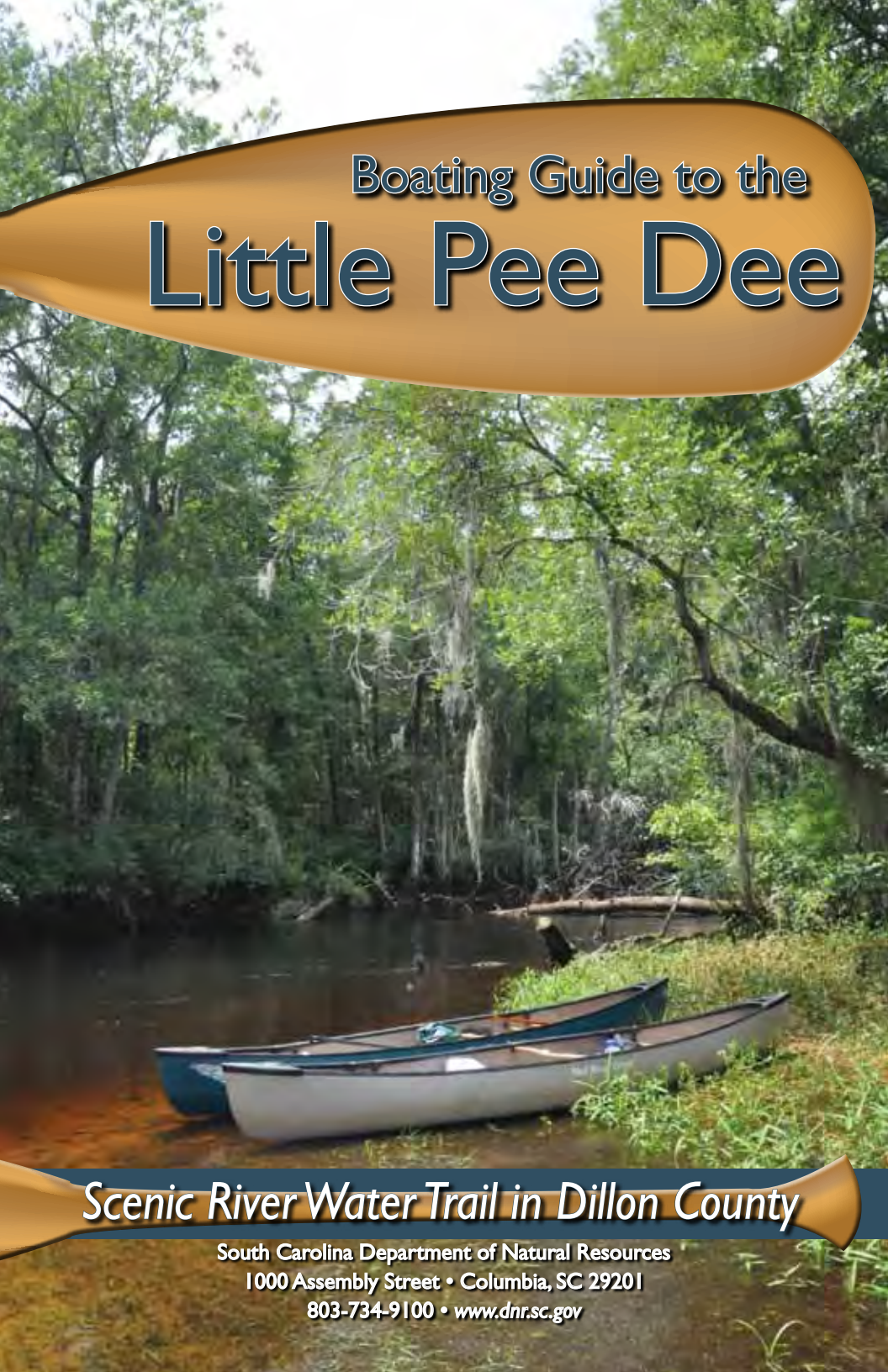
Boating Guide to the Little Pee Dee



Scenic River Water Trail in Dillon County

South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
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Images

- The photographs used in this publication were taken by South Carolina Department of Natural Resources staff and by citizens of Dillon County.
- All historic map images were provided by the University of Alabama's Geography Department.
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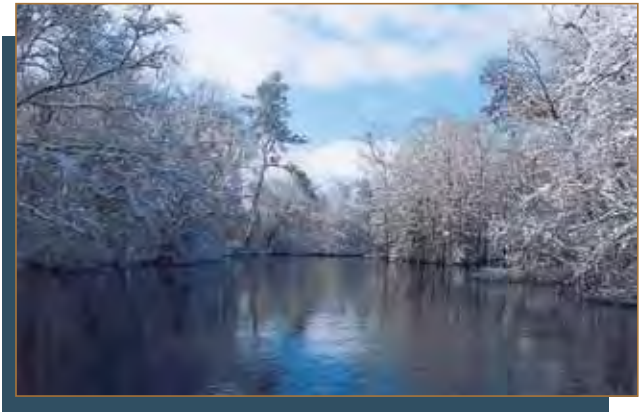
The Little Pee Dee River

The Little Pee Dee River is a wonderful recreational resource for fishing and boating! All information provided in this guide is designed to assist the public with accessing and traveling the river by boat to promote the appreciation, conservation and protection of the river's resources. The Little Pee Dee River has its headwaters in Marlboro County, South Carolina, at the confluence of Gum Swamp Creek and Beaver Dam Creek at Red Bluff Lake. It is free flowing for its entire length, almost 120 miles, until its confluence with the Great Pee Dee River at the meeting point of three South Carolina counties: Georgetown, Horry and Marion. The Little Pee Dee Scenic River is a 48-mile stretch that flows through Dillon County between the Marion and Marlboro County lines.

The Little Pee Dee is a blackwater river-which means that the water is the color of dark tea. The coloring is caused by chemicals known as tannins that are leached from the tree leaves and other organic material decomposing in the surrounding swamps. The river's channel width varies from four to eight feet around tight meander bends to nearly 50 to 100 feet in other lake-like sections. Downstream views can range from 10 feet to 100 feet. At normal water levels, all sections of the river are accessible to paddle craft and most sections are accessible to small motor-boats. This river has moving, flatwater with a moderate current which at normal water levels and flows may be suitable for all levels of boaters. Generally, water levels (measured in stage feet) or river flow (measured in cubic feet per second) will be higher during late winter and spring, and lower in late summer and fall. During certain times of the year the Little Pee Dee River can be physically and mentally challenging because the boater will have to safely maneuver in river currents and meandering channels that contain multiple fallen trees, or log jams, commonly referred to as strainers. This river is beautiful in all seasons but caution is advised during hunting season (August 16 through May 1) when river users may want to wear a hat of bright orange.

This guide book describes a 27-mile corridor of the Little Pee Dee Scenic River which will become known as the Little Pee Dee Scenic River Water Trail. Along its course, the river flows through a beautiful floodplain forest showcasing the rural crossroads near the urban city of Dillon. The land surrounding the river supports subdivisions and traditional agriculture and forestry practices, such as farming, raising livestock, hunting and managing timber for harvest.

Note to users: The Little Pee Dee is a natural river which offers river travelers a scenic, backcountry experience with all the inherent dangers of a wilderness. Users of the river and this boating guide are responsible for their own safety and actions and should follow recommended practices for safe boating and backcountry travel such as those presented in this guide.



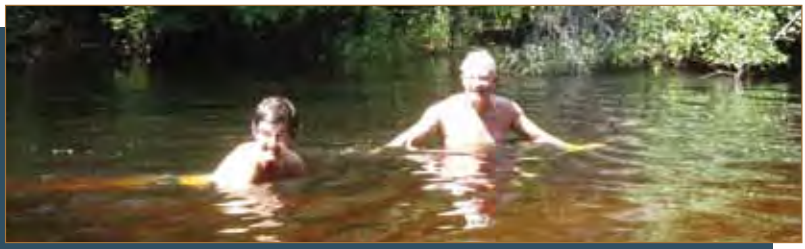
The South Carolina Scenic Rivers Program

The purpose of the Scenic Rivers Program is to conserve the State's unique and outstanding river resources. To accomplish this purpose, a cooperative, voluntary management program has been created that involves landowners, community interests and the SCDNR in a partnership, working together toward common river-conservation goals.

Designating a state scenic river requires legislative action by the South Carolina General Assembly. However, the designation process begins at the local level and requires the support of local citizens, landowners and elected officials. The steps in the designation process, as determined by the South Carolina Scenic Rivers Act, are as follows:

- First, a local request for scenic river designation is made and the SCDNR conducts a scenic river eligibility study.
- Second, all river landowners and the general public are notified of the proposal and invited to public meetings to ask questions or express concerns.
- Third, each county council of the affected river-bordering counties is asked to give their approval of the scenic river proposal.
- Finally, the SCDNR Board reviews the proposal and legislation is introduced in the General Assembly. When the bill is passed, a new State Scenic River is officially designated, and an Advisory Council is formed consisting of riparian landowners, local citizens, recreational interests and government agencies.

The Little Pee Dee River in Dillon County was designated as a State Scenic River on May 3, 2005. Both the Little Pee Dee – Dillon Eligibility Study and the Little Pee Dee Scenic River – Dillon Management Plan may be found on the SCDNR website.



River Conservation

We can all contribute to river conservation efforts by learning about the problems and solutions needed to manage a healthy river system. The choices we make while on and off the river can potentially affect rivers, lakes and streams, both positively and negatively. If you own or manage property, a home, a yard, an automobile, a boat, a pet, livestock, industrial land, commercial land, a building, a parking lot, forest land, farm land, or undeveloped land, the following information may give you the opportunity to promote river conservation.

Reduce polluted runoff

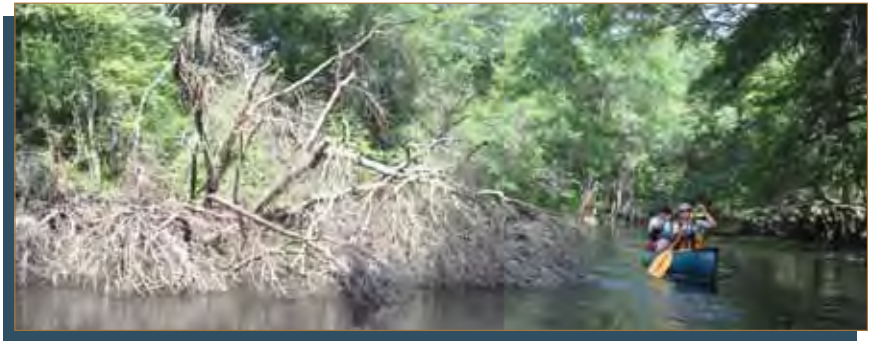
- Properly use and dispose of all chemicals and oil.
- Properly control animals and their waste.
- Repair leaking vehicles and boat motors.
- Do not use storm drains for disposal.
- Inspect septic systems and pump them out regularly.
- Properly dispose of human waste while camping along the river.
- Pick up trash, do not litter and volunteer to help with river sweep events.
- Seek better environmental laws and enforcement.

Manage stormwater flow

- Capture runoff and let the water soak into the soil before allowing it to reach the river.
- Follow best management practices to protect water, soil and wildlife.

