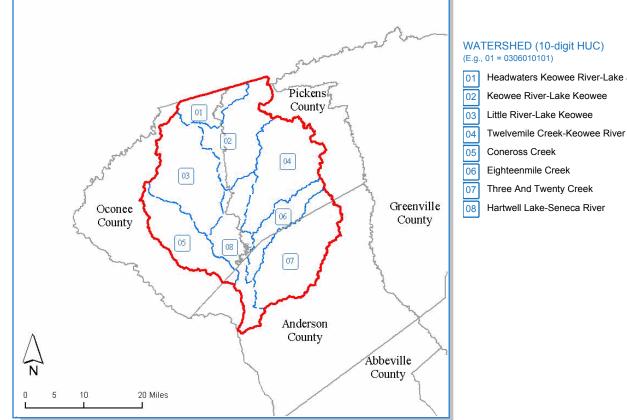
SENECA Subbasin





- Headwaters Keowee River-Lake Jocassee

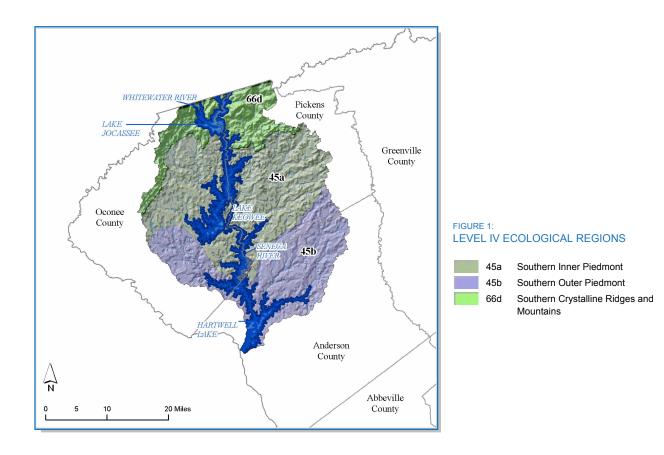


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Watershed Description

The Seneca River is formed at the confluence of the Keowee River and the Little River in northern South Carolina, just downriver from Lake Keowee, and flows into Lake Hartwell (Figure 1). Under the waters of Lake Hartwell, the Seneca River joins the Tugaloo River, a short river on the border of North and South Carolina, to form the Savannah River. Important tributaries in the subbasin include the Keowee and Little rivers and Twelvemile, Coneross, Eighteenmile, and the Three-and-Twenty creeks.

The subbasin lies in the Blue Ridge (66) and Piedmont (45) ecoregions (Figure 1). A brief description of the Level III ecoregions in this watershed is available in this document's appendix. A more detailed description of the Level III and Level IV Common Resource Areas (Ecological Regions) is available online (See Griffith *et al.* 2002 in References section.).



Land Use/Land Cover

The subbasin is covered by a number of urban areas including Greenville, Clemson, Anderson and Walhalla. A number of parks and forests exist within the subbasin including the Sumter National Forest and Jocassee Gorges management area (in the Blue Ridge) and Clemson University Forest and Lake Hartwell, south of the subbasin. Much of the agricultural land is located in the Piedmont (Figure 1; Figure 2) and is mostly under pasture and/or hay.

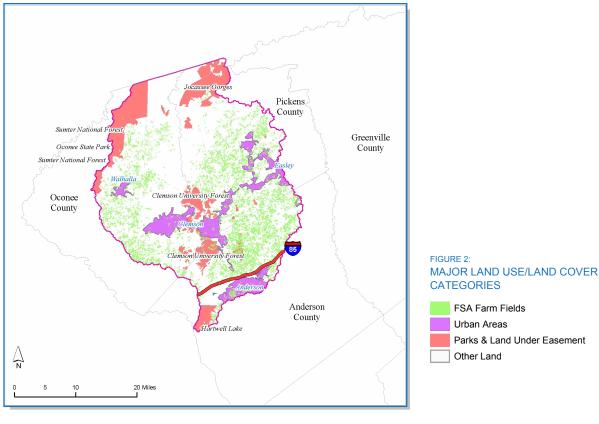


Table 1:

