South Carolina TROUT FISHING

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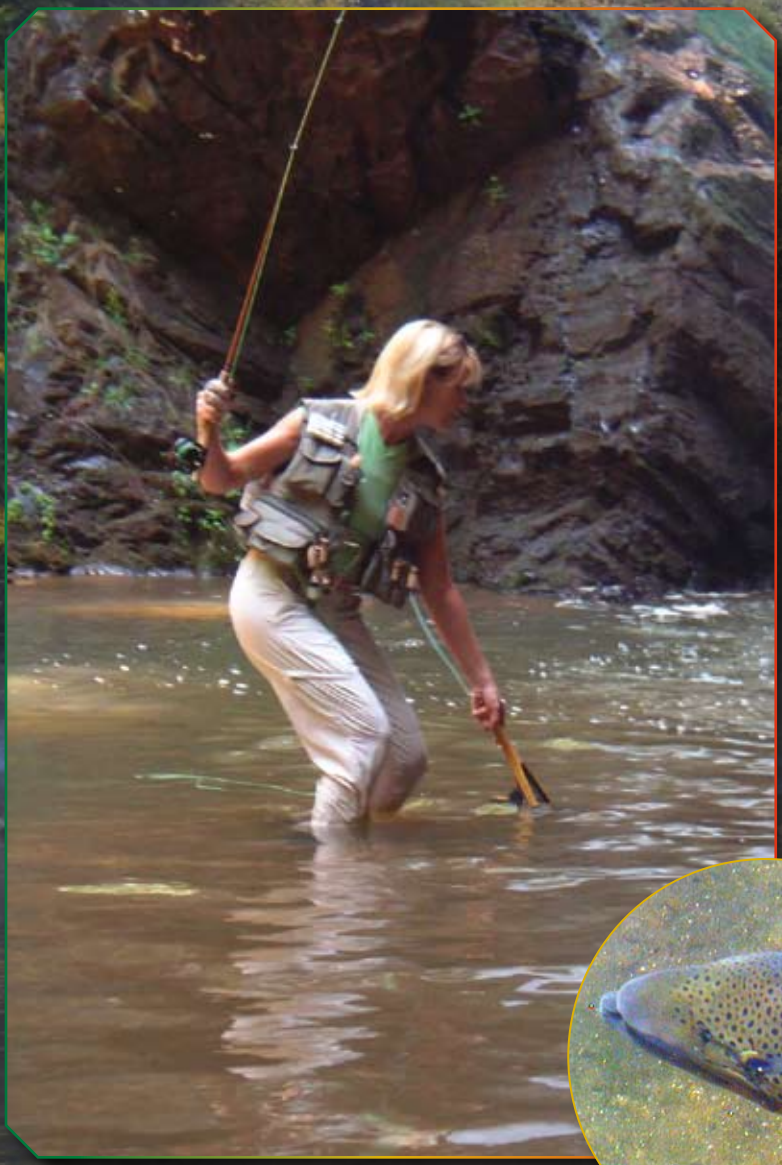

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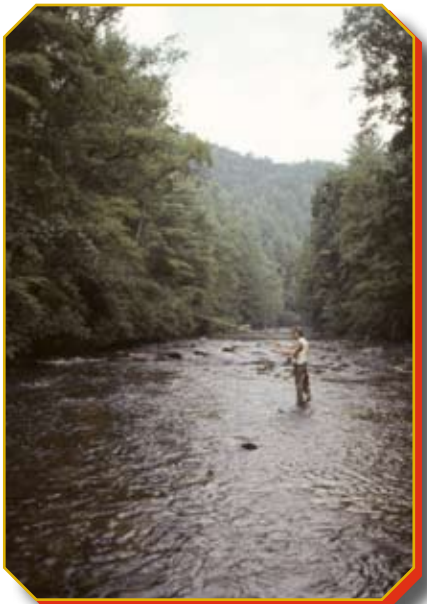
TROUT FISHING IN SOUTH CAROLINA

"Trout fishing in South Carolina?" Most folks don't think of South Carolina as a trout fishing state. Yet surveys of anglers indicate as many as 50,000 trout anglers take to the waters each year. These anglers contribute approximately $18 million to the state's economy as a result of trout angling. Blue Ridge headwater trout streams stretch across three Upstate counties. One large coldwater reservoir and numerous mountain lakes and ponds also entice trout anglers. Two tailrace fisheries, one in the Piedmont and another in the Midlands, accentuate the diverse trout resource in South Carolina. Another bonus, the majority of South Carolina's trout resources occur on publicly owned and accessible lands. These resources offer trout anglers varied opportunities, whether they are after the creel limit for the evening's meal, outsmarting that one special trophy, or testing the latest dry fly on a remote headwater.



Michael Foster

South Carolina harbors three species of coldwater trout: brook, rainbow and brown. Alternately described as the aristocrats of fishes and the high priests of mountain streams, these fish are revered by every sporting trout fisherman for their beauty and spirit.

South Carolina's trout fishing is primarily found in the northwest corner of the state where the Appalachian Mountains fall off the Blue Ridge Escarpment into the foothills of Oconee, Pickens and Greenville counties. Here, the tributaries draining the higher elevations comprise the mountain streams, which the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) manage for trout.

SCDNR biologists have developed year-round trout fisheries in or below three man-made reservoirs. In Oconee and Pickens counties the 7,500-acre Lake Jocassee is known as a trophy fisherman's dream, where two-to six-pound trout are taken frequently. Occasional catches of 10-pound trout reward the persistent angler. Spring trout fishing is also available in the tailraces below Lake Hartwell in Anderson County and Lake Murray in Lexington County.

While fishing the tailraces can be a fine experience, trout fishing in

South Carolina's mountains is truly a thrilling experience for the angler seeking a unique and different challenge. However, chances are you won't be disappointed, no matter where you go.

Seasonal trout fisheries are also available in smaller lakes in the mountains of South Carolina. During the colder months (November through April), several state and county park lakes, as well as Forest Service lakes, are stocked with trout. Lakes routinely stocked include Oconee State Park Lake, Burson's Lake (Oconee County), Pinnacle Lake (Table Rock State Park), and Pleasant Ridge County Park Lake (Greenville County).

HISTORY

Perhaps more than other wildlife, the trout's tenuous survival in South Carolina can be traced back to the effects of man's activities on the environment. Since trout only live in pure, cold water, they are highly sensitive to excessive silt loads, increased water temperatures and lowered oxygen levels. When improperly conducted, practices such as logging, agriculture, residential development, and dam and highway construction can effectively destroy many trout-producing habitats. At the same time, a growing number of anglers adds to the pressure on the remaining populations.

The "eastern brook trout" is the only species of the salmon and trout family native to the southern Appalachians and South Carolina. Though called a trout since its discovery by early European settlers, it is actually a char.

Biologists believe the brook trout first arrived in the southern Appalachians during the Pleistocene Epoch, which began about 1.8 million years ago and ended about 11,000 years ago. Prior to then, it occurred in the region from New Jersey north to the Hudson Bay. Aided by the cold climate created by advancing and retreating glaciers, the brook trout found a new home in the southern Appalachians.

The brook trout's security in the unspoiled mountain wilderness gradually changed with the influx of European settlers in the 1800s. Records from the 1870s note the presence of healthy populations of eastern brook trout in the upper Chattooga River. Land use practices of the late 19th and early 20th centuries forced the brook trout to retreat to the state's most remote headwaters.

Fortunately, the trout's decline did not pass unnoticed. The rainbow trout from the Western US and the brown trout from Europe were imported. These introductions had both positive and negative implications. On one hand, brown and rainbow trout were arguably able to occupy warmer water temperatures in the degraded habitat, and extend farther downstream of

historic brook trout habitat. Therefore, these introductions likely increased available natural trout waters, alerted conservationists to protect the trout's habitat, and helped create the vast southern Appalachian trout resource anglers enjoy today. On the other hand, the introduction of non-native trout resulted in the displacement of brook trout from their native range, in many cases.

MANAGEMENT

Since South Carolina has only a comparatively small amount of water suitable for trout management, there is very little room to make mistakes. With the help of a supportive public, over the years, the trout resource and trout fishing have been preserved.

Trout management is defined as any activity having a positive impact on the well being of the trout resource, such as habitat protection and management, population management, regulations, stocking and research. Habitat preservation is the foundation of successful trout management. Every mile of natural stream lost to impoundments, every degree that habitat alteration increases water temperature, and every activity that increases the silt load in streams, means less habitat and less trout. Through public education and outreach, habitat protection and restoration, and population monitoring and management, trout managers are trying to reverse errors of the past. Private landowners of trout streams are encouraged to contact local SCDNR biologists for information and to learn more about SCDNR programs for protecting and improving trout habitat.

Philip Jones

STOCKING

Leo Rose

In the early 1930s, the SCDNR and US Fish and Wildlife Service began trout culture and stocking programs. Managers concentrated on stocking fingerling size trout, in the early years, in an attempt to reestablish sustaining trout populations or to establish put-grow fisheries where natural trout reproduction was limited. As the program evolved in the 1950s and 1960s, the S.C. Wildlife and Marine Resources Department (today's SCDNR) began an extensive trout stocking program to provide more trout fishing opportunities for the angler. This program included expanding trout management in seasonal, hatchery-supported mountain trout waters by stocking more catchable size trout. The SCDNR now annually stocks approximately 500,000 fingerling and catchable size brook, brown and rainbow trout. Approximately fourteen mountain streams are stocked on a regular basis with catchable size (9-12 inch) trout from March through June and again during October and November. Additional backcountry streams are stocked less frequently (seasonally) to maintain good trout fishing. These streams are typically located in remote settings.

Water temperatures in receiving waterbodies and available fish largely influence stocking during July through September. Over 300,000 catchables are distributed under this program annually along with as many as 100,000 fingerlings.

Leo Rose

SCDNR does not release the time and location of stocking runs. These efforts are aimed toward perpetuating South Carolina's trout resource and providing a satisfactory angling experience for the sportsman. Healthy trout fisheries are the priceless reward for all South Carolinians for proper trout management. To see a weekly trout stocking summary, visit *http://www.dnr.sc.gov/fish/stocking/results*.

WALHALLA FISH HATCHERY

The Walhalla Fish Hatchery, located in northern Oconee County, SC, raises brook, brown and rainbow trout for stocking the state's public waters in support of recreational fishing. Most of the trout are cultured to a catchable size of 9-12 inches before they are released. Fingerling trout are also produced to enhance the trout fishery.

Hatchery trout are needed to maintain a sustainable trout population because of different factors in South Carolina trout streams. Generally, the streams of the Southern Appalachian Mountains are pristine and of good water quality. However, they are frequently not as productive as streams in other areas of the country. The northwestern corner of SC is situated along the southeastern geographical margin of trout habitat. South Carolina maintains some high quality wild trout streams, but its geographical limitation restricts the natural trout resource such that it does not meet the high demand for trout fishing in the state. Trout managers have successfully extended trout fishing opportunities by stocking trout in selected streams. This hatchery supported trout fishery is generally created to support the desired fishery in waters where the natural trout population is limited.

Leo Rose

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For more information about the Walhalla Fish Hatchery, trout fish culture, and visitors info, visit *http://hatcheries.dnr.sc.gov/walhalla/index.html*.

THE TROUT STREAMS

South Carolina's mountain streams offer almost any type of angling a trout fisherman may wish to try from fishing the "hatchery-supported" easily-accessed variety to fishing the wild populations in secluded headwaters. The major stream systems that provide good trout fishing are the Chattooga, the East Fork of the Chattooga, the Chauga, Thompson and the Whitewater in Oconee County; the Eastatoee in Pickens County; and the North, Middle and South Saluda rivers and Matthews Creek in Greenville County (see maps, beginning on page 32).

Please note that the SC Department of Natural Resources owns and/or leases land from various private and public owners, which is included in its wildlife management program. Known collectively as the Mountain Hunt Unit, the Chauga, Franklin Gravely and Caesars Head management areas comprise nearly 200,000 acres of publicly accessible mountain land. Trout fishermen should exercise caution by wearing international orange clothing during the hunting seasons (October-December) when hiking to and from the trout streams. Trout fishing access is also provided on state park lands, some of which are not included in the wildlife management area program. Parks with trout fishing access include Jones Gap and Caesars Head State Park in Greenville County, Table Rock State Park in Pickens County and Oconee State Park in Oconee County.

CHATTOOGA RIVER

Oconee County

A powerful, fast-flowing river that drops an average of 49 feet per mile, the Chattooga River is the state's best-known trout stream. Made famous as the site for the movie, "Deliverance" the Chattooga is heavily used by canoeists and rafters, as well as trout fishermen. Designated a National Wild and Scenic River in 1974, the Chattooga is one of the longest and largest free-flowing rivers in the Southeast. Beginning near the eastern flank of Whitesides Mountain, it travels southward 10 miles in North Carolina and then continues 40 miles as the boundary between Georgia and South Carolina. A national survey of Trout Unlimited members recently voted the Chattooga as one of the top 100 trout streams in the nation. Major roads that cross the river provide four access points: Burrells Ford Road north of Walhalla, SC; GA-SC Route 28; Earls Ford Road near Clayton, Ga.; and U.S Route 76.

The Chattooga offers diverse angling opportunities. The river supports a healthy population of wild brown trout in the headwaters

from the NC-SC state line downstream to the vicinity of Big Bend Falls. Much of this wild trout angling is contained in the Ellicott Rock Wilderness Area, and is accessible by a hiking trail from Walhalla State Fish Hatchery and Burrells Ford Bridge Road, both off SC 107. The area around Burrells Ford Bridge and Campground is also stocked with catchable trout from March through November. The reach from Burrells Ford downstream to the confluence with Reed Creek, Georgia is stocked once annually with sub-adult brown and rainbow trout by helicopter. This area provides excellent backcountry trout fishing for wild and stocked trout, and is accessible by foot from parking areas at the SC 28 Bridge, Thrift Lake Access/Nicholson Ford and Big Bend Road Access. Further downstream, the segment from Reed Creek to SC 28 is managed under a "Delayed Harvest" program. The section from SC 28 downstream to Long Bottom Ford Camp Access is stocked with catchable brown, brook and rainbow trout. This section is easily accessed via SC 28 and Long Bottom Ford Road. Boating is allowed downstream of SC 28. The section of the Chattooga from SC 28 to Earls Ford Road Access area offers good float fishing for stocked trout from fall through mid-summer for the adventurous angler. Anglers will also catch redeye bass and redbreast sunfish here.

EAST FORK OF THE CHATTOOGA

Oconee County

Another stream that offers excellent fishing opportunities is the East Fork of the Chattooga. With its good-sized pools and 25-foot average width, the entire length of the East Fork provides fine habitat for wild brown trout, as well as stocked rainbow and brook trout in the vicinity of the Walhalla Fish Hatchery. East Fork runs from the NC-SC state line by the Walhalla State Fish Hatchery and into the main-stem of the Chattooga. Access is via SC 107 at Sloans Bridge Recreation Area and Walhalla State Fish Hatchery off SC 107. A handicap accessible fishing pier, picnic facility, and restrooms are available at Walhalla Hatchery. The East Fork is entirely on US Forest Service property and is publicly accessible for its entire length. A hiking trail parallels the East Fork from the hatchery downstream to the main-stem of the Chattooga.

Other Chattooga tributary streams, which provide good backcountry fishing opportunities for wild trout include: Bad Creek, Indian Camp Creek, King Creek, Pig Pen Branch, Ira Branch and Swafford Branch. Whetstone Creek, Fall Creek, Long Creek and Opossum Creek are all tributaries, which are periodically stocked with small trout and provide trout fishing opportunities.

CHAUGA RIVER AND ITS TRIBUTARIES

Oconee County

The Chauga River is a beautiful stream with deep pools. The Chauga forms in the Mountain Rest Community just south of SC 28. The river flows south to the vicinity of US Highway 76 and eventually flows into Lake Hartwell. The section of the Chauga from Land Bridge Road (CH 196) south to the vicinity of Riley Moore Shoals Access is largely in public ownership (US Forest Service, USFS) and, therefore, is accessible to the public. The Chauga River is primarily a hatchery-supported trout stream, although some wild trout are present. During "stocking season," numerous public access areas are stocked with catchable trout along the length

Michael Foster

of the Chauga. Many access areas via county roads and USFS roads are available along the length of the Chauga. Paved-road access points are via Whetstone Road and Cassidy Bridge Road at bridge crossings. Gravel road access is also available on Land Bridge Road, USFS Roads 764 (Grapevine Road) and 738 (Hellhole Road). For those willing to hike into the Chauga backcountry, the reward can be excellent scenery, fishing and solitude. Some key points for hike-in access can be reached by taking USFS Roads 739D (Rhoda Branch), 742 (Double Branch), 741 (Spider Valley) and 2658 (Cedar Creek). Remote, backcountry areas of the Chauga are stocked each fall with sub-adult and catchable trout using a helicopter to provide quality backcountry angling opportunities.

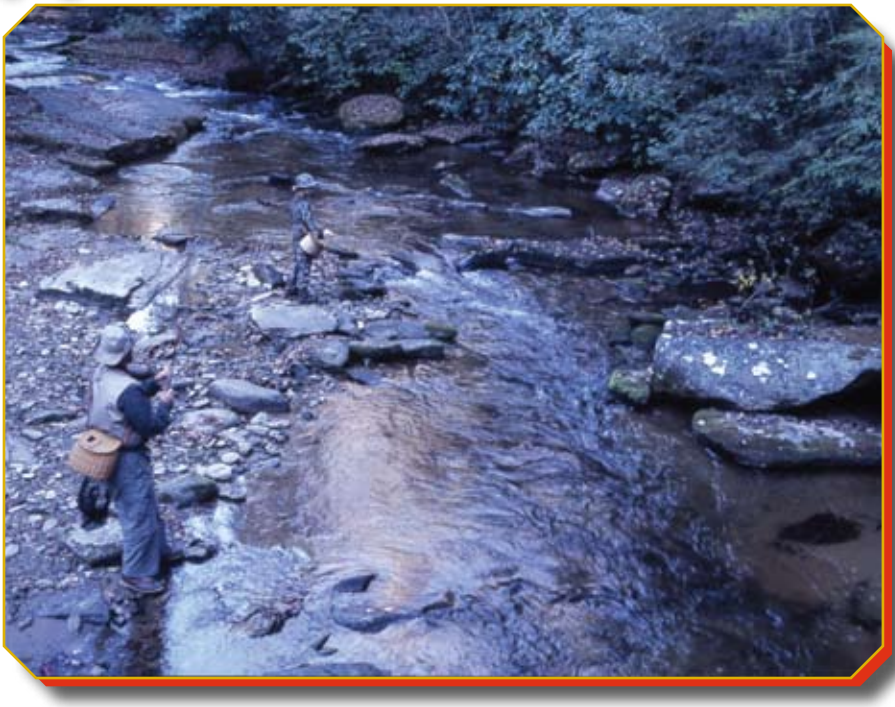
A number of headwater Chauga tributaries maintain good populations of brown trout. Many of these tributaries are on private land and can only be accessed with landowner permission. Tributary streams offering public access for brown trout fishing on USFS property include Stakey Creek, Bone Camp Creek and Cedar Creek. These streams are routinely stocked with fingerling brown trout. Double Branch is another small stream that provides good small-stream fishing for rainbow trout.

WHITEWATER RIVER

Oconee County

Phillip Jones

The Whitewater River may be best known as the source of Upper and Lower Whitewater Falls, a series of falls that drop 400 feet each, creating two of the most scenic waterfalls in the Southeast. This water system's energy causes many fast-flowing riffles, which provide good habitat for wild rainbow and brown trout. The segment of river above Lower Whitewater Falls offers excellent wild trout fishing. The entire reach of Whitewater River in South Carolina is protected in the Jocassee Gorges project and is accessible to the public. Access is via SC 130 to the Bad Creek Hydroelectric Facility. The gate at Bad Creek will open for entrance during daylight hours, and will open for departure at any time. Once in the gate, follow signs to the Whitewater River access parking area. There is a ½-mile hike from the parking access to the stream. The Foothills Trail parallels the entire length of the Whitewater River on the east side and



Michael Foster

the Coon Branch Trail parallels the river on the west side. Parking along the river on Musterground Road is prohibited.

EASTATOEE RIVER AND ITS TRIBUTARIES

Pickens County

Another beautiful stream, the Eastatoee River begins just above the North Carolina state line and flows through a secluded mountain gorge enclosed by hemlocks and hardwoods. The Eastatoee River and headwater tributaries support an excellent wild rainbow trout population on the Jocassee Gorges property. The upper section has fast pocket water with deep plunge pools providing good trout habitat. The terrain is very rugged and is best suited for experienced backcountry anglers. Hike-in access is available at Eastatoee Creek Heritage Preserve. Take US 178 north of SC 11 to the Horsepasture Road entrance to the Jocassee Gorges Property. Proceed approximately ¼-mile on Horsepasture Road to the Eastatoee Creek Heritage Preserve trail head. This trail provides a strenuous 2.3-mile hike to the lower gorge area, the most productive wild trout fishing area on the stream. There is a designated primitive camp along the river at the end of the trail.

Two and a half miles of the Eastatoee River are the center of a prime 375-acre natural area recognized by the SCDNR's Heritage Trust Program for its diverse plant communities and wild rainbow trout population.