Use better building practices

- Reduce unnecessary pavement or use permeable materials where possible.



Use riparian or stream-side buffers

Encourage property owners and developers to retain vegetative riparian buffers because they serve us all in these ways:

- Provide wildlife habitat
- Improve water quality
- Reduce riparian erosion
- Provide effective flood control
- Increase property values
- Reduce maintenance and restoration costs
- Enhance recreation

If you encounter a water quality violation while you are on the river, please inform the local authorities, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (*www.dhec.sc.gov*) or SCDNR (*www.dnr.sc.gov*).

You can become involved in river conservation by volunteering to help the Little Pee Dee – Dillon Scenic River Advisory Council or your county's soil and water conservation organizations. Your good choices will affect this river and the stewardship of our natural resources, which, in turn, will directly affect future generations.

Landings and river miles with approximate travel times at normal water levels for paddlers along the Little Pee Dee Scenic River in Dillon County are listed below.

Landings and River Miles

Landing Name	River Mile	Time in Hours
Moccasin Bluff Landing	27.0	start
Stafford Bridge (301/501) Landing	23.0	2.5
Highway 9 Throw In	19.5	2.0
Dillon County Park Landing	14.25	3.0
Floyd Dale (Floydale) Bridge Landing	9.75	2.0
Carmichael's Bridge /Heritage Trust Landing	6.0	1.5
Huggin's Bridge (S.C. Highway 41) Landing	0	2.5

The travel times listed above do not include any time spent in one place along the river for breaks such as for meals, swimming, or fishing. Normal water level is between 3 and 7 stage feet at the Galivant's Ferry Bridge Gage.

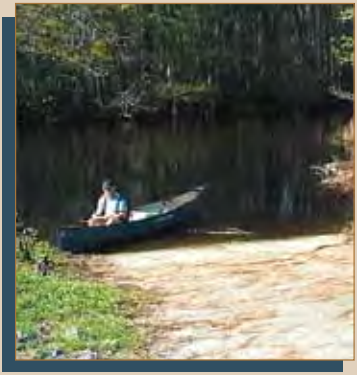
Approximate One-Way Shuttle Roadway Distance and Times

While the entire designated scenic river section can be paddled, the designated water trail will begin at Moccasin Bluff Landing (map number 4 on page 62 This landing is at the end of Moccasin Bluff Road (State Highway S-17-437) and has a paved boat ramp with a large parking area.

Moccasin Bluff Landing to Stafford Bridge (U. S. 301/501) Landing

Road Distance: 3.8 miles **Driving Time: 7 minutes**
River Distance: 4 miles **River Time: 1-3 hours**

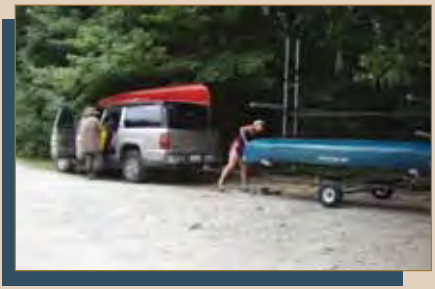
Directions: From the landing, take either Moccasin Bluff Road (State Highway S-17-437) or Longbluff Road to Oakland Road. Turn right onto Oakland Road (State Highway S-17-61). Turn right at West Country Club Road (State Highway S-17-926); this road changes names after crossing the railroad tracks onto East Country Club Road (State Highway S-17-83). At the stop sign turn right onto U. S. Highway 301/501. Turn left at Kentyre Road (State Highway S-17-40) and then take an immediate right into the landing parking area. This landing has a paved boat ramp with dirt parking area. The 501/301 Landing at Stafford Bridge is a privately-owned landing and as of this publishing date is open to the public.



Stafford Bridge (U.S. 301/501) Landing to S.C. Highway 9 Throw In

Road Distance: 4.6 miles **Driving Time: 10 minutes**
River Distance: 3.5 miles **River Time: 1-2 hours**

Directions: Turn left onto Kentyre Road (State Highway S-17-40) and take another left onto U.S. Highway 301/501 and proceed to the heart of Dillon. Turn left onto S.C. Highway 9 East which is also known as East Main Street. Take a right at the entrance to the old bridge lanes with parking on the old bridge before reaching the river. Throw in opportunities are on either side of the river.



S.C. Highway 9 Throw In to Dillon County Park Landing

Road Distance: **4.1 miles** **Driving Time:** **7 minutes**
River Distance: **5.25 miles** **River Time:** **2.5 – 3.5 hours**

Directions: Turn left onto S.C. Highway 9 and proceed into Dillon and turn left at the intersection of S.C. Highway 57 South and Lockemy Highway. Turn left onto River Access Drive and proceed to the paved landing and dirt parking area at the end of the road.

Dillon County Park Landing to Floyd Dale (Floydale) Bridge Landing

Road Distance: **4.4 miles** **Driving Time:** **8 minutes**
River Distance: **4.5 miles** **River Time:** **1 – 2.5 hours**

Directions: Turn left onto S.C. Highway 57 South towards Floyd Dale (Floydale) and then turn left in Floyd Dale (Floydale) onto Lester Road. After crossing the Little Pee Dee River, turn left onto the landing road. This landing has a shelter, dirt parking and a paved boat ramp.

Floyd Dale (Floydale) Bridge Landing to Carmichael's Bridge/Heritage Trust Landing

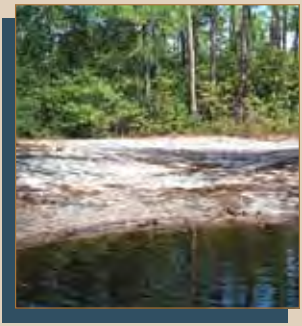
Road Distance: 4.0 miles **Driving Time: 6 minutes**
River Distance: 3.75 miles **River Time: 1.5 – 2.0 hours**

Directions: Turn right out of Floyd Dale (Floydale) Bridge Landing onto S.C. Highway 45, also known as Lester Highway, toward the town of Floyd Dale (Floydale). Make a left onto S.C. Highway 57 South towards Fork and travel approximately two miles. Turn left onto State Park Road (State Highway S-17-22). Little Pee Dee State Park and Little Pee Dee Heritage Preserve are on State Highway S-17-22 beyond Carmichael's Bridge. This is a state-owned, drop in access from the dirt road with limited parking available. The Little Pee Dee State Park and the Heritage Preserve extend both upstream and downstream for over one mile along the north bank of the river. The only camping along this water trail is at the Little Pee Dee State Park camping area.

Carmichael's Bridge Heritage Trust Landing to S.C. Huggins Bridge (S.C. Highway 41)

Road Distance: 5.5 miles **Driving Time: 10 minutes**
River Distance: 6.0 miles **River Time: 2 – 3 hours**

Directions: Turn left and cross the Little Pee Dee River on Carmichael's Bridge on State Park Road (State Highway S-17-22) toward S.C. Highway 57. Make a left onto Old River Road (S.C. Highway S-17-42) and travel approximately three miles. Turn left onto S.C. Highway 41 toward the town of Lake View. The landing at Huggins Bridge is on the right before you cross the river. This is a county-owned dirt landing and parking area.



Streamflow Information

The U.S. Geological Survey collects streamflow data on many of South Carolina's rivers. From 1940 to 1970, a monitoring station was located near the town of Dillon below the S.C. Highway 9 Bridge, which provided a 31-year record of the river's flow. Today, the monitoring station along the Little Pee Dee is at Galivants Ferry near the town of Aynor in Horry County. The average daily streamflow of the Little Pee Dee River is about 577 cubic feet per second (cfs). Ninety percent of the time, streamflow can be expected to equal or exceed 155 cfs. The bank full water level at the Galivants Ferry gage is 9 ft.

For streamflow information, check the daily papers, the SCDNR website at *http://www.dnr.sc.gov/water/hydro/gages.htm* or the USGS website at *http://waterdata.usgs.gov/sc*

Streamflow Data as of 2009

Gage	Minimum	Maximum
Dillon (This gage is discontinued)	24 cfs Recorded on September 1954	9,810 cfs Recorded on September 9, 1945
Galivants Ferry # 02135000	71 cfs and 1.8 ft stage Recorded on August 18, 2002	27,600 cfs and 13.23 ft stage Recorded on October 09, 1964

The river may be traveled when water levels are between 2 to 9 feet stage as shown on the Galivants Ferry gage. In high-water conditions the main river channel may be hard to navigate. If you choose to boat during high water, tell someone you are going on the river and pack a cell phone for emergency calls. At lower water levels you will encounter more portage opportunities around fallen trees. Generally, water levels will be higher during the late winter and spring and lower in the late summer and fall. Water temperature in the Little Pee Dee River ranges between 45-50 degrees Fahrenheit during the winter and between 65-72 degrees Fahrenheit during the summer.

Natural History

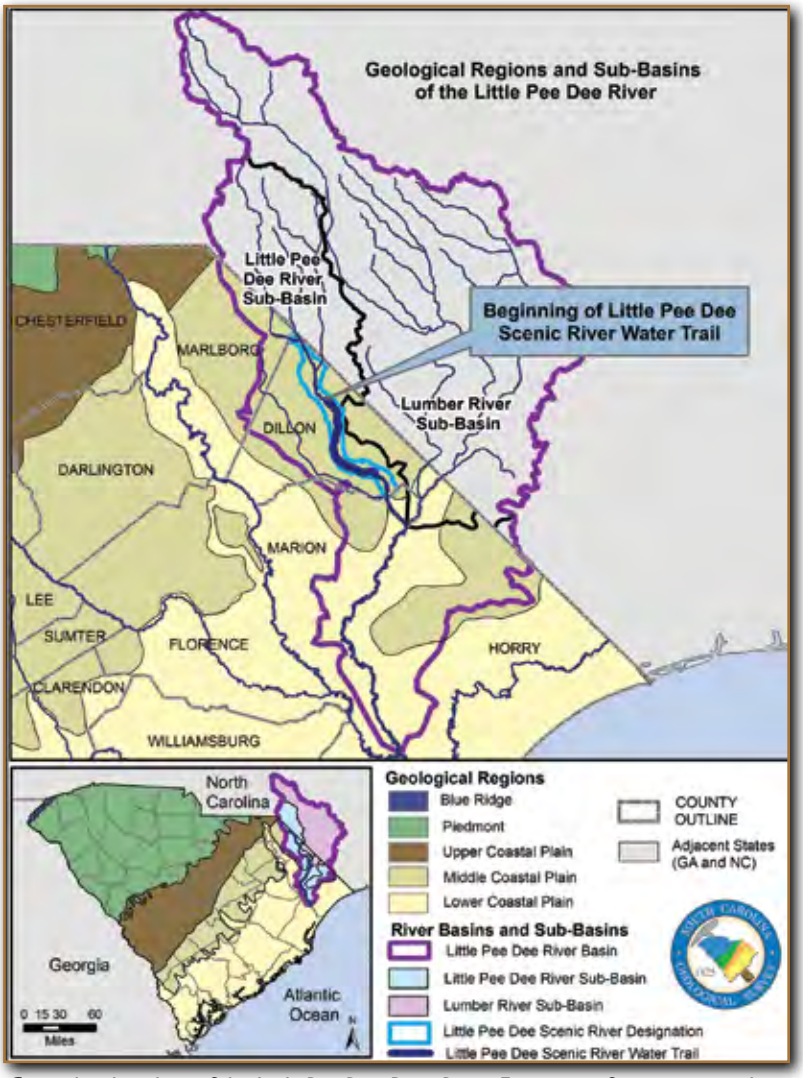
Geology and Fluvial Geomorphology

The Little Pee Dee River has its headwaters in Marlboro County, South Carolina, at the confluence of Gum Swamp Creek and Beaver Dam Creek at Red Bluff Lake. It is free flowing for its entire length, almost 120 miles, until its confluence with the Great Pee Dee River at the meeting point of three South Carolina counties: Georgetown, Horry and Marion. The Little Pee Dee River is a blackwater stream that drains marine and fluvial sedimentary units of the upper, middle and lower coastal plain of the southeastern Atlantic coastal plain province. The Little Pee Dee Scenic River flows 48 miles through Dillon County and is contained within the middle coastal plain region of South Carolina (Page 11: Basin Map). The Little Pee Dee River Basin includes the Lumber River, a major tributary that drains over half of the basin. The Lumber River tributary is primarily within the boundaries of North Carolina. It merges with the Little Pee Dee River below the stretch designated as a state scenic river. Geologic and geomorphic descriptions discussed here are limited to the 27 miles covered by the Little Pee Dee Scenic River Water Trail Guide from the Moccasin Bluff Landing to the Highway 41 Landing.

