



## Summary of Pee Dee Scenic Rivers Public Opinion Survey of May-June 2014

August 28, 2014

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Pee Dee Scenic River Advisory Council completed a six week, Internet-based survey on June 30, 2014 to obtain citizen input for a management plan being developed for two adjoining State Scenic River sections: 1) the Great Pee Dee Scenic River and 2) the Little Pee Dee Scenic River, both of which extend south of U.S. Highway 378. Opportunity to participate in the survey was made known to the public through local news media, social media, websites, and direct mailings.

The survey questions and a summary of results are presented below, and will be used to shape goals and objectives of the river management plan. For additional information about this survey and the Scenic Rivers Program contact DNR staff, Bill Marshall at 803-734-9096 or marshallb@dnr.sc.gov.

### Participants in the Pee Dee Scenic Rivers Survey.

- The number of survey responders: According to Survey Monkey, the Internet service where the survey was provided, 116 individuals completed the survey. The number of responders varied among the questions. The number of people who started the survey was 170.
- One-third of the survey responders live in Horry County (36%), a second third is split about evenly among Georgetown County (18%) and Florence County (14%), and most of the final third live in other areas of South Carolina. Only 3 responders were from outside the state.
- About two-thirds of the responders were at middle age, evenly split among the age groupings: 36-45 years (22%), 46-55 years (24%), and 56-65 years (22%). Younger folks comprised nearly one-fourth of responders, with age groups of 26-35 years (15%) and 18-25 years (7%). Older folks, age 66-75, comprised 10% of responders and one responder was greater than 75 years in age.
- Seventy-one (71) participants chose to see additional information about the survey and Pee Dee scenic river project and 63 provided an e-mail address to be included on the project mailing list.

### How do you use and/or enjoy these two rivers?

- Fishing was the first most common use, selected by 73% of responders.
- Motor Boating was second, selected by 65% of responders.
- Wildlife Watching and Sightseeing were third, selected by 57% and 55%, respectively.
- Swimming, Paddling, and Hunting were fourth, selected by 44%, 44% and 42%, respectively.
- Camping and Photography/Art were next, selected by 37% and 34%, respectively.
- Live on River and Agriculture-Forestry, were selected by 11% and 9% of responders.
- Comments (other uses identified): water supply, wastewater discharge, working on river, property development, educational purposes, duck hunting, crabbing, relaxing on banks/landings, the ecological/natural resource functions of the rivers which benefit South Carolina and the nation.

### How many days per year do you participate in activities on these rivers?

- The number of responders to this question was 123. Their total estimated annual activity is:
  - Motor Boating: 2,289 days
  - Fishing: 2,262 days
  - Wildlife Watching: 2,234 days
  - Sightseeing: 1,704 days
  - Hunting: 1,321 days
  - Swimming: 1,038 days
  - Paddling: 560 days



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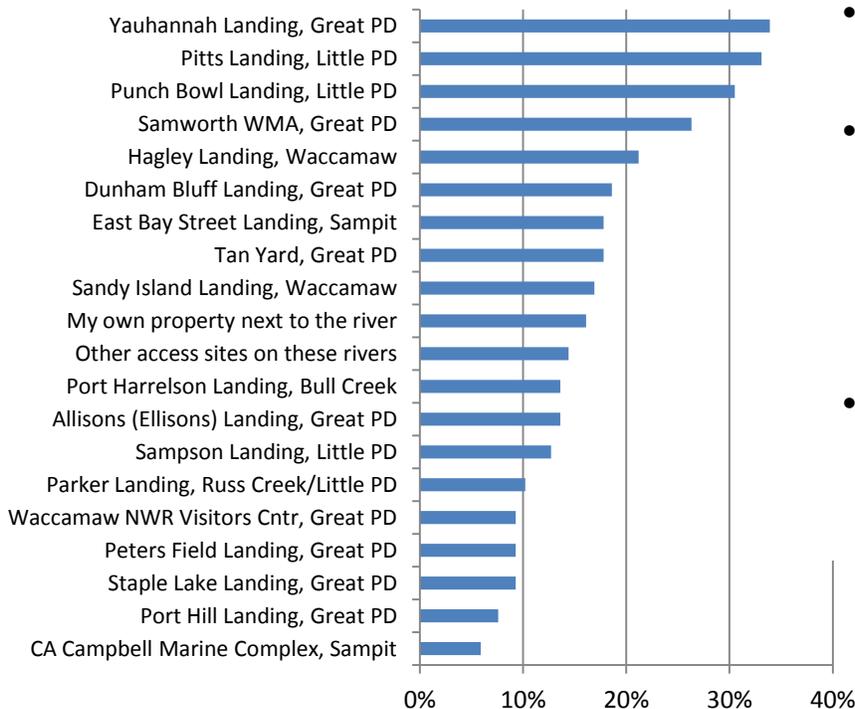
- Responder comments regarding activities and number of days:
  - *Teaching life sciences - 5 days/year.*
  - *Friends own a home on Little Pee Dee, we enjoy it every weekend*
  - *Lease land for hunting*
  - *Camping when the water is low on sandbars*
  - *Live on Great Pee Dee*
  - *Too far to get to from Loris. Need public transportation to this area, and other places.*
  - *Relaxing on the banks/landings.*
  - *All but the winter.*

