

The South Carolina Catawba River Corridor Plan

South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

South Carolina Department of Parks,
Recreation and Tourism

Catawba Regional Planning Council

South Carolina Catawba River Task Force

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* Employed by Water Resources during Catawba River study.

Foreword

Like all rivers, the Catawba flowed in a natural rhythmic cycle, long before any human being gazed upon its broad expanse. The river provided habitat to a rich diversity of flora and fauna. It flooded regularly, creating fertile bottomlands. Eventually humans began to settle along the river to utilize its abundant resources.

In the early 1700s, the Englishman John Lawson came upon a seven-mile stretch of the bottomlands in cultivation along the river in what is presently Lancaster County. He found game abundant. Waxhaw and Catawba Indians were living prosperously in villages on the east side of the Catawba River.

Throughout the ensuing decades the Catawba River has provided resources that have helped communities to grow, yet the river maintains a largely undisturbed character that enhances the richness of our natural world. Bald eagles once again spread their majestic wings as they soar down the river corridor. The rocky shoals spider lily puts on a June wildflower show unlike any other in the Southeast. Communities and industry use the water of the Catawba River to meet human needs and create jobs.

This book presents a management plan for critically important riverine resources. The core of this management plan is found in the comprehensive set of management recommendations. These recommendations were carefully crafted over an 18-month process by the dedicated efforts of over 175 individuals who volunteered their time to attend meetings, issue forums, and field trips.

The Catawba River Corridor Plan is a community-based plan created by citizens of Chester, Lancaster and York counties. Therein lies the strength and credibility of this comprehensive plan, which will ultimately yield the ability to implement the Catawba plan.

It has been a privilege to serve as chairman of such a committed group of volunteers. The task force dealt with difficult and potentially divisive issues, yet maintained respect for one another and each point of view. Task force members and the members of committees and subcommittees took seriously the job of creating this plan. I greatly admire the work of all involved.

We must now dedicate ourselves with the same level of commitment to the implementation of the Catawba River Corridor Plan. Through this type of effort we can be assured that the Catawba River will continue to meet our diverse needs well into the 21st century.

Barry R. Beasley
Chairman
Catawba River Task Force.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Catawba River corridor study is a community-based planning process that required the support and involvement of numerous individuals in the communities surrounding this 30-mile segment of the Catawba River. This process was initiated through the support of the Nation Ford Land Trust and as a result the trust deserves a great deal of credit for this study. The study next received the support, both political and financial, from the Lancaster, Chester, and York County Councils. The efforts of the three council chairmen at the time the study was approved, Caldwell Barron (York County), Carlisle Roddey (Chester County), and Eldridge Emory (Lancaster County) are particularly appreciated.

Next, appreciation goes to the members of the Catawba River Task Force (see Table 1). This 45-member group guided the direction of the study and assembled the final corridor plan. The task force represented a broad spectrum of river-related interests in the community. All of these individuals gave significant amounts of their time and effort to create the Catawba River Corridor Plan.

The ability to conduct a comprehensive corridor planning process requires the involvement and assistance of numerous individuals. The task force had significant support from individuals in communities up and down the Catawba River.

Marshall Brucke, formerly superintendent at Landsford Canal State Park and now at Andrew Jackson State Park, provided invaluable assistance, particularly with our task force canoe trips. Marshall and his staff shuttled people and canoes up and down the Catawba River. He also made the facilities of both parks available for meetings and other task force functions. Joe Anderson, the current superintendent of Landsford Canal State Park, also helped with canoe trips and meeting facilities.

Jim Rivers, of Carolina Canoe Inc., in Charlotte, provided canoes and river guides for numerous task force canoe trips. Jim's help made it possible for us to schedule a variety of canoe trips and introduce dozens of individuals to the beauty of the Catawba River. Guy Jones of River Runner Outdoor Center also provided canoes.

We appreciate the help of the Springs Foundation and Bowater Inc. for providing meeting facilities and meals for task force meetings. Also, the city of Rock Hill and the University of South Carolina – Lancaster were very generous by providing meeting facilities for several task force meetings.

Completing a corridor plan that examined as many issues as the Catawba study is a complex process. For a study to have credibility and meaning, individuals with numerous skills and expertise must be involved. The individuals who served on the resource committees or subcommittees deserve special recognition for their contributions to the corridor plan. These individuals attended countless meetings, field trips, and seminars as they wrote recommendations for river management in their area of expertise. To give these individuals special recognition, they are listed below by committee.

Putting together a document such as this is a complex task. Noel Hill spent long hours typing this document and assisted with editing. Chris Page provided valuable technical assistance in all phases of assembling the document. Van Kornegay did the creative work for the layout of the corridor plan.

We would also like to thank Gary Fankhauser of Odell and Associates for the conceptual plans for Landsford Canal State Park. Also deserving special recognition is Will Barnes. Will's photographs provide visual evidence of the beauty and serenity found along the Catawba River.

Finally, we would like to note that all the geographic information system (GIS) maps in this document and throughout the study were done by Catawba Regional Planning Council staff. We would particularly like to thank Diane Fischer for her work in constructing these maps.

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Tom C. Williams	



THE CATAWBA RIVER: An Introduction

"The scenery here cannot fail to interest. Ten thousand rocks and grassy islets meet the traveller's eye, ten thousand murmuring streams meander through them."

Robert Mills, describing the Landsford area
of the Catawba River in his
Statistics of South Carolina, 1826.

The Catawba River has a special place in the lives of the residents of Chester, Lancaster, and York counties. While the Catawba may not have the size and grandeur of the Mississippi, the great falls of the Niagara, or the whitewater thrills of the Chattooga, it works its magic in its own quiet way. Rising from the clear, cold springs of the North Carolina mountains, the Catawba weaves through the Piedmont of the Carolinas, touching millions of lives.

For many generations the river has been the lifeblood of the Catawba Nation, which shares its name "the people of the river." In many ways, the river and the people are one and the same. The Catawba has nourished the land

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through countless floods, dropping the silt, that has created the rich bottomlands. It has created habitat for creatures of water, land, and air. Modern man has altered the river to suit his purposes. Dams slow the river to extract its power. Bridges span it to overcome its impediment to transportation. Pipes enter its depths to remove the water, which is a necessity for growth and development, and they deposit our wastes to be carried silently away.

The Catawba has helped to form us as a people. The places we live, our transportation patterns, our jobs, our ways of thinking are all tied to the river in one manner or another. In return, we have formed the river as it exists today. We have created great dams and reservoirs where once it flowed free. We have used the river and changed it in many ways, often without thinking or caring.

After centuries of interaction with the river, a group of local residents have paused for a time to reflect on the river and its future. In April 1991, the South Carolina Water Resources Commission* received a request from the Henry's Knob Group of the Sierra Club to begin the process of designating the Catawba as a state Scenic River. Because there are diverse interests in the river, the Water Resources Commission staff suggested that a comprehensive river corridor plan be completed for the river instead. The Nation Ford Land Trust, a local land conservancy, responded to this suggestion by requesting a formal proposal outlining a comprehensive corridor plan process for the 30-mile stretch of the river from the Lake Wylie Dam to the Highway 9 bridge.

This proposal, which involved the Water Resources Commission and the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism as major participants, was presented to the County Councils in York, Chester, and Lancaster counties. The counties endorsed the project and provided funding for its implementation. This process was completed in March 1992.

The county councils appointed a Catawba River Task Force composed of 45 people representing landowners, public agencies, business and industry, environmental interests, and the general public (see Table 1). The group met initially on July 23, 1992, in Lancaster. Over the next few months, several meetings provided opportunities to learn about the river's past, the natural and cultural features and the existing conditions along the river. An emphasis was placed on the water quality of the river and the current regulatory environment. The group studied the natural resources that exist in and around the river. A number of outings provided task force members and others with the opportunity to canoe the river, walk its banks, and learn through experience.

Perhaps the bulk of the work has been done by the 14 committees and subcommittees appointed by the task force to study specific areas and make recommendations. These committees, whose membership included a total of 172 people, met during late 1992 and through most of 1993 to study their issue areas and to develop a series of recommendations for adoption by the full task force. During the second half of 1993, the task force met on several occasions for review and adoption of these recommendations, which are included as part of the study document.

The Catawba River corridor study is a citizen-based initiative that has provided an opportunity for a large number of people to provide input concerning the future of the river, which is so important to the region. Although the initial stage is being completed with the publication of this document, the process of implementing the study's recommendations will continue for some time. This process will depend on the independent decisions reached by local governments, the Catawba Nation, corporations, environmental organizations, and landowners. Hopefully, this process will provide a framework and guide for these decisions so that the Catawba River will continue as a viable and valuable natural resource for the people of the three-county area.