The geology and geomorphology of the Little Pee Dee River make this a very enjoyable river trail. The river is on average about 45 feet wide and during moderate flow conditions is about 5 feet deep. The river flows through a wide floodplain where it meanders gently back and forth across the valley eroding into older, higher-elevation river terraces formed by the Little Pee Dee River thousands of years ago. The sinuosity of the meandering channel provides numerous challenges for recreational users including swiftly flowing water around tight bends, large woody debris log jams (commonly referred to as "strainers") and an occasional branching channel where an older meander bend is being abandoned and a new course is forming through the floodplain.

The middle coastal plain geology of the Little Pee Dee Scenic River section consists of predominantly two marine deposits of Tertiary age (~65 million years ago), the Duplin and Bear Bluff Formations. The Duplin

Formation forms the upper section of the Little Pee Dee Scenic River in South Carolina and is a shell-rich, quartz sand deposit that is similar to modern coastal, beach environments. The Bear Bluff Formation extends from below the Duplin to the boundary of the Surry Scarp, which is downstream of the designated scenic river section. The Bear Bluff Formation is similar to the Duplin, except that it contains more clayey sediments, typical of a back-barrier beach environment, and it also contains localized extensions of poorly-sorted river-terrace sand and gravel deposits that are explained in more detail below.



Generalized geology of the Little Pee Dee River Basin. For more information, visit the South Carolina Geological Survey of the SCDNR at www.dnr.sc.gov/geology.

The present day Little Pee Dee River valley and modern floodplain have been deposited over the last 1.8 million years during the Pleistocene and Holocene Epochs of the Quaternary Period. Many of the geomorphic valley features, such as river terraces, riverine dunes and oxbow lakes are Pleistocene to early-Holocene age. The modern floodplain is the relatively flat landform adjacent to the channel that is directly influenced by modern flood processes. The geomorphology of the floodplain is typical of a lowland, coastal plain river and includes a mosaic of features, such as natural levees, sandy pointbars, sweeping cutbanks, abandoned channels, oxbow lakes and numerous smaller streams flowing through the floodplain. This mosaic of features supports a unique riparian ecosystem that contains diverse plant and animal communities, each adapted to specific geomorphic and hydrologic conditions. These relationships are necessary to maintain the physical and biological integrity of floodplain ecosystems like the Little Pee Dee River.

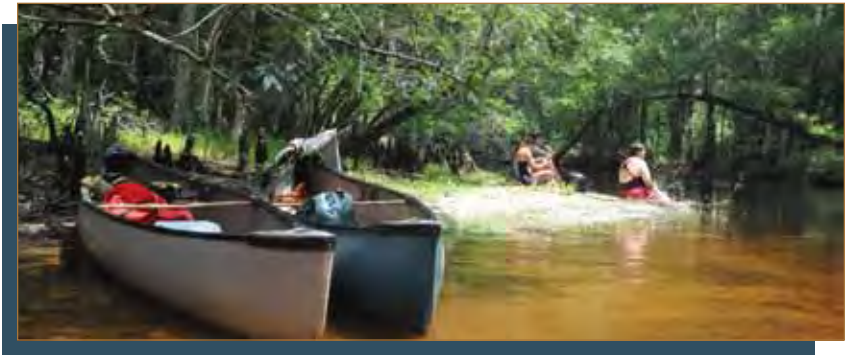
Floodplain deposits consist primarily of organic-rich alluvial sediments deposited on a floodplain by water. Floodplains may also contain organic-rich peat deposits, which are accumulations of decayed leaf litter and other vegetation debris. Alluvial sediments are the product of weathering, erosion and transportation of soil and sediments from the surrounding landscape. Such sediments are transported downstream from their origin and deposited in the river valley. Once deposited, alluvial sediments are temporarily stored, remobilized and transported further downstream. Floodplain deposits generally consist of gravel, sand, silt and clay-sized sediments. Organic-rich deposits often form in semi-permanently flooded areas, such as oxbows or back swamps within the floodplain.

Mad River Canoe

River terraces are older, higher-elevation abandoned floodplain deposits. These older abandoned floodplain surfaces often represent major environmental events including changing sea-levels or tectonic activity. River terraces form when the modern river carves into older floodplain, slowly etching out a new valley, and it is common for the older terraces to form the boundary of the active floodplain. River channels erode and cut downwards into their former floodplain deposits, and, for a variety of reasons, form abandoned river terraces. In the Little Pee Dee River valley, river terrace abandonment is likely tied to a combination of processes including tectonic uplift, river gradient (slope) and base-level adjustments related to sea-level and climate change. The time scale of these processes ranges from a hundred years to hundreds of thousands of years. River terraces flanking the Little Pee Dee River contain abundant pebbles, gravel and sand that are much coarser than the modern sediment load. Older river terraces are common along the Little Pee Dee River and are marked as features of interest in the map section of this water trail guide.

Cutbanks are erosional features that form along the outer convex margin of meander bends. Cutbanks are steep erosional, collapse structures formed by the lateral movement of the channel as it migrates across the floodplain. The erosive action of the river's flow undercuts the cutbank below or near the mean waterline, and the surface deposits slump into the river under the force of gravity. Floodplain sediments eroded from the cutbank are deposited on pointbars downstream of the eroding cutbank. Cutbanks are interesting ecological niches. Within the river channel, catfish often swim into underwater dens where they rest. Above the water line, riparian birds, such as kingfishers, nest in burrowed cavities within the cutbank, and can be observed flying into and out of small holes carved into the sediments.

Pointbars are depositional landforms opposite to the eroding cutbanks and are generally formed from sediments eroded from upstream cutbanks. Pointbars are typically composed of gravel, sand, silt and clay deposits that form arcuate meander-scroll, ridge and swale topography that increase in height away from the river. Meander-scroll topography is an undulating pattern of ridge and swale features that form in concert with the forward advancing pointbar surface. The ridges are often occupied by trees and the swales are often void of vegetation. Pointbars are topographically low features that flood frequently, and thus support specific flood-tolerant plants such as willow, red maple and water elm.

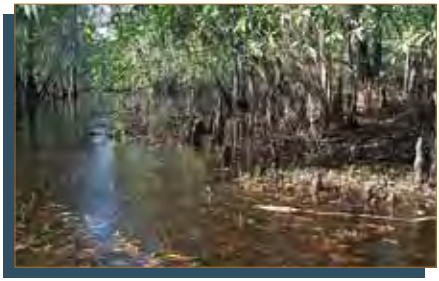


Natural levees are depositional landforms formed from the vertical accumulation of sediments deposited during flood events. Natural levees form topographically higher floodplain surfaces adjacent to the river channel consisting of stratified, well-sorted sand, silt and clay. The deposits of natural levees are thickest and coarsest close to the channel, becoming progressively thinner and finer away from the channel. Natural levees do not flood frequently and often contain less-flood tolerant hardwoods such as sweet gums, sugar hackberry and a variety of oaks.

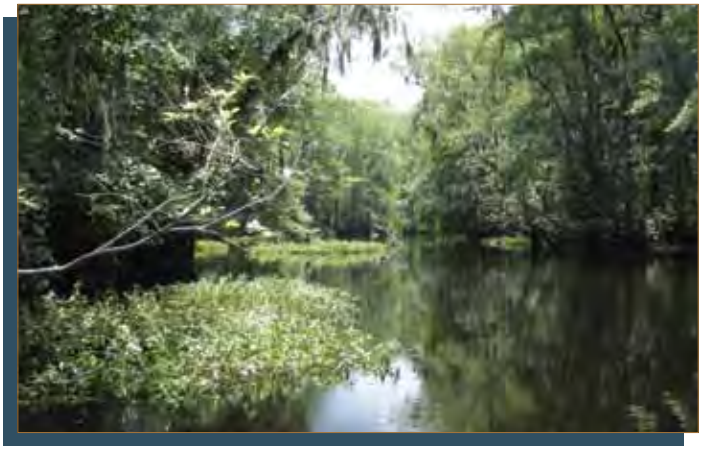
Abandoned meanders form when a meander bend is cut off from the main river and abandoned in the floodplain. Abandoned meanders can be observed in various stages of formation and range from oxbow lakes to paleo-channels completely filled by alluvial deposits. Location, orientation, proximity to the active channel and hydrologic connectivity of the active channel to ground water all affect the rate at which abandoned meanders fill with mineral and organic sediment deposits. In some cases, abandoned meanders can persist in the floodplain for hundreds to thousands of years if they are isolated from the active channel but receive recharge from ground water. Many of the abandoned meanders in the lower Little Pee Dee River floodplain exhibit these characteristics and thus are preserved as oxbow lakes. Abandoned meanders generally contain moist, hydric soils which flood frequently, supporting flood-tolerant forests dominated by cypress and swamp tupelo.

Yazoo streams are tributaries that enter the floodplain but the natural levee prevents them from flowing into the river. As a result, the yazoo tributary flows parallel to the main river before reaching a breach in the levee or occupying the course of an abandoned meander that allows the stream to cross the levee deposits and drain into the river.

Sloughs and guts are colloquial terms that describe various flow paths through a floodplain. Sloughs and guts may or may not contain water year-round but are often flooded seasonally or during high flow events. These features may be local topographic depressions present during the final stages of abandoned meander infilling, or may be segments of former yazoo streams. Sloughs and guts are often lined along either bank with flood-tolerant trees such as cypress and swamp tupelo. During high flows, sloughs and guts are important pathways for fish to migrate onto the floodplain and spawn in the various floodplain and oxbow lakes.