The lower Eastatoee River from Lake Keowee upstream approximately 4 river miles (to the upper power line) is also located on Jocassee Gorges property. This section is routinely stocked with catchable trout along its length and maintains some larger holdover brown trout. Access is available at Cleo Chapman Road and Roy Jones Road. Improved access for those with disabilities is available at the Dug Mountain Access area at the Roy Jones Road bridge. Parking for walk-in access is available at SC 11, Peach Orchard Branch Road and across from the Vineyards Fire Department (under power line). All three parking areas are situated approximately 1-mile from the river.

The lower Eastatoee River is a state navigable stream (wade fishing allowed with legal access) from its confluence with Mill Creek downstream to Lake Keowee.

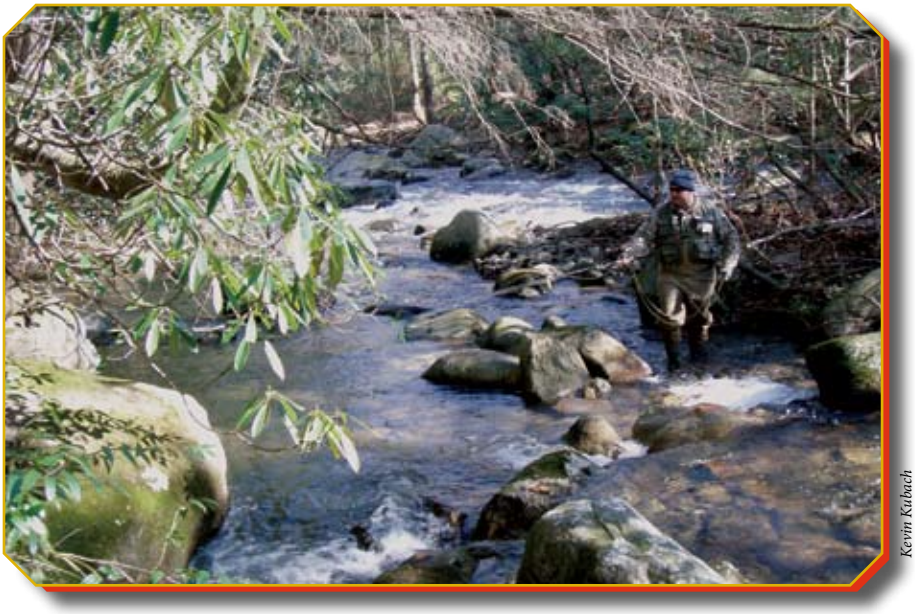
The vast majority of Eastatoee headwater tributaries are publicly accessible via the Jocassee Gorges property. These headwater tributaries primarily harbor wild rainbow trout. Tributary streams of note for fishing include Abner Creek, Dogwood Creek, Side-of-Mountain Creek, Rocky Bottom Creek, Big Laurel Creek and Reedy Cove Creek. A detailed map and more information about the Jocassee Gorges property is available to aid access to these waters at *www.dnr.sc.gov/managed/wild/Jocassee*.

SALUDA RIVER AND ITS TRIBUTARIES

Greenville County

In South Carolina, the Middle Saluda River begins above Caesars Head near US 276 and tumbles downstream through the Mountain Bridge Wilderness approximately 5 miles to Jones Gap State Park. This superbly scenic stream plunges almost 1,000 feet in five miles. The Middle Saluda River was designated the first SC Class I Natural River under the 1974 Scenic Rivers Act. The Middle Saluda runs through a mountain gorge known as Jones Gap State Natural Area, one of the state's genuine wilderness parks. A trail runs parallel to the river, providing not only angling access along the river's length but also a scenic hike among wildflowers, hardwoods and rock outcrops. A small river with swift, rapidly moving pocket water, this tributary is predominantly a wild rainbow trout stream, but also supports a fair brown trout population in its lower reaches. Occasional catches of brook trout occur as a result of fish moving down from tributary streams.

Access to the upper portion is off US 276 just above Caesars Head State Park. The river trail leaves a roadside parking area. Access to the lower portion is via River Falls Road off SC 11 west of Cleveland. A daily use fee is required at this access area. A 1.5-mile section of the Middle Saluda below the Jones Gap State Park Office is leased by the SCDNR from a private



Kevin Kubach

landowner. Public access to this quality trout water is available on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays on a first-come quota system. All trout caught in this segment must be released. This intensively managed section provides excellent angling for larger wild trout.

The lower reaches of the Middle Saluda River near SC 11 are stocked with catchable trout during Spring and Fall. Parking for stream access is available at SC 11 and at the intersection of River Falls Road and SC 11 (parking behind the country store). The Middle Saluda is navigable (wade fishing allowed with legal access) from its confluence with Oil Camp Creek downstream.

The South Saluda River from the Table Rock Reservoir down to the Blythe Shoals area (S Blythe Shoals Road) and the North Saluda River from the North Saluda Reservoir down to Goodwin Branch both offer good fishing for stocked trout. However, the majority of the property is in private ownership and anglers should respect private property owners by obtaining legal access before fishing. Access points are available off SC 11 on both streams. The South Saluda River is classed state navigable from SC 8 downstream and the North Saluda River is classed navigable from Callahan Mountain Road downstream. Wade fishing in the state navigable portions is allowed with legal access into the stream.

The North and South Saluda rivers and tributaries on the Greenville Watershed are not open to public fishing.

OTHER STREAMS

Oconee County

The Thompson River Gorge and its colorful wild brown trout in the heart of the Jocassee Gorges natural area will challenge the most skilled and adventurous trout angler. Thompson River can be accessed on the lower end of the gorge via boat across Lake Jocassee, or seasonally on Musterground Road through the Bad Creek Hydroelectric Facility (see Whitewater River section). The Musterground Road is open in the spring from March 20 through May 20, and in the fall from September 15 through January 1. All trout transported across Lake Jocassee MUST comply with Lake Jocassee length and creel limit restrictions. To see a current copy of the South Carolina Rules and Regulations, visit *www.dnr.sc.gov/regulations*.

Other Jocassee Gorges streams worthy of mention include Devils Fork Creek, Howard Creek, Limberpole Creek, Corbin Creek, Wright Creek and Coley Creek. These streams all harbor rainbow trout and are accessible by foot off SC 130 or through the Bad Creek Project off 130.

A number of headwater trout streams are found in the Little River Drainage; one of the largest streams is Cheohee Creek. The 1-mile reach of Cheohee Creek on Piedmont Forestry and Education Center, accessed via Cheohee Valley Road off SC 11, is managed as a delayed harvest stream. This stream segment is open for fishing on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday from November 1 through May 14 and from June 15-22 each year. The headwater reaches and tributaries of Cheohee Creek on USFS property offer good wild rainbow trout fishing for the backpack angler. White Rock, Bee Cove, and Wilson Creek area in the headwaters of Cheohee Creek are best accessed by four-wheel drive or foot on Bee Cove Road (USFS 702) off SC 107 just north of Walhalla State Hatchery, and then by hiking forest roads. Other Little River streams include Moody, Cantrell and Tamassee Creeks for wild rainbows, and Townes and Crane creeks for wild brook and brown trout.

Brasstown Creek above Brasstown Falls (on USFS property) and the lower reach of Brasstown Creek, on Brasstown Creek Heritage Preserve, are stocked with catchable trout prior to the Spring.

Pickens County

Laurel Fork and Cane Creek, both good backpack trout streams, are on the east side of Lake Jocassee. Access is via Jocassee Gorges, Horsepasture Road off US 178 or Shooting Tree Road off Cleo Chapman Road (via US 178). Two additional Jocassee Gorge streams that offer good wild trout fishing are Emory and Willis creeks. Access is via US 178 to the Camp Adger Road access to Jocassee Gorges.

Greenville County

Greenville County maintains several excellent headwater streams for those willing to hike into remote back country. West of US Highway 276 near the community of Caesars Head is Matthews Creek, a small stream that plunges over the magnificent Raven Cliff Falls near Caesars Head State Park. Matthews Creek harbors one of South Carolina's best wild rainbow trout populations, providing some fine fishing for the angler who likes both good sport and seclusion. Access to upper Matthews Creek (above falls) is by foot from the overlook parking area above Caesars Head Park on US 276. Hike-in access to the area below the falls is available by foot from a parking area at Asbury Hills Camp during spring, fall and winter. No public access is allowed during camp sessions (June through August).

In addition, east of US 276, Oil Camp, Falls, Headforemost and Gap creeks offer other wild trout fishing options in Greenville County.

The South Pacolet River, on Chestnut Ridge Heritage Preserve, is also stocked with catchable trout prior to the spring.

Please note that these streams and both reservoirs in the Greenville Watershed, including Table Rock and North Saluda (Poinsett), are closed to trout fishing.

LAKE JOCASSEE

One of South Carolina's best-known trout resources is Lake Jocassee, a 7,500 acre Duke Energy reservoir located in the state's northwestern corner in Oconee and Pickens counties. The second highest dam in the eastern United States, the 385 foot wall backs the reservoir into the gorges and coves of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Reaching elevations as high as 3,000 feet, the mountains surrounding the lake are part of a protected watershed managed by SCDNR and Duke Energy. SCDNR biologists first began managing Lake Jocassee as a trout fishery in 1972. Since that time, a very popular trout fishery has developed with quality size rainbow and brown trout being routinely caught. The average rainbow trout caught in Lake Jocassee weighs almost 3 pounds with the average brown trout weighing 4-5 pounds. State records for both species, 17 pounds 9.5 ounces for brown trout and 11 pounds 5 ounces for rainbow, were caught from Jocassee. Lake Jocassee also provides good fishing for largemouth bass, smallmouth bass and bream (sunfish).

Lake Jocassee offers the visitor natural beauty, as well as fine fishing. While the shoreline ranges from sheer cliffs to deep coves with hidden waterfalls, forests around the lake reflect the colors of the seasons and harbor black bear, bald eagle, wild turkey and deer. The angler willing to undergo rugged hiking conditions, can choose a feeder stream, tie up his boat, hike upstream

Michael Foster

and fish the beautiful waters above the lake. Access to Lake Jocassee, lodging (villas) and camping opportunities are provided at Devils Fork State Park and at nearby Keowee Toxaway State Park. For more information on state parks, visit *www.southcarolinaparks.com*.

Despite its somewhat remote location, the lake has three paved access areas that include boat launching ramps and parking facilities. Jocassee is only five miles from the Cherokee Foothills Scenic Highway (SC 11), less than an hour's drive from I-85, approximately three hours from Columbia, SC, and two hours from Atlanta, Georgia. Jocassee Lake fishing maps are available at most local bait and tackle stores in the area.

THE TAILWATERS

The SCDNR also manages the tailwaters below Lake Hartwell Dam and Lake Murray Dam where deep coldwater discharges provide suitable habitat for trout.

ANDERSON COUNTY

Lake Hartwell Tailwater (Savannah River)

Located on the Georgia-South Carolina state line in the northwestern corner of the state, the Lake Hartwell tailrace is stocked primarily with adult rainbow trout from March to June by SCDNR and GADNR. Releases are primarily confined to the river recreation areas located off SC 29 on either side of the river. A fishing trail and three fishing piers, one being mobility impaired, are located along the river on the South Carolina side. Two fishing piers are located on the Georgia side. Wading in the tailwater is permitted, but exercise extreme caution when doing so. The rocks are very slippery and dangerous and the water is subject to rapid rise and turbulence when the power generators are operating. A horn is sounded before generation begins. Fishing the Hartwell tailwater is best during non- or low-generation times when flows are low. The generation schedule can be obtained from the US Army Corps of Engineers by dialing a toll free number: 1-888-893-0678 or visiting *www.sas.usace.army.mil/lakes/hartwell/*.

The stocked trout often disperse upstream and downstream from the stocking points, so fishermen should certainly not confine angling to immediate stocking sites. Occasionally, trophy-size trout are caught in the immediate tailwater and downstream in the headwaters of Lake Russell.

The Hartwell tailwater can be reached by taking SC 29 out of the Anderson area. Fishing supplies and motels are available in nearby Anderson, and an excellent campground is located near the dam at Sadler's Creek State Park. Additional information can be obtained by visiting www.sas.usace.army.mil/lakes/hartwell/.

LEXINGTON COUNTY

Lake Murray Tailwater (Lower Saluda River)

The Lake Murray tailwater is a 10-mile-long section of river located east of Columbia in Lexington County at the center of the state. This tailwater is stocked with rainbow and brown trout from December through April. The tailwater is also stocked by helicopter each winter. The higher gradient shoal areas provide the popular trout-fishing spots. The majority of trout caught in the tailwater have been stocked during recent months; however, large holdover trout are not uncommon. Stocked trout grow rapidly in the Lower Saluda and trophy trout are occasionally taken. Considerable caution is required when fishing these waters because of severe water fluctuations. Public access to the river is very limited. Two boat launching ramps are located off Bush River Road and Corley Mill Road about two miles below the dam. A canoe launch is located at Hope Ferry Landing.

Michael Foster

Fishing supplies, lodging and campgrounds are available at many marinas located along Lake Murray. For a map of Lake Murray or information on generation schedules, contact the S.C. Electric and Gas Company offices, c/o Land Department or Lake Murray Management, P.O. Box 764, Columbia, SC, 29218, call (803)217-8399, or visit *www.sceg.com*.

KNOW YOUR QUARRY

THE BROOK TROUT

Salvelinus fontinalis

The brook trout is a member of the genus *Salvelinus*, which contains salmonid species often called char or charr. Ranging from Georgia to the Artic circle, the brook trout is the only trout native to the southern Appalachians. Also known as the brookie, native, squaretail, speck or speckled trout, the brook trout's original haunts have diminished because of the deterioration of suitable habitat and the introduction of other non-native trout species.

Known for their distinctive color pattern, the adults are greenish with impressed lines or worm-like vermiculations on the back, top of head and dorsal fin, while the sides are speckled with bright yellow spots mixed with brilliant red spots on sky-blue halos. The olive-green background grades to bright yellow followed by brilliant red on the belly of the fish. All of the bright red ventral fins have a distinctive white stripe along the leading edge margined with black, typical of the *Salvelinus* genus.

Spawning in October and November in the spring seeps of feeder streams, brook trout grow very slowly in the confines of their small habitat. Because of the restricted environment in South Carolina, most never grow longer than seven inches, with few exceeding eight or nine inches in length. The current state record, 2 pounds 6 ounces, was a fish of hatchery origin, rather than a native brookie.

Though wary, brookies are often more readily taken than any other trout. The angler may choose from a wide assortment of baits and lures, including earthworms, spinners, spoons and flies. SCDNR stocks brook trout in some remote streams on a seasonal basis and in late winter and early spring put-take program stockings.

THE RAINBOW TROUT

Oncorhynchus mykiss

A native to the West Coast of North America from lower California to Alaska, the rainbow trout has been widely introduced throughout the southern Appalachians. In its native region, the sea-run (or anadromous) individuals are known as steelheads, while resident fish confined to fresh waters are known as rainbow trout. One of the most widely distributed trout species in the world, its adaptability to hatchery propagation is probably the single-most important factor determining its extensive use in stocking programs. Various strains of captive rainbow trout spawn at different times

of the year from fall to late winter. Therefore, by selecting different rainbow strains, with different spawning times, culturists can "program" grow-out to match stocking needs throughout the year.

A beautiful fish, the rainbow's name refers to its colorful pinkish-red band, which extends from its gill plate along its sides. Numerous blackish or brownish spots mark the back as well as the dorsal, adipose and caudal or tail fin. These spots are better developed on the tail fin in this species than on the brown trout. Spots on rainbow trout are generally small and very numerous, unlike brown trout which have larger less numerous spots.

Unlike the other two trout species in South Carolina, wild rainbow trout normally spawn in late winter to early spring, generally in February and March. During the first year, the young feed on insects and other aquatic life until they grow four to five inches long. Wild rainbow trout in South Carolina grow slowly. When they are two years old, they will grow to seven or eight inches; and at three, they'll grow to about nine or ten inches. In contrast, hatchery rainbow trout grow to about eight inches at one year of age, and by age two they are over 12 inches.

THE BROWN TROUT

Salmo trutta

Brown trout, also known as German brown or Loch Leven brown denoting the source of importation, were imported into the United States in 1883. During the late 1800s and early 1900s, this species was widely distributed throughout North America. The brown is the most prevalent species along the lower gradient mica sand streams along Chattooga Ridge in South Carolina.

The brown and the rainbow share some common characteristics in behavior, habitat and appearance but can still be easily identified as separate species. Adults of the brown trout may be distinguished from the rainbow by the absence of a reddish band along the sides, the presence of orange or reddish spots, sometimes with green margins, and the weak development or absence of dark spots on the tail or caudal fin. The brown trout typically inhabits lower gradient streams with good pool habitat and overhead cover. Brown trout are generally more tolerant of turbid, silted streams and generally out-perform rainbow trout in streams with heavy competition from other fishes. Many of the feeding habits of the two species are similar, although the brown is somewhat more nocturnal in its activities. The brown feeds heavily on insects as the other trout species do, but it is also more inclined to take fish, crayfish and salamanders. In some streams, the crayfish has been found to comprise half of larger wild brown trout's diet. Like the brook trout, the brown spawns in the fall from late October through November.

Brown trout are the favorite of many skilled anglers, not only because they tend to live slightly longer and grow larger than the other two species but also because they are the most difficult of all trout to catch. They take most types of lures and bait well, but these must be presented skillfully and cautiously. Since browns tend to use undercut banks, rock ledges, and fallen timber for cover, they are difficult to approach undetected. Brown trout fight very aggressively and tend to make long, forceful runs into deep pools when hooked. Brown trout aren't known for making aerial acrobatic leaps like the rainbow trout.

TROUT FISHING METHODS

South Carolina trout anglers use three basic types of fishing methods: live bait fishing, spinner lure fishing and fly fishing. While fishing with flies is preferred by many accomplished trout fishermen, the majority use a variety of bait, spinning lures or spoons. For photographs of some commonly used tackle, see pages 28 and 29.

The best conditions for catching trout generally occur from late March through early June and again in October and November when water temperatures are optimum. While winter fishing can be productive for the accomplished angler, challenges such as high water levels and cold water temperatures can reduce success. By late June, the water often becomes too warm and feeding decreases. In September, optimum conditions again develop and may continue well into November, unless it is unusually cold.

Trout fishermen wishing to improve their success need to keep one basic trait of trout in mind. Generally, feeding trout face into the current or upstream, the direction from which their food comes. Since trout station themselves at strategic locations that allow them to pick off food drifting in the current, one of the most important skills a trout fisherman can develop is the ability to read water.

Jerome Knap describes this skill in his book, ***Fishing Secrets***:

> *The next time you work a stream, take a moment to study the water carefully. Look for currents and eddies, deeper pools with shallow heads and tails, natural obstructions that divide the current, and riffles that produce oxygen. Then, think in terms of cover for a trout. Where would a trout be if it wanted to feed, yet remain hidden? When you have decided, place your fly, lure, or bait in such a position that it will pass close to the line, carried by the current. If a fish is there and feeding, your chances of a strike are good.*

To explore some suggested methods for taking South Carolina trout, the state's trout waters are divided into four categories: headwaters, streams, lakes and tailraces.

HEADWATERS

Fishing headwater streams is a lot like stalking deer because the water is so clear and the streams and pools are small. It requires the anglers to slowly and noiselessly approach the area they want to fish. Wearing camouflage or drab clothing that blends into the natural setting can help the fisherman remain concealed. Since these streams are often quite isolated, hike in access is often required. Studying United States Geological Survey (USGS) topographical maps can be very helpful in making a very successful fishing trip.

Because headwater streams are narrow and grown over with low vegetation, casting room is usually very confined. Under these conditions the best fishing tackle is a short ultra-light spinning or fly rod and reel, rather than a conventional rod.

Melissa Littleton

Ultra-light spin-fishing gear is manufactured to obtain the lightest weight possible and still maintain enough backbone to set the hook in a fish and play it. Spinning rods categorized as ultra-light are from 4 ½ to 7 feet long and from 1 ½ to 3 ½ ounces. The reels should weigh from 5 to 9 ounces, and the monofilament line should range from 2-to 4-pound test.

Several spinning lures work well with headwater trout, but the best seem to be any small, gold-bladed spinner like the Mepps, Panther Martin and Rooster Tail. Some headwater fishermen prefer to use live bait such as redworms, crickets, crayfish or small salamanders (spring lizards) on a No. 6 or smaller hook. While it's common practice to wade upstream for trout, some headwater anglers wade downstream so they can float their bait into small pools or under banks and overhanging branches.

STREAMS

Perhaps the most popular method for fishing streams is by wading upstream, using spinning tackle and bait. The most common baits used to catch recently stocked trout are manufactured baits (Powerbait), whole kernel corn, cheese or salmon eggs. Natural baits like worms, crickets, mealworms, grasshoppers and crayfish work well on stocked and wild trout. Many trout anglers use spinning tackle with an assortment of spinners or lures like the Mepps, Panther Martin or Rooster Tail, or they use conventional fly-fishing tackle with an assortment of dry flies, wet flies and nymphs.