** As of July 1, 1994, the South Carolina Water Resources Commission, the Land Resources Conservation Commission and the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Department became the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. Most references in this document refer to the agencies prior to the merger.*

Table 1. The Catawba River Task Force

The South Carolina Catawba River Task Force

Barry R. Beasley, Chair
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Chip Berry
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Catawba Cultural Preservation
Council

Fred Hardee
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James R. Hendricks
Duke Power Company

Larry Huntley
Ashe Brick Company

Rita Kenion
Museum of York County

Tom Kohlsaatt
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Marine Resources Department

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and Sewer District

Tony Payseur
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Eric Robertson
City of Lancaster Water and
Sewer Department

R. Carlisle Roddey, Chair
Chester County Council

Walt Schrader
Environmental Consultant

Harold Shapiro, Executive Director
Catawba Regional Planning Council

Russ Sherer
South Carolina Department of Health
and Environmental Control

W.R. "Bill" Simpson
Landowner

Stephen Turner
Rock Hill Economic Development
Corporation

Kathryn D. "Kitty" Updike
Nation Ford Land Trust

Bob Vail
Lancaster County Economic Develop-
ment Board

William "Bill" Vogel
Bowater, Inc.

Gerald White
Lancaster County Water and Sewer Dis-
trict

Hugh White, Jr.
Landowner

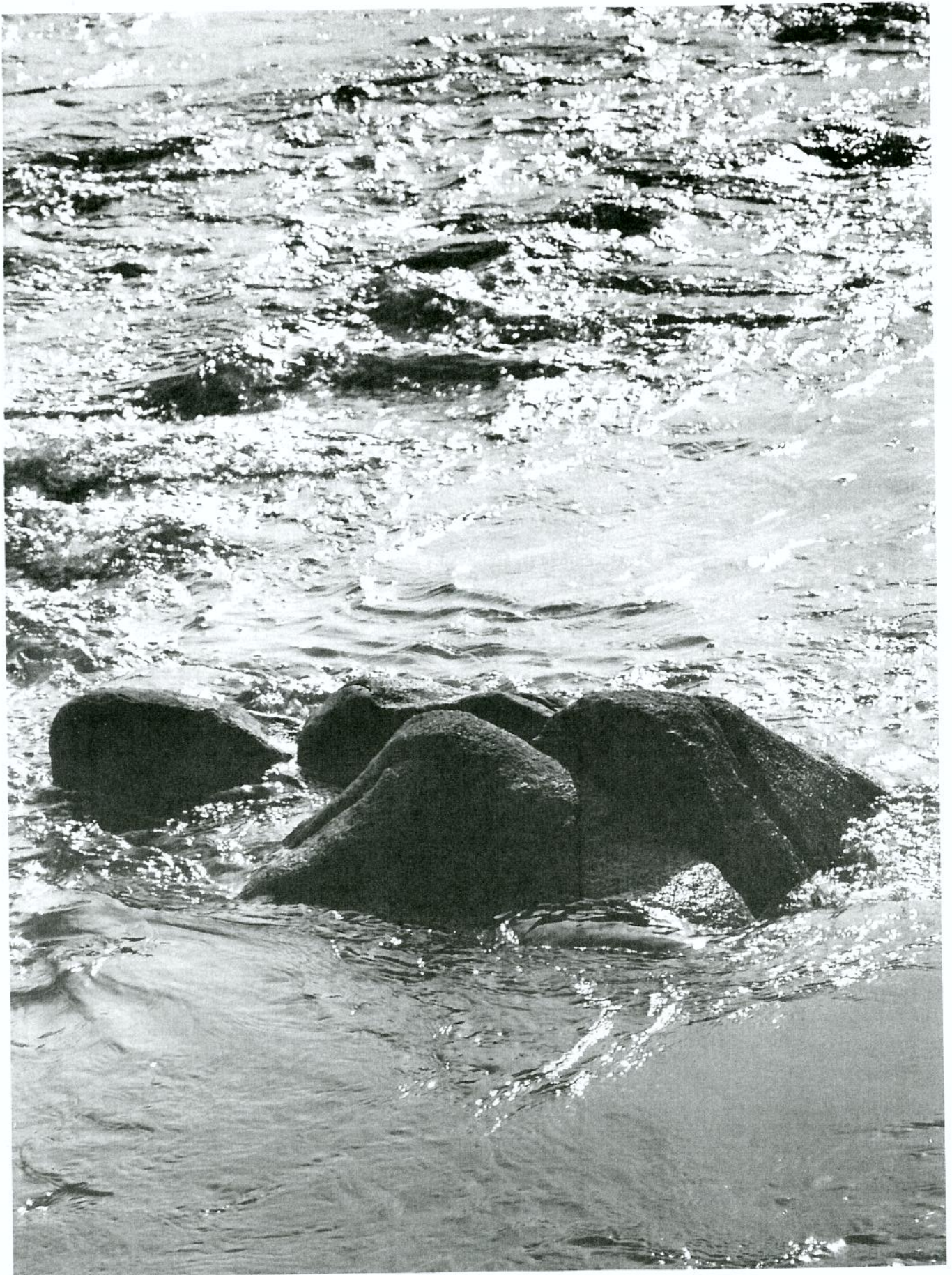
Jim White, IV
Landowner

Murray White
York County Council

Bob Williams
Springs Industries

* Caldwell Barron (York County) and Eldridge Emory (Lancaster County) were county council chairmen at the time the task force was formed. Lindsay Pettus served on the Lancaster County Council when the task force was appointed.

** Marshall Brucke now serves as super-
intendent of Andrew Jackson State Park.



River Resources

Few urban areas in America are without a river or lake. Water is both desirable and necessary to human life and landscape. Because of water's usefulness for industry, drinking water, waste assimilation, agriculture, recreation, and wildlife habitat, our rivers are under increasing pressures from a number of sources. The sound use of river resources and protection of their most valuable natural, cultural, and recreational features gives an impetus for local and state initiatives in river management and conservation. The Catawba River Corridor Plan is one such initiative to conserve the rich natural and cultural heritage of the Catawba River in South Carolina.

The Catawba River originates in the mountains of North Carolina and flows through a series of lakes and unimpounded stretches for over 200 miles until it meets Big Wateree Creek to form the Wateree River at Wateree Lake. The Catawba River Corridor Plan is concerned with the 30-mile segment of the river below Lake Wylie dam to the S.C. Highway 9 bridge crossing near the upper reaches of Fishing Creek Reservoir (see Figure 1).

The Catawba River enters South Carolina flowing through the Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill Metropolitan Statistical Area which includes over 1.1 million people, according to the 1990 census. The three counties adjacent to this river segment,

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Table 2. River use classifications for the Catawba River
(from the South Carolina Rivers Assessment)

RIVER USE CATEGORY	CLASS
Agricultural	-
Historic and Cultural	3
Industrial	1
Inland Fisheries	2
Natural Features	1
Recreational Boating (flatwater/backcountry)	3
Recreational Fishing	3
Timber Management	1
Undeveloped	1
Urban	-
Utilities	1
Water Quality	-
Water Supply	2
Wildlife Habitat	3
(- represents category falling outside of class ranks)	

York, Lancaster, and Chester, have a combined population of over 218,000 people. Also, the three-county area's population is projected to grow by at least 12 percent over the next ten years. Thus, the Catawba is well situated to offer its unique diversity of natural, cultural, and recreational resources to a large and growing population.

The Catawba River was rated highly among 1,400 river segments studied in the South Carolina Rivers Assessment, prepared by the South Carolina Water Resources Commission in 1988. The Assessment provided an analysis of the importance of each river in the state as it relates to river uses. It was designed as a planning tool to aid in decisions about the future of individual rivers in the state. The Rivers Assessment placed a value on each river based on 14 river use categories, providing a common index for river comparison in the state and serving as one of the best available collections of data for determining compatible and conflicting river uses in South Carolina. The assessment set the stage for statewide multi-objective river corridor planning.

In the Rivers Assessment, the Catawba was rated by value classes for each river use category (see Table 2). Value classes ranged from one to four, with class one of highest value. Value class one rivers were considered "superior" in the Rivers Assessment, with resources of statewide or greater significance. Value class two rivers were considered "outstanding," with resources of regional significance. Value class three rivers were considered "significant," with resources of local significance. Value class four river resources were "unknown," but important enough to require further research and documentation.