MAJOR LAND USE/LAND COVER CATEGORIES	Acres	% of Watershed
Watershed (Total)	594,701	-
Urban Area	52,236	9%
Parks/Land Under Easement (not NRCS)	77,363	13%
Farm Service Agency Designated Farm Fields	90,318	15%

Table 2:

AGRICULTURAL LAND USE: FSA ACREAGE AND ESTIMATED FARM FIELD USE FROM THE 2002 AG CENSUS (NASS Whole County Data Used. Cropland includes: Field Crops, Orchards, and Specialty Crops.)

County	FSA Fields (Acres)	% Pasture (Estimated)	% Cropland (Estimated)	% Hayland (Estimated)
Anderson	34,369	44%	23%	34%
Oconee	25,486	40%	19%	41%
Pickens	30,463	52%	13%	35%

Summary of Resource Concerns

The following is a summary of resource concerns for the watershed. Each resource concern has a more detailed analysis provided in its corresponding section.

Soils

Land capability limitations are dominated by erosion in this subbasin that is typical of an area within the Piedmont and Blue Ridge Mountains; highly erodible and potentially highly erodible soils comprise 88% of the subbasin and are the key resource concerns.

Water Quantity Awaiting SCDNR's 2007 state water assessment.

Water Quality Fecal coliform impairments.

Plant Condition

The most prominent crops in the subbasin include orchard crops, forage, corn silage, oats and nursery stock.

Fish, Wildlife, and Native Plants

According to SC DNR's "Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy: 2005 - 2010" (see SCDNR 2005 in References section), the following applies to this subbasin: Biologists have identified habitat protection as one of the most important actions to ensure the protection of South Carolina priority species. Loss and fragmentation of habitat have been identified as a major threat to many of the species listed as threatened and endangered in South Carolina.

There are impairments for mercury and PCB's in fish tissues in the subbasin.

Domestic Animals

There is a significant grazing livestock population in the southern part of the subbasin. Some poultry operations exist in the western part of the subbasin and some dairy operations are concentrated around Anderson, SC.

Economic and Social Factors

Farm sizes have decreased significantly between 1997 and 2002, but the amount of cropland has decreased at rates well below the state average for the same period.

Progress on Conservation

Table 3:

A SUMMARY OF NRCS APPLIED CONSERVATION TREATMENTS (ACRES) (See Appendix for NRCS Conservation Practices used for Conservation Treatment Categories.) (Applied practice data is reported on a fiscal year basis commencing on October 1st)

Conservation Treatments	2004	2005	2006	Total
Buffers and Filter Strips	-	60	15	75
Conservation Tillage	16	101	76	193
Erosion Control	76	184	693	953
Irrigation Water Management	-	-	-	-
Nutrient Management	462	169	841	1,472
Pest Management	447	169	846	1,462
Prescribed Grazing	499	121	524	1,144
Trees and Shrubs	1,178	157	129	1,464
Wetlands	-	-	-	-
Wildlife Habitat	-	60	265	325

Table 4:

LANDS REMOVED FROM PRODUCTION BY FARM BILL PROGRAMS (WHOLE COUNTY DATA SHOWN)

County	Conservation Reserve Program (ac) 2005	Conservation Reserve Program (ac) 1986 - 2005	Grassland Reserve Program (ac) 2005	Farmland & Ranch Protection Program (ac) 2005	Wetland Reserve Program (ac) 2005
Anderson	6,382	170,526	-	-	183
Oconee	559	8,287	46	1,078	-
Pickens	110	1,873	117	-	-

Table 5:

APPROVED TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD (TMDL)

(See SCDHEC 2007 (a) in Reference Section.) - SCDHEC Contact: Matt Carswell - (803) 898-3609