Fly-fishing does not require a lot of expensive equipment. The beginner should start with a medium-action 8-foot rod, weighing between 3 and 3 ½-ounces, which breaks into two sections for carrying ease. The reel should be a medium-size, single-action crank reel with a DT6F and DT7F fly line.

Although fly line selection is a complicated science within itself, most fly-fishing outfitters can make it easy to understand. For starters, the size line to use on a particular rod is marked on the fly rods. In the case of the DT7F line, the "DT" means double tapered, indicating that the fisherman can use the other end of the line for the front end when the original becomes worn. The "7" means the line size, and the "F" means that the line floats. The angler can combine the DT7F line with 7 ½ foot 4X leader or a 9 foot 5X leader and be well-armed for fly fishing.

Selecting artificial flies is often another point of confusion, but generally for southern Appalachian mountain streams only a few patterns are needed. Flies are in four categories: dry flies, nymphs, streamers and wet flies. Dry flies float on top and imitate an insect that has emerged from below or fallen onto the surface. Nymphs are mostly fished near the bottom to imitate an insect in the nymph stage. Streamers are fished below the surface to imitate small minnows or large insects. And wet flies are fished beneath the surface to imitate emerging insects or insects being washed downstream. For information on suggested flies and nymphs by season for South Carolina streams, refer to the charts beginning on page 25.

LAKES

Lake Jocassee is one of the most outstanding trophy trout lakes in the nation. Successful fishing in Lake Jocassee depends on locating the depth at which the fish are feeding. During the winter, trout are likely to be found from the surface to about 100 feet. Locating the depth of schooling threadfin shad and blueback herring is the recommended approach for determining optimum depth to fish. In the early summer when surface waters have warmed, the trout are forced to depths between thirty and ninety feet. By the late summer, the trout are restricted to a vertical band of water from about sixty to a hundred plus feet. Studies have shown that trophy brown trout in Lake Jocassee are drawn to standing timber (submerged tree tops) in late summer. Deep-water fishing techniques around standing timber can be very tricky but productive.

The most successful fishing methods at Jocassee are bait fishing, deep spin fishing and trolling with downriggers, out riggers, planer boards or lead-core line. Night fishing between April and June can be productive in locations where baitfish (shad and herring) are abundant. Anglers often deploy lights to attract baitfish schools to the boat and fish herring, shad, minnows or night crawlers. Popular night-fishing spots for spring include the upper

tributary arms and in the vicinity of the Jocassee Dam and intake structures. Night fishing is especially productive near the intake structures when pump-back operations begin.

Dave Demarest

Bait fishermen cast their rigs out about fifteen to thirty feet and allow it to sink. When the bait sinks to the depth of the cast, it may be fished vertically for a period of time, or retrieved and the cast repeated. Lengths of casts should vary from fifteen feet to thirty or forty feet in an effort to find the trout. The strike often occurs as the bait sinks through the water at varying depths. Once fish are located at a certain depth range, some anglers use slip floats to control the depth of their bait in the desired range. Spin fishermen use a similar technique with lures that mimic shad and herring.

A most effective method of fishing for Jocassee trout is trolling artificial lures that imitate wounded threadfin shad or blueback herring. An old standby lure on Lake Jocassee is the Sutton Spoon. During the summer when trout are deep, lead core lines, planers, and downriggers are very effective in getting spoons and lures down to the right depth. These lures are available from bait and tackle dealers in the Lake Jocassee area on SC 11 or Jocassee Lake Road leading to the lake.

Because wind conditions can cause Lake Jocassee to be very turbulent, extreme caution should be exercised when boating.

TAILWATERS

Because angling methods on tailwaters are similar to stream fishing methods, learning to fish tailwaters is just as challenging, if not more so, as learning to fish any new stream. Trout fishing is usually best and safest when the discharge from the dam is low. Try the same flies, lures, and baits suggested for streams and lakes. A combination of boating and wading is often used on the Lower Saluda River (Lake Murray tailwater); however, anglers should be aware that public access is limited on this tailwater.

TROUT FLIES FOR SOUTH CAROLINA

Spring Fishing in SC – March to May

The best trout fishing generally occurs in low light hours near dawn and dusk. However, during the spring period, when water temperatures are optimum (52-62° F), trout fishing can be productive throughout the day.

Spring Nymphs, Wet Flies and Buggers

A variety of flies can be used during this time of year, beginning in early March. These flies are fished under the water surface and are usually weighted so they are close to the bottom of the stream. These flies include the Gold-Ribbed Hare's Ear, Pheasant Tail, Prince, Stonefly, Scuds, Woolly Worm, and Zug Bug (sizes 12-16) and brown and black Wooly Buggers (sizes 8 &10). For stocked trout waters try Y2K's, peach eggs and pink San Juan worm flies as these can be very productive, especially in off-colored waters. Concentrate on fishing deep, drag-free drifts near the bottom, unless rising trout are observed. Yarn, cork or putty strike indicators help anglers to detect strikes and catch more fish. This deep-water fishing advice is true year-round. As water temperatures rise into the 50s and 60s, shallower drifts can be productive. These flies represent a variety of underwater food found in the freestone streams of Upstate South Carolina in spring. Nymphs of the following dry flies should also be fished during this time, since hatches begin in late February to early March and continue throughout spring.

Dry Flies	Time	Sizes
Yellow Stimulator	March to June	14,16
Early Black Caddis and Stone	March	16,18
Little Blue Duns	March to April	18,20
Cream Caddis	late March to May	12,16
Quill Gordon Mayfly	March to mid-April	12,16
Grannom Caddis	April	12,16
March Brown Mayfly	mid-April to early May	12,16

General dry flies that usually work include the Adams, Elk Hair Caddis and Gnats in a variety of body colors. Check with local fly-fishing retailers for stream-specific advice.

Summer Fishing in SC – June through August

Summer fishing is best early in the morning (before 10 AM) and later in the day (5 PM until dark) and on cloudy or rainy days. Generally, the best hatches occur during these two time periods. Trout fishing during mid- to late- summer is often very slow. Anglers should check water temperatures

of the stream they intend to fish. Fishing is possible, but water temperatures above 70° F stress the trout and make them difficult to catch. Fishing is best very early in the morning or very late in the evening. Anglers should also concentrate more on higher elevation headwater streams, which maintain colder temperatures during this time frame.

Summer Nymphs, Wet Flies and Buggers

Similar fly selections can be used in this time period as in the spring. Nymphs of this type can often be fished in the middle to upper-water levels to imitate emerging nymphs that are hatching into the airborne, adult insect. A common technique is to use a dry fly, attach 2-3 feet of line to the hook bend, and use a "dropper" nymph on the end of that line. The dry fly will catch fish and will also act as a strike indicator for trout taking the nymph.

Hoppers, ants, crickets and beetle flies also work well during this time.

Dry Flies	Time	Sizes
Slate Drake	June	12,14
Light Cahill	June	12,14,16
Brown Drake	through mid-June	12
Hoppers (Brown and Yellow)	June to August	10, 12
Black Ant	June to August	14,16
Bee Imitation (wasp)	June to August	12
Japanese beetle	June to August	14

General dry flies that usually work include the Adams, Elk Hair Caddis, Stimulators, and Gnats in a variety of body colors and sizes from 14 to 20 during these months. Check with local flyfishing retailers for stream-specific advice.

Fall Fishing in SC – September to November

Trout fishing during this time is much like spring fishing without the large hatches of insects, but with enough insects to get the trout feeding before winter. Here, one can use all the flies from the spring and early summer timeframe. Trout feeding begins to increase as water temperatures cool. Continue to use terrestrials (hoppers, ants, crickets, and beetles) along with dry flies and nymphs.

Winter Fishing in SC – December to February

Winter fishing can actually be some of the best of the year for Southeastern trout anglers if they keep their flies "slow and deep." Trout are sluggish in water temperatures between 40° F and 46° F, and often rest on the bottom in the deeper, slower pools. Use enough split shot and a long leader to "dredge" along the stream bottom to increase your catch rates.

Strike indicators on the leader, near its connection with the fly line, will increase anglers' success at detecting subtle winter strikes. The best winter fishing time is the exact opposite of summer: fish from noon until 4PM, when the sun has warmed the water. In the dead of winter, cold air, snow, and freezing rain can dip water temperatures below 40° F, and trout are often too cold to feed consistently. Wait for a couple of bright, sunny days to heat up the water before going fishing.

Dry-fly anglers can have some occasional winter surprises. There may be hatches of blue-winged olive mayflies (sizes 18-22), small gray winter stoneflies (sizes 16, 18) and small dark caddis flies (sizes 16, 18) that can get trout to rise, if the hatch is heavy enough and the sun has warmed the waters. Again, anglers should concentrate their efforts on stream sections with a lot of sun on them. Fish will move into the slow, shallow, sunny waters along the bank to feed on dry flies and emerging nymphs.

Nymphs, Wet Flies and Buggers	Sizes
Hare's ear, prince, stonefly	14,16
Peach egg, Y2K, & hot pink San Juan worms	10,12
Woolly Bugger- brown, olive, black	8,10
Muddler minnow	8,10

General dry flies that usually work include the Adams, Elk Hair Caddis, Stimulators, and Gnats in a variety of body colors and sizes from 14 to 20 during these months. Check with local fly-fishing retailers for stream-specific advice.

TROUT FISHING LURES

Flies and Lures pictured are not to scale

STREAM FLIES & LURES

Black Ant
#16

Adams Irresistible
#14

Cream Caddis
#14

Black Caddis
#18

Hare's Ear
Nymph #14

Yellow Stimulator
#12

Prince
Nymph #12

March Brown
Mayfly #12

Elk Hair
Caddis#12

Lelands Lures
Trout Magnet Jig
1/64 oz.

Panther Martin
Spinner ¼ oz.

Panther Martin
Spinner ⅛ oz.

Rooster Tail
Spinner 1/16 oz. 1.77 g

Yo-Zuri Pins
Minnow Plug

Rebel Crawfish Crankbait

LAKE JOCASSEE LURES

Rapala Minnow Plug
XR-10

Rapala Jointed
Minnow Plug
J-9

Parachute
Adams Mayfly #14

Royal
Coachman Dry
#14

San Juan
Worm #12

Beetle #12

Japanese Beetle
#12

Yellow
Grasshopper #10

Muddler
Minnow #10

Black Wooly
Bugger #8

Rooster Tail
Spinner
1/16 oz. 1.77 g

Mepps Aglia
Original French
Spinner
1/12 oz.

Gitzit Small
Fry Spinner
1/16 oz.

Crystal River
Muddler
Spin Fly Combo
Size 10

Joe's Flies Black
Wooly Worm
Spinner
Size 8

Little Cleo
Gold Spoon
⅛ oz. 3.5 g

Little Cleo
Silver Spoon
¼ oz 7.0 g

Sutton 71
Copper
Silver Spoon
¼ oz

Devil's Fork
Flutter Special #3
Tequila Sunrise
Spoon

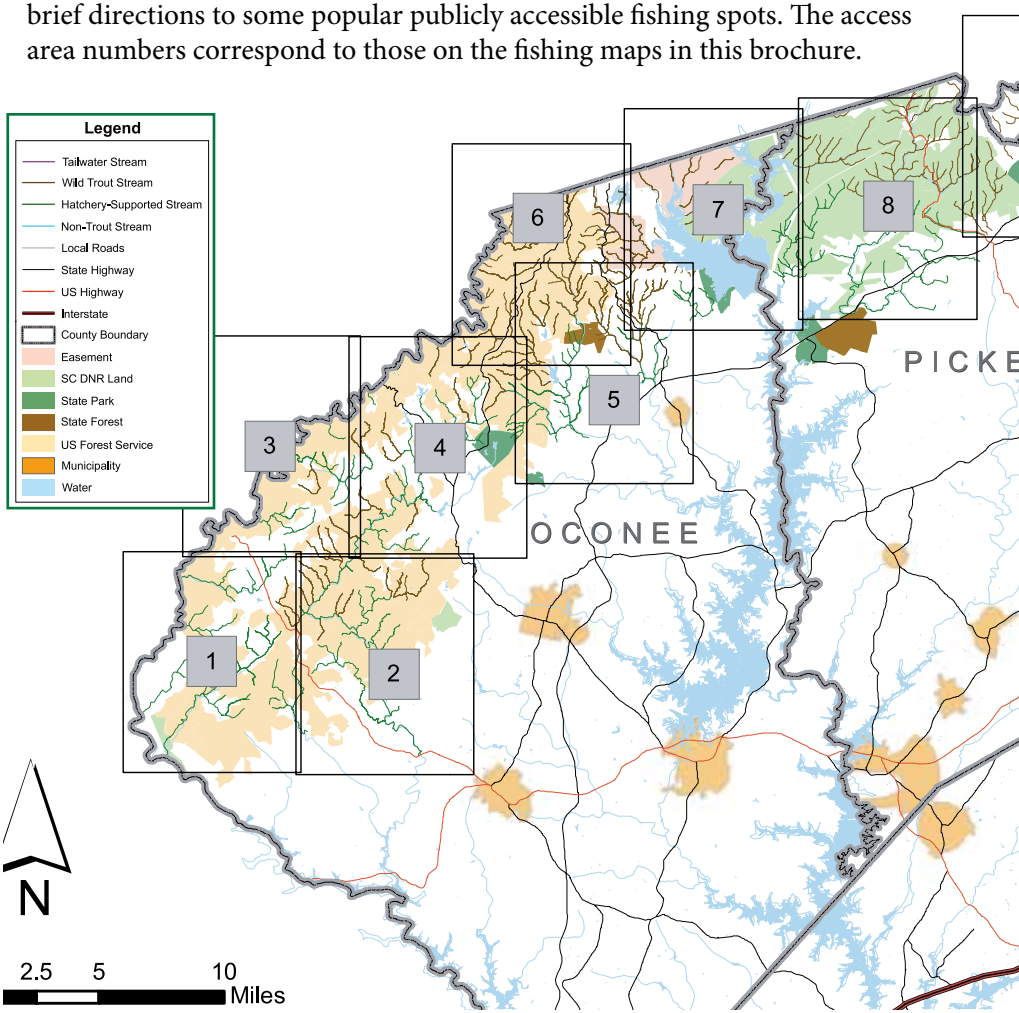
Devil's Fork
Flutter Special #3
Key Lime Spoon

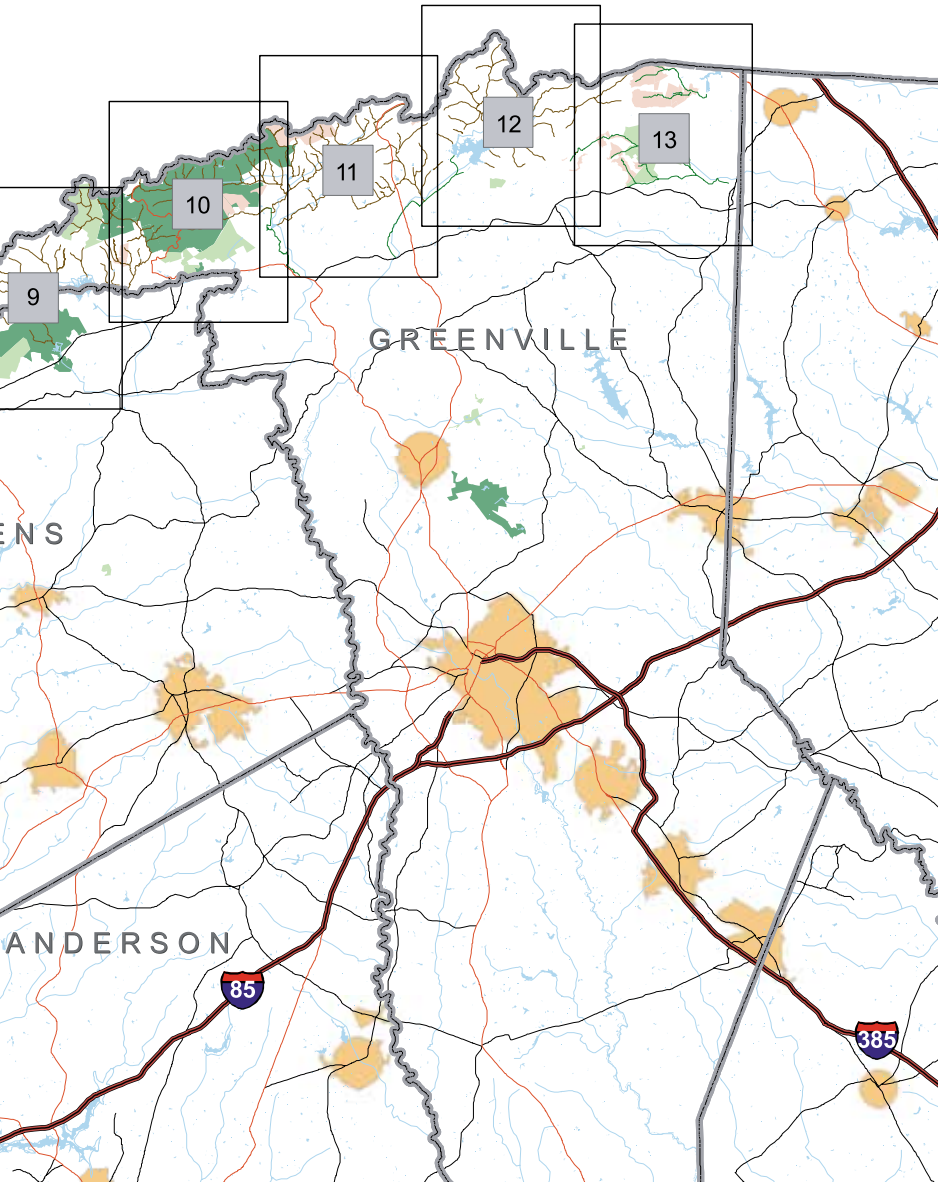
Devil's Fork
Flutter Special #3
Fire
Tiger Spoon

HOW TO GET THERE—ACCESS AREAS

A common question of anglers is about the legality of wading trout streams bordered by private land on both sides. In South Carolina, ONLY trout streams classified as navigable can be legally waded and fished with legal ingress and egress. Wading in non-navigable streams without adjacent landowner permission constitutes trespassing. The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control defines state navigability of streams in South Carolina.

Trout fishing in South Carolina may be limited geographically, but many streams do lie on publicly accessible property. The following list provides brief directions to some popular publicly accessible fishing spots. The access area numbers correspond to those on the fishing maps in this brochure.