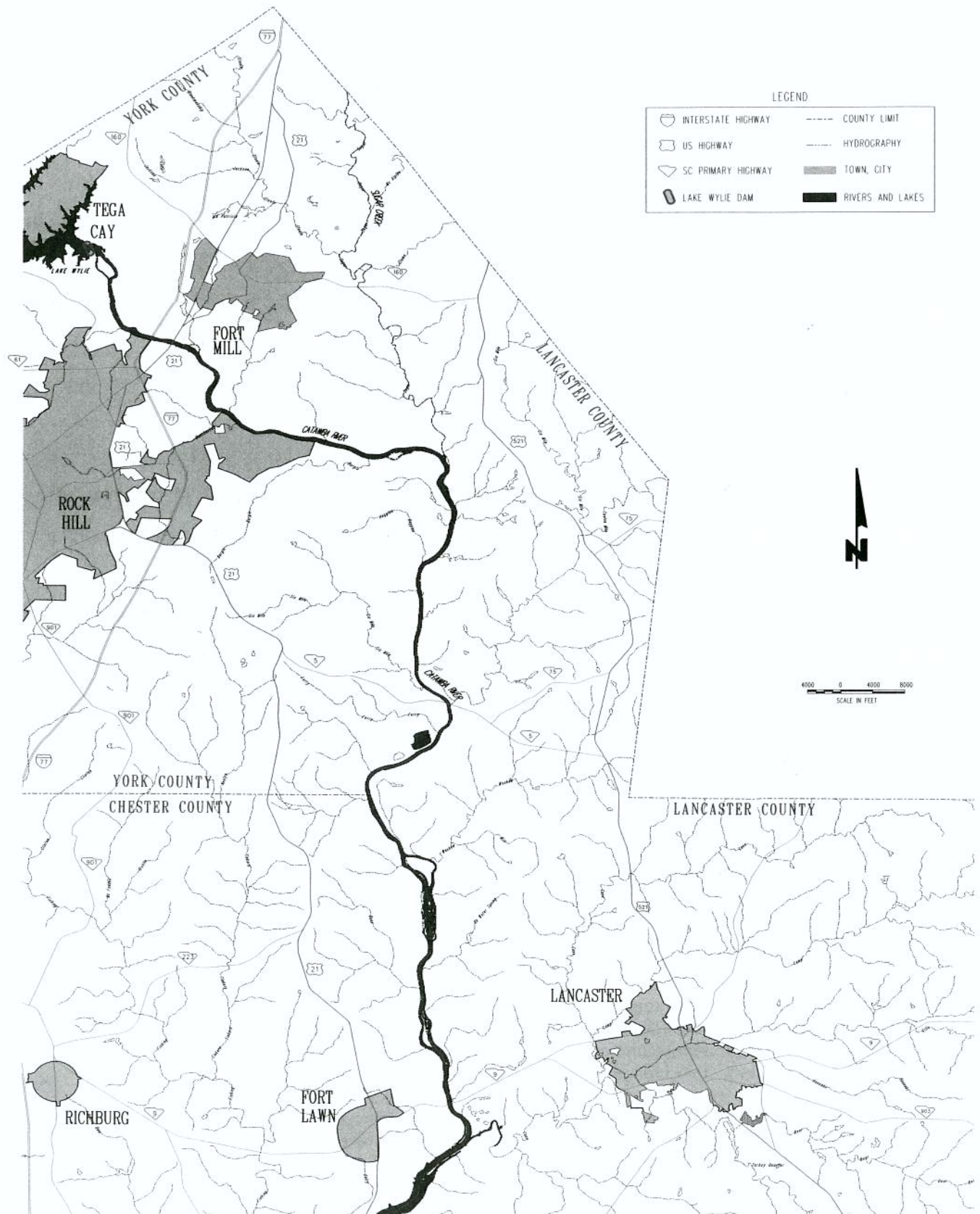
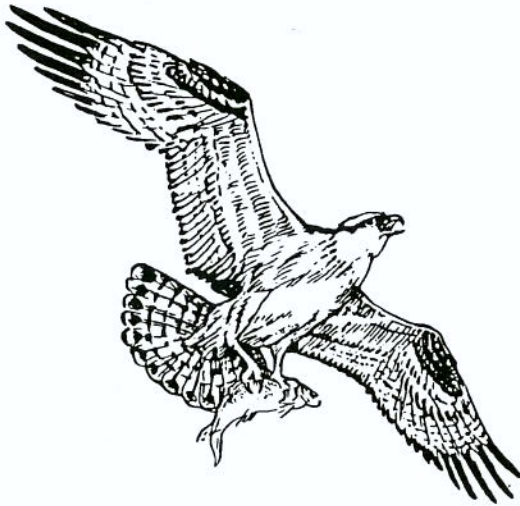


Figure 1. Catawba River study area



THE FIRST I HEARD OF THE POSSIBILITY OF A Catawba River Task Force was in a very negative light. I wanted to serve more from the standpoint of looking after my own interests, which I was convinced would be mistreated, than I was in preserving the river.

Once the meetings began, I quickly realized that I was 180 degrees wrong. The task force and subcommittee members were all very open-minded and their one concern was what was best for the river, the area, and all of us who use and appreciate the river and its value to our region.

The meetings were wonderful learning experiences and also opportunities to meet and know some very dedicated and interesting people. I am proud to have served on the task force.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the value of the leadership of Dr. Beasley and his dedicated staff during the entire process.

Larry Huntley

HYDROLOGY

Much of the drainage area of the Catawba River, including its headwater streams, is located in North Carolina. In South Carolina, the Catawba River begins at Lake Wylie. This lake is a 12,455-acre water body, impounded in 1904 by Catawba Power Company, a predecessor to Duke Power Company, to supply hydroelectric power to the surrounding population. It is one of the oldest major impoundments in the state. The lake was enlarged to its present capacity in 1925, making it the ninth largest lake in South Carolina. Lake Wylie has a storage capacity of 281,900 acre-feet of water and delivers a total power capacity of 60 megawatts through four turbine units.

Four tributary streams in the Catawba River corridor are classified as navigable by the South Carolina Water Resources Commission: Twelvemile Creek, Cane Creek, Sugar Creek, and Waxhaw Creek. Two United States Geological Survey streamflow monitoring stations are located on the main stem of the Catawba River, and one was located on Sugar Creek from 1974 to 1979. Stream flow at the main stem river stations has been subject to regulated releases for most of the period of record due to the numerous hydroelectric power facilities located along the river in North and South Carolina.

Controlled releases from the hydroelectric power plant at Lake Wylie greatly affect streamflow on the Catawba. The high degree of regulation probably results in less variation between monthly flows than would otherwise occur. This is evident by the main stem gauging stations, which indicate only slight seasonal variation. Maximum and minimum monthly

flow ranges are also narrow for the main stem gauging stations, again indicating only moderate flow variability; however, maximum and minimum daily flows may fluctuate tenfold.

Average annual flow in the Catawba River ranges from 4,457 cubic feet per second (cfs) near Rock Hill to 5,348 cfs near Catawba, South Carolina. Streamflow on Sugar Creek near Fort Mill averaged 461 cfs over its monitoring period. Streamflow in the Catawba River can be expected to equal or exceed 881 cfs near Rock Hill and 1,100 cfs at Catawba 90 percent of the time. The lowest daily flows of record occurred in the drought of 1987, with 277 cfs recorded at Rock Hill and 480 cfs at Catawba.

Unlike the main stem, tributary streams are largely unregulated. In the Piedmont region, high relief and impermeable soils result in rapid runoff and limited ground water storage, so the streams are characterized by highly variable flows dependent primarily on rainfall and runoff rather than discharge from ground water storage. Ranges between high and low flows of record and high and low monthly flows may, therefore, be more pronounced for Sugar Creek than for the main stem of the Catawba, and highly variable mean and minimum monthly flows can occur during the year. Streamflow in the upper portion of the Catawba River is well-sustained throughout the year, however, and generally provides a reliable source of water supply.

Two potential hydropower sites were identified by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers within the Catawba-Wateree sub-basin in the late 1980s. Located at Sugar Creek and Courtney Island, these sites would utilize the 88.5 feet of head between Lake Wylie and Fishing Creek Reservoir. If these additional hydroelectric power facilities were constructed, the Catawba River would become the most developed river in South Carolina. Recent applications for the Sugar Creek Hydroelectric Project, which proposed impounding the Catawba River just upstream of Sugar Creek near Goat Island, and the Rowell Hydroelectric Project, proposed for construction near Culp Island, have been terminated.

NATURAL RESOURCES

The free-flowing section of the Catawba River between the Lake Wylie Dam and the Fishing Creek Reservoir provides a variety of habitat for numerous species of plants and animals. The diversity of habitat is due to both manmade and natural conditions. Duke Power Company's controlled releases of water at the Lake Wylie Dam greatly impact the flow of water moving through the river corridor. This controlled release of water combined with the river's natural topography creates deep pools of cool water and rocky shoals where warmer water flows.

According to the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Department, the river and its flood plain support over 40 species of fish, 150 species of birds, and 100 species of trees, flowering plants and shrubs along with numerous species of mammals, amphibians and reptiles. Despite the immense wealth of different plants and animals in the corridor, two species stand out for their rarity and beauty. Both the rocky shoals spider lily and bald eagle inhabit this section of the Catawba River. The colony of rocky shoals spider lilies at Landsford Canal State Park in Chester County is one of the largest in the Southeast. The colony provides a spectacular view every spring as it stretches from bank to bank across the rocky shoals near the State Park. Figure 2 illustrates environmentally sensitive areas in the corridor.

A nesting site of bald eagles has recently been documented in the corridor and there have been numerous sightings of this raptor, including those by task force members as they canoed the river. The return of this majestic bird of prey to the area, and the continued presence of the spider lily, only help to underscore the need to preserve the natural environment of the corridor for these rare species, as well as the others it supports.