TMDL Document	Numberof Stations	Parameter of Concern	Status	WQMS ID Standard Attained
Cane Creek	2	Fecal Coliform	Approved & Implementing	-
Coneross Creek	2	Fecal Coliform	Approved & Implementing	-
Little Eastatoe Creek	1	Fecal Coliform	Completed & Approved	-
Twelve Mile Creek	5	Fecal	Approved & Implementing	-
Upper Savannah	7	Fecal Coliform	Completed & Approved	-

Table 6:

OTHER PLANS, ASSESSMENTS, AND PROJECTS IN THE WATERSHED

Organization	Description	Contact	Telephone
SCDHEC	Watershed Water Quality Assessment: Savannah	Richelle Tolton	803-898-4213
	River Basin (2003)		

Other Watershed Considerations

The Chattooga River is protected along a 15,432-acre corridor as a national Wild and Scenic River, with 39.8 miles designated *wild*, 2.5 miles *scenic*, and 14.6 miles *recreational* for a total of 56.9 miles.

Soils

The Seneca subbasin contains two major land resource areas: the Blue Ridge (Southern Crystalline ridges and mountains), which makes up about 20% of the subbasin, and the Piedmont region, which comprises the remaining 80%. Most of the land (91%) in this subbasin has limitations due to erosion (Table 7). Most of the erosion is associated with steep slopes on uplands in the subbasin (Figure 4, Table 9). Low soil organic matter in the highly erodible soils is a soil health concern. Hydric soils and wetness are not major resource concerns in this subbasin with 98% of the land classified as not hydric (Figure 5, Tables 7 and 10). Only 32% of the land in the Seneca subbasin is either prime farmland (16%) or statewide important farmland (16%) and occurs mostly in the lower part of the subbasin on soils in the South Outer Piedmont (Figure 3, Table 8).

Table 7: LAND CAPABILITY CLASSES (See NRCS 2007 [a] and [b] in References section.)

Percentages are based on the whole watershed (594,701 ac).

Land Capability Class 1 1 - Slight limitations	Acres 237		Percent 0%			
		% Land	l by Subcla	ss Limitatior	ı	
	Erosi	on (e)	Wetn	ess(w)	Drough	tiness (s)
Land Capability Classes 2-8 2 - Moderate limitations	Acres 69,095	Percent 12%	Acres 22,169	Percent 4%	Acres	Percent
3 - Severe limitations	98,706	17%	6,626	1%	234	0%
4 - Very severe limitations	75,547	13%	3,024	1%	-	-
 6 - Severe limitations; unsuitable for cultivation; limited to pasture, range, forest 	118,639	20%	-	-	266	0%
 7 - Very severe limitations; unsuitable for cultivation; limited to grazing; forest, wildlife habitat 	169,697	29%	-	-	4,929	1%
8 - Miscellaneous areas; limited to recreation, wildlife habitat, water supply	-	-	-	-	2,541	0%

Prime Farmland

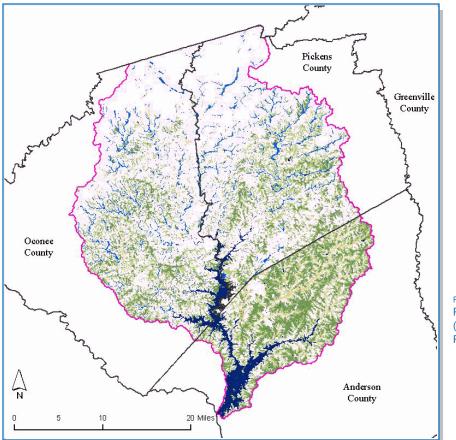


FIGURE 3: PRIME FARMLAND (See NRCS 2007 [a] and [b] in References section.)