### How much money do you spend per year to use/enjoy these two rivers?

- Nearly one-third of responders spend more than \$500 per year (see table, right).
- The sum of spending for all 122 responders was from \$30,535 to \$43,375 per year.
- Average spending per responder could be estimated at \$250 to \$356 per year.
- Responder comments regarding spending:
  - *Boat storage, insurance, taxes, loan, over \$700 per month*
  - *Gas/ice/bait/ camping stuff etc...*
  - *Have no money - southern bosses only hire illegal aliens and foreign students.*

<u>Answer Options on Spending</u>	<u>Response Percent</u>	<u>Response Count</u>
None / \$0	3.3%	4
Less than \$25	4.1%	5
\$25 to \$50	5.7%	7
\$50 to \$100	7.4%	9
\$100 to \$250	21.3%	26
\$250 to \$500	27.0%	33
More than \$500	31.1%	38

### Where do you go to access these two rivers?



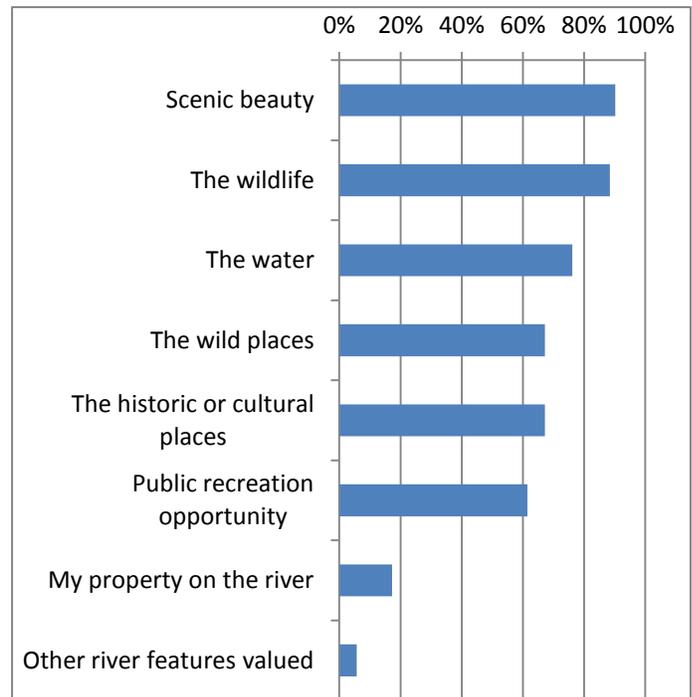
- The bar graph at left shows the distribution of use among 20 access sites for 118 responders.
- Three Horry County landings, Yauhannah, Pitts, and Punch Bowl, are most used among responders. Samworth Landing, in Georgetown County, follows as fourth and Hagley is fifth most used.
- Campbell Marine Complex and Port Hill are the least used landings among responders to access these rivers.



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### What do you value or hold sacred about these two rivers?

- Scenic beauty and wildlife were the most selected answer of eight values listed (bar graph, right). Water, wild places, cultural places, and public recreation were next most selected. Responders to the question numbered 122 people.
- 17% of responders selected "my property on the river" as valued, which is reflective of the level of survey participation by river-bordering landowners.
- Seven individual responders expressed other values as follows: 1) educational value, 2) tradition, memories, and enjoyment of fishing and boating with father, and over entire lifetime, 3) ability to hunt, 4) lack of development, 5) learning to swim on the Little Pee Dee River, 6) safe boating, (concern with speeding boaters), 7) deeper river channel for boating (need for dredging).



### Does the river benefit you economically?

#### If Yes, please describe how you get economic benefit from the river.

- Only 16% of 122 responders said "yes."
- Follow-up responses as to "how you get economic benefit" included the following ideas:
  - 1) My job exists because of these rivers.
  - 2) Farming and irrigating from the river. Growing timber.
  - 3) Fishing and hunting for food.
  - 4) Enhanced property value because of the river.
  - 5) River-recreation businesses.
  - 6) Rest and stress relief enhanced by the river.
- See the appendix for 13 individual comments in response to this question.

### What features/attributes of these rivers should be protected and passed on to future generations?

- Replies to this question were received from 90 people and are listed in the appendix.
- The main ideas from the 90 replies are grouped and summarized as follows:
  - 1) Everything. Entire ecosystem. All features and benefits currently enjoyed.
  - 2) Beauty. Wild-natural beauty. Pristine condition. Quiet beauty. Non-commercial.
  - 3) Recreational opportunities. Public access to water and swamps. Hunting. Fishing. Camping. Boating adventures. Safe and maintained access sites. Hunting areas.
  - 4) Educational opportunities (formal and informal).