The continued presence of so many species in the river corridor is predicated upon many environmental factors. Perhaps the most important is the quality of the water in the river itself. The Catawba River is classified by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) as freshwater (FW). This means it is suitable for industrial and agricultural uses; recreation; drinking water, after treatment; and for the survival and propagation of plants and animals. This classification sets strict standards for the amount of dissolved oxygen and coliform bacteria in the water, as well as water temperature and pH. Furthermore, the classifi-



cation prohibits the dumping of garbage or sludge, toxic wastes, or untreated wastewater into the river. The condition of the river is monitored by SCDHEC using data from its water quality monitoring stations located along the river and its major tributaries. Past data from these stations show that water quality in the river has generally been good. However, waterborne pollution after heavy rains or the accidental discharge of improperly treated wastewater have temporarily lowered water quality below its classification standards in the past. With increasing growth and urbanization occurring along this corridor, additional effort will be needed to lower the amount of both nonpoint and point source pollution.

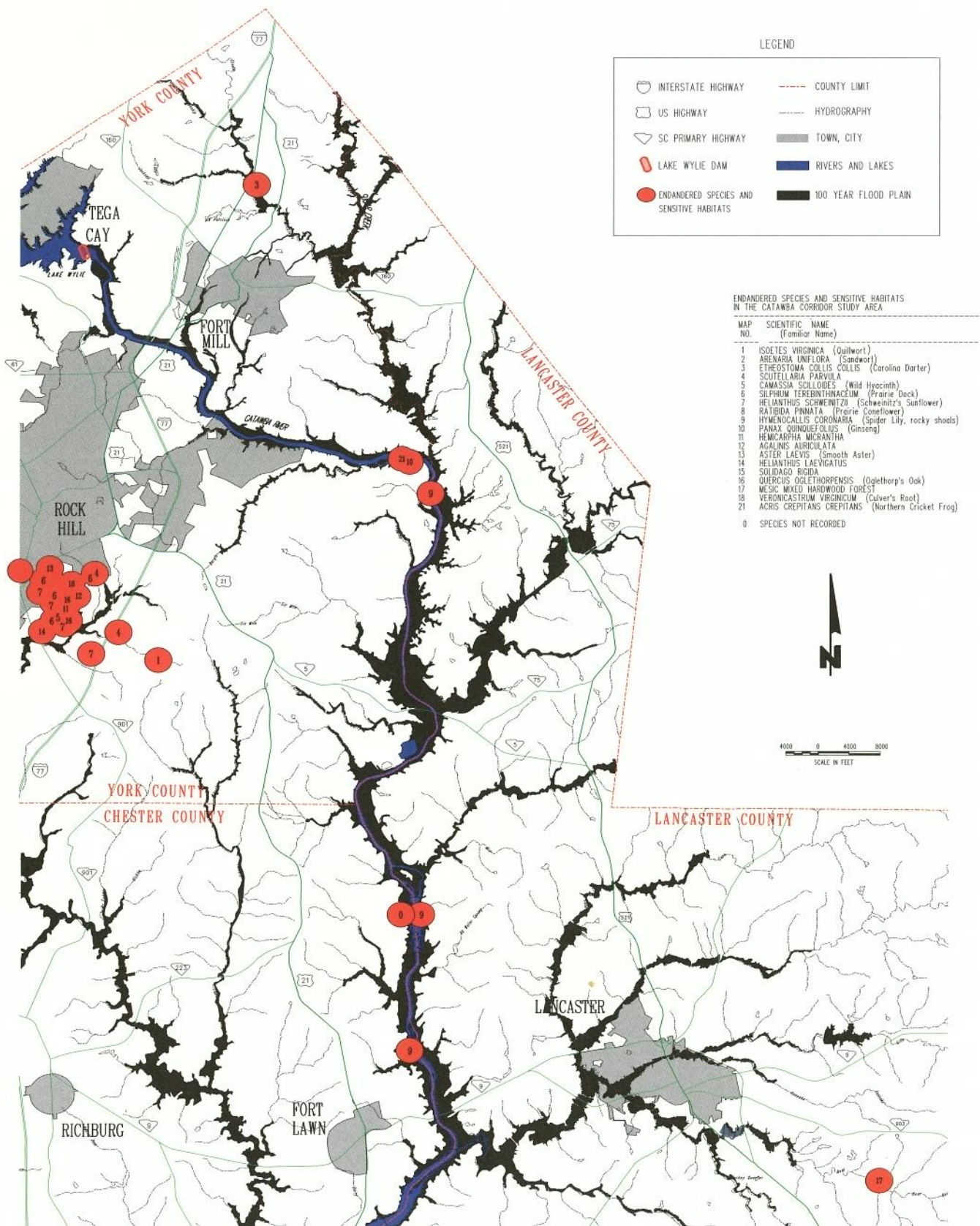
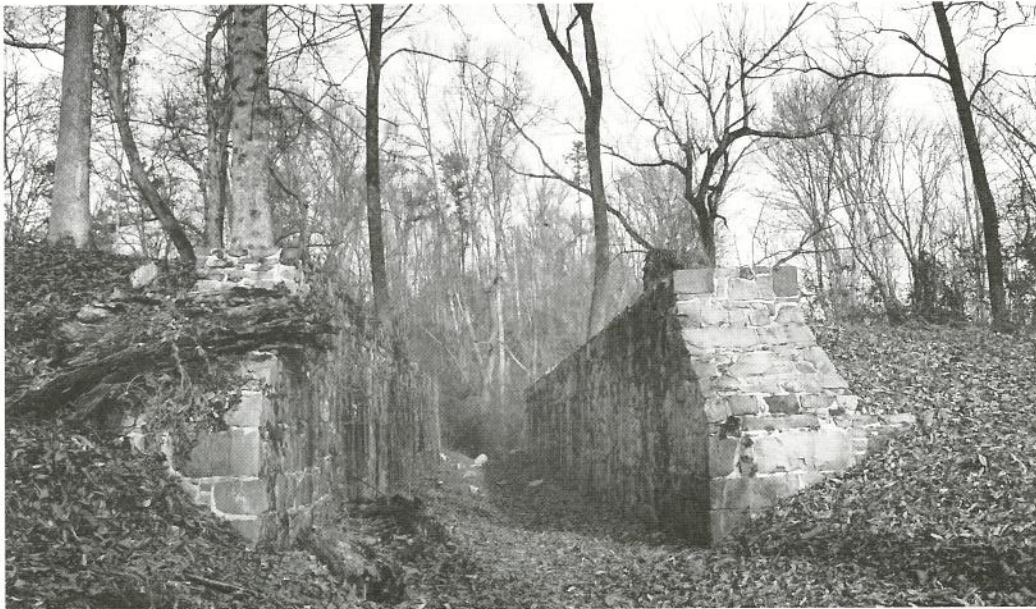


Figure 2. Environmentally Sensitive Areas



CULTURAL RESOURCES

The Catawba River is uniquely identified with the Catawba Indian Nation. It is believed that the tribe's name means "People of the River" in their ancient language. When the first white contact was made with the Catawbas, they were a large tribe living along the river and its tributaries in what is now the central Carolinas. Their villages were along its banks. They fished in its clean and productive waters, planted crops in the fertile bottomlands, and crossed at fords such as Nation Ford and Landsford. As a result of centuries of habitation by the Catawbas, there is a rich record of their culture buried in the soil. Sites of villages, hunting camps, and other habitations are scattered throughout the river corridor. Arrowheads and remnants of tools abound. Much can be learned about the lifestyle and culture of the People of the River through the systematic study of their archaeological record. It is a priceless resource that should be protected and observed in a professional manner.

The first Europeans to enter the Catawba valley were the Spanish explorers who left little evidence of their presence. They were soon followed by traders and then by waves of settlers who took up land and began subsistence farming. They forever changed the face of the Catawba and its lands. Two hundred and fifty years of settlement have resulted in a rich tapestry of cultural landmarks. Churches and cemeteries, fords and ferries, dams and canals lie side by side with subdivisions, apartments, large industrial complexes, and interstate highway bridges.

Nation Ford has seen countless generations of travelers and their goods crossing the river, from Indian traders and warriors to Revolutionary era troops and Confederate President Jefferson Davis on his flight from Richmond. Landsford has also seen its share of travelers, along with evidences of a bold attempt at canal building. Sites of grist mills dot the tributaries of the river, while the textile mills were located in the nearby towns a century ago to rely on the water power the river provided. Today, the giant Bowater paper mill complex utilizes the cleansing power the river water provides. A few farms, farmhouses, and plantation homes remain from a previous era to give evidence of the agrarian lifestyle that once dominated the land.

Much has been expected of the Catawba River by humans over the centuries, and much has been left behind as evidence of this human activity. The cultural resources that exist in the river corridor are valuable to our understanding of our past, and should be preserved to help us build a better future (see Figures 3 and 4).