Table 8: PRIME FARMLAND

Prime Farmland Categories	Acres	Percent of Land
All areas are prime farmland	68,505	12%
Farmland of statewide importance	97,016	16%
Not prime farmland	402,144	68%
Prime farmland if drained	0	0%
Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season	6,947	1%
Prime farmland if irrigated	0	0%
Prime farmland if irrigated and drained	0	0%
Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season	20,032	3%

Highly Erodible Land

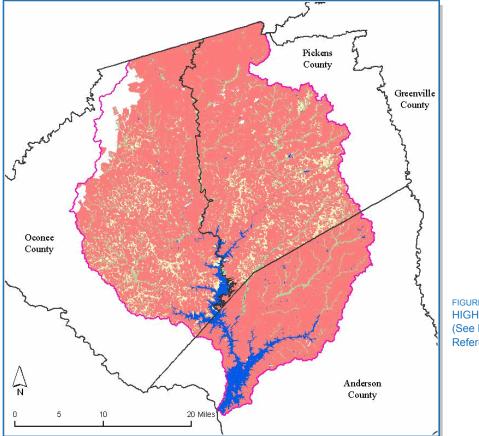


FIGURE 4: HIGHLY ERODIBLE LAND (See NRCS 2007 [a] and [b] in References section.)

Table 9: HIGHLY ERODIBLE LAND

Highly Erodible Land Categories	Acres	Percent of Watershed
Highly erodible land	482,917	81%
Not highly erodible land	30,617	5%
Potentially highly erodible land	39,762	7%

Hydric Soils

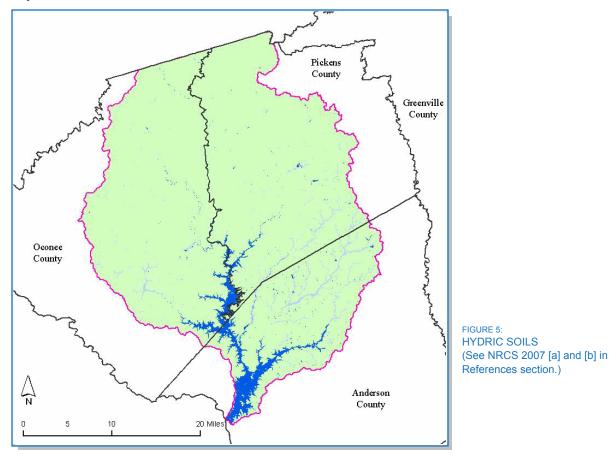


Table 10: HYDRIC SOILS

Hydric Soils Categories	Acres	Percent of Watershed
All Hydric	0	0%
Not Hydric	583,554	98%
Partially Hydric	11,089	2%

Water Quantity

Narrative awaiting SCDNR's new state water assessment.

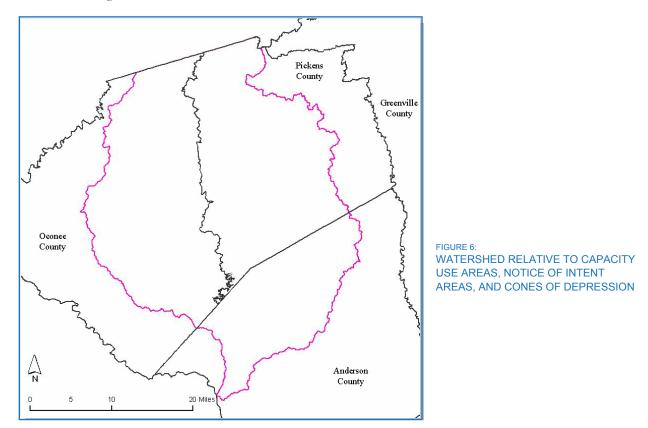


Table 11:

CAPACITY USE, NOTICE OF INTENT, AND CONES OF DEPRESSION AREA IN WATERSHED (See SCDHEC 2007 [c] and SCDNR 2004 in Refrerences Section.)

Area	Percent of Watershed
% Watershed in Cone of Depression and Capacity Use (CU) Area	0%
% Watershed in SCDHEC Capacity Use (CU) Area	0%
% Watershed in SCDHEC Notice of Intent (NOI) Area	0%

Water Quantity Cont.