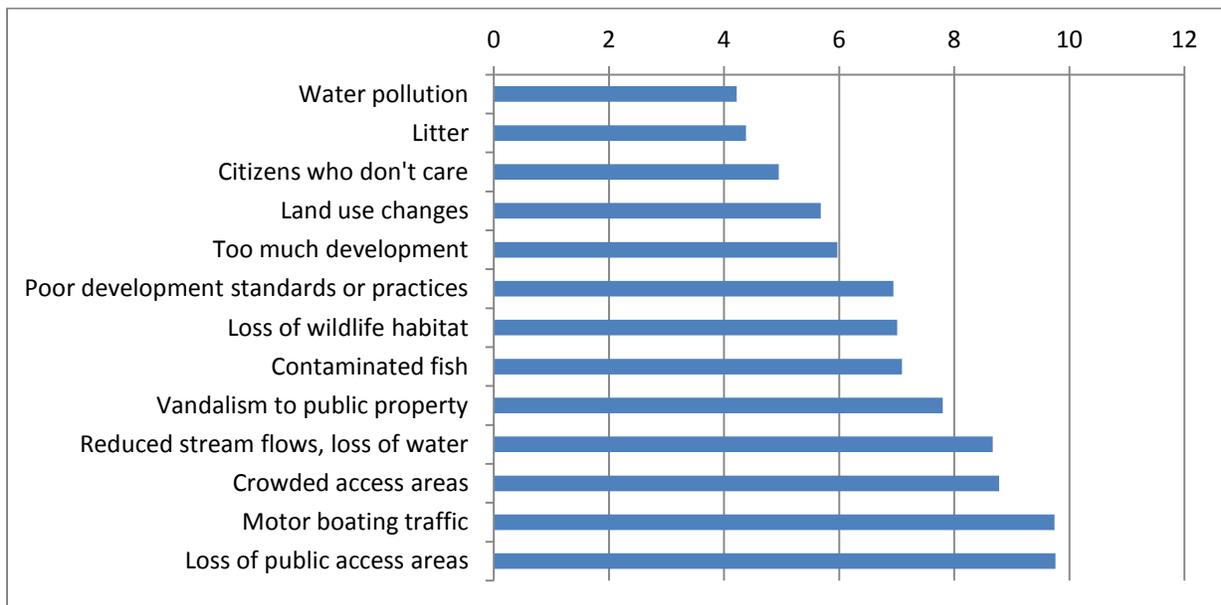
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- 5) Water source and supply. Water and streamflow at natural levels.
- 6) Clean water, free of mercury. No industry, lack of pollution. Fishable. swimmable rivers.
- 7) Wildlife. Diverse and abundant fish and wildlife (owls to alligators and black bear).  
Diverse habitat. Passage for migratory fishes.
- 8) Traditions. Local culture and traditional uses of the river. Hunting-fishing.
- 9) Protected lands. Conservation easements. Undeveloped public lands.
- 10) Wild areas. Undeveloped character of the landscape. Keep area in its natural state. Few roadway crossings.
- 11) Swamps. Cypress swamps. Trees. Hardwoods.
- 12) Local history. Historic values.
- 13) Unspoiled shorelines. Wide vegetated riparian buffers. Wooded shorelines.

### What do you see as threats or negative changes affecting these two rivers?

**Rank order the list of 13 items: the lower the number, the greater the threat.**

- Water pollution, litter, citizens who don't care, land use changes, and too much development were the top five threats of concern among the 117 responders to this question. (See bar graph, below).
- Of least concern to responders were threats of motor boating traffic and losing public access.



### What do you see as good or positive changes that are happening with these two rivers?

- 1) Replies to this question were received from 70 people and are listed in the appendix.
- 2) The main ideas from the 70 replies are grouped and summarized as follows:
  - 1) This survey and its outreach to public. Pee Dee Scenic River Project, DNR presence.
  - 2) Conservation groups focused on the rivers. Winyah Rivers initiative and Riverkeeper.
  - 3) Land and habitat protection. Conservation easements and acquisitions of FWS, TNC, DNR.



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- 4) Citizen interest/involvement in conserving these rivers. More recreational use of the rivers. Awareness of these rivers and their importance to the region. Stopping the coal-fired power plant and polluting industries.
- 5) Higher river flows lately. Better flow requirements from upstream dams.
- 6) Some public access improvements. Some access improvements for families and small children. More people are paddling. Horry County is improving public access and law enforcement.
- 7) DNR patrolling/enforcing safe boating, fishing rules. Removing river shacks.
- 8) Clean Water Act requires plans to address pollution problem areas.
- 9) Nothing. None. Not much. Unknown. Don't see any changes for good. You tell me.

### **Over the next 20 years, what do you want to see happen with these two rivers?**

- Replies to this question were received from 82 people and are listed in the appendix.
- The main ideas from the 82 replies are grouped and summarized as follows:
  - 1) Awareness and preservation of natural and cultural heritage
  - 2) Less litter. Institute more litter/trash pickups.
  - 3) Control recreational uses: Reduce boat speeds and wake damages to banks. Less traffic. Restrictions on motor boats, large motors, and jetskis. Eliminate crowd at Punch Bowl Landing.
  - 4) Protect recreational uses: Public use of rivers still enjoyed as they are now. Remain useable/accessible. Thrive with boating, skiing and fishing. Keep rivers navigable/unobstructed.
  - 5) More land protection, as much as possible. More conservation easements. Improve protection of lands adjacent to the rivers. Woodbury tuned into a National Park.
  - 6) Balance growth and preservation. Limit development. Stop development. Design standards to guide development. Keep polluting industries away. Enforcement of "river shack" law by DNR. Remove all houseboats from public waters.
  - 7) Remain unchanged. Preserve the rivers to look in the future as they are now. Maintain natural appearance. Continue their natural beauty. Keep wilderness character. Stay like they are for the public.
  - 8) Increased water flows. Limit upstream withdrawals.
  - 9) Protect water quality. Keep it clean. Decrease pollution and polluted runoff. Have edible/uncontaminated fish. More regulation of agriculture and hog farm runoff.
  - 10) Continuing development of public access areas. Fishing dock. Paved landings, landing signs seen from river. Safe camping opportunities. Camping platforms. New, improved Yauhannah Landing. Little Pee Dee River more accessible by boat at low flows.
  - 11) More waterfowl hunting access/opportunity. Manage for duck wintering habitat.
  - 12) Manage rivers for wildlife preservation. Wildlife and natural habitat are preserved.
  - 13) Cleanup the grass that's taking over.
  - 14) Stop bush lines / trotlines. More stocking of fish.
  - 15) Leave it alone, like it is. Nothing.