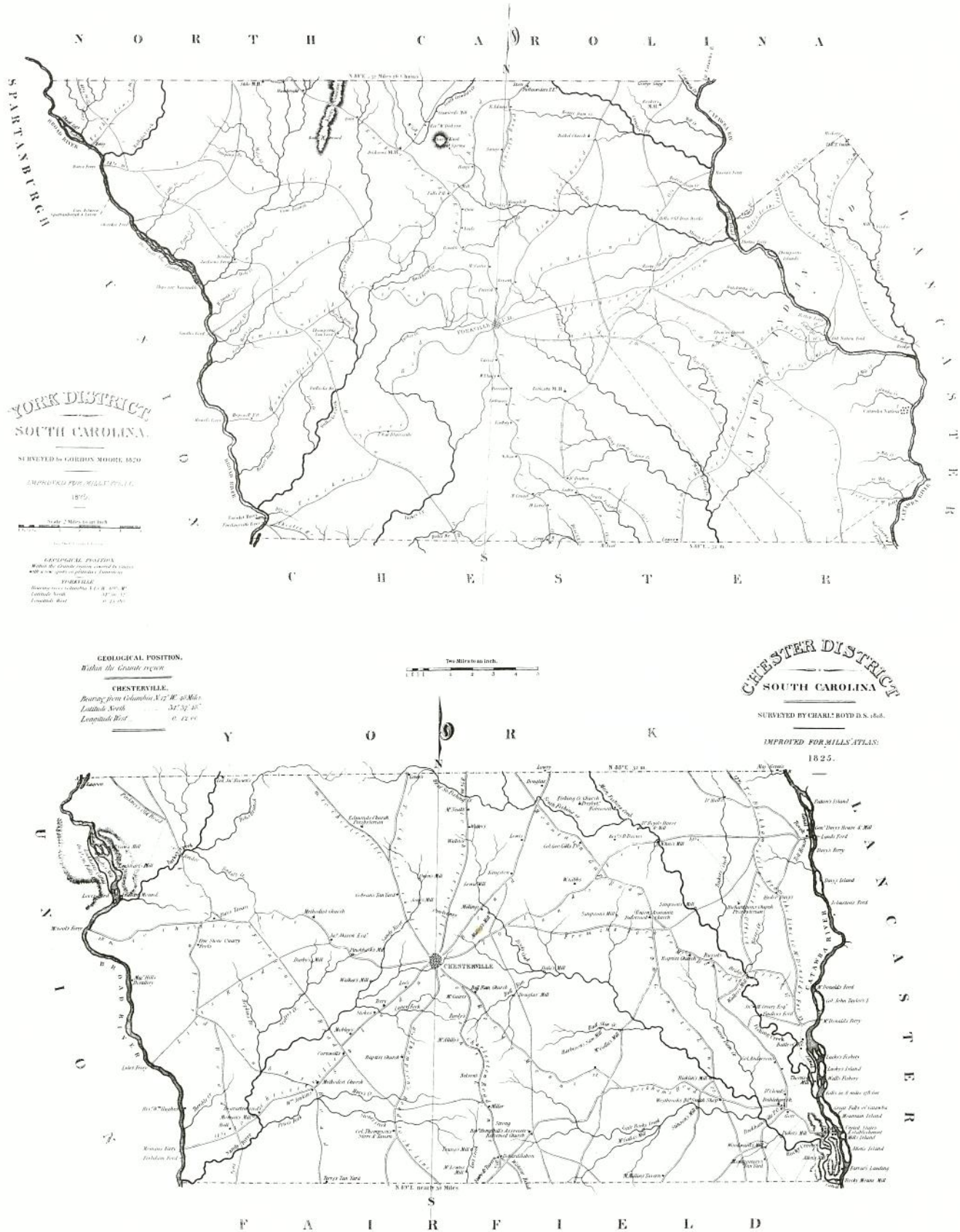


Figure 3. Maps of York and Chester Counties from Mills Atlas, circa 1825.

The Catawba River Corridor Plan

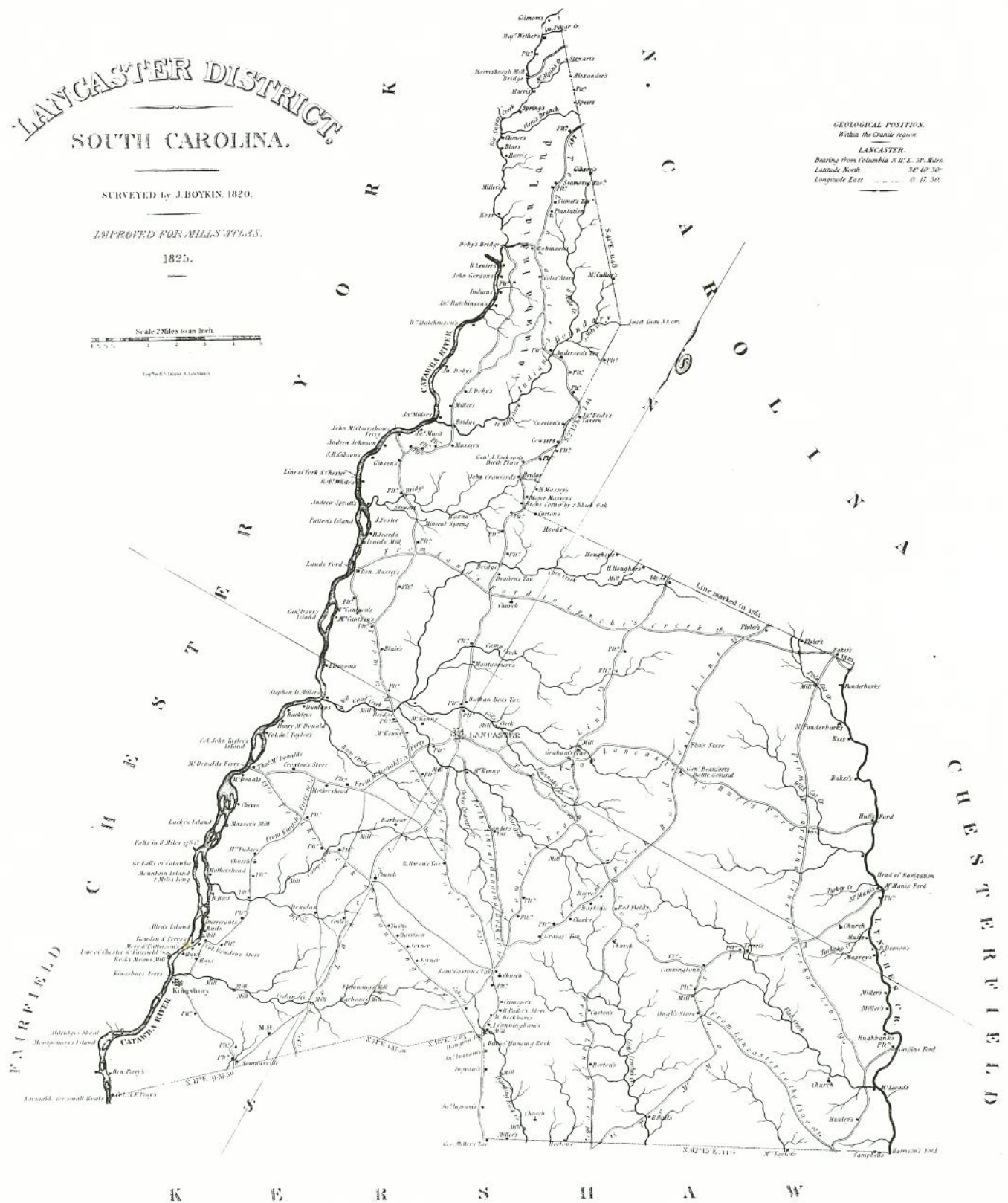


Figure 4. Map of Lancaster County from Mills Atlas, circa 1825.



RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

The Catawba River provides a scenic environment for a number of recreational pursuits. Much of the corridor is still undeveloped and offers a variety of recreational choices such as boating, fishing, hunting, and wildlife observation.

Due to variation in its flow and depth, many sections of the river require the use of hand-propelled watercraft such as canoes or kayaks. The scenic beauty of the river lends itself to this type of leisurely boating and there is generally enough flow so that nearly all parts of the corridor can be floated. Although the river's depth limits the area where powerboats can operate, this type of watercraft can be found in certain areas where the river bottom is deeper or near impoundments such as the Fishing Creek Reservoir. There are two public boat ramps, the Fort Mill access below the Lake Wylie Dam and the Highway 9 access.