Table 12:

INDICATORS OF IRRIGATION WATER USAGE (WHOLE COUNTY DATA ARE USED) (See NASS 2002 and SCDNR 2004 in References Section)

County	Total Irrigated Water Used MGD	Total NASS Cropland (ac)	Cropland Under Irrigation (ac)	Percent Cropland Under Irrigation	Water Use Gal/Ac/Day for Irrigated Land
Anderson	1.61	87,393	996	1.1	1,616
Oconee	1.44	31,949	545	1.7	2,642
Pickens	0.71	22,577	847	3.8	838

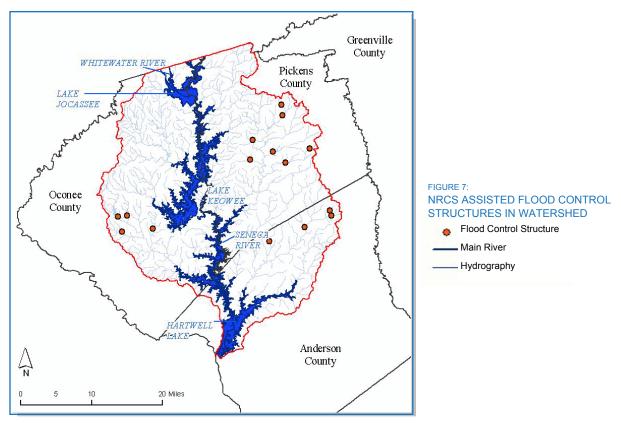


Table 13: NRCS IMPLEMENTED FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURES

Number of Structures	Maximum Storage	Nu	umber of Stru	uctures by Hazar	d Class
(in Watershed)	(AcFt)	High	Low	Significant	Unclassified
15	23,828	0	11	4	0

Water Quality

The number of surface water quality impairments is shown in Table 15 resulting in a "303(d)" listing of that Water Quality Monitoring Site (WQMS). Table 5 indicates what progress has been made to address surface water quality through the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) process. Once a TMDL plan is approved, the WQMS is removed from the 303(d) list even though the standard may not have been attained. Note that standards for total nitrogen, total phosphorus, and chlorophyll-a only exist for lakes; therefore, no stream in the state can be listed for any of these three parameters.

The most frequent impairments are fecal coliform, many of which are being addressed by TMDLs (Table 5). See comments in the "Fish and Wildlife" section regarding mercury and PCB's in fish tissue (Table 15).

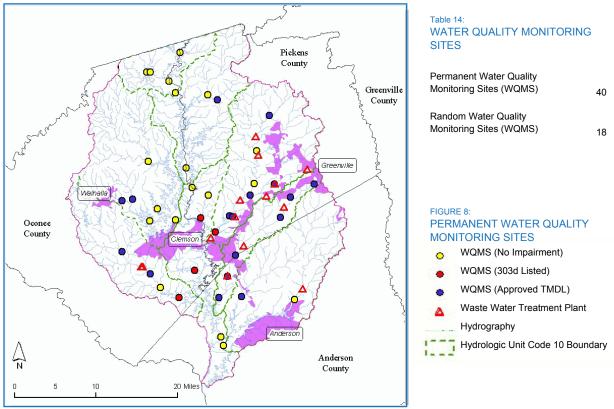


Table 15:

NUMBER OF MONITORING SITES SHOWING SURFACE WATER QUALITY IMPAIRMENTS (See SCDHEC 2006 in References for the state 303(d) list.)