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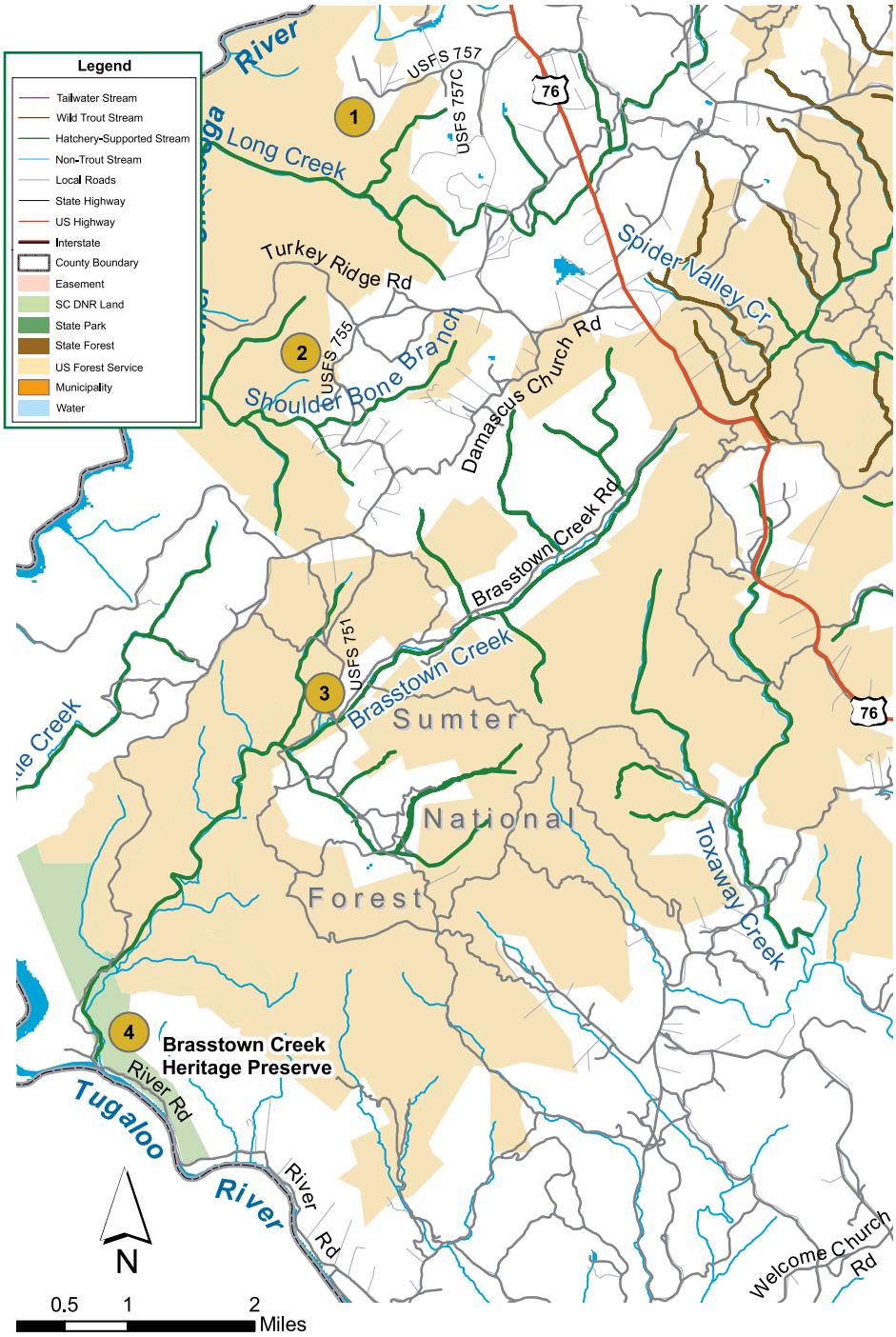
Legend
Tailwater Stream
Wild Trout Stream
Hatchery-Supported Stream
Non-Trout Stream
Local Roads
State Highway
US Highway
Interstate
County Boundary
Easement
SC DNR Land
State Park
State Forest
US Forest Service
Municipality
Water
River
Long Creek
USFS 757
USFS 757C
76
Turkey Ridge Rd
Spider Valley Cr
USFS 755
Shoulder Bone Branch
Damascus Church Rd
Brasstown Creek Rd
USFS 751
Brasstown Creek
Sumter
National
Forest
Toxaway Creek
Brasstown Creek
Heritage Preserve
River Rd
Tugaloo
River
River
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Welcome Church
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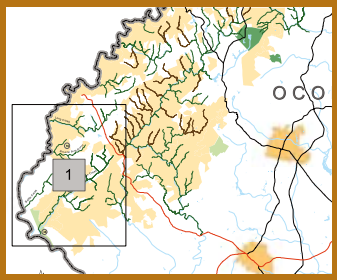


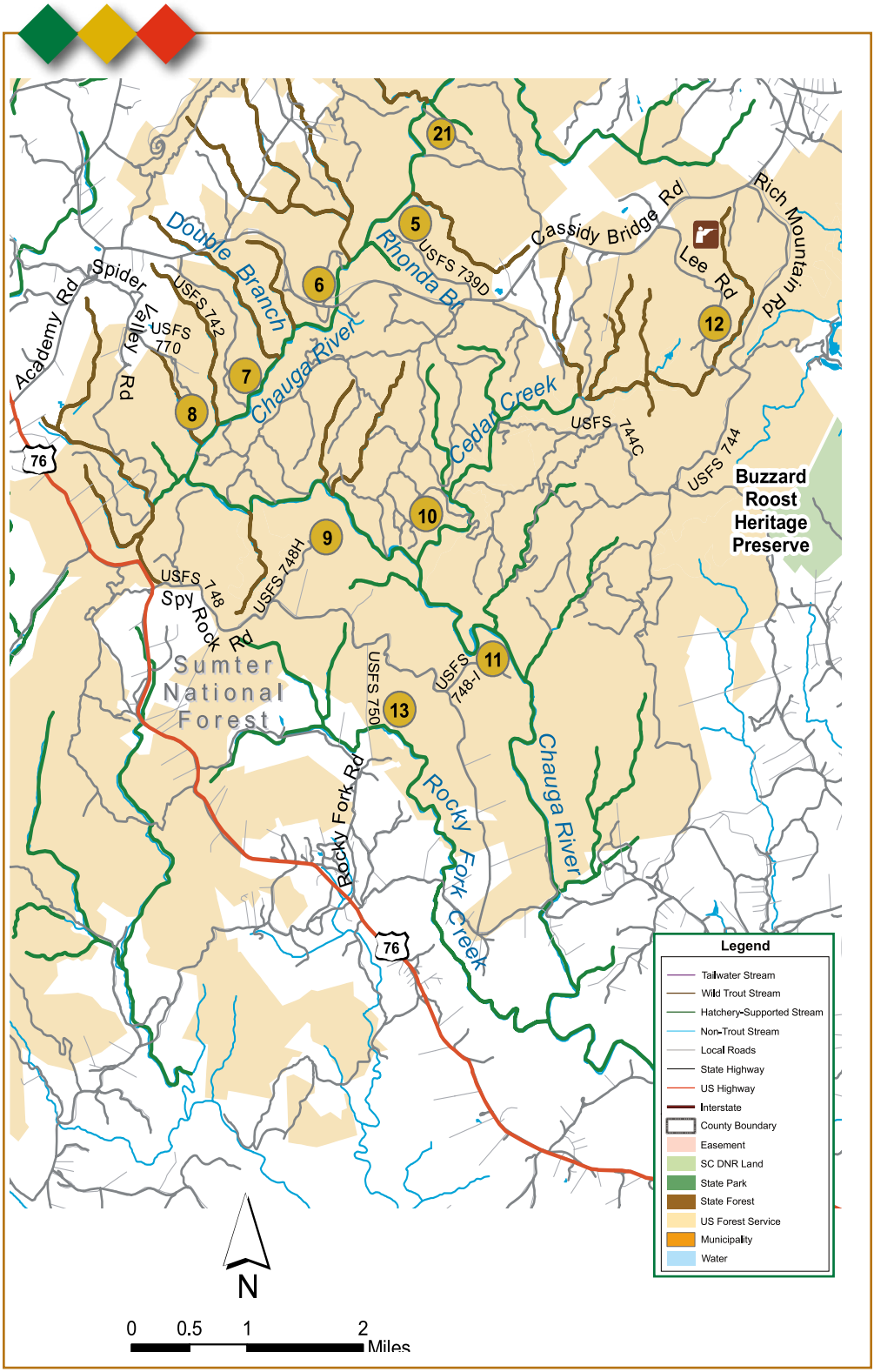
Map 1: Lower Chattooga River

1. **Long Creek:** From Westminster US 76W 15 miles. Left on Wolverton Mountain Road (FH111) 1 mile. Right on USFS 757 then left on USFS 757C. (1.5-mile hike to creek through wooded area, very difficult.)

2. **Shoulder Bone Branch:** From Westminster US 76W 13 miles to Long Creek Community. Left on Damascus Church Road 4 miles to USFS 755 (Turkey Ridge Road), 2 miles to trail head.

3. **Brasstown Creek (upper):** From Westminster US 76 W approximately 12 miles. Left on Brasstown Road 3 miles to bridge and Right on USFS 751.

4. **Brasstown Creek (lower):** Traveling west on US123 from Westminister continue 10 miles to turn right on River Road. Proceed 4.3 miles to Cleveland Pike Road. Turn left and go $^{1}/_{10}$ of a mile to turn right on Barton Creek Road. Proceed $^{8}/_{10}$ of a mile to Cooper Road. Continue to gate. Proceed on foot approximately 1 mile.


21
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Double Branch
Rhonda Br
Chauga River
Cedar Creek
Rocky Fork Creek
Chauga River
Cassidy Bridge Rd
Rich Mountain Rd
Lee Rd
Spider Valley Rd
Academy Rd
USFS 742
USFS 770
USFS 739D
USFS 744C
USFS 744
USFS 748H
USFS 748
Spy Rock Rd
USFS 750
USFS 748-1
Rocky Fork Rd
76
Buzzard Roost Heritage Preserve
Sumter National Forest
Legend
Tailwater Stream
Wild Trout Stream
Hatchery-Supported Stream
Non-Trout Stream
Local Roads
State Highway
US Highway
Interstate
County Boundary
Easement
SC DNR Land
State Park
State Forest
US Forest Service
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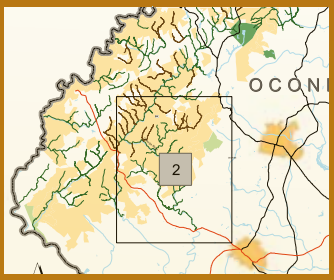


Map 2: Lower Chauga River

5 **Rhonda Branch:** From Walhalla SC 28 N 6 miles. Left on Whetstone Road 1 mile. Left on Cassidy Bridge Road 5 miles. Right on USFS 739D.

6 **Cassidy Bridge:** From Walhalla SC 28 N 6 miles. Left on Whetstone Road 1 mile. Left on Cassidy Bridge Road—5 miles to bridge (parking area on the right).

7 **Double Branch:** From Walhalla SC 28 N 6 miles. Left on Whetstone Road 1 mile. Left on Cassidy Bridge Road 6.5 miles. Left on USFS 742 (Double Branch Road). (¼-mile hike to river.)

8 **Spider Valley:** From Westminster US 76 W 14 miles. Right on Academy Road 1 mile. Right on Spider Valley Road. Left on USFS 770. (¼-mile hike to river)

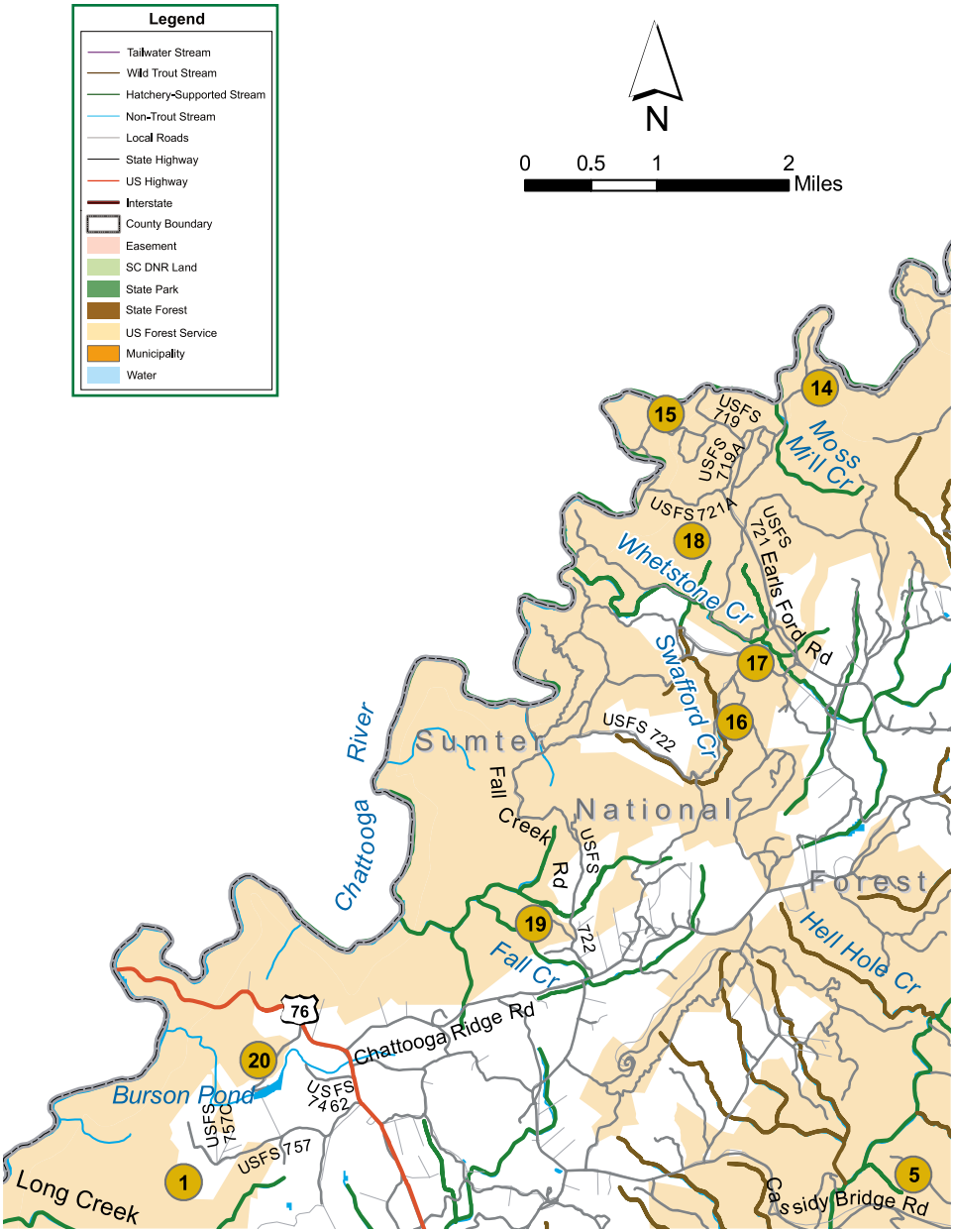
9 **Miller Field:** From Westminster US 76 W 11 miles. Right on USFS 748 (Spy Rock Road). Left on USFS 748H to gate. Hike logging road to river. (Strenuous 1.5-mile hike.)

10 **Lower Cedar Creek & Chauga River:** From Walhalla SC 28 N 6 miles. Left on Whetstone Road 1 mile. Left on Cassidy Bridge Road for 1 mile. Left on USFS 744 (Rich Mountain Road). Right on USFS 744C 2 miles to USFS 265B on right. (1-mile strenuous hike to the river.)

11 **Riley Moore Ford:** From Westminster on US 76 W 11 miles. Right on USFS 748 (Spy Rock Road). From USFS 748 (Spy Rock Road) to USFS 748I.

12 **Upper Cedar Creek:** From Walhalla SC 28 N 6 miles. Left on Whetstone Road 1 mile. Left on Cassidy Bridge Road 3 miles. Left to Cedar Creek Rifle Range.

13 **Rocky Fork Creek:** From Westminster on US 76 W 8 miles. Right on Rocky Fork Road 2 miles. Left on USFS 750 0.5 miles to creek.


Legend
Tailwater Stream
Wild Trout Stream
Hatchery-Supported Stream
Non-Trout Stream
Local Roads
State Highway
US Highway
Interstate
County Boundary
Easement
SC DNR Land
State Park
State Forest
US Forest Service
Municipality
Water
N
0 0.5 1 2 Miles
Sumter National Forest
Chattooga River
Moss Mill Cr
Whetstone Cr
Swafford Cr
Fall Creek Rd
Fall Cr
Hell Hole Cr
Burson Pond
Long Creek
Chattooga Ridge Rd
Cassidy Bridge Rd
Earls Ford Rd
USFS 719
USFS 719A
USFS 721A
USFS 721
USFS 722
USFS 722
USFS 757
USFS 757C
USFS 746
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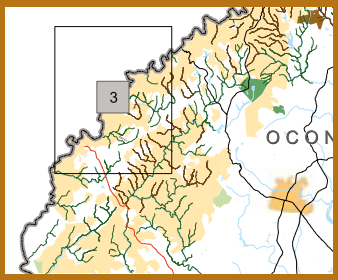


Map 3: Lower Chattooga River

1 **Long Creek:** From Westminster on US 76 W 15 miles. Left on Wolverton Mountain Road (FH111) 1 mile. Right on USFS 757 then left on USFS 757C. (1.5-mile hike to creek through wooded area, very difficult.) Also on map 1.

5 **Rhonda Branch:** From Walhalla SC 28 N 6 miles. Left on Whetstone Road 1 mile. Left on Cassidy Bridge Road 5 miles. Right on USFS 739D. Also on map 1.

14 **Moss Mill Creek/Battleground (Chattooga River):** From Walhalla SC 28 N 6 miles. Left on Whetstone Road turns into USFS 721 (gravel road). First right on USFS 719. First left on USFS 719A to parking lot.

15 **Earl's Ford:** From Walhalla SC 28 N 6 miles. Left on Whetstone Road turns into USFS 721 to parking lot.

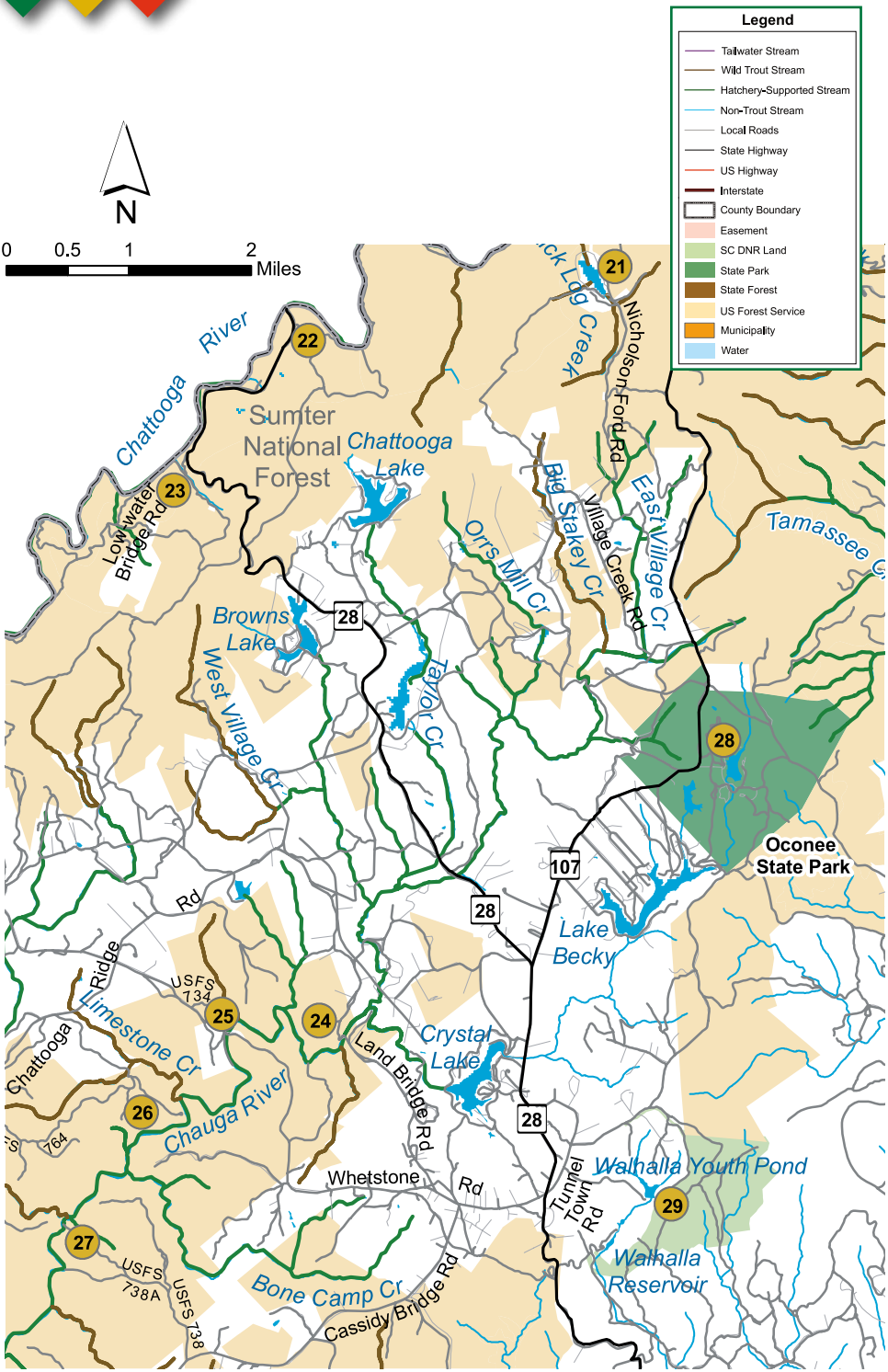
16 **Swafford Creek:** From Walhalla SC 28 N 6 miles. Left on Whetstone Road. Left on USFS 722 (Fall Creek Road). Right on USFS 722 to creek.

17 **Whetstone Creek:** From Walhalla SC 28 N 6 miles. Left on Whetstone Road. Left on USFS 722 (Fall Creek Road) to bridge.

18 **Whetstone Creek:** From Walhalla SC 28 N 6 miles. Left on Whetstone Road turns into USFS 721 1 mile. Left on USFS 721A at Horse Camp. (Hike logging road from cul-de-sac 1 mile to creek.)

19 **Fall Creek:** From Westminster US 76W 16 miles. Right on Chattooga Ridge Road 4 miles. Left on USFS 722 (Fall Creek Road) 1mile to creek.

20 **USFS Burson Pond (USFS):** From Westminster US 76W 16 miles to USFS 7462 on left to a large stone entrance gate on the left. ½-mile hike to the lake.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West Village Cr
Orrs Mill Cr
Big Stakey Cr
East Village Cr
Village Creek Rd
Nicholson Ford Rd
Tamassee Cr
Oconee State Park
Lake Becky
Crystal Lake
Land Bridge Rd
Limestone Cr
Chauga River
Chattooga Ridge Rd
USFS 734
USFS 764
USFS 738A
USFS 738
Whetstone Rd
Tunnel Town Rd
Walhalla Youth Pond
Walhalla Reservoir
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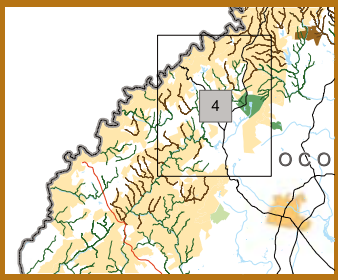


Map 4: Upper Chauga & Middle Chattooga River

21 **Nicholson Ford, Lick Log, Pig Pen Creek:** From Walhalla SC 28 N 10 miles. Right on SC 107 approximately 4 miles. Left on FH 102 (Village Creek Road). Right on CH 50 (Nicholson Ford Road), stay right to USFS parking area foot trail to Pig Pen Creek (strenuous ¾-mile hike) and Chattooga (strenuous 1 mile hike).