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### Who is responsible for the future of these two rivers?

- Responders were given four answer options and most responders (91%) selected "citizens" as having responsibility for these rivers. Responders also viewed state government, landowners, and local governments as responsible, and the following shows the respective percentages:
  - Citizens 91%
  - State government (DNR and DHEC) 87%
  - Landowners near the rivers 78%
  - Local governments (counties and cities) 77%Note: Federal government, not presented as an survey-answer option, was mentioned in the responder comments.
- Comments on this question were received from 29 people and are listed in the appendix.
- The main ideas from the 29 comments are grouped and summarized as follows:
  - 1) Everyone is responsible for our rivers. Everyone in the watershed. South Carolinians. Everyone who uses the rivers. Boaters. Citizens need to respect the river, and not litter etc. Partnership between all these folks. Citizens need to make voices heard to elected officials. Need more leadership at local level, citizens and their local govts.
  - 2) Government is not the answer, empower the people. Incentives are better than regulations. Less done, the better.
  - 3) Government should enforce laws regarding litter, alcohol consumption, and vandalism. Replace Hwy 701 Bridges. DHEC and DNR need to address water quality improvement. Without government support there will be no future. State should enforce fish and hunting regulations. Local governments should monitor access sites. Much of the land is State owned, thus the onus is primarily on DNR. Federal government has a role, too, via grants and support.
  - 4) Politicians. Citizens need to make voices heard to elected officials.
  - 5) Landowners responsible for upkeep of their trash, docks, and ramps. Landowners should develop responsibly.

### What would you like to say to us which has not been covered in this survey?

- Replies to this question were received from 58 people and are listed in the appendix.
- Many of the ideas from the 58 replies are grouped and summarized as follows:
  - 1) Thanks for this survey effort. Thanks for considering public input. Keep up the good work. Press on, we're counting on you. Hang in there.
  - 2) We need to work together to protect these important, magnificent river systems. Keep advocating for the rivers - it's important. We are to be good stewards of these rivers, created for our benefit, we don't own them and it's an honor to use them. I wish they could always remain undeveloped, wild and pure.
  - 3) Education is just as important as conservation. We only protect what we love, and only love what we understand Articulate educational assets and opportunities of rivers as reasons for preservation. Take a more active role in extolling the benefits of the rivers to the area residents and tourists.
  - 4) Everyone needs to be willing to oppose bad policies, including DNR.
  - 5) Would like to see more DNR agents on these rivers.



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- 6) Regulate the ugly, polluting "house boats." Impose fines on those who leave boats unattended, which leak contaminants into the river. Rivershacks are part of the history.
- 7) The cultural sites and historical aspects of these rivers need to be addressed.
- 8) The Pee Dee River is dangerous and should not be promoted for public recreational use.
- 9) Would like to participate in meetings of the advisory council. Who is on the council? Is there, or will there be an opportunity to volunteer or help out with this effort? Get the word out, let people know what's happening.
- 10) More private citizens should be allowed to voice opinion on how money is spent on river projects. Some fear a vocal minority, through the Advisory Council, will make unneeded changes to appease a few people.
- 11) Do not restrict landowners use of property, use incentives to get the same result.
- 12) Somehow reaching out to all landholders and expressing the need for community action and responsibility for the river would be a good thing.
- 13) Please do not forget about those who hunt and fish these rivers and just simply want to be able to continue to do so.
- 14) I don't want any kind of restrictions put of these rivers. We already have enough restrictions without putting any on the river. Do not change the spirit of the rivers and those whose lives have been shaped by them.
- 15) Address misuse of bush lines and trot lines.
- 16) Stop speed boats, establish no-wake/speed zones, respect the fisherman.
- 17) Consider how the DNR preserves could be more noticeable and informative about ways the public can take action to aid in conservation of our lands.



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### APPENDIX

#### Individual Comments in Response to Survey Questions

##### Does the river benefit you economically?

##### If Yes, please describe how you get economic benefit from the river.

Answers from 13 responders:

- I have a conservation job - the rivers are an important part of conservation.
- Can't put an economic value on the food source one enjoys from these waters, and you can't help realizing one can't purchase such food sources in the grocery.
- I have a Turf Farm and use water to irrigate the grass from the Great Pee Dee River.
- Fish for food
- River provides me a peaceful refuge from a stressful job which allows me to be a better wage-earner.
- I am employed by two jobs that exist in part or in whole by the existence of these rivers.
- Value of property on the river vs not on the river.
- Food
- Timber land adjacent to the rivers
- I give guided kayak eco tours in this area
- When the river is dried up, as it normally is during warmer weather. We are missing out on people who would buy gas, accessories, bait, tackle, food, etc. Selling a home on the water or even renting a home on the water is difficult when there's nothing to see other than sand. Fishing is not good when water levels are low as mercury levels rise. Fishing is nearly impossible when boats are unable to get in the water due to the low water levels. Even kayaking is impossible in some areas because of the buildup of sand during low water.
- Home on the river
- Work and fish to eat.