Recreational Use	e Standard	Fish Tissue Standa	ard	Shellfish Harvest	Standard
Parameter	Impairments	Parameter	Impairments	Parameter	Impairments
Fecal Coliform	1	Mercury	2	Fecal Coliform	NA
		PCB's	3		
Aquatic Life Use	Standard				
Parameter	Impairments	Parameter	Impairments	Parameter	Impairments
Biological	1	Dissolved Oxygen	1	Total Phosphorus	1
Chlorophyll A	0	Ammonia Nitrogen	0	pН	3
Chromium	0	Nickel	0	Turbidity	3
Copper	1	Total Nitrogen	0	Zinc	1

Plant Condition

Plants of Economic Importance

Plants of economic importance are shown in Table 16. The crops shown in this table are from NASS data where the top five crops, by acres, in each county are displayed. The timber statistics (see Clemson Extension Forest Services 2003 in References) indicate the relative importance of the timber industry within the state and the importance of the timber industry compared to agriculture within the county.

The most prominent crops in the subbasin include forage, corn silage, oats, nursery stock, and orchard crops, with Oconee County being the top producer of apples in the state.

Native Plant Species

According to SC DNR's "Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy: 2005 - 2010" (see SCDNR 2005 in References section), the following applies to this subbasin: Appalachian oak and oak pine forest are important to wildlife as the most extensive cover type in the Blue Ridge ecoregion. Scattered throughout the ecoregion are wet places embedded within primary habitat types such as cold water streams, waterfalls, waterslides and bogs.

The Piedmont ecoregion plant community historically consisted of oak and hickory-dominated forest with associated tree species varying by slope and soil moisture. This was the primary potential vegetation type in the Piedmont. Due to land disturbances however, today the majority of these sites exist mostly in closed canopy pine-dominated forests.

Table 16:

WHOLE COUNTY DATA OF PLANTS OF ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE IN SUBBASIN (See: USDA NASS 2002 & Clemson University Forest Extension Services 2003 in References section)

Plant	Counties
All Vegetables harvested	Pickens
All Wheat for grain	Anderson, Oconee
Apples	Oconee
Corn for grain	Oconee, Pickens
Corn for silage	Anderson
Forage - land used for all hay and haylage, grass silage, and greenchop	Anderson, Oconee, Pickens
Nursery stock	Pickens
Oats	Anderson
Short-rotation woody crops	Pickens
Soybeans	Oconee, Anderson

Table 17:

FEDERALLY LISTED THREATENED AND ENDANGERED PLANT SPECIES IN WATERSHED (See USFW 2006 in References section.)

Common Name Black-spored quillwort Dwarf-flowered heartleaf Georgia aster Mountain sweet pitcher-plant Persistent trillium Small whorled pogonia Smooth coneflower

Latin Name Isoetes melanospora Hexastylis naniflora Aster georgianus Sarracenia rubra ssp. jonesii Trillium persistens Isotria medeoloides Echinacea laevigata Status Endangered Threatened Supported Proposals to List Endangered Endangered Threatened Endangered

Fish and Wildlife

For additional information, the SC Department of Natural Resources has completed a "Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy: 2005 - 2010" (see SCDNR 2005 in References section).

SCDHEC first issued fish consumption advisories in 1976 for PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) in fish tissue for Lake Hartwell and for mercury in fish tissue for Lake Jocassee and Langley Pond. In 2005, mercury advisories were issued for 57 water bodies in South Carolina. Higher concentrations of mercury in fish tissue tend to occur in the Coastal Plain of South Carolina with relatively lower concentrations (and therefore fewer advisories) in the Piedmont. For more details on fish advisories, please refer to the SCDHEC fish advisory website at:

http://www.scdhec.gov/environment/water/fish/

Table 18:

FEDERALLY LISTED THREATENED AND ENDANGERED WILDLIFE SPECIES IN WATERSHED (See USFW 2006 in References section.)

Common Name	Latin Name	Status		
Bog turtle	Clemmys muhlenbergii	Threatened, Similarity of Appearar		

Table 19:

FEDERALLY LISTED THREATENED AND ENDANGERED AQUATIC SPECIES IN WATERSHED (See USFW 2006 in References section.)