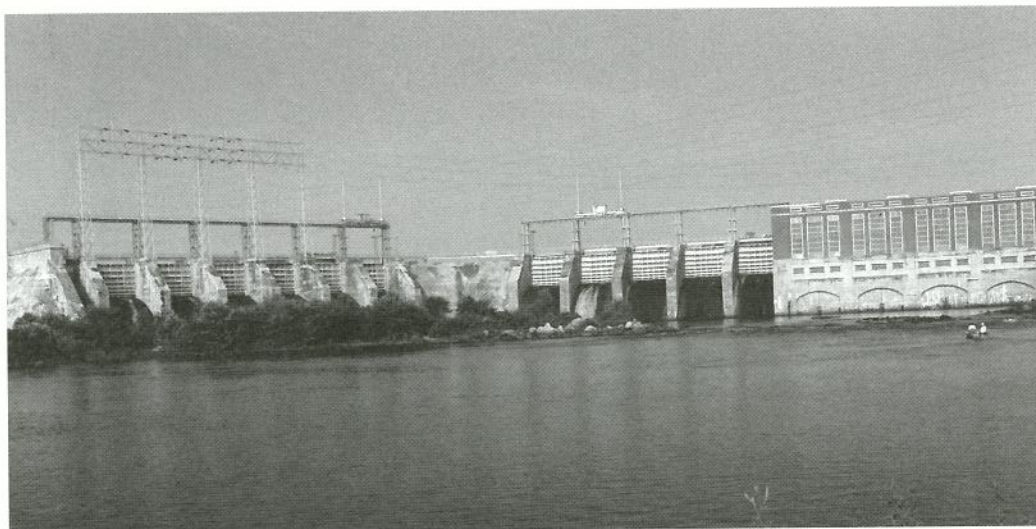
Another popular recreational activity on the river is fishing. The Catawba River is home to a number of species including catfish, perch, bream, and bass among others. The corridor also is home to some less common but more vigorous game fish, such as the redbfin and chain pickerel which are members of the pike family.

This section of the Catawba River is cited in the South Carolina Water Resources Commission's 1988 Rivers Assessment as being both a backcountry and flatwater boating resource, as well as a recreational fishing resource.

In addition to the boating and fishing, the river and its flood plain host a number of species of plants and animals. Observation of the natural environment and the wildlife that inhabit it is another recreational use the river offers. Deer can be seen drinking from its banks, while overhead, species such as the bald eagle and the Canada goose can be seen occasionally. Floating along the river or wading in its shoals, waterfowl such as ducks, herons, and gulls can be observed. Warblers and other songbirds may be heard as they migrate through the corridor. The river's flood plain serves as home for various species of small mammals, turtles, frogs, and snakes, including the rare scarlet snake.

Great stands of hardwoods and pines, along with various types of flowering bushes and shrubs, line the river corridor providing a peaceful haven for the enjoyment of the river's natural beauty or for camping. Every spring the shoals at Lansford Canal State Park

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are adorned with a mantle of rocky shoals spider lilies, providing a sight that is breathtaking for both its spectacular beauty and uniqueness. The park also offers interpretation of the historic canal and ferry crossing, trails, fishing, and nature programs.

Perhaps the greatest dilemma facing local governments and recreation providers is how to allow access to this valuable resource without harming its environment or negatively impacting the rights of riparian landowners. Currently, there is limited public access to this corridor, which has resulted in trespassing on private property and the degradation of the uncontrolled access points. Finding a balance between public access and riparian landowner rights, along with sufficient funding for publicly controlled access, will be essential if the river's rich environment is to be preserved.

ECONOMIC RESOURCES

The Catawba is a working river. Its flow has been diverted to carry cotton to market. Its power was utilized to help usher in the industrial revolution that began to urbanize the South a century ago. The river continues today to be the primary contributor to the generation of electricity in the Piedmont. Its water is used for drinking and for domestic and industrial waste disposal. It has been dammed and bridged again and again. And yet, there remains a wild river in some areas, a river where dense forests crowd the banks, lilies bloom in the shoals, and bald eagles soar overhead. This contrast is important to our understanding of the Catawba, for we want to use the resource fully, yet we expect the resource to always be there for us.

The Catawba today flows through one of the leading growth centers in the United States. The study corridor is rapidly becoming part of the Charlotte urban area. We will rely increasingly on the river as a resource for economic development. Its beauty and attraction add to the region's desirability for new residents and may help create new opportunities for tourism and visitor recreation. The water is there to serve ever-growing urban areas and to be used by major employers, such as Springs, Hoechst-Celanese, and Bowater (see Figure 5). The Catawba is an economic development resource, just as surely as are airports, interstate highways, and sewer lines.

The challenge facing the three-county area is to use this resource wisely. Can the river meet the needs of an ever-expanding economy and still remain a desirable natural place? Can we use this resource without abusing it? These are the central questions facing those who sought to develop this river plan, and it will be a central question for those who seek to implement it. Many of the recommendations that have been developed seek to provide the answers to these questions.

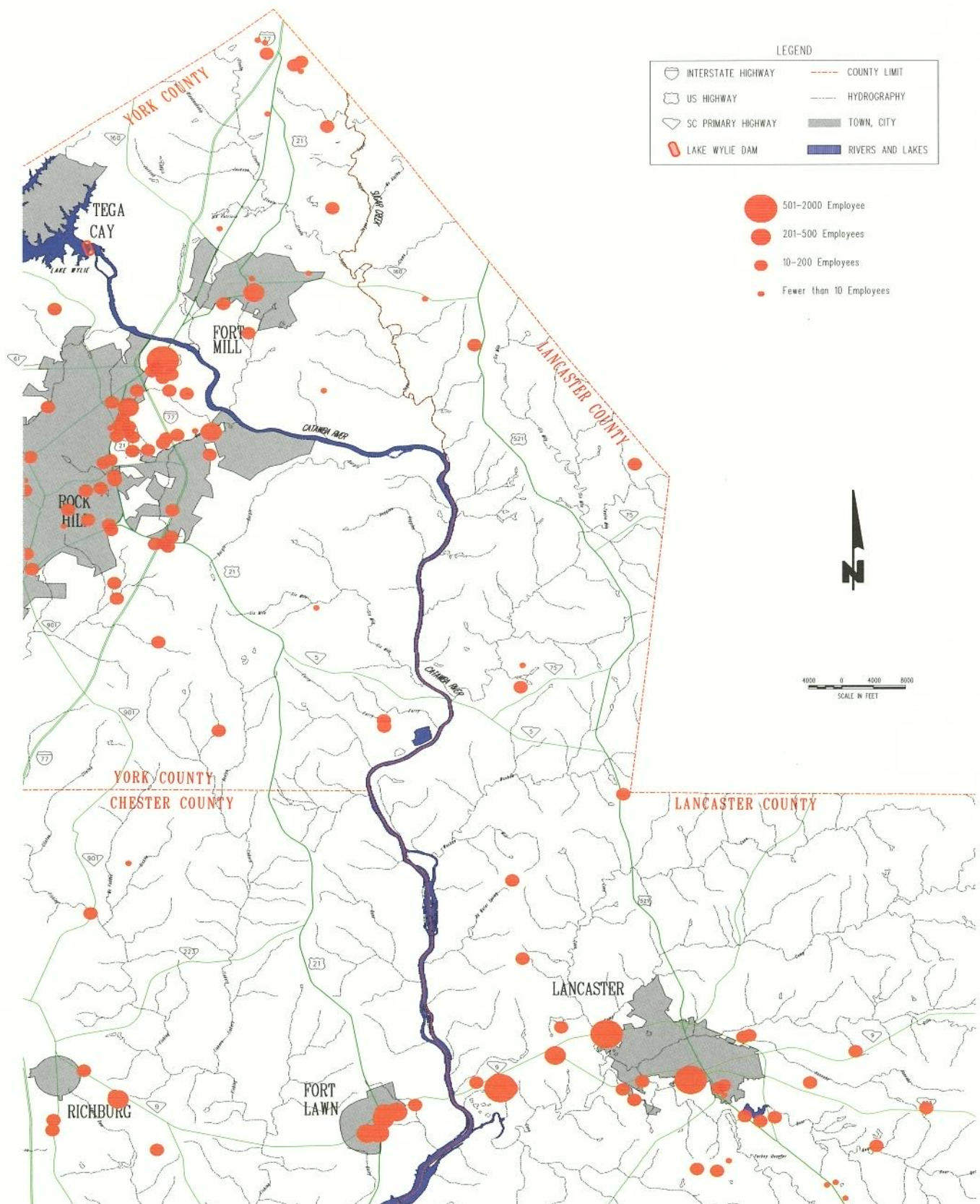


Figure 5. Employment by size of industrial facility.



Creating A Vision

River corridors represent complex and interacting systems. Decisions concerning the use and management of such systems should be made comprehensively and based upon the values contained within the local community. In too many cases, decisions are made by local officials, planners, developers, or landowners based upon a single purpose or goal. No commonly held vision exists to help individuals make informed decisions.

The goal of this planning process was to create a vision for the Catawba River and its adjacent lands. A comprehensive river corridor plan should be ecologically based and driven by individuals who know and understand the river. The process was directed toward charting a course that will manage future growth in a manner that will protect the natural beauty, unspoiled character, and significant features that shape the Catawba River today.