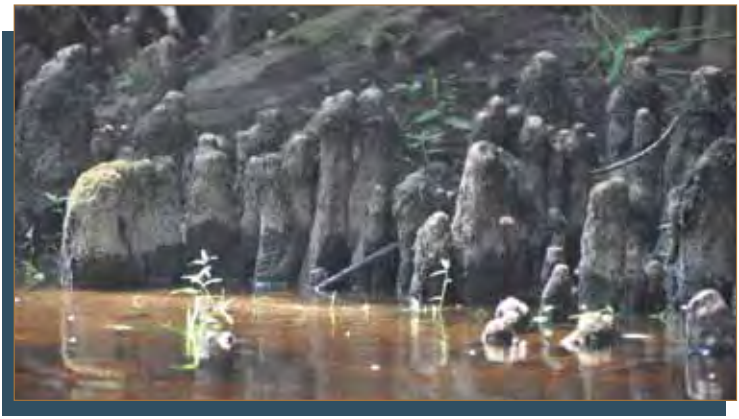
Backswamps are topographically low-lying areas of the floodplain beyond the natural levee deposits. Backswamps contain the finest textured floodplain deposits and may even develop organic-rich soils from the forest litter. They commonly form at the margins or edges of the floodplain where they are adjacent to higher terraces. These higher terraces have a higher potentiometric surface with is the cause of the groundwater flow between the two areas. Oxbow lakes commonly occur as permanent waterbodies in backswamp environments because of their connection to the higher terrace groundwater.



Riverine sand dunes are unique eolian depositional features that rise 10-30 feet above the floodplain and are composed of thick, homogenous (uniform) deposits of well-sorted fine to coarse sands, often sourced from the river bed and surrounding landscape. Most dune ridges are oriented from the northwest to southeast, and in many cases they parallel river channels. Their orientation and shape suggest that most are transverse dunes formed by prevailing southwest-northeast winds that blew over this landscape 15,000-30,000 years ago when the valley was a barren environment, much colder than today. Similar sand dunes occur throughout river valleys in the Carolinas and Georgia.

Flora Species

The vegetative communities of the Little Pee Dee River and adjacent land are typical of blackwater rivers and floodplain swamplands of the middle and lower coastal plain in South Carolina. The natural communities with high resource value include cypress-gum swamps, bottom land hardwood forests and fluvial sand ridge communities. The dominant trees along the river's edge are bald cypress and tupelo. Other common species along the river include red maple, sycamore, sweetgum, black gum, overcup oak, water oak, laurel oak, water hickory, American holly and green ash. Loblolly pine occurs on some of the higher banks and along older river terraces and sand dunes found within the river's floodplain. These very sparse but picturesque habitats are home to trees and shrubs not usually associated with floodplains, and include longleaf pine, turkey, live, and post oaks and blueberries. In the lower section of the river, river birch trees overhang the water and black willow trees may be found along exposed sandbars.



Aquatic Invasive Species

Problems with aquatic invasive species are caused primarily by boaters and Anglers who unknowingly spread invasive aquatic plants and animals from one waterbody to another. Aquatic invasive species are also spread by homeowners who dispose of water garden and aquarium plants or animals in public waters and private ponds. You can help control the spread of invasive aquatic species by doing the following:

When you leave a body of water:

- Remove any visible mud, plants, fish or animals before transporting boats or equipment.
- Discharge water from any type of equipment before transporting.
- Clean and dry anything that comes into contact with water (boats, trailers, equipment, clothing, dogs, etc.).
- Never release plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water. Please do not empty the water from your live well into the river.
- Report aquatic weed problems in public waters to the Aquatic Nuisance Species Program by email: *Invasiveweeds@dnr.sc.gov* or phone: SCDNR (1-803-755-2872).

http://www.dnr.sc.gov/invasiveweeds/

Aquatic invasive species of the Little Pee Dee River include:

Alligatorweed *(Alternanthera philoxeroides)*

Water hyacinth *(Eichhornia crassipes)*

Water primrose *(Eichhornia crassipes)*

Fauna Species

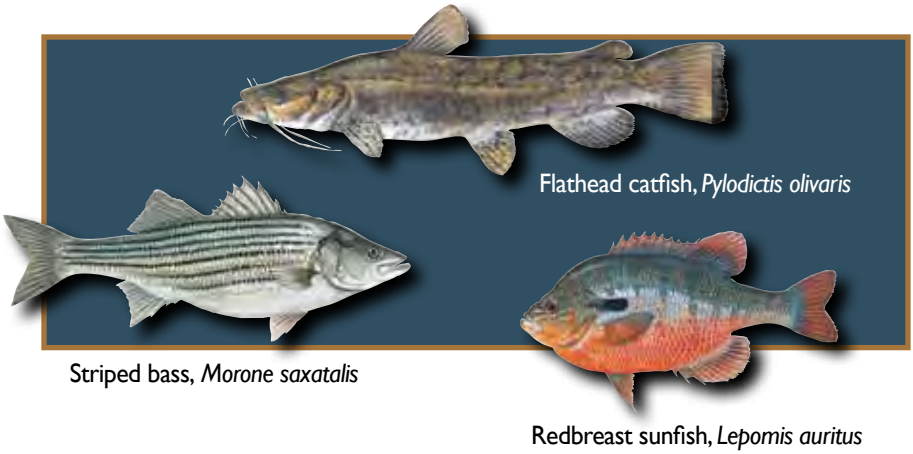
Aquatic Species

The Little Pee Dee River has been rated a superior resource for inland fisheries. This river and its associated tributary streams, sloughs, oxbow lakes and swamps provide a diverse habitat for the indigenous fish community. The river's good water quality further contributes to a favorable environment for fish.

A total of 53 species of fish are known to occur in the Little Pee Dee River. The most abundant species by numbers are coastal shiners, spotted sunfish and redbreast sunfish, accounting for 20 percent, 18 percent and 17 percent of the total number of fish sampled, respectively. By weight, the most abundant fish are bowfin, largemouth bass, spotted sucker and carp, representing 37 percent, 12 percent, nine percent and eight percent of the total biomass sampled, respectively.

Recreational fishing is heaviest from April through June. Heavy stream flow during fall and winter months reduces the availability of the river for fishing due to flooding. Sunfish or bream species (bluegill, redear, redbreast, warmouth) are harvested most frequently, though largemouth bass and catfish also comprise a significant portion of the fishery. Flathead catfish have become established in the Little Pee Dee River, and are suspected to be one cause for the decline in the bream fishery, specifically redbreast.

In addition to the resident fish community, a number of migratory species are thought to seasonally inhabit the river. These species include the American shad, hickory shad, blue back herring, American eel and striped bass. The short nose sturgeon, an endangered fish species that inhabits the Great Pee Dee River, may occur also in the river.



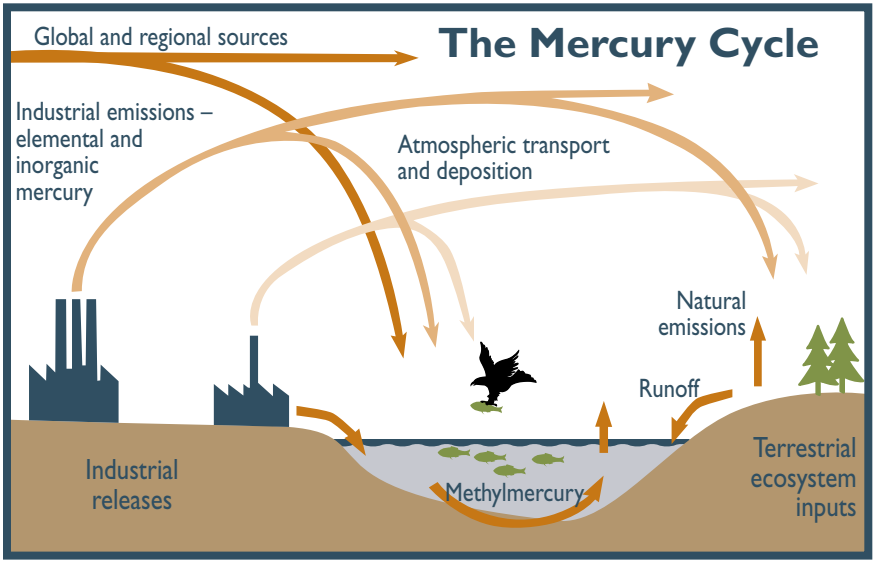
Flathead catfish, *Pylodictis olivaris*

Striped bass, *Morone saxatalis*

Redbreast sunfish, *Lepomis auritus*

Fish and Mercury Contamination

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) has recorded elevated mercury levels in some species of fish collected from the Little Pee Dee River. Elevated tissue mercury in seafood is a worldwide concern and levels in fishes of the coastal plain of the Southeast have been high enough to warrant consumption advisories. Mercury can be released into the atmosphere by natural causes, such as volcanic eruptions and forest fires, or human-made causes such as the burning of fossil fuels. Once released into the atmosphere, mercury can travel far from its source and return to earth in precipitation where it can contaminate water bodies and the landscape. Biological and chemical processes in certain types of water bodies can transform inorganic mercury to methyl-mercury. Conditions such as low pH and high levels of organic matter make many southeastern coastal plain rivers efficient at converting inorganic mercury to methyl-mercury. This form of mercury can bioaccumulate in fish tissue, meaning that the amount of mercury increases in progressively larger predators up the natural food chain. Large predatory fishes, such as largemouth bass and bowfin, have higher levels of tissue mercury than smaller pan fish. SCDHEC tests fishes every year and releases an annual consumption advisory. For more information on this issue, see *www.scdhec.gov/fish*.



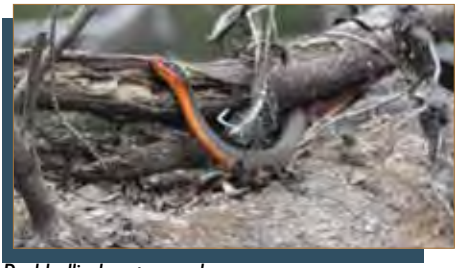
Terrestrial Species

The Little Pee Dee River supports many mammal species such as river otters and beavers. Signs of their activity can be seen along the river by viewing mud slides for the otter and tree or root dens for the beaver. Many dens are piled up twigs and logs behind a tree root along the edge of the river. White-tailed deer, grey squirrels and foxes can be seen along the edges of the river. When picnicking, take care not to leave food where raccoons, opossums or black bears can wonder off with it. At night along the river, you may see bats flying up and down the river corridor in search of moths and mosquitoes. Some bat species that occur here include Seminole bats, southeastern myotis, big brown bats and Eastern pipistrelles.

Boaters may see brown water snakes or banded water snakes sunning in low hanging bushes or glimpse a water moccasin in a clump of emergent aquatic vegetation. Be careful gathering firewood when you camp at Little Pee State Park as copperhead snakes may lie in wait for a mouse in the leaf litter near dead wood. Many species of lizards, snakes and frogs live in the floodplain forests and wetlands that lie along the Little Pee Dee River. Observing these species may be difficult while boating, but they can be seen occasionally, either running up a tree trunk (lizards) or hopping in the water (frogs). One may see the Eastern fox squirrel,or the river horn snail, both of which are species of state concern.

Alligators occur along the Little Pee Dee River, but they are shy and will avoid boaters if they can. During courtship and breeding season, from April to May, alligators prefer open waters. During the remainder of the year, males prefer open and deep waters while females seek out nesting habitat in secluded areas with shallow water and heavy vegetation.