22 **Russel Bottoms and SC 28 Bridges at SC/GA state line:** From Walhalla SC 28 N to Chattooga River canoe launch, Russell Historic Site, and bridge at state line.

23 **Long Bottom Ford, Low-Water, Turn Hole, Big Island:** From Walhalla SC 28 N 15 miles. Left on Low-water Bridge Road (also known as Long Bottom Road) (primitive camping).

24 **Land Bridge:** From Walhalla SC 28 N 6 miles. Left on Whetstone Road 1.5 miles. Right on Land Bridge Road 2 miles to bridge.

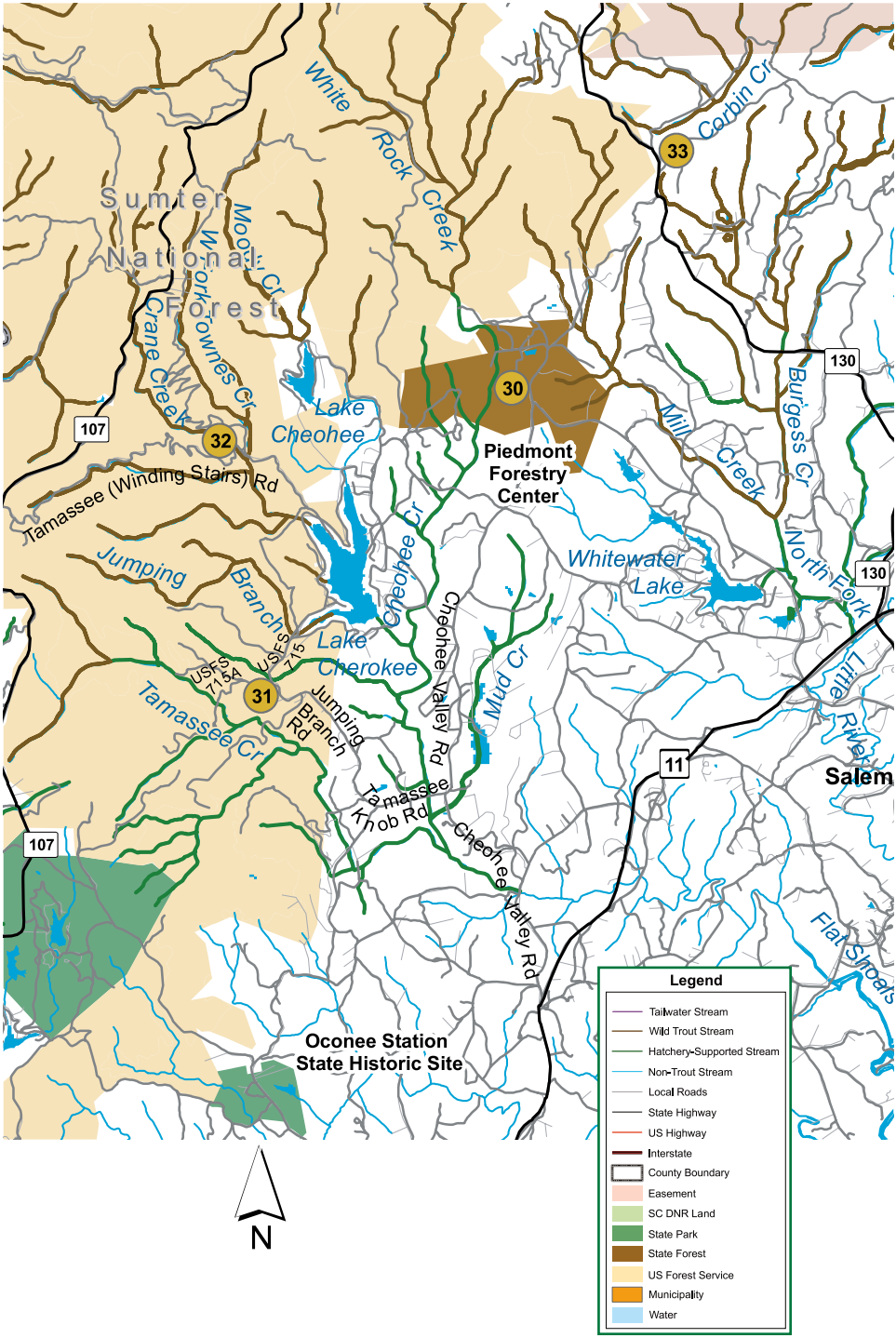
25 **Blackwell Bridge:** From Walhalla SC 28 N 6 miles. Left on Whetstone Road to bridge. Right into USFS 734 parking lot.

26 **Grapevine:** From Walhalla SC 28 N 6 miles. Left on Whetstone Road to 4-way stop. Left on Chattooga Ridge Road 2.5 miles. Left on USFS 764. Designated camping area. Handicap accessible.

27 **Hellhole:** From Walhalla SC 28 N 6 miles. Left on Whetstone Road 1 mile. Left on Cassidy Bridge Road 2-3 miles. Right on USFS 738. Left on USFS 738A.

28 **Oconee State Park Lake:** From Walhalla, take SC 28 10 miles to SC 107. Right onto SC 107 approximately 3 miles to the park entrance on the right. Follow signs to the swimming lake.

29 **Walhalla Youth Pond:** From Walhalla SC 28 N 6.5 miles to right on Tunnel Town Road. Pass county recycling center and take a right on the next gravel road. Park in designated parking area. Approximately 1 mile moderate hike to pond. A youth angler, kid 17 and under, must accompany all anglers under 65.



Sumter National Forest
White Rock Creek
Corbin Cr
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Moon Cr
Workstownes Cr
Crane Creek
Lake Cheohee
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Piedmont Forestry Center
Mill Creek
Burgess Cr
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107
32
Tamassee (Winding Stairs) Rd
Jumping Branch
Cheohee Cr
Whitewater Lake
North Fork
130
Lake Cherokee
USFS 715
USFS 715A
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Tamassee Cr
Jumping Branch Rd
Cheohee Valley Rd
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Tamassee Knob Rd
Cheohee Valley Rd
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Flat Shoals
Oconee Station State Historic Site
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Hatchery-Supported Stream
Non-Trout Stream
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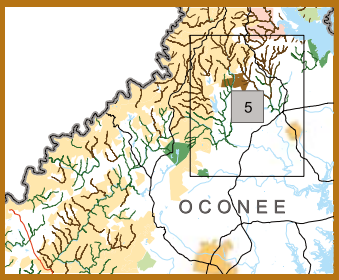
Map 5: Upper Little River Tributary

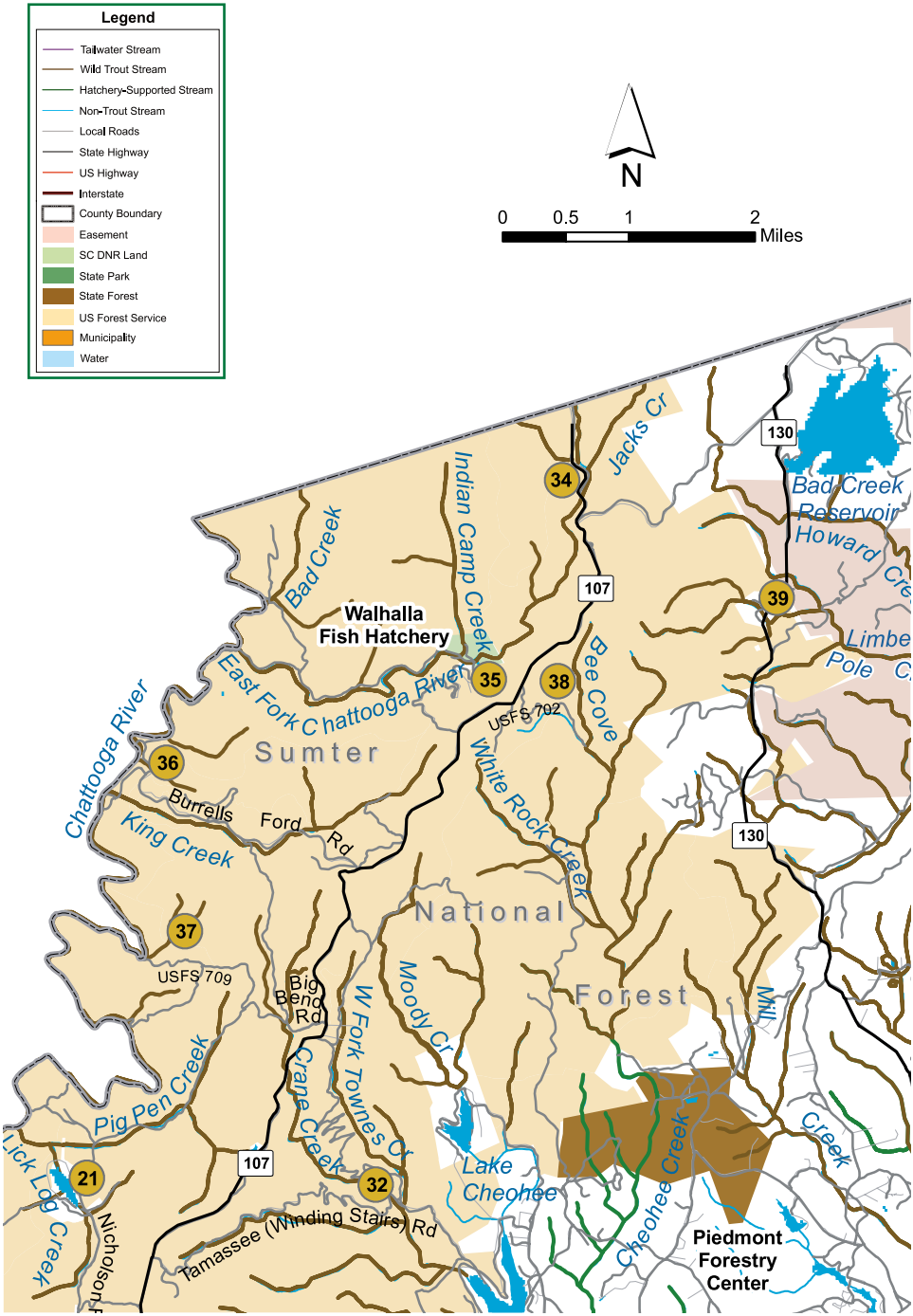


30 **Cheohee Creek:** From Walhalla, take SC 11 to a left on Cheohee Valley Road to Piedmont Forestry Center on the left. Park at office or hike from gate (if closed) to the river. Gate only open Monday, Wednesday and Saturday November-June. Special regulations apply. Handicap accessible.

31 **Tamassee Creek:** From Walhalla, take SC 11 to a left on Cheohee Valley Road. Left on Tammassee Knob Road. Right on Jumping Branch Road. Right USFS 715 to USFS 715A.

32 **West Fork Townes Creek, Lower Crane Creek:** From Walhalla SC 28 N 10 miles. Right on SC 107. Right on Tamassee Road to creek crossing. Note: Tamassee Road is also known as Cheohee Road or New Winding Stairs Road.

33 **Corbin Creek, Lower Howard Creek and Devils Fork Creek:** From intersection of SC 11 and SC 130 (Whitewater Falls Road) take SC 130 N 4 miles to gated road on the right. Hike unmarked path approximately ½ mile to Corbin Creek and 2 miles to Howard Creek and Devils Fork Creek. Stream is also accessible by boat on Lake Jocassee.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Fish Hatchery
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Indian Camp Creek
Jacks Cr
Bad Creek
Reservoir
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Chattooga River
Bee Cove
USFS 702
White Rock Creek
Sumter
National
Forest
Burrells
Ford
Rd
King Creek
USFS 709
Big
Bend
Rd
W Fork Townes Cr
Moody Cr
Mill
Creek
Pig Pen Creek
Crane Creek
Lick Log Creek
Nicholson
Tamassee (Winding Stairs) Rd
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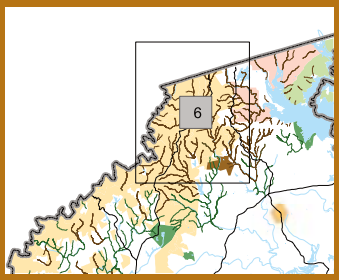


Map 6: Upper Chattooga Ridge

21 **Nicholson Ford, Lick Log, Pig Pen Creek:** From Walhalla SC 28 N 10 miles. Right on SC107 approximately 4 miles. Left on FH102 (Village Creek Road). Right on CH50 (Nicholson Ford Road), stay right to USFS parking area, foot trail to Pig Pen Creek (strenuous ¾ mile hike) and Chattooga River (strenuous 1 mile hike). Also on map 4.

32 **West Fork Townes Creek, lower Crane Creek:** From Walhalla SC 28 N 10 miles. Right on SC 107. Right on Tamassee Road to creek crossing. Note: Tamassee Road is also known as Cheohee Road or New Winding Stairs Road. Also on map 5.

34 **East Fork Chattooga River and Indian Camp Creek:** From Walhalla SC 28 N 10 miles. Right on SC 107 to Sloan Bridge Recreation area on left near NC/SC state line. Hike east on trail 1 mile to Indian Camp Creek (hike moderate).

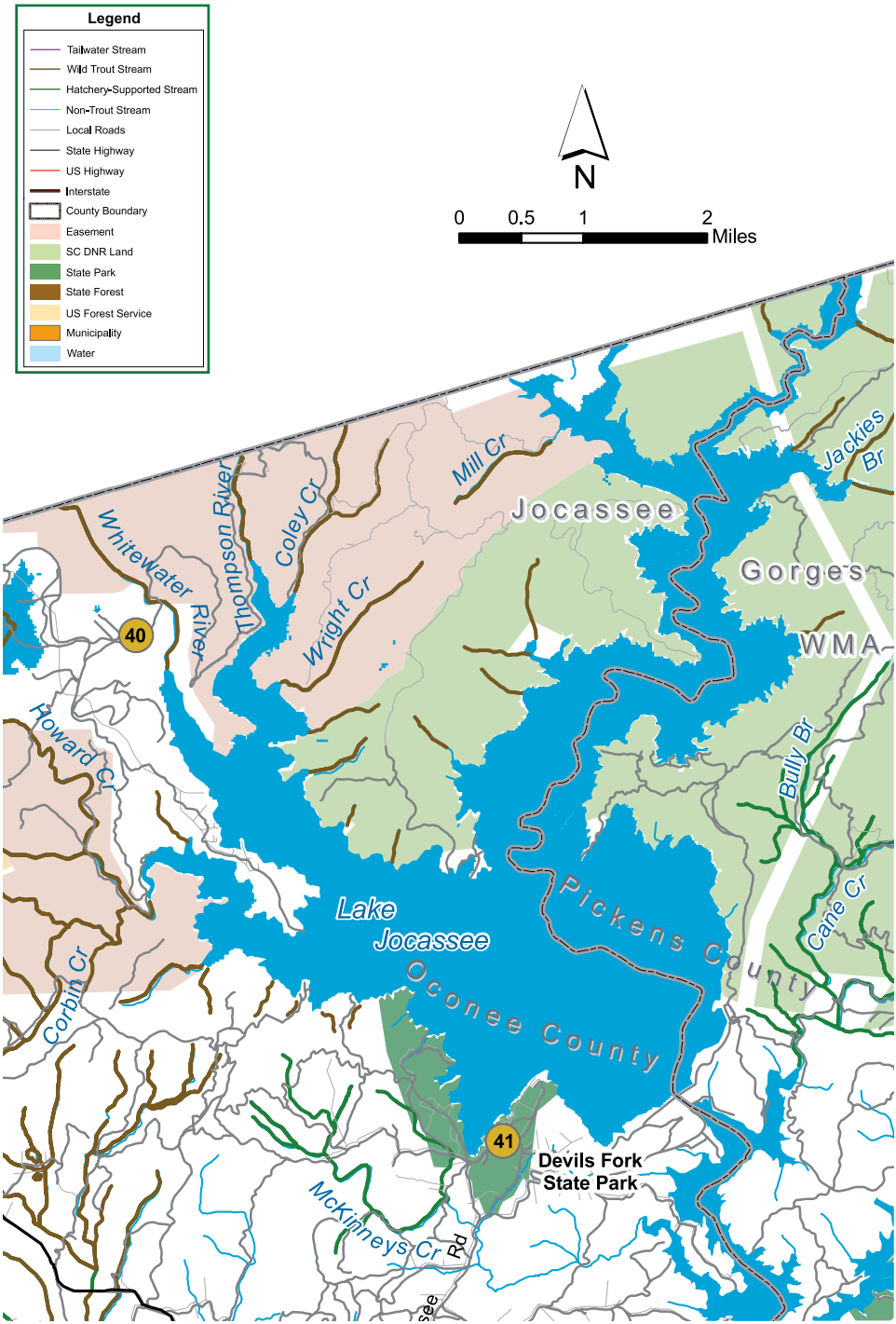
35 **East Fork Chattooga River, Walhalla Fish Hatchery:** From Walhalla SC 28 N 10 miles. Right on SC 107 approximately 13 miles. Left on Fish Hatchery Road.

36 **Burrells Ford Road:** From Walhalla SC 28 N 10 miles. Right on SC 107 11 miles. Left on USFS 708 (Burrells Ford Road) to campground or bridge. (Designated primitive camping.)

37 **Big Bend, Simms Field:** From Walhalla SC 28 N 10 miles. Right on SC 107 9 miles to Cherry Hill Recreation Site (improved camping). Left on USFS 709 Big Bend Road. (Strenuous ½-mile hike to river at Big Bend, and 2-mile hike to Simms Field.)

38 **Headwaters and Tributaries of Cheohee Creek:** From Walhalla SC 28 N 10 miles. Right on SC 107 just beyond Fish Hatchery. Right on USFS 702 (Rugged road strenuous 2-mile hike).

39 **Howard Creek and Limberpole Creek:** From SC 11 near Salem to SC 130 approximately 8 miles to gated road on the right just before water plant. Hike road 1 mile to Limberpole Creek or 2 miles to Howard Creek (moderate hike).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Oconee County
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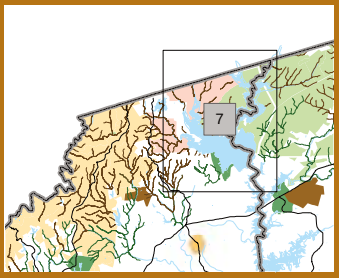
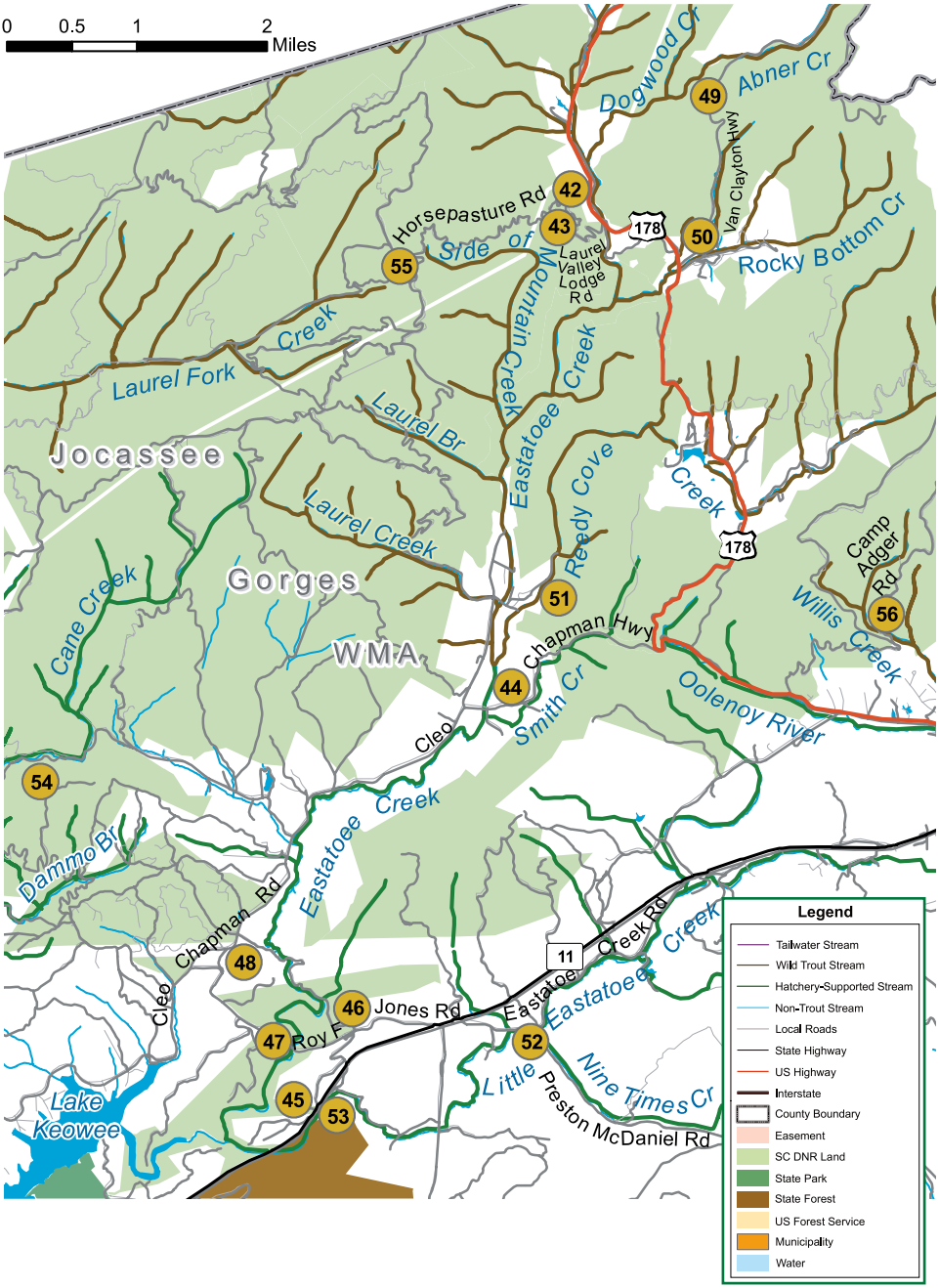
Corbin Cr
Bully Br
Cane Cr
McKinneys Cr Rd



Map 7: Jocassee Gorges

40 **Musterground, Bad Creek Area:** From SC 11 near Salem take SC 130 to Bad Creek Hydroelectric entrance on right. Enter Bad Creek plant 2 miles. Left on first paved road to large parking area ½-mile hike to Whitewater River. Take a right on Musterground Road next to the parking lot for Thompson River (approximately 4 miles), Coley Creek (approximately 7 miles), Wright Creek (approximately 10 miles then strenuous 2-mile hike), and Mill Creek (11 miles then strenuous 1-mile hike) 4-wheel drive required in this area, primitive camping available. Thompson River is also accessible by boat on Lake Jocassee. Note Musterground Road is open only September 15-January 1 and March 20-May 10.