##### What features/attributes of the rivers should be protected and passed on to future generations?

Answers from 90 responders:

- Everything
- Beauty, links us to the past.
- Opportunities to enjoy the: 1) natural beauty; 2) recreation options; 3) source of water; 4) educational / life science opportunities.
- Their natural beauty, the quality of their water, the natural life that lives in the rivers and near the rivers.
- Their naturalness and their beauty. These rivers provide a lot of homes to many wildlife and freshwater animals. These rivers are part of the culture of the area where many people enjoy using these rivers countless times throughout the year.
- Conservation easements; better designated hunting areas
- The entire ecosystem should be protected from the development and greed of so called economic development of man, and passed on to future generations as a state and federal natural resource.
- The access and the cleanliness
- All of the features checked above should be protected and passed on to future generations.
- Protection of the wildlife in the form of protection of the rivers.
- Pristine condition
- Everything--I don't know where to start--the wildlife and natural beauty should be protected and I would like to see the levels of Mercury pollution reduced
- Fishing and hunting
- Prohibit further construction. Keep the land as it has been for multiple generations.
- Wildlife
- all conservatory measures should be used in keeping these areas in their natural state including oversight of upstream contamination possibilities.
- The access points need better maintenance and improvement and better policing
- The natural features.....no development
- Public access to the water and all the features and benefits that we currently enjoy today



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- Wild areas
- Swamps, trees, clean water
- Its natural beauty and natural state
- Should be left alone, undeveloped, the Great Pee Dee is a very dangerous river; do not promote it for public boating/sight-seeing
- Clean water, abundant wildlife and natural areas
- Water quality wildlife, natural beauty.
- Wildlife, scenic beauty
- Wildlife, clean water, natural beauty,
- Landing need to be protected for continued use, more access points, and trash needs to be collected from the water.
- Historic
- The corridor for these rivers should be closely watched to avoid encroachment of additional industry and waste disposal.
- We should protect as much as we can of what we have left of the wild places, animals and plants in and along these rivers.
- Keep it natural.
- Aquatic resource
- Cypress swamps, hardwoods, water quality, limited development
- Undeveloped
- Tradition. My father taught me how to hunt and fish there, and I will do the same with my kids someday. I support any and all efforts to keep the river in its pristine element
- No industry, clean water
- The scenic beauty and historical value of these rivers are irreplaceable and unique only to our small place on the Earth. It feels as if I step back 200 years in time when I boat along these rivers. There are so few wild places left along the East coast, that I'm passionate about protecting and conserving what is left! The cypress trees, swamps and diverse wild life (owls to alligators and black bear) need eternal protection and responsible management! I could go on forever!
- Opportunities to teach children the art of fishing and hunting in a calm peaceful area
- Raw natural beauty and hunting/camping opportunities
- Cleanliness, non-commercial, quiet beauty, low traffic, a place to "get away" and enjoy/learn about nature, unique wildlife, abundance of wildlife
- Everything
- Wildlife and water quality
- Clean water in natural levels, wide vegetated riparian / wetland buffers, diverse native wildlife, reasonable public access, wilderness experience free of obvious human impact
- Allow hunting and fishing.
- Freedom of access and rights on the river.
- Ecosystems
- The wildlife and nature around the rivers needs to be protected. I would rather see more restrictions for humans (fishing, boating, building, etc) if it will be beneficial for the environment and future generations.
- Hunting, fishing, camping and just the fun of being at the river
- The natural beauty, fishing, water quality and importance.
- We need to protect the amazing wildlife diversity and the habitat needed to support them
- Its history and its existence
- Water quality, unspoiled shorelines
- All the ones selected in #6 above.
- Water quality, wild & scenic beauty, fishability, swimability
- A forested riparian buffer should be maintained.
- Scenic beauty, water and wildlife.
- The scenery, the wildlife, and the boating adventures.
- Open space
- Natural beauty
- All of them. Natural resources must be protected!
- Stop the bush lines / trot lines
- Wooded shoreline/swamps; fish and wildlife habitat/nursery; water quality; public access
- Undeveloped land with Cypress trees, managed game lands, but with limited access to lands
- Accessibility, fish populations/ water quality, camping options for overnight paddle trippers. For god sake the natural beauty!
- Water quality, control of bank erosion, no wake zones, buffers, limit pollution from industrial sites.
- Reduce high speed boating to protect the banks from erosion.
- Water quality; the wildlife, esp. the birds; The old growth timber- no logging please
- The usefulness and joy
- All of them
- All
- Natural beauty should be enhanced. Perhaps remove the floating trash houses from the Little Pee Dee
- The scenic beauty. Recreational opportunities. The wildlife. The historical qualities. The pristine wildness and backwoods quality
- Access to the rivers and the adjacent swamps need to be protected.
- The ability to hunt and fish.