Beaver lodge



Red-bellied water snake

Damselfly

Avian Species

Most of the lands adjacent to the river are privately owned and maintained as parcels of contiguous floodplain forest and bluff landscapes, resulting in less fragmentation and improved wildlife habitat. Wood ducks love the wooded floodplain and inhabit the area year-round. The American black duck, mallard, green-winged teal, ring-necked duck and hooded merganser are all winter residents. Other winter bird species that can be observed along the river and at Little Pee Dee State Park include the American woodcock, hermit thrush and the white-throated sparrow. During the spring and summer, keep an eye out for these warblers: Kentucky, Swainson's, prothonotary and the worm-eating warbler. One can also see the yellow-billed cuckoo and the red- and white-eyed vireos. Ruby-throated hummingbirds are usually heard instead of seen as they drink from the trumpet and cross vines. Birds of prey that might be seen or heard include the red-shouldered hawk, red-tailed hawk, osprey, bald eagle, Mississippi kite and possibly the swallow-tailed kite. Owls are also seen and heard along the Little Pee Dee and the most common owls are the barred, great horned and Eastern screech owl. In the upland longleaf pine forests along the Little Pee Dee River, one may glimpse the federally-endangered red-cockaded woodpecker. You will hear and see the large Northern pileated woodpecker. Wading birds such as the great blue heron, the white egret and others are a common sight. As you travel, you may want to use the check list on page 22 to record the wildlife you see and hear.

Red-shouldered hawk, Buteo lineatus

Prothonotary warbler, Protonotaria citrea

Barred owl, Strix varia

Species Checklist Tables

Little Pee Dee River Flora

Trees		Shrubs / Understory	
	Water oak, *Quercus nigra*		Paw paw, *Asimina triloba*
	Chestnut oak, *Quercus michauxii*		Button bush, *Cephalanthus occidentalis*
	Laurel oak, *Quercus laurifolia*		Persimmon, *Diospyros virginiana*
	White oak, *Quercus alba*		Possumhaw holly, *Ilex decidua*
	Willow oak, *Quercus phellos*		American holly, *Ilex opaca*
	Red oak, *Quercus shumardii*		Alder, *Alnus serrulata*
	Cypress, *Taxodium distichum*		Swamp cyrilla, *Cyrilla racemiflora*
	Swamp tupelo, *Nyssa aquatica*		Wax myrtle, *Myrica cerifera*
	Black gum, *Nyssa biflora*		Buckeye, *Aesculus pavia*
	Water hickory, *Carya aquatica*	**Vines**	
	Bitternut hickory, *Carya cordiformis*		Poison ivy, *Toxocodendron radicans*
	Sweet gum, *Liquidambar styraciflua*		Trumpet vine, *Campsis radicans*
	River birch, *Betula nigra*		Virgina creeper, *Parthenosis quinqifolia*
	Red maple, *Acer rubrum*	**Herbaceous Plants**	
	Sugar maple, *Acer sachahrinum*		Cardinal flower, *Lobelia cardinalis*
	Box elder, *Acer negundo*		Mist flower, *Eupatorium coelestinum*
	Water elm, *Planera aquatica*		Palmettos, *Sabal minor*
	Black willow, *Salix nigra*		Chain ferns, *Woodwardia virginica*
	Musclewood, *Carpinus carolina*		Maidenhair fern, *Adiantum capillus*
	Green ash, *Fraxinus pennsylvanica*		Giant cane, *Arundinaria gigantea*
	American elm, *Ulmus americana*	**Aquatic Plants**	
	Slippery elm, *Ulmus rubra*		Alligator weed, *Alternanthera philoxeroides*
	Winged elm, *Ulmus alata*		Water primrose, *Ludwigia peploides*
	Honey locust, *Gleditsia aquatica*		Spadderdock, *Nuphar lutea*
	Sycamore, *Platanus occidentalis*		Water lily, *Nuphea odorata*
	Sugar berry, *Celtis laevigata*		Duck weed, *Lemna spp.*
	Cottonwood, *Populus deltoides*		Water willow, *Justicia Americana*
	Sweet bay, *Persea borbonia*		Bladderwort, *Utricularia vulgaris*
	American beech, *Fagus grandifolia*		Pickerel weed, *Pontadaria cordata*

Little Pee Dee River Mammals and Birds			
Mammals		**Non-Perching Land Birds**	
	Beaver, *Castor canadensis*		Kingfisher, *Megaceryle alcyon*
	Otter, *Lutra canadensis*		Yellow-billed cuckoo, *Coccyzus erythropthalmus*
	Nutria, *Myocastor coypus*		Red-bellied woodpecker, *Melanerpes carolinus*
	Muskrat, *Ondatra zibethicus*		Yellow-bellied sapsucker, *Sphyrapicus varius*
	White-tailed deer, *Odocoileus virginianus*		Red-cockaded woodpecker, *Picoides borealis*
	Racoon, *Procyon lotor*		Red-headed woodpecker, *Melanerpes eryhtocephalus*
	Possum, *Caluromys spp.*	**Raptors**	
	Swamp rabbit, *Sylvilagus aquaticus*		Bald eagle, *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*
	Red fox, *Vulpes vulpes*		Mississippi kite, *Ictinia mississippiensis*
	Gray fox, *Urocyon cinereoargenteus*		Swallow-tailed kite, *Elanoides forficatus*
	Wild boar, *Sus scrofa*		Red-shouldered hawk, *Buteo lineatus*
	Black bear, *Ursus americanus*		Red-tailed hawk, *Buteo jamaicensis*
	Coyote, *Canis latrans*		Bald eagle, *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*
Perching Land Birds			Osprey, *Pandion haliaetus*
	Red-eyed vireo, *Vireo olivaceus*		Turkey vulture, *Cathartes aura*
	White-eyed vireo, *Vireo griseus*		Great horned owl, *Bubo virginianus*
	Brown-headed nuthatch, *Sitta pusilla*		Barred owl, *Strix varia*
	Hermit thrush, *Catharus guttatus*		Eastern screech owl, *Otus asio*
	Wood thrush, *Hylocichla mustelina*	**Swimming and Wading Water Birds**	
	Pine warbler, *Dendroica pinus*		Mallard, *Anas platyrhynchos*
	Carolina wren, *Thryothorus ludovicianus*		American black duck, *Anas rubripes*
	Prothonotary warbler, *Protonotaria citrea*		Green-winged teal, *Anas crecca*
	Worm-eating warbler, *Helmitheros vermivora*		Ring-necked duck, *Aythya collaris*
	Swainson's warbler, *Limnothlypis swainsonii*		Hooded merganser, *Lophodytes cucullatus*

Perching Land Birds (continued)	Swimming and Wading Water Birds (continued)
Kentucky warbler, *Oporornis formosus*	Double-crested cormorant, *Phalacrocorax auritus*
White-throated sparrow, *Zonotrichia albicollis*	
Purple martin, *Progne subis*	Anhinga, *Anhinga anhinga*
Rough winged swallow, *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*	Great white egret, *Ardea alba*
Acadian flycatcher, *Empidonax virescens*	Little blue heron, *Egretta caerulea*
Northern cardinal, *Cardinalis cardinalis*	Great blue heron, *Ardea herodias*
American crow, *Corvus brachyrhynchos*	Snowy egret, *Egretta thula*
American woodcock, *Scolopax minor*	

Little Pee Dee Scenic River Fauna: Reptiles, Amphibians and Invertebrates

Reptiles: Alligators and Snakes	Amphibians: Salamanders
American alligator, *Alligator mississippiensis*	Tiger salamander, *Ambystoma tigrinum*
Red-bellied water snake, *Nerodia erythrogaster*	Marbled salamander, *Ambystoma opacum*
Banded water snake, *Nerodia fasciata*	Flatwoods salamander, *Ambystoma cingulatum*
Brown water snake, *Nerodia taxispilota*	Spotted salamander, *Ambystoma maculatum*
Kingsnake, *Lampropeltis getula*	Mabees salamander, *Ambystoma mabeei*
Indigo, *Drymarchon corais*	Eastern newts, *Notophthalmus viridescens*
Rough green snake, *Opheodrys aestivus*	**Invertebrates**
Garter snake, *Thamnophilis sirtalis*	Swallowtail butterfly, *Family Papilionidae*
Black racer, *Coluber constricta*	Monarch butterfly, *Danaus plexippus*
Cane-break rattlesnake, *Crotalus horridus*	Water boatman, *Family Corixidae*
Pygmy rattlesnake, *Sistrurus Miliarius*	Backswimer, *Family Notonectidae*
Copperhead, *Agkistrodon contortrix*	Caddisfly, *Order Trichoptera*
Water moccasin, *Agkistrodon piscivorus*	Whirligig beetle, *Family Gyrinidae*

Reptiles: Alligators and Snakes (continued)		Invertebrates (continued)	
	Coral snake, *Micrurus fulvius*		Mosquito, *Family Culcidae*
Reptiles: Turtles			Stonefly, Order *Plecoptera*
	Snapping turtle, *Chelydra serpentina*		Water strider, *Gerris spp.*
	Mud turtle, *Kinosternon spp.*		Mayfly, *Order Ephemeroptera*
	Eastern box turtle, *Terrapene carolina*		Crane fly, *Tipula spp.*
	Red-ear slider, *Trachemys scripta elegans*		Water scorpion, *Family Nepidae*
	Yellow-bellied slider, *Trachemys scripta scripta*		Midge, *Family Chironomidae*
	Softshell turtle, *Trionyx spp.*		Damselfly, *Agrinum spp.*
	Cooter, *Chrysemys Floridiana*		Green darner, *Anax junius*
Amhibians: Frogs			Bumblebee, *Bombus spp.*
	Barking tree frog, *Hyla gratiosa*		Yellowjacket, *Vespula spp.*
	Narrow mouth toad, *Gastrophryne carolinensis*		Water flea, *Daphnia pulex*
	Eastern spadefoot, *Scaphiopus holbrookii*		Pond crayfish, *Procambarus clarki*
	Gopher frog, *Rana capito*		Roanoke slabshell, *Elliptio roanokensis*
	Southern leopard frog, *Rana sphenocephala*		Yellow lampmussel, *Lampsilis cariosa*
	Peeping oak toad, *Bufo quercicus*		Common leech, *Macrobdella spp.*

Little Pee Dee River Fish

Resident Species		Resident Species	
	Gizzard shad, *Dorosoma cepedianum*		Pumpkinseed, *Lepomis gibbosus*
	Threadfin shad, *Dorosoma petense*		Dollar sunfish, *Lepomis marginatus*
	Grass carp, *Ctenopharyngodon idella*		Redear sunfish, *Lepomis microlophus*
	Common carp, *Cyprinus carpio*		Spotted sunfish, *Lepomis punctatus*
	Eastern silvery minnow, *Hybognathus regius*		Flier, *Centrarchus macropterus*
	Lined topminnow, *Fundulus lineolatus*		Banded pygmy, *Ellasoma zonatum*
	Golden shiner, *Notemigonus cryoleucas*		White crappie, *Pomoxis annularis*
	Iron color shiner, *Notropis chalybaeus*		Black crappie, *Pomoxis nigromaculatus*
	Dusky shiner, *Notropis cummingsae*		Tesselated darter, *Etheostoma olmstedi*

