T & E or C1 or sensitive species. The fish and aquatic community is average for the area with no outstanding species.

Rating: Class C

6. Botanical and Ecological

Botanical and ecological values are common for the Southern Appalachian Piedmont Section. Evidence of past human disturbance is high. No known state or federally listed species occur here.

Rating: Class C

7. Cultural and Historic

This river corridor contains cultural sites of state and local significance that are eligible for the NRHP. Mississippi period sites Tyger Village contain significant information pertaining to the Mississippi Period ceramic sequence that is poorly defined for this portion of the state. Important historic period sites include the 18th and 19th century Otterson's Fort and cemetery and an 18th –early 19th century blacksmith.

Rating: Class B