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- Easy access
- Its cleanliness///Hate the thought of "permanent" floating houseboat homes///
- Limited accessibility. Limited riparian development. Minimal sources of pollution.
- Fishing, hunting, general recreation
- Preserve the adjoining wooded swamps and the undisturbed habitat it provides.
- Designate a wildlife refuge and create more public access areas.
- Recreation, Aesthetics, and Wildlife (or Biodiversity).
- Undeveloped areas along river, historic sites, and hunting areas
- All
- Water quality and wildlife.
- Everything.
- Water quality and wildlife
- The hunting, fishing, and other wildlife. The peaceful, laid-back nature of river life.
- Public access
- Undeveloped public lands and more of them. Plenty of clean water flowing instream. Passage for migratory fishes. Public access sites

### What do you see as good or positive changes that are happening with these two rivers?

Answers from 70 responders:

- Nothing
- This survey is a positive indicator. The results of the survey should be carefully analyzed and feedback provided to both the public and the development plan.
- Citizen interest in protecting the rivers
- The fact that a survey is being conducted to gather public opinions and information concerning the well-being of these rivers.
- Waccamaw basin effort
- These areas should come under the protection of various state and federal lands, in the form of state and national forest, parks and trust for future generations.
- The creation of this organization.
- lately I have not seen extreme low water levels like I used to
- Cameras
- Increased recognition of the importance of these rivers.
- This survey to say someone cares
- Realization by more that these rivers are a vital component of this region's stability
- The rivers are relatively free of roadway crossings this must be maintained
- The purchase of properties surrounding the rivers
- New public access areas being built to accommodate families with small children
- Defeating the coal fired power plant
- Don't see any changes for good.
- No industry locating along the rivers to allow pollutants to contaminate it.
- Not a lot has changed in the past 25 years, the more the government gets involved the worst things always become
- Clean water act requires plans be made to address problem areas
- Control development
- Surveys like this
- More and more people are using the rivers for fishing and family activities
- Recreation
- There seems to more interest in preserving these rivers for the future.
- Waccamaw National Wildlife refuge and the Nature Conservancy have been able to acquire and protect more of the lands bordering the rivers.
- Conservation easements protecting the woodland along the river to allow timber to mature.
- Keeping certain industry, such as processing facilities away from the river systems.
- There has been some public access location improvements. Although, there has been some development it's been pretty slow and usually respectful.
- DNR presence
- DNR presence has been a wonderful thing for the area. Surveys like this are a wonderful thing! Great outreach to the community.
- Unfortunately, what news I hear is seldom good news
- Addition of adjacent public or private protected lands. Increases in low impact paddling usage.
- Have not seen much positive change.
- DNR keeping waters safe for family boating
- The action being taken to protect the habitats on the river
- Some landings have been improved
- Their importance being recognized.
- More people paddling on or otherwise using and enjoying the rivers
- Riverkeeper program of the Waccamaw river basin.



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- Creation of the Woodbury (Woodberry) Wildlife Management Area and the increase of DNR personnel patrolling this area.
- Having a group of citizens that care and are willing to see things through despite the state budget setbacks with this program.
- Boat Ramp Improvements
- Dredging, perhaps a damn just beyond 378 to help with keeping adequate water levels.
- Land protection efforts
- Haven't seen anything good
- Acquisition of conservation properties
- You tell me...
- Scenic designation, public awareness of value,
- Unknown
- None
- DNR Protection
- Keeping public access
- The State acquiring Woodbury Forest, preserving Woodbury for future generations, and the DNR soundly managing Woodbury for the benefit of wildlife and hunting.
- Don't see a lot of action.
- That the state is finally discussing this.
- Not much
- Scenic river designation and improved access points
- More public interest.
- Like the additional monies spent on some the boat landings///restocking efforts///
- The fact that SCDNR is devising a plan to protect these rivers for future generations.
- Increased policing of fishing by DNR
- Woodberry WMA and the continuing effort to secure more lands.
- At least you're taking a survey!
- Removal of house boats
- People are talking about them and how to conserve
- Enforcement of DNR regulations
- Horry County is working to improve the public boat landings with more litter cleanup and more police awareness.
- Maintaining rural character.
- Increased involvement of conservation groups like Riverkeeper. Public land acquisition. Conservation of private lands with easements. Waccamaw NWR. Minimum flows restrictions on upstream hydro projects

### Over the next 20 years, what do you want to see happen with these two rivers?

Answers from 82 responders:

- Less litter, less traffic.
- Balance between ecological preservation and some (reasonable) development supported by the citizens locally.
- Limit development, protect water quality, increase water flows,
- That these rivers are preserved and look the way in the future as they do now. This would indicate that the rivers are being well kept and preserved. That the rivers are still being enjoyed by the public as they are currently. Also, that the wildlife and natural habitats are being preserved.
- Stay the same
- Kept clean, undeveloped and wildlife properly managed for the benefit of the public and future generations.
- Reduced speed for boats and jet skis, because their wake damages the banks.
- Development should be in keeping with the natural character of the rivers
- Decrease pollution, maintain natural appearance, clear fallen trees that block the river
- Public safety
- Nothing.
- Make them fully navigable and stop development where possible.
- Less pollution
- Protected from encroachment of development
- More properties purchased around the rivers to help protect them
- Fishing dock
- the continuing development of public access areas
- Recognition and preservation of the natural and cultural heritage
- The water cleaned up so the fish are edible without health risk.
- Continue in their natural beauty
- I want to see the 26,000 plus acres known as Woodberry turned into a National Park under the National Park Service.
- See the river is given as much protection as possible to safe- guard these precious jewels
- Protect against upstream water over usage and new construction that causes runoff and pollution.
- Say like they are or get better
- Balance between growth and preservation