Resident Species (continued)	
	Tailight shiner, *Notropis maculatus*
	Coastal shiner, *Notropis petersoni*
	Thinlip chub, *Cyprinella sp.*
	Creek chubsucker, *Erimyzon oblongus*
	Lake chubsucker, *Erimyzon sucetta*
	Spotted sucker, *Minytrema melanops*
	Notchlip redhorse, *Moxostoma collapsum*
	Shorthead redhorse, *M. macrolepidotum*
	Snail bullhead, *Ameiurus brunneus*
	White catfish, *Ameiurus catus*
	Black bullhead, *Ameiurus melas*
	Yellow bullhead, *Ameiurus natalis*
	Brown bullhead, *Ameiurus nebulosus*
	Flat bullhead, *Ameiurus platycephalus*
	Channel catfish, *Ictalurus punctatus*
	Margined madtom, *Noturus insignis*
	Tadpole madtom, *Noturus gyrinus*
	Broadtail madtom, *Noturus sp.*
	Flathead catfish, *Pylodictis olivaris*
	Bowfin, *Amia calva*
	Mud sunfish, *Acantharchus pomotis*
	Banded sunfish, *Enneacanthus obesus*
	Blackbanded sunfish, *E. chaetodon*
	Bluespotted sunfish, *E. gloriosus*
	Warmouth, *Lepomis gulosus*
	Bluegill sunfish, *Lepomis machrochirus*
	Redbreast sunfish, *Lepomis auritus*

Resident Species (continued)	
	Swamp darter, *Etheostoma fusiforme*
	Sawcheek darter, *Etheostoma serrifer*
	Largemouth bass, *Micropterus salmoides*
	Yellow perch, *Perca flavescens*
	Pirate perch, *Aphredoderus sayanus*
	Eastern mudminnow, *Umbra pygmae*
	Swampfish, *Chologaster cornuta*
	Eastern mosquitofish, *Gambusia holbrooki*
	Redfin pickerel, *Esox americana*
	Chain pickerel, *Esox niger*
	Longnose gar, *Lepisosteus osseus*
	Florida gar, *Lepisosteus platyrhincus*
	Eastern mudminnow, *Umbra pygmae*
	Swampfish, *Chologaster cornuta*
	Eastern mosquitofish, *Gambusia holbrooki*
Migratory/Diadromous Species	
	Shornose sturgeon, *Acipenser breviostrum*
	American eel, *Anguila rostrata*
	Striped bass, *Morone saxatalis*
	Blueback herring, *Alosa aestivalis*
	Hickory shad, *Alosa mediocris*
	American shad, *Alosa sapidissima*
	Striped mullet, *Mugil cephalus*

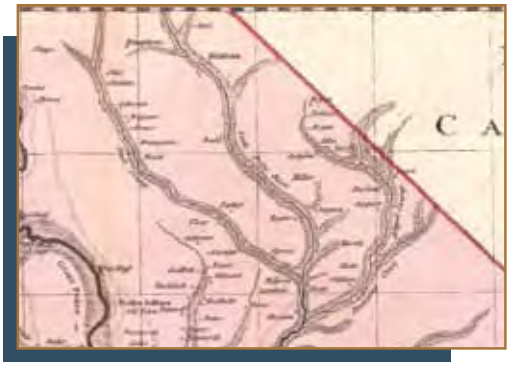
Human History

Pre-Colonial Period:

We may never know the names of this river's earliest human inhabitants or what they may have named the Little Pee Dee River. Their presence is made evident by the remnants of everyday tools and products they left behind. Early Native Americans made their living from the landscape in various ways. For nearly 10,000 years, some form of hunting and gathering characterized their lifestyle. While evidence of horticulture can be dated to perhaps 3,000 years ago, even these early farmers weren't settled in one permanent place along the Little Pee Dee River. On other rivers such as the Great Pee Dee, Native American villages were located near the river and usually on a higher-elevation bluff, river terrace, peninsula or island that could be easily defended. Waterways, such as the Little Pee Dee and Great Pee Dee rivers, served as important travel corridors and trade routes. Their boats were canoes of dug out cypress logs. The Great Pee Dee and Little Pee Dee rivers still bear the name of the Pee Dee Indians who inhabited the area around these two rivers. Other groups that may have passed by the area were the Catawba, Santee, Wateree, Waxhaw, Congaree, Cape Fear, Waccamaw, Winyah, Eno, Keyauwee, Shakori, Sissipaw and Sugeree Indians who inhabited central and northern South Carolina.

1500-1670:

In 1514, Lucas Vasques de Ayllon of Spain made an expedition to the "New World" coast somewhere between present day Georgia and North Carolina. He is credited with making the first contact with the Native American people residing in what would become South Carolina. Ayllon ordered a second expedition near today's town of Beaufort in 1521. Later, in 1526, the Spanish founded, and then abandoned, the town of San Miguel de Gualdape near present day Beaufort. In 1540, Hernando de Soto may have journeyed to the banks of the Little Pee Dee near a village called Ilapi. Other failed attempts to colonize what was to become the state of South Carolina were Spanish Santa Elena in 1559 and French Charles Fort in 1562. In 1670, the English developed a permanent settlement called Charles Towne.



William Faden, 1780

1670-1725:

The European settlement of Charles Towne grew in population by trading with the Native American populations. In 1685, the Little Pee Dee River became a part of Craven County in the province of Carolina, one of four counties ordered by the Lords' Proprietors to be used as election districts for the Assembly. Much of Craven County was populated by Native Americans. Parishes were established in 1706 as the principal election divisions of local government. During this time period, the Little Pee Dee River meandered through the parishes of St. David's and Prince Fredrick Winyah.

1725-1776:

A 1725 Map of South Carolina by Herbert shows the Pee Dee River with the Native American towns of the Pedee and Saraws, but it does not show any roads or paths along the river nor does it show the Little Pee Dee River. In the 1730s, to better settle the backcountry, Governor Robert Johnson and Colonel John Barnwell proposed the township plan for orderly settlement. The plan called for 11 townships to be located on South Carolina's major rivers, and by 1759 there were nine townships. One of those townships was Queensbourgh, located on the Pee Dee River and settled by the Welsh Baptists from Wales, Great Britain and from Delaware to Pennsylvania. Later, the land adjacent to Queensbourgh along the Pee Dee River, Little Pee Dee River and Lynches Creek was known as the Welsh Tract or Neck. Settlers began moving into the Welsh Neck between the Great and Little Pee Dee Rivers. As the landscape filled, subsequent settlers moved into the Little Pee Dee River basin.

Horses were the most common form of transportation. However, many people preferred water transportation, as it was much more efficient in transporting goods and crops to markets in George Town or Charles Towne. The colonists used schooners, periaugers and dugout canoes on the river. The settlers' first cash crop was tar, turpentine and pitch harvested from the pine trees located on the bluffs, while rice and indigo were cash crops along the coast. Settlers harvested timber from the area and floated the logs by water to saw mills near George Town, which became an important port city in the 1700s. After the settlers cleared their fields, they planted tobacco, cotton and corn. They also fished and hunted.

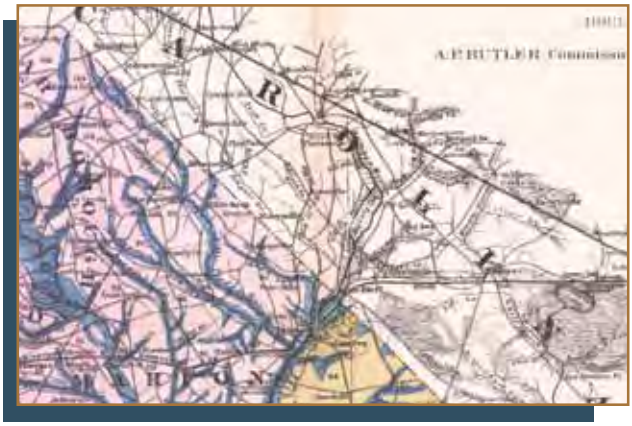
H.C. Carey, 1822

1776-1800:

Early ferries that crossed the upper Little Pee Dee River included James Johnson's Ferry (est. in 1778) and Ford's Ferry (est. in 1756). Moody's, Gibson's,and Buie's Ferries are other crossings known to have been located along the river. The family names of early settlers along the Little Pee Dee are presented on a map of South Carolina made in 1780 by William Faden. Those plantation names include: Fords, Rogers, Barfield, Miller and Middleton. In 1788, an act was signed to keep the Little Pee Dee River open for navigation from the mouth of Drowning Creek (Lumber River) to the mouth of Gum Swamp. It called for "all males within six miles of the Little Pee Dee River shall be liable to work on the same." In 1799, a law was enacted for a public ferry to be vested in Daniel Carmichael for seven years and called Moody's Ferry with the rates established for American currency as follows:

2 cents for every head of cattle, sheep, goats, and hogs
4 cents for every foot passenger and every head of horses
7 cents for man and horse
25 cents for every rolling hogshead, horses, and drivers
25 cents for every 2-wheeled carriage and horse or
horses drawing carriage (McCord, 1841)

During this time period the river was in the region of South Carolina named Liberty County, which was part of a larger region called the Georgetown District. The name was changed from Liberty County to Marion District by a law passed in 1798 in honor of Francis Marion; however, in the 1800 federal census the river area was listed under Liberty County. In the Little Pee Dee Region many persons were loyal to the King, and it became the scene of much activity during the Revolutionary War. General Francis Marion, the Swamp Fox, helped prolong the war with the British to enable a victory for the American colonies.



A.P. Butler, 1883

Charles Desilver, 1856

1800-1900:

The first toll bridge on this section of the Little Pee Dee River was built in 1800 at the plantation of Benjamin Harrelson. The tolls were similar to the ferry tails listed above. Various owners and names have been given for this bridge which today is known as Allen's Bridge. The 1822 Map of South Carolina by J. Drayton reveals four bridges crossing the Little Pee Dee River. The 1855 Map of South Carolina, by Joseph Colton, reveals Drowning Creek as the Lumber River; and this map also shows the town of Harlleesville as well as Campbell's and Allen's Bridges.