Latin Name

Common Name None Listed

Status

Domestic Animals

There is a significant grazing livestock population in the subbasin (Table 20), mostly in the segment of the subbasin covered by the Piedmont ecoregion (Figure 1). Some poultry operations exist in the western part of the subbasin and some dairy operations are concentrated around Anderson, SC.

Table 20:

WHOLE COUNTY GRAZING ANIMAL POPULATION DATA FROM 2002 AG. CENSUS (See NASS 2002 in References section. "D" in table = "Cannot be disclosed".)

		Grazing/Forage	County Rank in
County	Cows/Calves	(ac)	State
Anderson	40,505	38,017	1
Oconee	19,828	12,787	8
Pickens	9,090	11,722	22

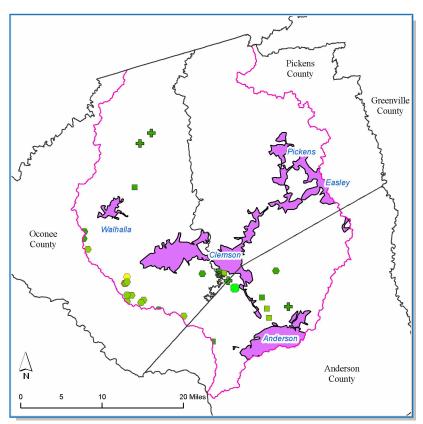


Table 21:

CONFINED ANIMAL POPULATION [As given by SCDHEC] (Au = Animal Unit = 1,000 lbs)

Beef Live Weight (Au)	-
Dariy Live Weight (Au)	932
Horse Live Weight (Au)	-
Poultry Live Weight (Au)	4,307
Swine Live Weight (Au)	217
Turkey Live Weight (Au)	-

FIGURE 9: TYPE AND SIZE OF CONFINED ANIMAL OPERATION



ECONOMIC & SOCIAL FACTORS

The number of full-time farmers is *lower* than the state average of 47% and farm sizes are *smaller* than the state average of 197 ac (Table 22); both parameters suggest below-average levels of participation in conservation programs. Farm sizes have *decreased* by an estimated 17% between 1997 and 2002, higher than the 13% across the state for the same period. Loss of cropland between 1997 and 2002 is estimated at 3%, significantly lower than the SC average cropland loss of 8%.

The relative importance of crop and livestock commodity groups in the watershed is shown in Tables 24 and 25; a *qualitative* indication of the relative importance of timber is provided on Table 16.

For more economic and farm information from the 2002 Agricultural Census, more detailed reports for all South Carolina counties can be found at:

http://www.nass.usda.gov/census/census02/profiles/sc/index.htm

Table 22: 2002 FARM CEN	SUS DATA (WHOLE	COUNTY DATA SH	HOWN) (SC average	e farm size = 197 ac)
County	Total Number of Farms	% Full Time Farmers	% Farms > 180 (ac)	Average Farm Size (ac)
Anderson	1,644	46%	15%	108
Oconee	878	40%	13%	89
Pickens	622	37%	9%	75
Weighted Avg*	1,082	41%	12%	91

Table 23:

2002 FARM CENSUS ECONOMIC DATA (WHOLE COUNTY DATA SHOWN) (Results in \$1,000)

County	Market Value of Ag Products Sold	Market Value of Crops Sold	Market Value of Livestock, Poultry, and Their Products	Farms with sales < \$10,000
Anderson	37,046	14,916	22,130	1,352
Oconee	56,398	-	-	713
Pickens	6,675	5,220	1,455	557
Weighted Avg*	32,138	7,443	8,904	903



Table 24:

VALUE OF CROP COMMODITY GROUPS - COUNTY RANK IN STATE (See NASS 2002 in References section. "D" in table = "Cannot be disclosed".)