41 **Lake Jocassee:** From SC 11 near Salem take Lake Jocassee Road 3 miles to Devils Fork State Park.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Eastatoee Creek
Reedy Cove Creek
Jocassee Gorges WMA
Laurel Creek
Cane Creek
Camp Adger Rd
Willis Creek
Chapman Hwy
Smith Cr
Oolenoy River
Cleo Creek
Dammo Br
Chapman Rd
Eastatoee Creek Rd
Little Eastatoee Creek
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Jones Rd
Roy F
Preston McDaniel Rd
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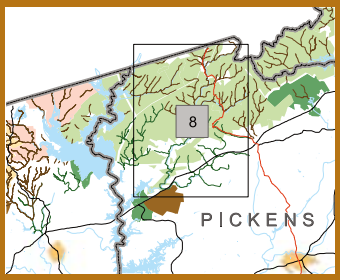
Map 8: Jocassee Gorges & Eastatoee River



42 **Eastatoee Creek (Eastatoee Creek Heritage Preserve) and Side-of-Mountain Creek:** Take US 178 from SC 11 North of Pickens to Rocky Bottom community. Left on Horsepasture Road (entrance to Jocassee Gorges at Laurel Valley Lodge) for ½ mile to trail head for Eastatoee Creek Heritage Preserve. Strenuous 2.4-mile hike to river in Eastatoee Gorge (designated primitive camp). Follow logging road 1 mile to Side-of-Mountain Creek.

43 **Eastatoee Creek (Laurel Valley Lodge):** Take US 178 from SC 11 North of Pickens to Rocky Bottom community to bridge over creek and at Laurel Valley Lodge Road.

44 **Eastatoee Creek (Cleo Chapman Access):** Take US 178 North of Pickens and SC 11 to Cleo Chapman Hwy. Left on Cleo Chapman to bridge.

45 **Eastatoee Creek (Hemlock Hollow Access):** Take SC 11 from the 178 and 11 intersection toward Oconee County approximately 7 mile. On the right, immediately before Long Shoals Park Entrance, park at red gate and hike ½ mile (moderate hike) to river. This area also accessible by boat from Lake Keowee.

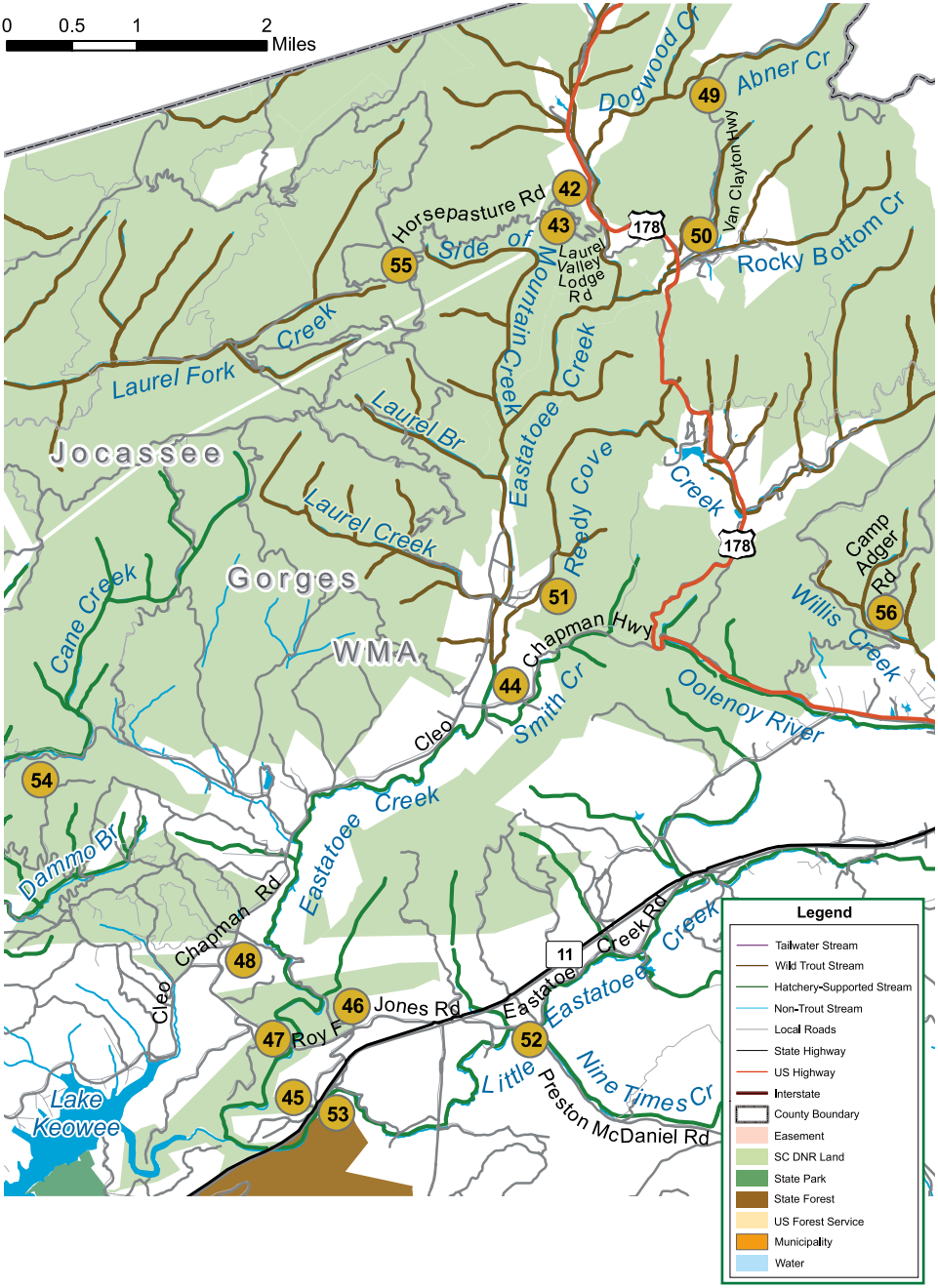
46 **Eastatoee Creek (Peach Orchard Access):** Take SC 11 S from intersection of 178 and 11 approximately 6 ½ miles. Right on Roy F Jones Road. Take Roy F Jones Road 1 mile to the first red-gated road on the right.

47 **Eastatoee Creek (Dug Mountain Access):** Take Roy F Jones Road of SC 11 near sunset 2 miles to bridge. Parking area on right across bridge. Handicap accessible.

48 **Eastatoee Creek (Granny Gear Access):** Take Roy F Jones Road off SC 11 near Sunset 3 miles. Right on Granny Gear Road, just past fire department, take right into parking area under power line.

49 **Abner and Dogwood Creeks:** Take US 178 N from Pickens and continue north of SC 11 to the creek at Rocky Bottom Camp. Right on Van Clayton Hwy. Park at first red-gated road on left past the Foothills Trail crossing. Hike ¼ mile to creek.

50 **Rocky Bottom Creek:** Take US 178 N from Pickens and continue north of SC 11 to the creek at Rocky Bottom Camp for the Blind.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Reedy Cove Creek
Jocassee Gorges WMA
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Camp Adger Rd
Willis Creek
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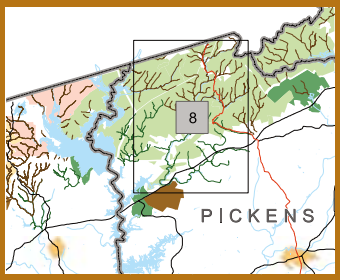
Map 8: Jocassee Gorges & Eastatoee River (continued)



51 **Reedy Cove Creek:** Take US 178 from SC 11 North of Pickens. Take a left on Cleo Chapman Road ½ mile to the first red gated logging road on the right. Hike this roadbed 1 mile to stream.

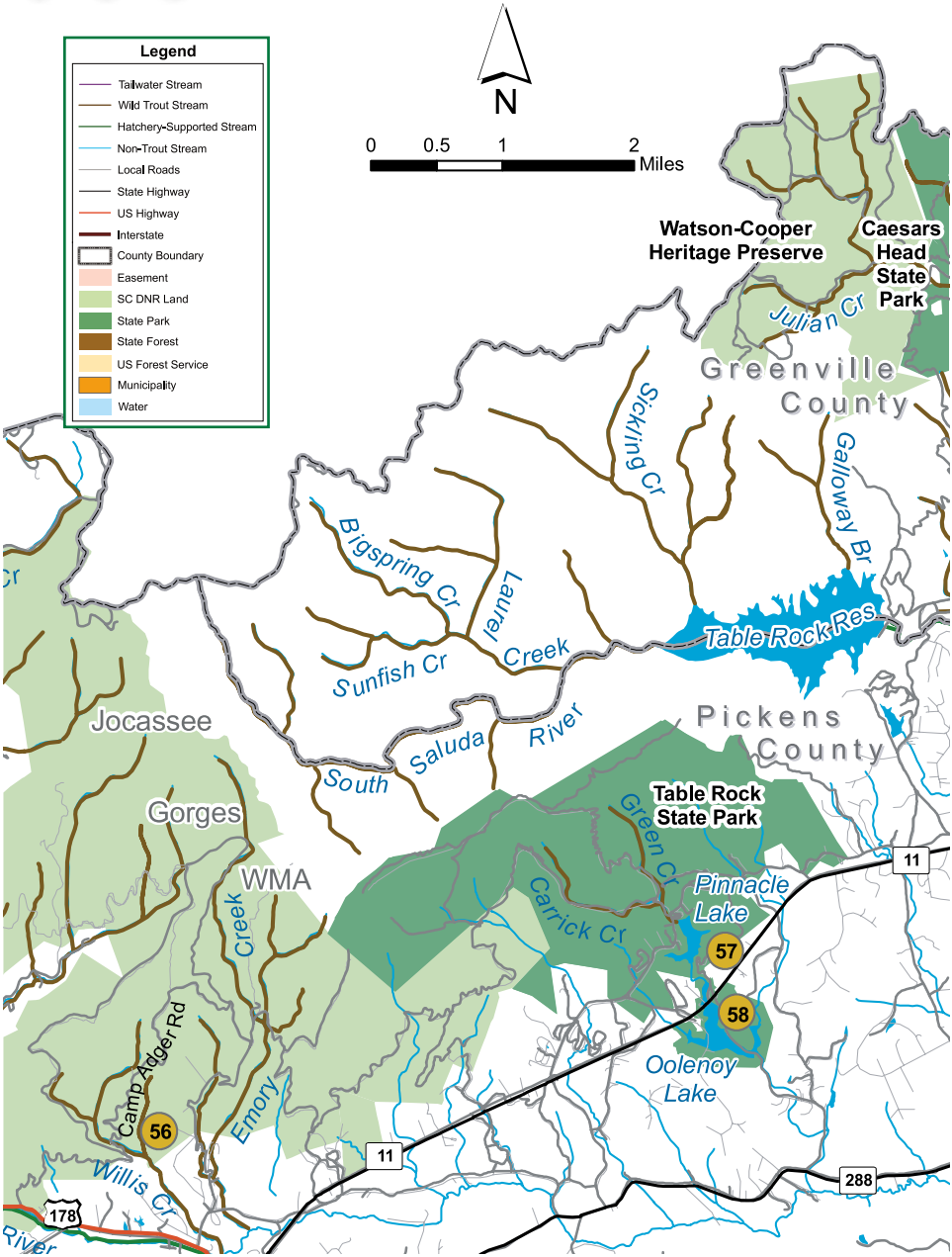
52 **Little Eastatoee Creek:** From SC 11 near Sunset take Eastatoee Creek Road to the intersection of E. Preston McDaniel Road. Park at bridge.

53 **Little Eastatoee Creek:** Park at SC 11 bridge over Little Eastatoee Creek, and at Long Shoals Wayside Park ¼ mile north of the SC 11 bridge.

54 **Cane Creek:** From SC 11 near Sunset take Roy Jones Road (SSR 100) 3 miles then right on Granny Gear Road to stop sign. Then, Right on Cleo Chapman Road approximately ¾ mile to Shooting Tree Road entrance to Jocassee Gorges. 5-mile gravel road to stream. Note Shooting Tree Road entrance opened only September 15-January 1 and March 20-May 10.

55 **Laurel Fork Creek:** Take US 178 from SC 11 North of Pickens to Horsepasture Road entrance to Jocassee Gorges (at Laurel Valley Lodge). Travel 3 miles to Laurel Fork Gap. Take right on Canebrake Road 7 miles to creek (when gates are open). Hike gated logging road 1.5 miles in to Laurel Fork Creek from the Laurel Fork Gap when gate is closed. Note gates opened only September 15-January 1 and March 20-May 10.

56 **Emory Creek and Willis Creek:** Take US 178 from SC 11 North of Pickens to Camp Adger Road on the right. 3-mile gravel road crosses Willis Creek. Approximately 1 mile moderate hike to Emory Creek from end of road. Note gates opened only September 15-January 1 and March 20-May 10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Greenville County
Sickling Cr
Galloway Br
Bigspring Cr
Laurel Creek
Table Rock Res
Sunfish Cr
Jocassee
Gorges
WMA
South Saluda River
Pickens County
Table Rock State Park
Green Cr
Pinnacle Lake
Carrick Cr
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58
Oolenoy Lake
Creek
Emory
Camp Adger Rd
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Willis Cr
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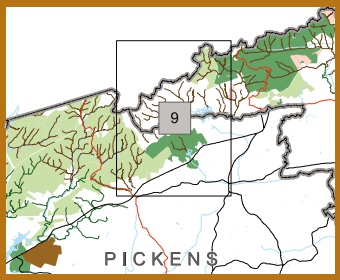
River

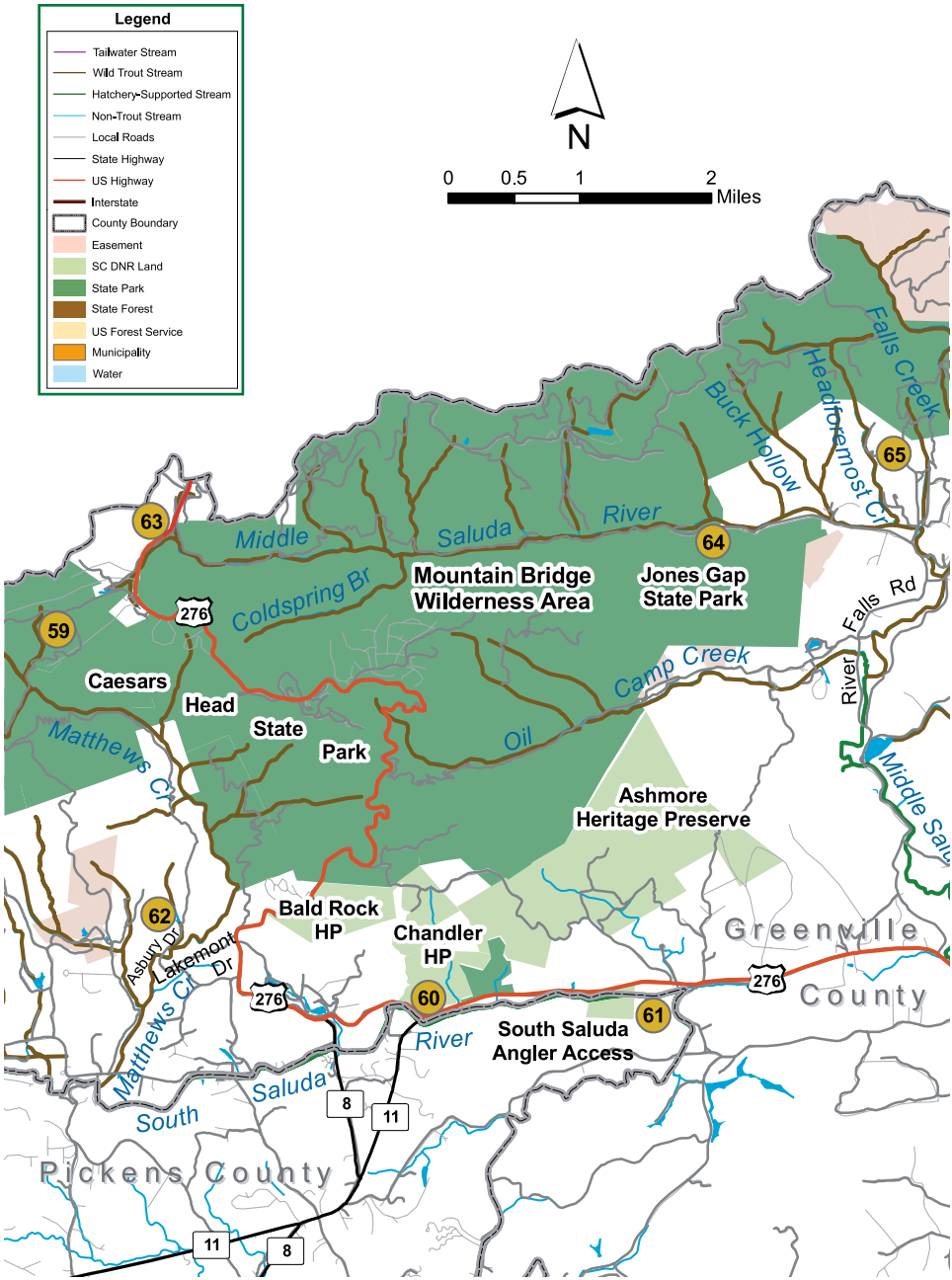
Map 9: Table Rock



56 **Emory Creek and Willis Creek:** Take US 178 from SC 11 North of Pickens to Camp Adger Road on the right. 3 mile gravel road crosses Willis Creek. Approximately 1 mile moderate hike to Emory Creek from end of road. Note gates opened only September 15-January 1 and March 20-May 10. Also on map 8.

57 **Pinnacle Lake (Table Rock State Park Swimming Lake):** Located off SC 11 in northern Pickens County.

58 **Oolenoy Lake (Table Rock State Park Fishing Lake):** Located off SC 11 in northern Pickens County.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Wilderness Area
Jones Gap
State Park
Coldspring Br
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Camp Creek
River
Caesars
Head
State
Park
Oil
Matthews Cr
Middle Saluda
Ashmore
Heritage Preserve
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Bald Rock
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Chandler
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Asbury Dr
Lakemont Dr
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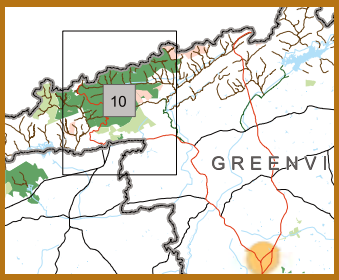


Map 10: Mountain Bridge

59 **Matthews Creek:** US 276 W to the overlook parking area above Caesars Head State Park. 2-mile strenuous hike to creek. Trail Map available at Caesars Head State Park

60 **South Saluda River:** Take 178 N from Pickens to SC 11 N approximately 12 miles take a right. Parking area at intersection of 11 and 276.