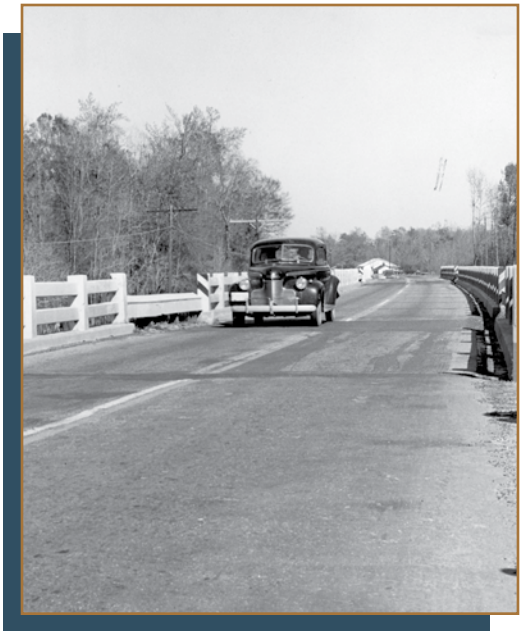
By 1856, the railroad replaced the river for moving goods and people to market centers such as Charleston and Georgetown. Cotton, tobacco and corn plantations flourished until the Civil War in 1861. After the Civil War, tenant farmers and sharecroppers farmed the plantations. The main crops planted at this time were cotton and tobacco, which are still planted today. By the time the 1883 Map of South Carolina was published, a new post office called Little Rock was noted on the north side of the river while today it is located on the south side of the river. In 1868, the area was officially named Marion County. The Rand McNally and Company Map of South Carolina 1898, published in Chicago, shows the Atlantic Coastline Railroad Company having two lines, one taking the place of the Manchester/Wilmington railroad across the Little Pee Dee River and the other railroad going through the new towns of Dillon and Little Rock (south of the river). James W. Dillon, an Irishman who convinced the Atlantic Coastline to route their tracks through his land, established the town of Dillon.

1900-2000:

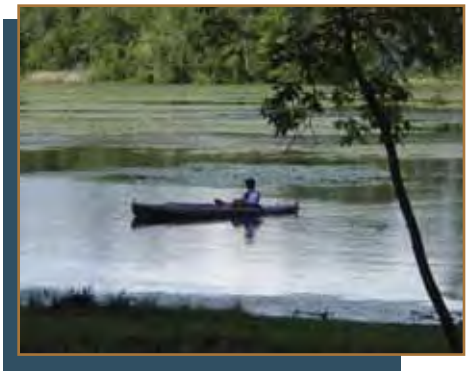
In December of 1909, residents of the area voted to split from Marion County, and in 1910 Dillon County was officially created. During the years after World War I and the Great Depression in the 1930's, the Civilian Conservation Corps

1961 Railroad overpass bridge to replace wooden bridge

(CCC) was formed to build buildings, roads and bridges throughout South Carolina. The first modern roadway through Dillon County, built by the CCC in 1930, was a road linking Marion, Dillon and Little Rock to North Carolina crossing the Little Pee Dee River at Harllee's Bridge. In the 1930's, electric power lines were routed across the river corridor carrying power to many homes and businesses. In June 1951, the South Carolina Forestry Commission, guided by Superintendent Lafon Norton, acquired 759 acres for a State Park on the north side of the Little Pee Dee River. Today, the Little Pee Dee State Park has 854 acres and is managed by the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism offering camping and fishing. The years 1960 to 2000 brought changes and growth to the landscape of Dillon County due to the construction of I-95. Declines in the traditional land uses of agriculture typically resulted in an increase of forestland with only a slight increase in industrialization and urban growth.



April 8, 1955 New Highway 9 bridge



Little Pee Dee State Park Lake

2000- Present Day

On May 3, 2005, the Little Pee Dee River in Dillon County from the Marlboro County line to the Marion County line was designated as a State Scenic River. From the last half of the twentieth century to the present day, the Little Pee Dee Scenic River has been used to assimilate treated domestic and industrial waste, for irrigation, industrial manufacturing and drinking water, and for recreational uses such as hunting, fishing, swimming and boating. In May 2008, the boat landing at Highway 41 was deeded to Dillon County.

Boating Information

You may find solitude along this river but you will not be alone and your actions affect this river as you boat its waters and visit its landings and point bars. People come here to boat an accessible and beautiful scenic river. No one comes to this area to find landings and point bars scarred or fouled with human waste or litter. This river cannot stay scenic if you do not work hard to protect it. Enjoying the use of this river without leaving a trace is a big challenge, but here is how you can help.

Boating:

Boater Education Law:

Persons younger than 16 years of age may operate a boat powered by 15 horsepower or more [including personal water craft (PWCs), such as jet skis] only if they are accompanied by an adult at least 18 years old who is not under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or they have passed a boating safety course approved by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources.

South Carolina Law concerning Boat, PWC or Canoe Registration:

You must have a South Carolina Certificate of Number (registration) and validation decals to legally operate a boat or PWC on public waters in South Carolina. The only exceptions are

- A non-motorized boat
- Boats documented with the U.S. Coast Guard
- Boats or PWC with valid registration in another state or country, temporarily used in South Carolina.

If you place an electric or gas motor of any kind on a canoe, it must be registered.

The certificate (registration card) must be on board and available for inspection by an enforcement officer whenever the boat or PWC is operated.

The Certificate of Number and validation decals are obtained by submitting the proper application and fee to the S.C. Department of Natural Resources, Boat Registration and Titling Office, P.O. Box 167, Columbia, SC 29202.

Legal Requirements for Trailers

South Carolina requires the following for trailers.

- Trailers weighing less than 2,500 pounds are not required to be licensed or registered.
- Trailers must have proper lighting, including turn signals, tail lights and brake lights. All trailer lights must be maintained in an operable condition, same as when the trailer was manufactured.
- All towing vehicles must be connected to the trailer by safety chains or cable of sufficient strength to maintain connection under all conditions.
- Trailer hitches must not obscure more than two inches of the license plate of the towing vehicle.

For further information, contact the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles.

Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs/lifejackets)

- All boats must have on board at least one Type I, II, III or V personal flotation device that is U.S. Coast Guard-approved, wearable and of the proper size for each person on board. Sizing for PFDs is based on body weight and chest size.
- South Carolina law requires all children under 12 years of age to wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved Type I, II, III or V PFD while on board a Class A (less than 16 feet long) boat or PWC. The PFD must be fastened and of the proper size for the child.
- Each person riding on a PWC must wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved Type I, II, III or V personal flotation device.
- Each person being towed behind a vessel must wear a U.S. Coast Guard–approved Type I, II, III or V PFD.
- All PFDs must be in good and serviceable condition and must be readily accessible.

Navigation Lights

The required navigation lights must be displayed between sunset and sunrise and during periods of restricted visibility. Motor boats are required to have red and green sidelights on the bow of the boat and

a white all around (360) stern light. Paddle craft are required to have a hands free all-around white light. Most paddlers carry a hat-mounted or strap-on head lamp where the beam can project up. You should never leave shore without a flashlight. Even if you plan to return before dark, unforeseen developments might delay your return past nightfall.

Sound-Producing Devices

All boats are required to carry a whistle or horn. You should wear a whistle on your lifejacket (PFD) at all times.

Common river rescue whistle signals are:

1 blast = Stop or slow down
2 blasts = Attention
3 blasts long and repeated =Emergency or need of rescue

Negligent, Reckless and Other Illegal Operations

- The failure to exercise care necessary to protect the safety of persons or property is illegal.
- Chasing, harassing or disturbing wildlife is unlawful.
- Boating in restricted areas without regard for other boaters or persons, posted speeds and wake restrictions and diver-down flags is unlawful.
- Failure to maintain a proper lookout for other boats or persons is unlawful.
- Boat operators are also responsible for any damage caused by their wake.
- South Carolina law prohibits anyone from operating a moving motorized boat while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Scuba divers or snorkelers should display a diver-down flag to mark their diving area and boaters should stay 50 feet from a diver's flag.

Discharge of Trash

It is illegal to dump garbage and plastics into state waters. You must store trash in a container while on board. Dispose of trash and human waste appropriately by taking it to an approved landfill or solid waste container. Even if there is a trash container at the landing, please do not leave your waste at the landing as those containers are not emptied every day.

Human Waste

In South Carolina it is not mandatory to carry out all human waste, but it is a good practice to do so. There are many sanitary pack-out products on the market today. One is the WAG bag, another is the Restop, both found in many camping equipment stores or online. If you chose not to carry out, then please use cat holes (6-8" deep hole 70 paces from any water source) and bury your solid waste on dry ground away from the river. Please urinate on wet ground or in the river because urinating on dry ground or on dry objects may leave an offensive odor and may attract insects. Please Leave No Trace of your time spent on this river.

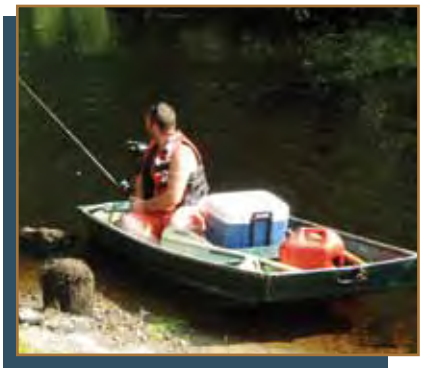
"Idle Speed" or "No Wake, Idle Speed"

When you see these words displayed on buoys or signs they indicate a restricted boating area established to protect the safety of the public and property. In these areas a boat cannot proceed at a speed greater than that speed necessary to maintain steerage way.

Hunting and Fishing

A South Carolina license is required in order to hunt or fish along the Little Pee Dee River. Learn and observe the seasons and regulations as posted online and printed each year in the SCDNR Rules and Regulations booklet.

These laws, regulations and rules are strictly enforced by the officers of the SCDNR Law Enforcement Division, U.S. Coast Guard officers and any other authorized law enforcement officer. They have the right to stop and board boats to check for compliance with federal and state laws.



For more information go to this web page: *http://www.dnr.sc.gov/regulations.html*

Camping

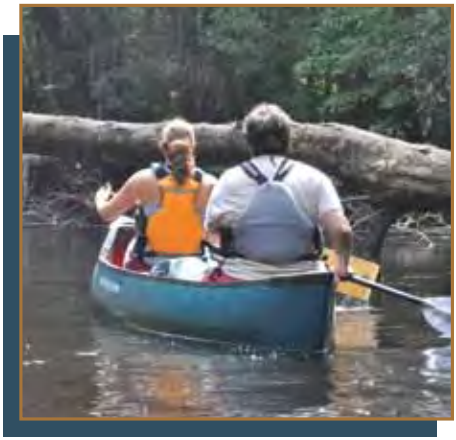
The only designated camping area on the Little Pee Dee Scenic River is located at Little Pee Dee State Park; reservations are recommended. The Little Pee Dee River Water Trail does not have large pointbars, thus camping on this river trail is not an option. At low water levels there will be a few point bars that have enough room for a small group to enjoy a lunch or swim break. For group outings, we recommend limiting group size, keeping it small with two to ten people or two to five boats, as the landings and places to get out and stretch legs all tend to be small areas. For other lodging options consult the local towns along the river.

Respect Private Property

Although all sandbars and shoreline below the ordinary high water mark are public, most of the land above the ordinary high water mark is private property. Respect private land and enter only with permission of the landowner.

Large Woody Debris

The Little Pee Dee is a natural and dynamic river system which is always changing. Trees fall in the river as the banks erode; the wind causes them to fall and human or animal activity cause trees to enter the river. The health of our fish and wildlife habitats depend on the presence of large woody debris in the river. The boater will always encounter this physical and mental challenge along this river. This we recommend boaters carry a hand saw in their boats. When you encounter large woody debris you have the option of going under the tree, over the tree, portage around the tree or trim or cut out a 3-6 foot section near the crown area of the tree. This will allow passage while preserving the large woody debris vital to the river ecosystem.