County	Value of All Crops	Grains & Oilseeds	Tobacco	All Cotton	Vegetables & Melons	Fruits, Nuts, & Berries	Nursery, Etc.	Christmas Trees & Woody Crops	Hay & other Crops
Anderson	17	26	-	30	20	16	6	7	3
Oconee	(D)	29	-	(D)	28	11	(D)	8	(D)
Pickens	31	43	(D)	-	(D)	27	14	(D)	20

REFERENCES

Table 25:

VALUE OF LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY COMMODITY GROUPS - RANK IN STATE (See NASS 2002 in References section. "D" in table = "Cannot be disclosed".)

County	Value of Livestock, poultry	Poultry, Eggs	Cattle & Calves	Milk & Dairv	Hogs & Pigs	Sheep & Goats	Horses, etc.
Anderson	15	19	1	5	18	1	3
Oconee	(D)	5	8	15	(D)	20	20
Pickens	40	43	22	(D)	(D)	8	16

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APPENDIX

Level III Common Resource Area (Ecological Region) Descriptions

Piedmont (45)

The Piedmont is an erosional terrain with some hills; the soils are generally finer-textured than those found in coastal plain regions with less sand and more clay. Piedmont soils are moderately to severely eroded; most of this region is now in planted pine or has reverted to successional pine and hardwood woodlands, with some pasture; spreading urban- and suburbanization is apparent. The Piedmont of South Carolina is divided into five level IV ecoregions: Southern Inner Piedmont (45a), Southern Outer Piedmont (45b), Carolina Slate Belt (45c), Triassic Basins (45g) and Kings Mountain (45i).

Blue Ridge (66)

The Blue Ridge is part of one of the richest temperate broadleaf forests in the world, with a high diversity of flora and fauna. Elevations generally range from 900-3000 feet, with Sassafras Mountain, the highest point in South Carolina, reaching near 3560 feet. The ecoregion in South Carolina falls within one level IV ecoregion: Southern Crystalline Ridges and Mountains (66d).

NRCS Conservation Practices used for Conservation Treatment Categories in Table 3

Report Category	Practice Codes
Buffer and Filter Strips	332, 391, 393, 412
Conservation Tillage	324, 329, 329A, 329B, 344, 484
Erosion Control	327, 328, 330, 340, 342, 561, 585, 586
Irrigation Water Management	441, 449
Nutrient Management	590
Pest Management	595
Prescribed Grazing	528, 528A
Trees and Shrubs	490, 612, 655, 656, 66
Wetlands	657, 658, 659
Wildlife Habitat	644, 645

Hydrologic Unit Numbering System

In 2005, the NRCS in cooperation with the U.S. Geological Survey, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, and the U.S. Forest Service updated the South Carolina part of the USGS standard hydrologic unit map series. The report, "Development of a 10- and 12- Digit Hydrologic Unit Code Numbering System for South Carolina, 2005", describes and defines those efforts. The following is from the Abstract contained in that report: "A hydrologic unit map showing the subbasins, watersheds, and subwatersheds of South Carolina was developed to represent 8-, 10-, and 12-digit hydrologic unit codes, respectively. The 10- and 12-digit hydrologic unit codes replace the 11- and 14-digit hydrologic unit codes developed in a previous investigation. Additionally, substantial changes were made to the 8-digit subbasins in the South Carolina Coastal Plain. These modifications include the creation of four new subbasins and the renumbering of existing subbasins." The report may be obtained at

http://www.sc.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/HUC report.pdf. See Table 2 in the report for a cross-reference of old to new 8-digit HUC.

This subbasin profile uses the new HUC 8 numbering system with its modified and newly created subbasins. The NRCS reports implemented practices by 8-digit Hydrologic Unit Code. All NRCS reported Conservation Practices were reported using the older numbering system. 2005 and 2006 data were converted to the new HUC 8 numbering system through the Latitude and Longitude data reported with the applied practice. The use of these differing numbering systems has resulted in some NRCS implemented practices being credited in this report to an 8-digit HUC as reported by the NRCS but not correctly credited in the new numbering system. Likewise, the newly created 8-digit HUC will not be credited with the 2004 applied practices.