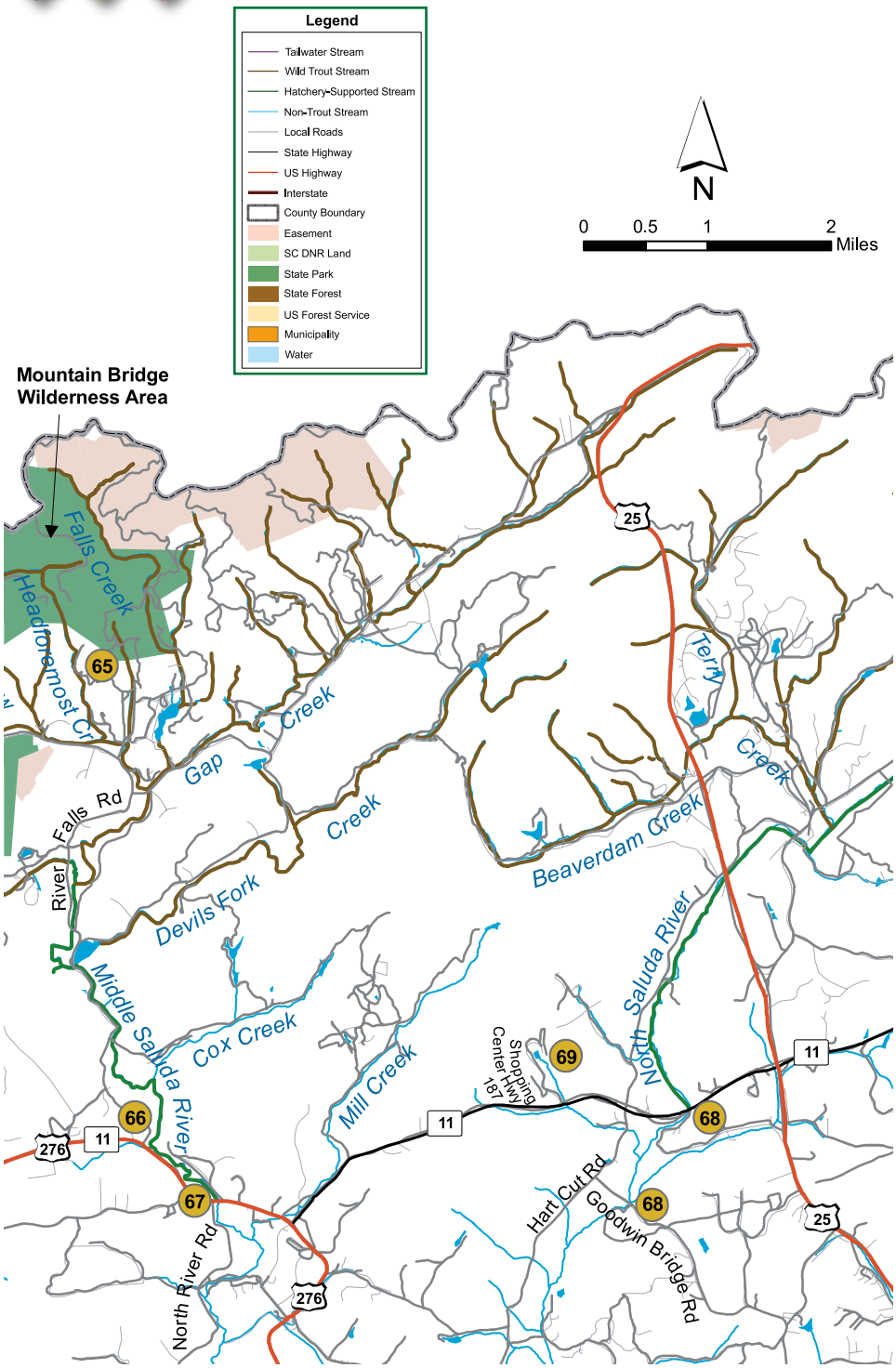
61 **South Saluda Angler Access:** Take 178 N from Pickens to SC 11 N approximately 11 miles, take a right. Parking area at intersection of 11 and 276.

62 **Matthews Creek:** US 276 W toward Caesars Head to Lakemont Drive and take left (Asbury Hills Methodist Camp sign). Right onto Asbury Drive. Continue to parking area and trail head. No access during Summer months (May-August).

63 **Middle Saluda River (Upper):** US 276 to parking area and trail head on right approximately 4 miles N of Caesars Head State Park.

64 **Middle Saluda River (Lower):** Take Hwy 25 N from Greenville to SC 11. Go S on SC 11 approximately 5½ miles and take a right on River Falls Road to Jones Gap State Park.

65 **Rainbow Falls, Headforemost and Falls Creeks:** Trail maps available at Caesars Head and Jones Gap State Parks. Also on map 11.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Beaverdam Creek
Terry Creek
Middle Saluda River
North Saluda River
Cox Creek
Mill Creek
Shopping Center Hwy 187
Hart Cut Rd
Goodwin Bridge Rd
North River Rd
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25
276

Map 11: Gap Creek

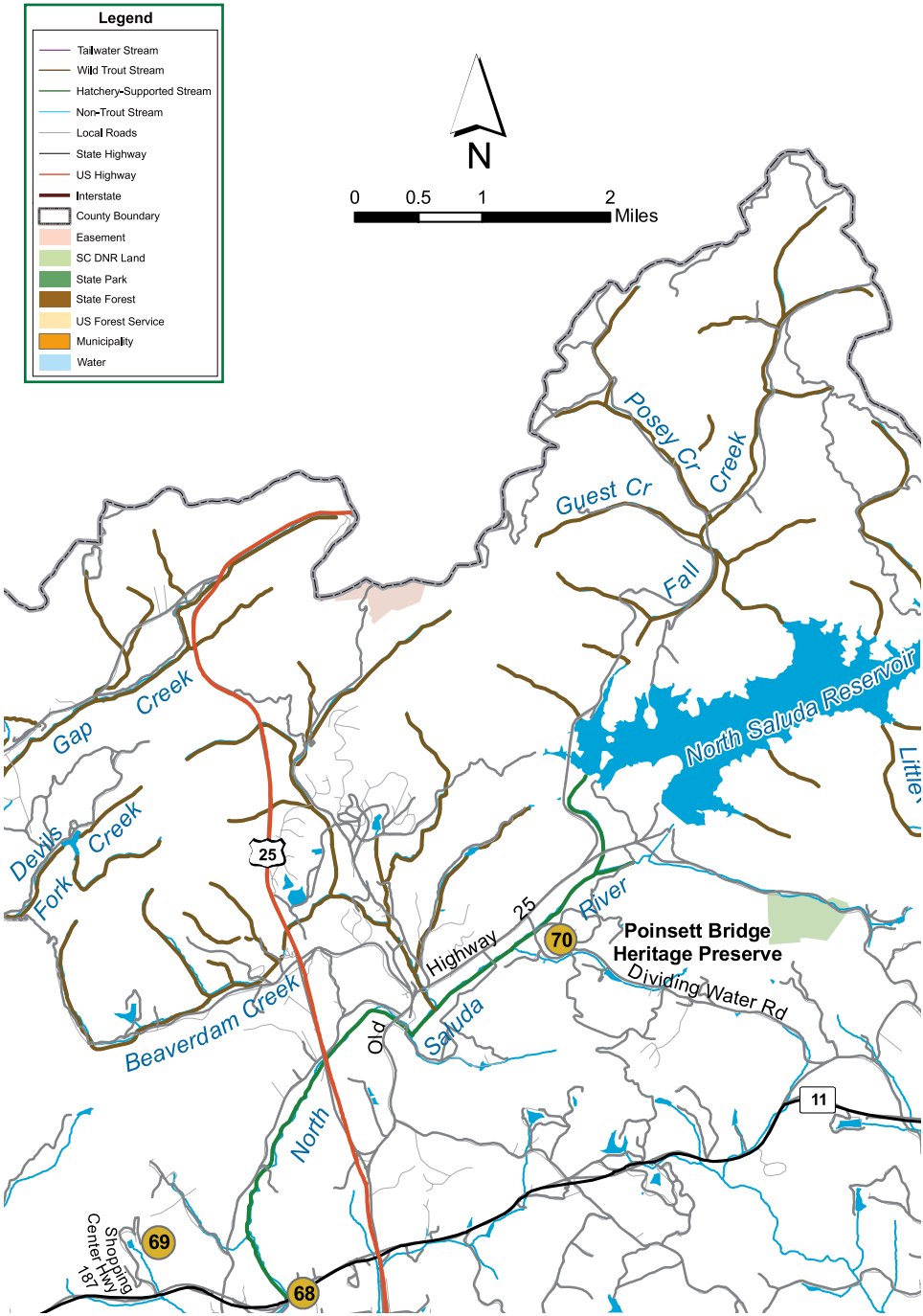
65 **Rainbow Falls, Headforemost, and Falls Creeks:** Trail maps available at Caesars Head and Jones Gap State Parks.

66 **Middle Saluda River:** At the intersection of SC 11/US 276 and River Falls Road near Cleveland. Park behind the F-Mart.

67 **Middle Saluda River:** Over river near Echo Valley at the SC 11 intersection with N River Road.

68 **North Saluda River:** SC 11 bridge over the river. Also from SC 11 take Hart Cut Road 1 mile. Then, left on Goodwin Branch Road to bridge. Also on map 12.

69 **Pleasant Ridge County Park Lake:** Located off SC 11 in northern Greenville County.


Legend
Tailwater Stream
Wild Trout Stream
Hatchery-Supported Stream
Non-Trout Stream
Local Roads
State Highway
US Highway
Interstate
County Boundary
Easement
SC DNR Land
State Park
State Forest
US Forest Service
Municipality
Water
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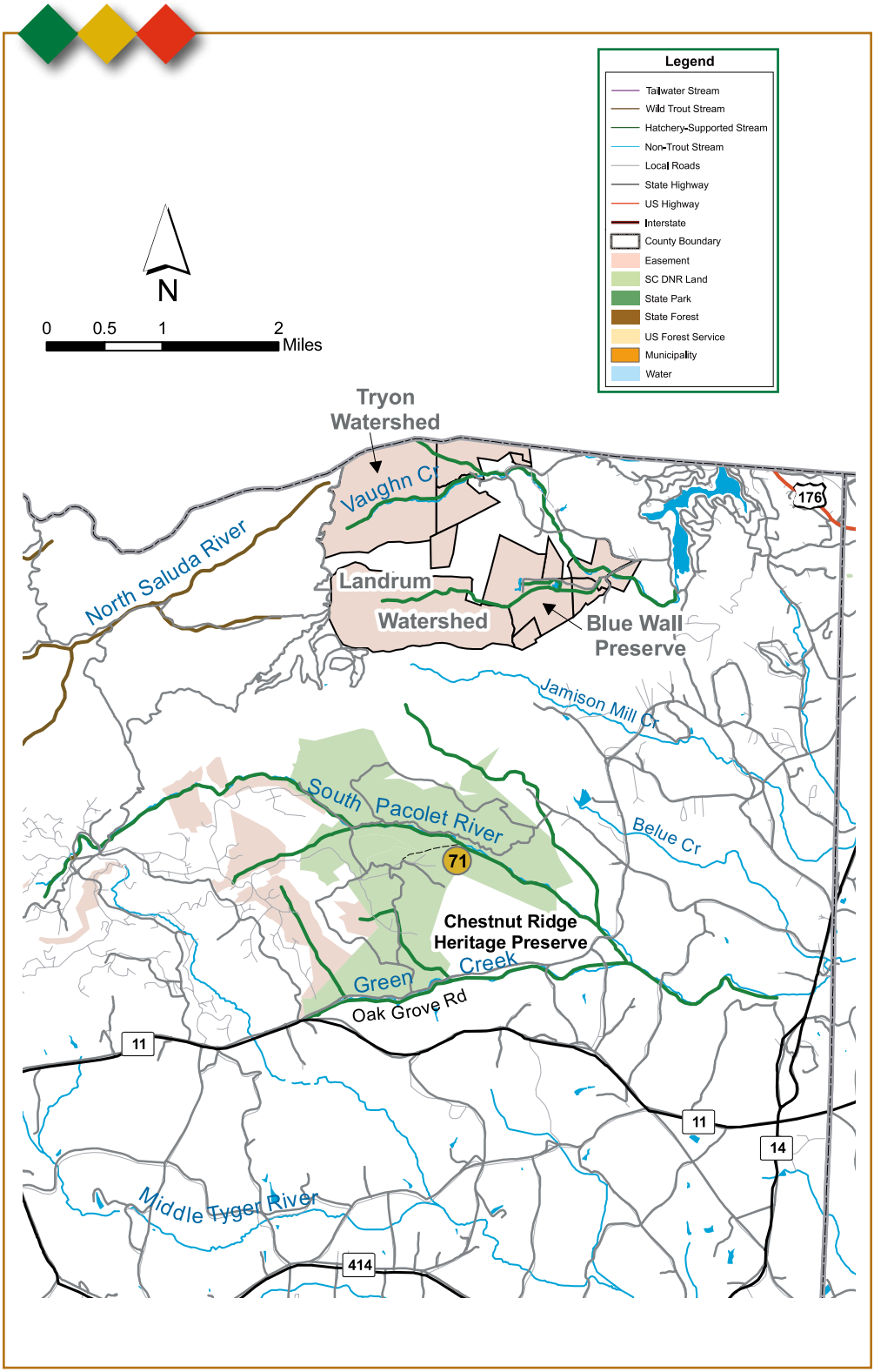
2
Miles
Posey Cr
Creek
Guest Cr
Fall
North Saluda Reservoir
Little
Gap
Creek
Devils
Creek
Fork
25
Highway
25
River
70
Poinsett Bridge
Heritage Preserve
Dividing Water Rd
Beaverdam Creek
Old
Saluda
North
11
69
Shopping
Center Hwy
187
68

Map 12: North Saluda River

68 **North Saluda River:** SC 11 bridge over the river. Also from SC 11 take Hart Cut Road 1 mile. Then left on Goodwin Branch Road to bridge. Also on map 11.

69 **Pleasant Ridge County Park Lake:** Located off SC 11 in northern Greenville County.

70 **North Saluda River:** US 25 to old Hwy 25, go approximately 3 miles. Then right on Dividing Water Road. Park at Glassy Mountain Fire Department.


Legend
Tailwater Stream
Wild Trout Stream
Hatchery-Supported Stream
Non-Trout Stream
Local Roads
State Highway
US Highway
Interstate
County Boundary
Easement
SC DNR Land
State Park
State Forest
US Forest Service
Municipality
Water
N
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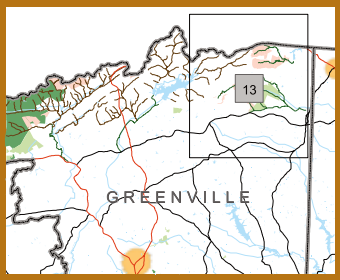
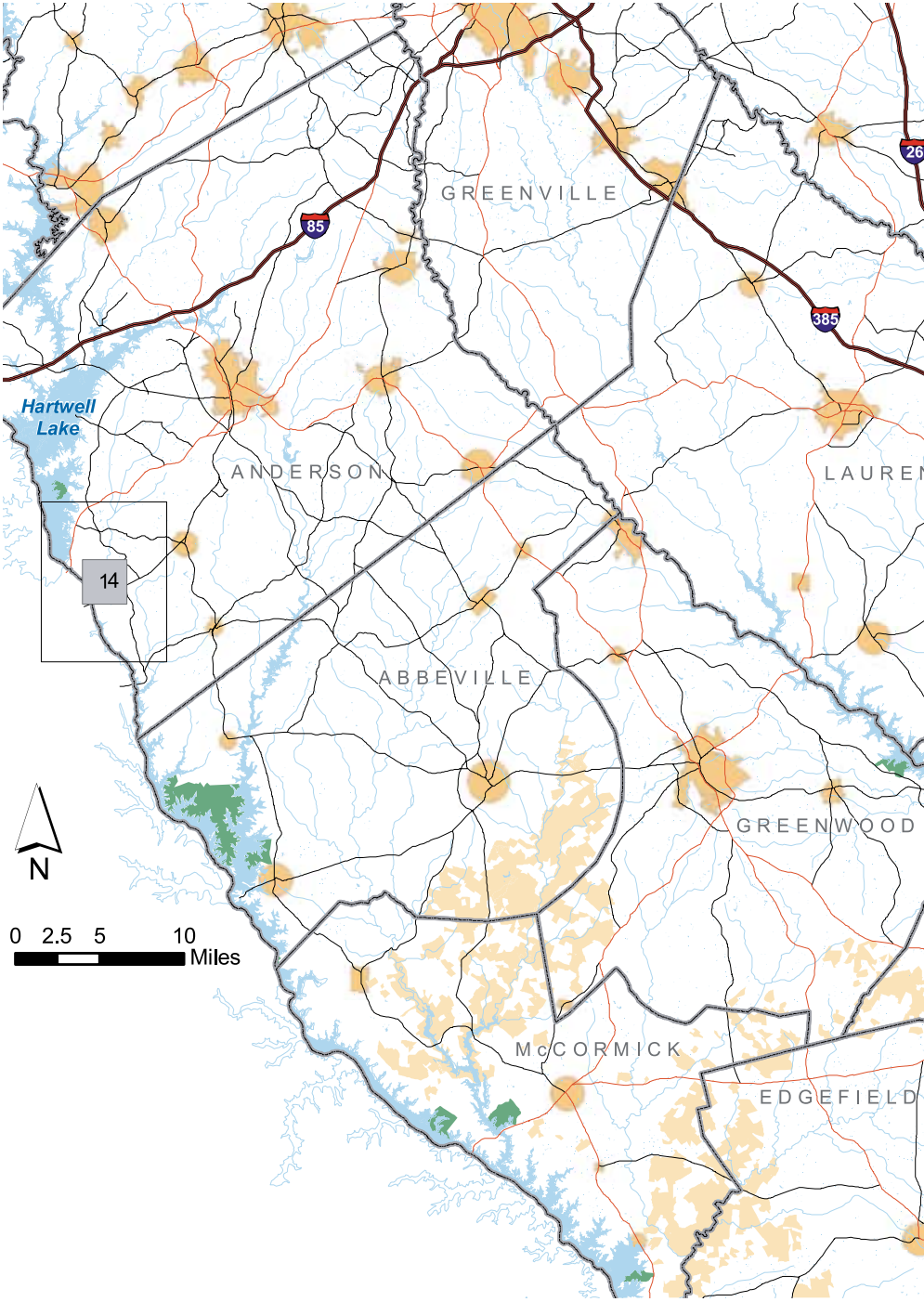
Miles
Tryon Watershed
Vaughn Cr
North Saluda River
Landrum Watershed
Blue Wall Preserve
176
Jamison Mill Cr
South Pacolet River
Belue Cr
71
Chestnut Ridge Heritage Preserve
Green Creek
Oak Grove Rd
11
11
14
Middle Tyger River
414