STUDY PROCESS

The first step in developing the river corridor planning process was to assemble a task force of key individuals representing river-related interests who would shape the plan, create a common vision for the corridor, and serve as the final decision-making body. The Catawba River Task Force was composed of people with the resources, expertise, and interest to provide a comprehensive overview of the river, and the commitment to implement a final corridor plan developed by community members. Task force members include local government officials, landowners, and representatives of conservation organizations, industries, other local groups, and state agencies.

Each of the three counties and two state agencies supporting the study process was asked to develop a list of potential task force members. The Catawba Regional Planning Council set up a meeting for representatives from the five groups to consolidate the lists into a workable group representing all interests. Individual task force members were then invited to serve by the three county council chairs. The study process required approximately 18 months.

During the initial meeting of the task force, all participants were divided into groups and asked to identify river resources and issues. These issues were then grouped into major categories for study by individual committees made up of task force members and others with expertise or interest in specific issues. The process was geared toward citizen-based participation in plan development so that the final plan would have a broad base of support and be wholly produced by members of the community in which it will be implemented.

Members of the 15 committees and subcommittees are listed in the Acknowledgments section of this document. The committees are shown in Table 3.

Each committee met initially to develop its mission, goals and objectives, work plan, and membership. Subsequent meetings on a periodic basis were aimed at learning more

Table 3. Committees of the Catawba River Task Force

Water Quality and Management Committee
Nonpoint Source Subcommittee
Point Source Subcommittee
Water Management Subcommittee
Existing Data/Research Needs Subcommittee
Resource Protection Committee
Riparian Zone Management Subcommittee
Flora/Fauna Habitat Subcommittee
Recreational Uses Committee
Historic/Archaeological Issues Committee
Economic Development Issues Committee
Education Committee
Law Enforcement/Safety Committee
Land Use Committee
Implementation Committee

about the resources and issues and developing a set of policy recommendations. These recommendations were presented to the entire task force for discussion and approval. The task force met almost monthly to gain understanding of specific issues or resources and to consider policy recommendations provided by the committees.

The Implementation Committee was established late in the planning process to begin considering the task force's recommendations and lead the effort of plan implementation. These individuals were selected for their keen interest in the river corridor resources and their ability to take action towards the goals and recommendations of the plan.

To familiarize task force and committee members with the resources of the Catawba River, several field trips were scheduled focusing on river resources and river corridor issues. These introductions to the resource included six canoe trips and special tours of the Landsford Canal State Park, Lake Wylie hydroelectric plant, the Rock Hill municipal sewage treatment plant, the Bowater paper mill, existing and potential recreational access sites, and other sites. Several subcommittees also held special field trips to historic sites, the Hoechst-Celanese plant, the Wildlife Department District Fisheries office, Ashe Brick Company, several forestry management sites, and a farm. Also, a geographic information system (GIS) data base was developed by the Catawba Regional Planning Council and the South Carolina Water Resources Commission to provide mapped information to the task force and committees.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public participation efforts included the establishment of the 45-member citizen's task force and 14 committees or subcommittees (involving an additional 127 people). All meetings were open to the public. Riparian landowners and other interested individuals who wished to stay current with the study's progress were added to the mailing list to receive

PROJECT TIMELINE

Organization begins

Sept. 1991	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan. 1992
9/91 SCWRC and SCPRF Agree on Project Cooperation	10/91 Proposal to Nation Ford Land Trust	11/91 - 3/92 Project Approval/ Funding by Three Counties		1/92 - 7/92 Staff Meets With Key People/Gathers Data



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meeting summaries and notices, bringing the total on the list to approximately 400.

The local press was active in updating the public as the process moved along and was encouraged to continue. The Education Committee produced several editions of the South Carolina Catawba River Task Force Newsletter, which was made available to the public at local convenience stores, Duke Power Company offices, USC-Lancaster, and other locations.

All riparian landowners and local elected officials were notified of the study and were kept abreast of the progress. Landowners along the river were surveyed, using a mail questionnaire, to identify issues and provide a special opportunity for input. Task force members and staff made presentations to citizens groups upon request. Finally, committee members will work with the task force members in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the corridor plan.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The key role of the Catawba River Task Force was to create a common vision for the future of the Catawba River and to serve as the decision-making body during the planning process. Responsibilities included learning as much as possible and conveying knowledge about the river's resources, keeping the process focused, developing the corridor plan, and ensuring the plan's implementation. The task force focused on community needs in relation to river characteristics. Decisions of the task force were made by a consensus process.

Task force members or their designees chaired committees and subcommittees and, along with non-task force members, served as key resource members of the committees. After committees developed recommendations, the task force reviewed and, in some instances, revised recommendations for the plan. The task force also ensured citizen involvement and reviewed drafts of all documents. Finally, task force members will take the lead in implementation, by seeking community support for and actively working toward the plan.

PROJECT TIMELINE

Task Force established				
Feb. 1992	March	April	May	June
2-3/92 Staff Canoes River Meeting of County Council Chairs		4/92 Riparian Landowners Notified of Project	5/92 Meeting of County Council Chairs 5/92 - 7/92 Staff Prepares Project Brochure	6/92 Task Force Selected by County Council Chairs

recommendations.

Once a committee or subcommittee was identified, a chair was named and task force members were asked to join. Non-task force members with special expertise or interest were also sought for the committee. The key role of each committee was to examine the issue and/or resource with which it was charged, to determine how best to manage that issue or resource for the future, and to make specific recommendations to the task force. At each committee's initial meeting, a mission statement and work plan was drafted.

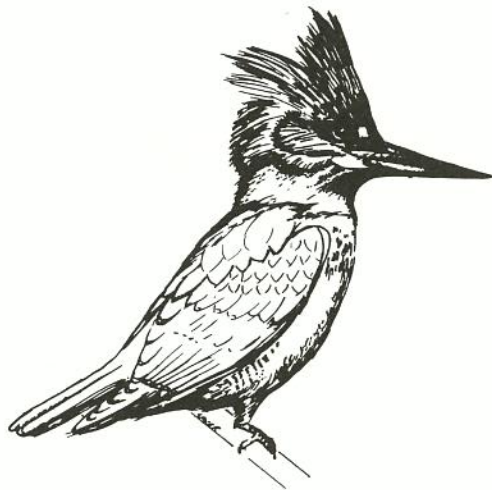
Committees gathered and reviewed information necessary to make specific plan recommendations to the task force. Consensus was sought on each recommendation. Committee members participated in task force meetings and field trips and scheduled special ones as necessary. Committee members were involved throughout the corridor planning process, including review of draft documents. Finally, committee members will assist the task force with implementation, by seeking community support and actively working toward plan recommendations.

The staff team consisted of two staff persons from the South Carolina Water Resources Commission, two staff persons from the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, and two staff persons from the Catawba Regional Planning Council. The key role of the staff team was to assist the Catawba River Task Force to develop a locally implemented multi-objective river corridor plan with broad-based community support. The staff team chaired the task force and coordinated the process. The team was responsible for the draft work plan, pre-task force organization, landowner notification, landowner questionnaire, meeting arrangements, scheduling field trips, meeting summaries and other correspondence, computerized mapping, and preparation of draft and final reports. The staff team will also assist the task force with implementation as necessary.

Task Force meets

Committees established

July 1992	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.
7/92 Staff Flies/ Photographs River 1st Task Force Meeting: Key River Issues Identified Outing: BBQ/Tour of Landsford Canal State Park	8/92 Canoe Trip: Hwy. 5 to Hwy. 9 Staff Groups Issues into Major Categories Landowner Survey Begins Canoe Trip: Dam to Bowater Nursery	9/92 Canoe Trip: Hwy. 5 to Hwy. 9 Committee Chairs Selected/ Approved by Council Chairs 2nd Task Force Meeting: Committee Members Recommended Issues: History/Archaeology, Planning Programs Outing: Tour Wylie Hydroelectric Plant	10/92 Canoe Trip: Hwy. 5 to Hwy. 9 Meetings Committee Chairs Water Management Subcommittee Historical/Archaeological Issues Committee 3rd Task Force Issue: Water Quality Outing: Tour Bowater, Inc. Paper Mill Resource Protection Committee Flora/Fauna Habitat Subcommittee Riparian Zone Management Subcommittee Education Committee Economic Development Committee	11/92 Meetings Water Management Subcommittee Water Quality & Management Committee 4th Task Force: Issues: Recreation, Economic Development Flora/Fauna Habitat Subcommittee Historical/Archaeological Issues Committee Economic Development Committee Law Enforcement/Safety Committee Riparian Zone Management Subcommittee Land Use Committee



THE CATAWBA RIVER STUDY HAS REMINDED us of the tremendous resource we have for both economic growth and personal enjoyment.