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- Better access points, paved landings, more trash pickup available, make signs with landing names to be seen from river
- More beauty Plants
- More attention to preventing any kind of abuse or misuse of these resources, which are not renewable
- Prohibit airboats, restrict usage of jetskis, institute more litter cleanup efforts and protect as much land as possible.
- More conservation easements.
- Remain unchanged
- Scenic river
- Keep certain industry, such as processing facilities away from the water.
- Conservation efforts, and more hunting access for waterfowl. Perhaps access by obtained permits that would benefit the Pee Dee River Foundation financially?
- I would like to see the rivers remain natural and undisturbed, undeveloped and with less pollution and LITTER! Fish without mercury or dioxins.
- Stay like they are for the public
- Preservation.
- Decrease in mercury levels; some mitigation for increased damming; decreased and more regulated agricultural runoff (particularly as it applies to pig farms); regulation of house boating;
- Improve protection of adjacent lands to conserve water quality and quantity, wildlife habitat / corridors, and aesthetics. Add reasonable facilities to support paddlesport trips, such as camping platforms. Active enforcement of "rivershack" law by DNR.
- I want to see that people who want to act important and people who don't use the river to not regulate people who use the river out of enjoying it.
- A flourishing natural habitat for the wildlife
- Nothing
- 1. A new and nicer landing at Yauhannah.  
2. Eliminate the crowd at Punch Bowl Landing.  
3. Dredge the Little Pee Dee to make it more accessible.
- The waters be protected and clean.
- I hope me and the rivers are still around in 20 years
- I want to see it protected
- Continue to protect these treasures for next generations to come.
- Cleanup grass that is taking over.
- Maintain or improve the water quality
- Would like for it to keep its wilderness charm and character....
- No pollution or Development
- I wish to see them thrive with boating, skiing, fishing, and wildlife preservation being the main concerns.
- I would like to see development curtailed and land protected
- A sense of pride restored in its users
- Restrictions on motor boats. Protection of wildlife
- Stop the bush lines and trot lines
- Better citizen stewardship and land protection
- Keep them clean. Better accesses. Keep the idiots out. Nothing more is necessary.
- Increased public awareness of value and vulnerability,
- Restrict high speed boating traffic
- Keep them as natural as possible
- Little Pee Dee be more accessible by boat during low water times
- To be fully protected and be able to enjoy them.
- Can't eat the fish
- Keep them as pristine and beautiful as possible while still providing reasonable recreational opportunities.
- Remove all "houseboats" from public waters.
- Hunting ended
- More scenic river areas, less litter, better water quality, and more consistent stream flow
- Remain useable as a resource.
- maintain their natural beauty
- More development, loss of public access, crowding.
- Left pretty much like it is
- Intensively managed duck wintering habitat and public hunting access through a draw system.
- More public access areas. More restocking of fish. Stump and log removal.
- Revert back to a pristine state.
- Limit jet skis and boats with large motors
- dredging
- Remain as natural as possible.
- Continuous fight to preserve the waterway vs profitable land use
- More safe camping opportunities along the rivers, possibly playgrounds for children.
- Better marketing of waterways and improvements to public boat landings. Maintain rural character.
- More land conservation. Design standards to guide development. Improve water quality. Maintain fisheries and wildlife



## Summary of Pee Dee Scenic Rivers Public Opinion Survey of May-June 2014

### Who is responsible for the future of these two rivers?

Answers from 29 responders:

- Everyone is responsible for our rivers
- We all are and especially our politicians, who all seem to forget who they work for!
- Government isn't the answer, Where is the money coming from? Empower the people.
- Everyone who uses the river in some form or fashion should be responsible.
- Everyone has an impact - directly or indirectly
- River protection is too big a job for any single entity to control. However, my general opinion is the less done the better
- EPA
- Landowners located on the river need to held responsible for trash that comes from their land, private docks and landings need to be upkeep.
- We're all in this together as South Carolinians
- These river border multiple counties and therefore needs to be protected by state level instead of county level.
- Incentives work better with landowners than regulations.
- Everyone within the water shed of these two rivers are responsible. We all have to be responsible!
- We all have the responsibility of a clean environment.
- All are responsible
- 1. Citizens should take more pride in these blessings that God has given to us.
- 2. I believe that the government should step in and enforce litter control, alcohol consumption and vandalism.
- 3. New bridges need to be built for Hwy 701 South.
- This cannot fall onto the shoulders of one group. We can all do better. For me, the primary concern for now is water pollution so DNR & DHEC have the larger burden to make real changes to affect the legacy of this part of the State.
- It is everyone who uses these rivers responsibility to protect these rivers
- Without Government support there will be no future
- A partnership between all of these folks!
- Landowners to develop responsibly
- State gov't to enforce fishing and hunting regulations
- Local gov't to monitor access points
- Citizens to respect the rivers and not to litter, etc
- Everyone has a stake when it comes to natural resources. DNR needs to have more of a presence.
- Citizens need to make their voices heard to elected officials
- We are ALL responsible for our rivers.
- Poor question---Is DNR looking to add to its budget?
- Since most of the land in between the two is already state owned WMA (Woodberry), the onus rests on SCDNR primarily.
- All of the above has a role to play, including federal via grants and support.
- Boaters
- We're all in this together.
- All have responsibilities. We need more leadership and actions at local level - citizens and local governments