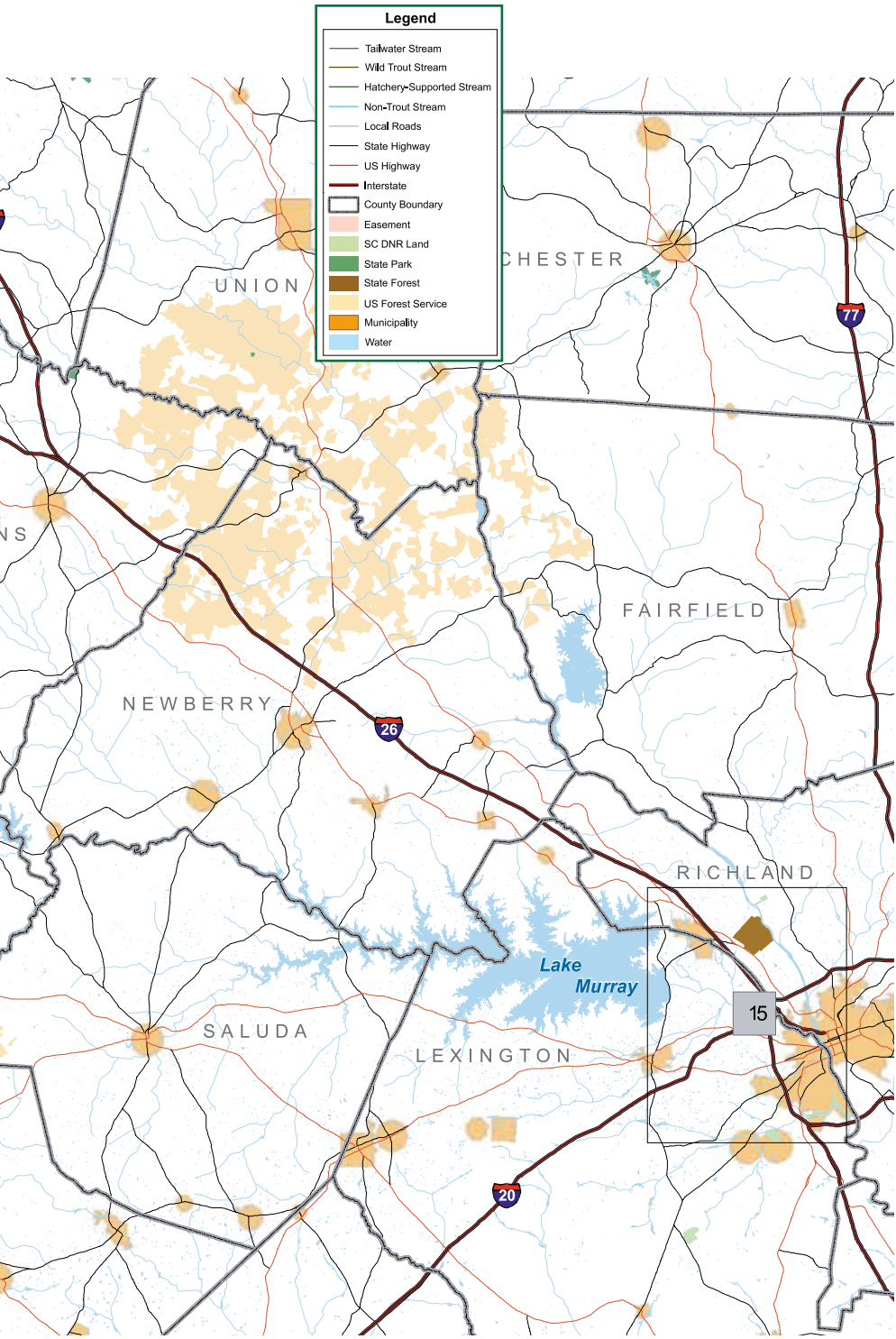
Map 13: Chestnut Ridge

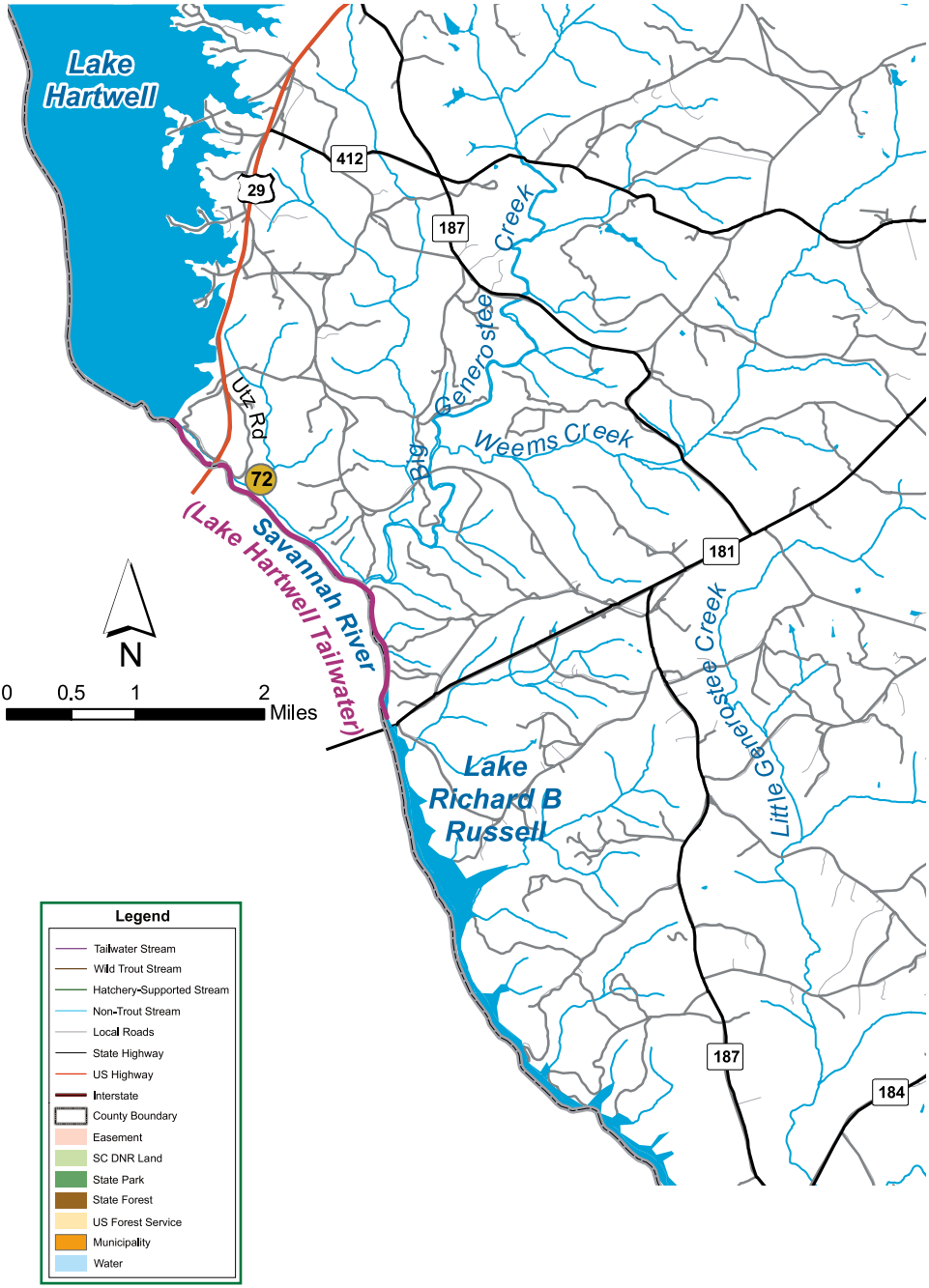


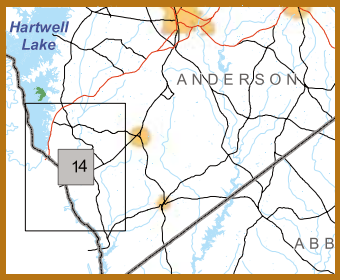
71 **South Pacolet River:** From Cleveland, take SC 11 toward SC 14 N. Turn left onto Oak Grove Road, parking is available at the Chestnut Ridge Heritage Preserve. Strenuous 2-mile hike to stream.

HOW TO GET THERE—ACCESS AREAS



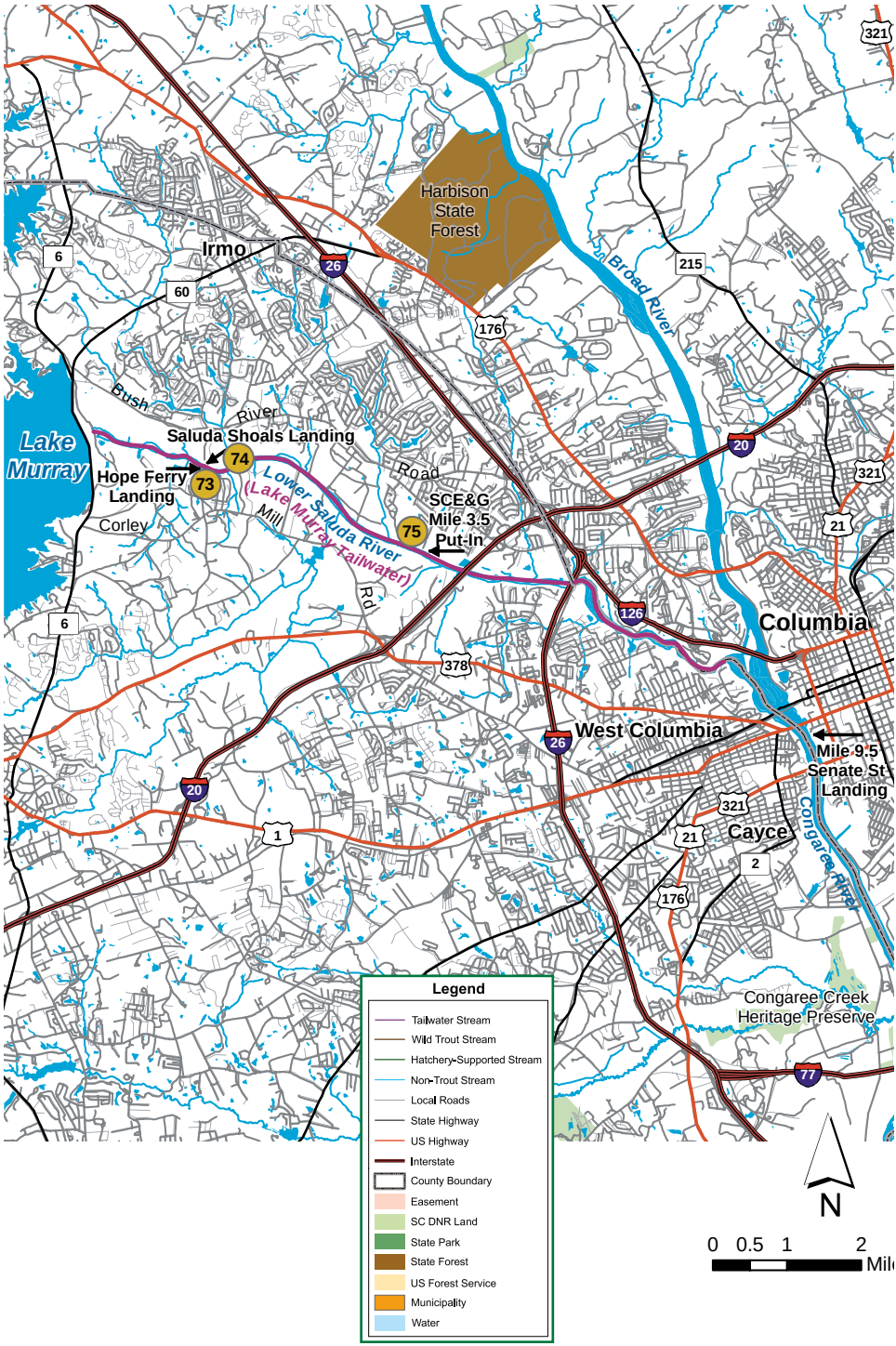

Legend
Tailwater Stream
Wild Trout Stream
Hatchery-Supported Stream
Non-Trout Stream
Local Roads
State Highway
US Highway
Interstate
County Boundary
Easement
SC DNR Land
State Park
State Forest
US Forest Service
Municipality
Water
UNION
CHESTER
FAIRFIELD
NEWBERRY
RICHLAND
Lake Murray
SALUDA
LEXINGTON
15
26
20
77


Lake Hartwell
412
29
187
Big Generostee Creek
Weems Creek
Utz Rd
72
Savannah River
(Lake Hartwell Tailwater)
181
N
0
0.5
1
2
Miles
Lake Richard B Russell
Little Generostee Creek
187
184
Legend
Tailwater Stream
Wild Trout Stream
Hatchery-Supported Stream
Non-Trout Stream
Local Roads
State Highway
US Highway
Interstate
County Boundary
Easement
SC DNR Land
State Park
State Forest
US Forest Service
Municipality
Water



Map 14: Lake Hartwell Tailwater

72 **Lake Hartwell Tailwater:** From Anderson, US 29 toward Hartwell, GA. Left on Utz Road (just before Hartwell Dam). Follow Utz Road to the tailwater. Also accessible by taking 1st right after crossing Hartwell Dam at the recreation area on the GA side. There are handicap accessible fishing piers at both sites. Handicap accessible.


Harbison State Forest
Irmo
Lake Murray
Bush River
Saluda Shoals Landing
74
Hope Ferry Landing
73
Corley
Lower Saluda River (Lake Murray Tailwater)
Mill Rd
Road
SCE&G Mile 3.5 Put-In
75
Broad River
Columbia
West Columbia
Mile 9.5 Senate St Landing
Cayce
Congaree River
Congaree Creek Heritage Preserve
Legend
Tailwater Stream
Wild Trout Stream
Hatchery-Supported Stream
Non-Trout Stream
Local Roads
State Highway
US Highway
Interstate
County Boundary
Easement
SC DNR Land
State Park
State Forest
US Forest Service
Municipality
Water
N
0 0.5 1 2

Map 15: Lake Murray Tailwater

73 **Hope Ferry Landing:** From Lexington take Hwy 6 (S. Lake Dr.) N 3.1 miles. Turn right on Corley Mill Rd, go 1.7 miles turn left onto paved road at "SCE&G Saluda River Access" sign, then go 0.5 mile to landing.

74 **Saluda Shoals Park Landing**: From I-20 take Bush River Road exit west, go 4.4 miles to Saluda Shoals Park on left. Launch fee required

75 **Bush River Road Canoe Launch:** From I-20 take Bush River Road exit west, go 0.9 mile, turn left onto Garden Valley Lane, then go 0.5 mile to landing.

SOME POPULAR SOUTH CAROLINA TROUT STREAMS MANAGED BY SCDNR

Oconee County

Streams	Average Width in Feet	Species Trout in Stream
Chattooga River	60	Brook, Brown, Rainbow
East Fork Chattooga	25	Brook, Brown, Rainbow
Chauga	40	Brook, Brown, Rainbow
Brasstown	16	Brook, Rainbow
Whetstone	15	Brown, Brook
Crane	8	Brown, Brook
Cedar	14	Brown, Brook
Devils Fork and Howard	17	Brook, Rainbow
Corbin	12	Brown, Rainbow
Thompson	18	Brook, Brown, Rainbow
Big Stakey	8	Brown
Bone Camp	9	Brown
Coley	9	Brook, Rainbow
Mill Creek	8	Brook
Village Creeks (all)	15	Brown
Fall Creek	10	Brown
Tamassee	10	Rainbow, Brook
Cheohee	15	Brook, Rainbow, Brown
Long Creek	12	Brown
Toxaway	18	Brown
Rocky Fork	10	Brown

Pickens County

Laurel Fork	12	Brook, Rainbow
Big Eastatoee	30	Brook, Brown, Rainbow
Little Canebreak	14	Rainbow
Rocky Bottom	7	Rainbow
Abner	6	Rainbow
Little Eastatoee	16	Brown, Rainbow

Streams	Average Width in Feet	Species Trout in Stream
Öolenoy	16	Brown
Reedy Cove	8	Brook, Rainbow
Cane	10	Brook, Rainbow

Greenville County

South Saluda	50	Brook, Brown, Rainbow
Middle Saluda	40	Brook, Brown, Rainbow
North Saluda	30	Brown, Rainbow
Matthews	16	Rainbow
Oil Camp	10	Rainbow
Gap Creek	18	Rainbow
Vaughns Creek	12	Brook, Rainbow
South Pacolet	10	Brook, Brown

Some streams managed by SCDNR could not be listed because of limited space.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITY AS A SPORTSMAN

Because the SCDNR considers the state's trout waters a highly sensitive resource, South Carolina's trout fishery warrants special consideration, not only by the Department's natural resource managers but also by you as an individual conservationist and trout fisherman. Do your part by following the principles of respect which remind sportsmen to preserve their sport and the resource by following ethical rules of conduct in the field. As a trout fisherman, remember to:

1. Respect the law. Obey all fishing regulations and report violations.
2. Respect the resource. Keep only those fish that are injured or those you intend to eat.
3. Practice catch and release fishing!
4. Respect the rights of landowners. Get permission to fish on their property first.
5. Respect other anglers' territory. Treat them the way you would like to be treated.

6. Respect the land. Leave no litter and take out what you take in.
7. Pass it on. Teach a child or friend to trout fish.
8. Support trout research and habitat protection.
9. Join an organization that works to protect the resource and promote sportsman like conduct.

PROPER CATCH-AND-RELEASE TECHNIQUES

Catch-and-release techniques are used to ensure sustainability of fish populations and to avoid the negative results of overfishing. It is simple! First, use barbless hooks to reduce injury and handling time of fish, therefore increasing survival rates. Land your fish as quickly as possible to minimize the fish's fighting time. Leave the fish in the water and unhook the fish with a de-hooking tool like forceps or needle-nosed pliers. If a hook has been swallowed, cut the line as far down in the fish's mouth as possible. Digestion will take care of the hook. If a fish must leave the water to be unhooked, wet your hands before handling the fish and minimize the time out of the water to 20-30 seconds. When placing the fish back into the rivers or streams specifically, point the fish into the current while it breathes. Support the fish gently in the current until it swims away. All anglers need to do is follow the methods mentioned to increase a fish's chances of survival and other anglers' chances of catching a nice-size fish!

WADER WASHING, PREVENTING EXOTICS & DISEASE

Anglers should beware of unnoticed passengers on their waders and take the necessary precautions to assure they are not spreading harmful exotic hitchhikers from one stream to another. Harmful exotics such as Whirling Disease spores, Didymo algae, zebra mussels, mud snails, Asian clams, and many more are becoming more common threats to aquatic resources, including Appalachian trout streams and tailwaters.

The larvae (immature form) of animals can be so tiny that they are not visible to the naked eye. These animal larvae can live in mud, dirt, sand, and on plant fragments. Therefore, anglers should always remove visible mud, sand, plants or plant fragments from wading gear, clothing and fishing equipment before leaving a trout stream. Do not transport any potential hitchhikers, even back to your home. Remove and leave them at the stream.

Anglers should thoroughly clean their wading gear after each use. There are several ways to clean wading gear of aquatic hitchhikers. Once wading gear is 100% dry, allow it to remain dry for 5 days before using again. Another option is to dip wading gear in a 3% bleach solution, rinse well (as chlorine can be harmful to gear) and allow to dry thoroughly. To avoid

possible damage from chlorine, anglers can dip their gear in a 100% vinegar solution for 20 minutes or in a 1% salt solution for 20 minutes.

Don't forget your best fishing buddy! Pets can be carriers of harmful exotics too. Pets should be rinsed thoroughly in warm water, towel dried and brushed well after each fishing or wading trip.

To avoid further damage from exotic species, anglers should never take resource management into their own hands. Unplanned stocking of fish, other aquatic animals or plants by anglers can disrupt the natural balance in an aquatic ecosystem causing damage to the established fishery, fish habitat and prey base. Unplanned stockings often occur from the careless use of live baits. Excess live bait, whether purchased at a local bait store or obtained from another body of water, should not be released. It may be disposed of in a trash receptacle or on one's compost heap.

Taking time to prevent the spread of aquatic hitchhikers will help assure trout streams are protected from harmful, exotic species.

CONTACTS FOR MORE INFORMATION

STATE FISHING RULES AND REGULATIONS

For information on seasons, creel limits and size limits, refer to the current Hunting and Fishing Rules and Regulations published annually in mid-June by SCDNR. For a copy of the recent Rules & Regulations, call (803) 734-3833 between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. weekdays, write c/o Rules and Regs Brochure, SCDNR, P.O. Box 167, Columbia, SC 29202, email licensing@dnr.sc.gov or visit *www.dnr.sc.gov/regulations.html*.

For further information on the SCDNR trout fisheries management program contact: Region 1 Fisheries Office, 311 Natural Resources Drive, Clemson SC 29631, (864) 654-6346.

STATE FISHING LICENSE

To obtain a South Carolina fishing license, check with a local license agent at area bait and tackle stores or call, 24 hours a day 7 days a week, 1-866-714-3611. To find a local license agent, purchase a license online, or print and mail in a license application visit *www.dnr.sc.gov/purchase*.

LODGING AND CAMPING FACILITIES

The SC Department of Parks Recreation and Tourism or mountain county parks provide excellent camping facilities, but perhaps the most popular are Devils Fork, Oconee and Table Rock State Parks, which offer easy access and cabin rentals. Devils Fork State Park is located on Lake

Jocassee and is ideal for anglers planning a fishing trip on Jocassee. Oconee State Park is located North of Walhalla on Highway 107, and Table Rock is located north of Pickens on Highway 11 or north of Greenville off 276 onto Highway 11. The lake at each end of the park offers good wintertime trout angling. Primitive camping is available at Jones Gap State Park in Greenville County. This park offers excellent access to fishing along the Middle Saluda River and other Greenville County streams. For more information on the state parks contact the SC Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism 1205 Pendleton St., Columbia, S.C. 29201, (803) 734-0156 or 1-866-224-9339. For further information, visit *www.discoversouthcarolina.com* or *www.southcarolinaparks.com*.

The Forest Service's Burrells Ford Campground and Cherry Hill Campground, both north of Oconee State Park off Highway 107, also provide camping facilities. Primitive camping in designated areas is available in Ellicotts Rock Wilderness Area and along the Chattooga River trail (Sumter National Forest north of Walhalla off Highway 107). Campers must remain 50 feet from the river when pitching a tent. For other Forest Service campground information visit *www.fs.fed.us/r8/fms/forest/recreation/camping*.

Designated primitive camp areas are available on the Jocassee Gorges property in northern Pickens County.

Other campgrounds with facilities available are Chau Ram County Park west of Westminster on Highway 76, and South Cove County Park northwest of Seneca on Highway 188.

For maps of the Andrew-Pickens District of the Sumter National Forest contact:

U.S.D.A. Forest Service
Andrew Pickens Ranger District
112 Andrew Pickens Circle
Mountain Rest, SC 29664
(864)638-9568
www.fs.fed.us/r8/fms/

U.S. Forest Service
Francis Marion & Sumter National Forest
4931 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29212
(803) 561-4000

Contact the U.S. Geological Survey for 7 ½ minute series topographic maps and their free *Index to Topographic Maps in South Carolina*:

SC Geodectic Survey
5 Geology Road
Columbia, SC 29212
(803) 896-7700

USGS National Center
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive
Reston, Virginia 20192
(800) ASK-USGS

These maps are sometimes available at local tackle or backpack stores in the Clemson-Seneca area for a fee.

Trout Fishing Organizations in South Carolina

Trout Unlimited Chapters in South Carolina

Chattooga River Chapter	Oconee/Pickens Area	*www.chattoogatu.org*
Mountain Bridge Chapter	Greenville Area	*www.mbtu.org*
Saluda River Chapter	Columbia Area	*www.saludatu.org*
Jocassee Trout Club		*http://jocasseetroutclub.org*

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SPORT FISH RESTORATION

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