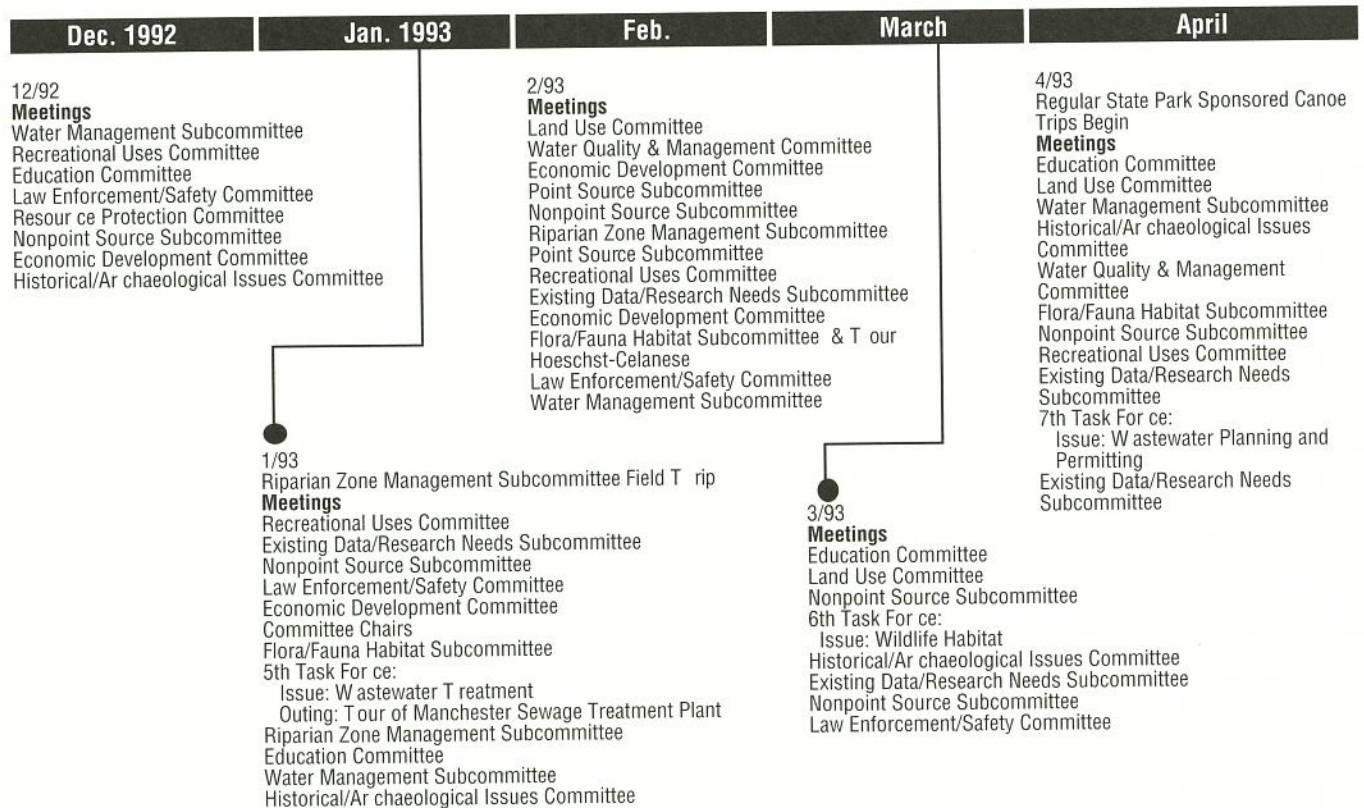
The study has helped us appreciate this asset and it suggests rational uses of the river that allow mankind to benefit from it while protecting it from abuse.

It provides the framework for specific planning and for the further development and use as we look to the future of the Catawba River Basin.

The great amount of citizen participation has provided a balance that is essential if it is to be useful.

Charles A. Bundy

PROJECT TIMELINE



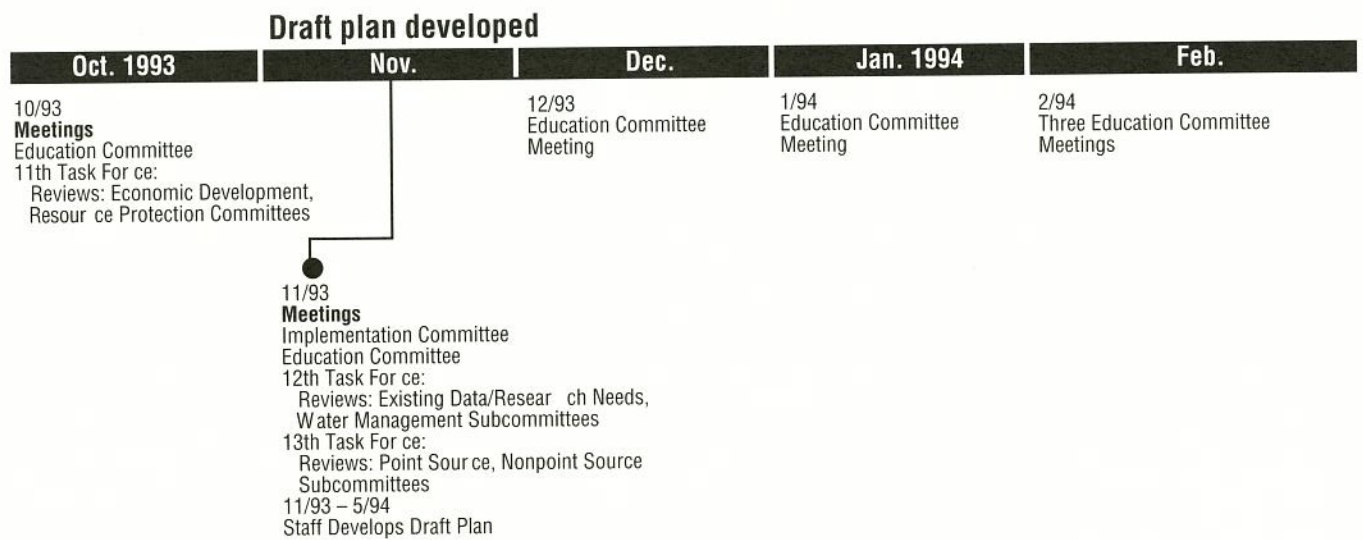


Task force begins review of recommendations

May 1993	June	July	Aug.	Sept.
5/93 Canoe Trip: Simpson's to Hwy. 5 Meetings Land Use Committee Riparian Zone Management Subcommittee Historical/Archaeological Issues Committee Water Management Subcommittee Nonpoint Source Subcommittee Law Enforcement/Safety Committee 8th Task Force: Issue: Wastewater Planning and Permitting Water Management Subcommittee Point Source Subcommittee Nonpoint Source Subcommittee	6/93 Canoe Trip: Hwy. 5 to Hwy. 9 Meetings: Economic Development Committee Historical/Archaeological Issues Committee Nonpoint Source Subcommittee Law Enforcement/Safety Committee Nonpoint Source Subcommittee Nonpoint Source Subcommittee Historical/Archaeological Issues Committee Resource Protection Committee	7/93 Nonpoint Source Subcommittee Meeting	8/93 Committee Chairs Meeting 9th Task Force Meeting: Reviews: Historical/Archaeological Issues, Recreational Issues Committees	9/93 10th Task Force Meeting Reviews: Law Enforcement/Safety, Land Use Committees



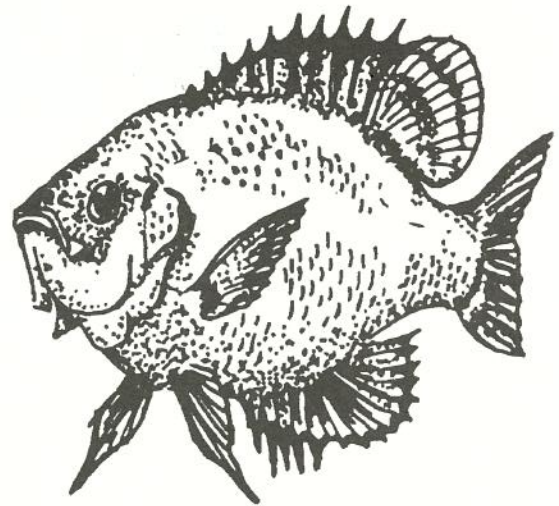
PROJECT TIMELINE



I GREW UP AND HAVE LIVED MOST OF my life in Rock Hill. Like most residents, my primary experience of the Catawba River was crossing the bridge to go to Charlotte.

For me, like most people in this region, the Catawba is a poorly understood and unappreciated resource. The meetings, canoe trips, and other activities of the Catawba River Task Force have vastly broadened my experience of the Catawba and given me a greater respect and appreciation for the economic, cultural, historical, natural, and recreational value of the river. More of our residents need similar opportunities to experience and appreciate the Catawba River if we have any hope of successfully managing and protecting this great resource.

Stephen Turner



Draft plan reviewed		Final plan developed		Implementation
March – May 1994	June	July	Aug.	Sept.
6/94 Draft Plan Sent for Review Task Force, Committees, Public Review Draft Plan				9/94 14th Task Force Meeting: Final Plan Presentation and Picnic Distribute Copies of Plan Widely Implementation Committee/Staff Make Presentation Where Possible Implementation Committee to Meet on Regular Basis Annual Task Force Meetings