### What would you like to say to us which has not been covered in this survey?

Answers from 58 responders:

- We all need to be willing to oppose bad policy, including DNR
- Thanks for your interest
- Articulate educational assets and opportunities as another motivation to preserve the health of both rivers.
- I hope that the work that you all are doing is as rewarding as is the importance of all of the natural resources pertaining to these ecosystems on these two rivers.
- Thank you for your consideration
- I also use the Little Pee Dee north of 378 and would like to see that portion covered by this project also
- The old settlements located along these rivers and the Native American and American history need to be addressed. There are more artifacts
- Please help in any way that is people and wildlife beneficial
- Cannot think of anything
- Thank you for making the survey, we need to work together to protect these magnificent resources



## Summary of Pee Dee Scenic Rivers Public Opinion Survey of May-June 2014

- Would like to see more DNR agents on the rivers
- located along these rivers that you could ever imagine.
- I have been involved with the Great Pee River in various ways-hunting, fishing, boating, land border its banks, etc- for 55 years. I firmly believe it is a very dangerous river and should not be promoted for swimming, pleasure boating, sightseeing, etc
- What kind of facilities do you propose in these areas (camping, hiking trails, etc.)?
- We need scenic areas on our rivers.
- I would like to know when the council meets and would like to know if meetings are open to the public. More private citizens should be allowed to voice their opinions about how state or local money is spent on river projects.
- Yes
- Keep up the good work
- Regulate floating shacks.
- Please do not put times of access on the rivers such as are imposed by WMA's such as Woodbury and Samworth.
- Do not restrict any land owner from utilizing their property use incentives to get the same result.
- Thank you for being proactive and caring.
- This was a pretty well developed survey. Most of the primary issues were covered. I truly hope most of the residents and users of these rivers see the value of what they represent. I wish they could always remain undeveloped, wild and pure.
- Address the problems with people leaving bush hooks tied in trees for days and weeks at a time. It is not only dangerous for fishermen, but fish die on these hooks that never get checked.
- It would be nice if the citizens along the rivers felt like a community and felt the need to come together and act as a group to protect the rivers and surrounding land. I am not sure if efforts have already been made in this area, but somehow reaching out to all landholders and expressing the need for community action and responsibility would be a good thing.
- Stop Speed boat usage on both rivers ; Establish no wake and speed zones near landing sites; respect the fisherman; stop dumping in and around the river; fine those who allow fuel and other contaminants to enter the river via boats left unattended
- Press on! Thank you. We are counting on you.
- Some things are better left undeveloped
- As a whole the groups of people wanting to restrict access are better organized and more savvy in their political approach to their goals. The people who just want to hunt and fish really do not do a good job of organizing and as a result do not get heard. Please do not forget about that group of people, those who have hunted and fished and just simply want to be able to continue to do so.
- I along with other local peers who use the river often, fear that the vocal minority may get to much power through the use of The Advisory Council and feel that unneeded changes may come down to appease a few people.
- It'd be nice to see, not only at the river sights but all SCDNR nature preserves, more noticeable and informative ways in which the public can take action to aid in conservation of our lands. Maybe a mandatory class for certain wildlife activities, not just for hunting licenses.
- I don't want any kind of restrictions put of these rivers. We already have enough restrictions without putting any on the river.
- Do not change the spirit of the rivers and those whose lives have been shaped by them. These waters have been my friend my entire life, please help clean up the pollution. Thank you.
- How to improve the river flow?
- Education is just as important as conservation. We only protect what we love, and only love what we understand
- It needs dredging in a bad way
- Way to go...continue the work that was started and see that it gets completed....thanks!!!!
- Stop the bush lines and trot lines
- Keep advocating for the rivers - it's important
- Keep up the good work. These rivers need people to fight for them. Without y'all it will be a trash dump!
- Please look at the motor boat use situation on the Lynches River ( near the HY 52 bridge ) an be concerned about overuse by high speed boating and how this erodes the bank and impacts the scenic aspect of a river and detracts from kayaking , wildlife, etc.
- Please preserve our rivers and keep them from any further development or practice that will detract from their natural beauty, destroy their native ecosystems, overtax their natural resources, or limit their recreation possibilities. Thanks for what you do.
- Ugly, rotting, polluting "houseboats."
- Bullet shells and fishing lines should be considered as litter, if left.



## Summary of Pee Dee Scenic Rivers Public Opinion Survey of May-June 2014

- Being a native of the area, I am particularly concerned about development of our rural areas by people "from off," who don't care a whit about the locals, our natural resources, or the ability of it to be passed on to future generations.
- Thanks for your service----The rivers were created by a Master Designer for our benefit----no need to redesign... but we are to be good stewards so protect public access, promote their beauty... We don't own them and it's a honor to use them.....
- River shacks are a part of the history, maybe not the most attractive or maintained but they have a place if done correctly
- Promote the expansion of the WMA's and more importantly, promote their active management.
- Take a more active role in extolling the benefits to the area residents and tourists.
- Thanks
- Is there, or will there, be an opportunity to volunteer or help out with this effort?
- Dredge the river and the swamps will clean themselves
- Who is on the Council?
- Safeguard it, get the word out, let people know what's happening.
- Thanks and hang in there.