Drinking Water

Although water quality is good, river water is not potable without filtering or treatment. Plan to bring your own drinking water or plan to filter or boil river water. At the date of this publication there are two stores within walking distance from the river to purchase food or water. One is Butch's Store at the Highway 301/501 Landing and the other is in Floyd Dale (Floydale).

Fires

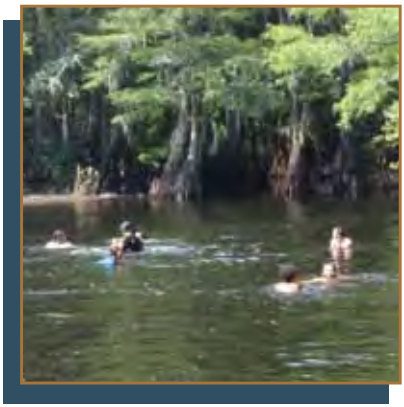
Use fires only when needed, using a fire pan or camp cooking stove. Keep the sand bars clean by burning all wood to ash. Trash should never be burned, since some trash does not burn completely. When the fire is finished, please bury or rake all the ashes into the river and scatter any unused firewood so the sandbar looks natural and scenic.

Crumbs and Dishwater

Food bits left on the ground around your lunch or campground areas are magnets for ants and biting insects, so please make sure you place all food particles with your trash. Also please strain your dishwater, placing the food bits with your trash and scattering the remaining dishwater well away from your camp.

Bathing and Swimming

This river is great for swimming, but you do so at your own risk. Please use safety precautions by having one person stationed with a throw bag in hand for emergencies. If you need to bathe, please place some river water in a container and move away from the river to rinse off the small amounts of biodegradable soap.



Ramp Manners

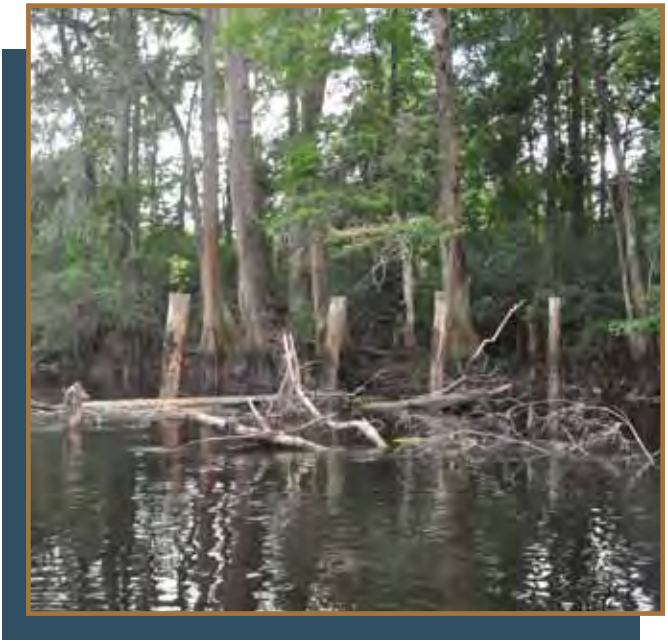
Please use the ramp for loading or unloading your boats from a trailer or car only. Once your boat is off the trailer, please move it away from the ramp out of the way of others. Pack or unpack your boat to the side of the launch area so others may trailer their boats.

River Encounters

Common sense and polite communication are the keys to successful interaction with other river users. Remember that human-powered crafts have the right-of-way and motor boats should slow to no wake as they pass a drift or human-powered boat. Give anchored fishing boats a wide berth as you pass them. Avoiding confrontational behavior will ensure a peaceful coexistence.

Respect Cultural and Archaeological Sites

Along the river you will see evidence of past communities and their historic structures, such as old bridge pilings, abandoned buildings and roads. Please do not disturb them. It is illegal to remove, deface or destroy archaeological sites in South Carolina. If you plan to dive for artifacts in this river you must obtain an underwater diving permit and have a diving license as provided by the South Carolina Institute of Archeology and Anthropology Underwater Division. Please see and refer to this website: *http://www.cas.sc.edu/sciaa* or contact the SCDNR State Archaeologist at 803-734-9100.



Old bridge pilings

7.5 Minute Topographic Maps: Minturn, Dillon West, Dillon East, Fork and Lake View are available from the State Geodetic Survey or may be downloaded from SCDNR's GIS Data Clearinghouse.

County Map: Dillon

Difficulty: flatwater (all levels of boating skills with river rescue and first aid training advised)

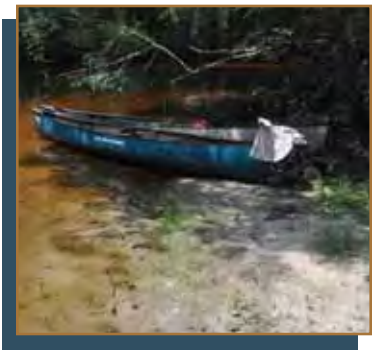
Hazards: Slow to swift currents, fallen trees, road pilings and can choose multiple stream channels

When planning a trip on the Scenic Little Pee Dee River,

1. Know the river

- Read all you can about the river; use maps and guide books.
- Be aware of river level changes with rain events.
- Be a competent swimmer and able to handle oneself underwater and in moving water with a current. We always recommend that you have some river rescue and wilderness first aid experience.

2. Set up locations for put in and take outs



- Use a public landing or seek permission from private landowners.
- Think about the location of breaks and lunch, making sure not to trespass on private property.
- Consider time, distance and water level to be traveled and the amount of sunlight that is available.
- Arrange for a shuttle.

3. Think about the participants in your group

- Never go paddling alone.
- Limit the size of the group. Think about the environmental impacts (cat holes, soil compaction, vegetation destruction, noise pollution, etc.) your group will have on the resource.
- Designate your "on river" leaders (they should be experienced with river travel, river rescue and wilderness first aid).
- Think about the total group strength.

- All must assume the responsibility for the group.
- Group ethics
  1. Obey all rules and regulations.
  2. Respect private property.
  3. Be considerate of others on the water.
  4. Give anglers a wide berth.
  5. Never change clothes in public view.
  6. Pack out human waste in sensitive or heavily used environments or dig cat holes away from the river.
  7. Do not feed or disturb wildlife.
  8. Avoid building campfires, except for emergencies.
  9. Keep the river clean and pick-up and pack out all litter, even litter of others (leave a place better than you found it).
  10. Volunteer your time to help the river resource.

4. Equipment and Clothing

- Plan to get wet. Prepare for the weather and river water temperature.
- Stay visible -- have a hands free flashlight, whistle and other medical/safety/rescue equipment.
- Wear proper footwear, layer your clothing and wear your personal flotation device (PFD). (85% of boating fatality victims were not wearing a PFD at the time of the accident.)
- Carry a supply of food and water adequate for your trip length.
- Carry a spare paddle and a spare PFD if possible.
- Carry navigation equipment.

5. Other Safety Concerns

It is recommended that the trip leader or someone in the group take a wilderness first aid class and be aware that the following conditions may occur.

- Hypothermia: the lowering of the core body temperature due to cold air temperature, exposure to rain, or immersion in cold or cool water. This can happen any time of year.

- Heat stroke: the raising of the core body temperature due to exposure to sunny, hot and humid conditions. Our South Carolina summers are very hot, so please drink lots of water and cool your body often with river water. Wear clothing that reflects the sun.
- Dehydration: The average person needs 2-3 liters of fluids per day, more if you are exerting physical activity in a hot and humid climate. Drink water and sports drinks on your river trip.
- Sunburn: Wear sun screen and clothing that reflects the sun.
- Insects: Bees, wasps, hornets, ticks, mosquitoes, gnats, deerflies, yellowjackets, spiders, scorpions, redbugs and many others make their home along the river. Come prepared to deal with all of them by having a well appointed first aid kit and effective insect repellant.
- Poison Ivy: Learn to recognize this plant and try to avoid it. There will be times on this river that it cannot be avoided such as pulling over and through downfalls or navigating through the swamp sections where the channel is very narrow. When you know you have touched this plant, swim, rinse or wash the body part in the river as soon as possible.
- Know how to treat broken bones, sprained joints and burns as it may be a long period of time between the accident site and an emergency room or trained medical help.
- Thunderstorms: In the spring and summer, thunderstorms may occur every day, usually in the late afternoon. The best response to a thunderstorm is to head for shore, secure your boat, put your rain gear on, grab your tarp, paddle and spare PFD, find a low place on the ground away from tall trees and sit or squat on your PFDs. Persons in your group should be scattered, not all in one area. If you have a light and mobile canoe or kayak it can be used as a shelter, making sure that you stay on top of your PFD, do not let your skin touch the ground during a thunderstorm as electricity from lightning can travel through water, ground and tree roots.

Poison ivy, Toxocodendron radicans

A List of Suggested Gear:

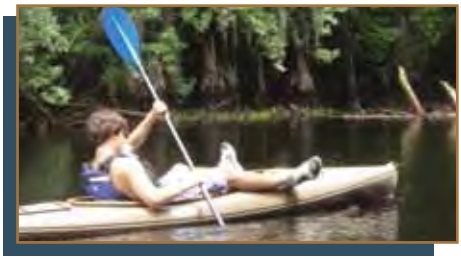
Wearable personal floatation device, sized to fit
Sound device audible for ½ mile – whistle or horn
Flashlight that is mounted or worn (no hands)
Extra batteries
Cell phone or marine radio
This booklet and compass or GPS
Rescue gear (throw bag/rope, carabineer, etc.)
Knife, saw or hatchet
Sunscreen
Insect repellent
Hat
Rain gear
First aid kit
Drinking water and/or sport drinks
Duct tape
Trash bags
Extra clothing
Extra PFD and paddle or pole
Food and water
Waterproof matches or other fire-making device
Waterproof bag for all of the above and tied/strapped to the boat

****Please do not leave valuables in your vehicle.

For more information, consult:

ACA website *(www.AmericanCanoe.org)*
Leave No Trace website *(www.LNT.org)*
US Coast Guard website *(www.uscgboating.org)*
SCDNR website *(www.dnr.sc.gov)*

Before the Trip



Permits to float the river are not required, however it is a good practice to tell someone or give a friend or family member a written float plan of your trip. A float plan that can be copied, torn from this book or found on the DNR website *(www.dnr.sc.gov)* should be filled out and given to a friend or family member not going with you on the trip. Don't forget to check water level and weather forecasts for the area you plan to float. Make sure at least one to two paddlers/boaters are experienced or you are going with an experienced guide. Do not forget your PFD (lifejacket), whistle, white light and safety gear.

Float Plans

Please make as many copies of these plans as needed:
File this written plan with two people who will check on you after a certain amount of time.

Canoe Form

Name of Trip Leader: _____

Address of Trip Leader: _____

Phone number of Trip Leader: _____

Cell phone number of the Trip Leader: _____

Names of boaters in group: _____
(Also list medical problems and/or cell numbers for persons in the group)

_____

_____

_____

_____

Descriptions of the boats in the group: _____

_____

Type of boats (length, model and colors): _____

_____

How many boats are in your group? _____

Vehicles
(Make, model, license number and color of vehicles in the group)

List where each one is parked along the river. _____

_____

Trip expectations

Expected departure time and location: _____

_____

Expected route and alternate route: _____

_____

Dates you plan to be on the river: _____

_____

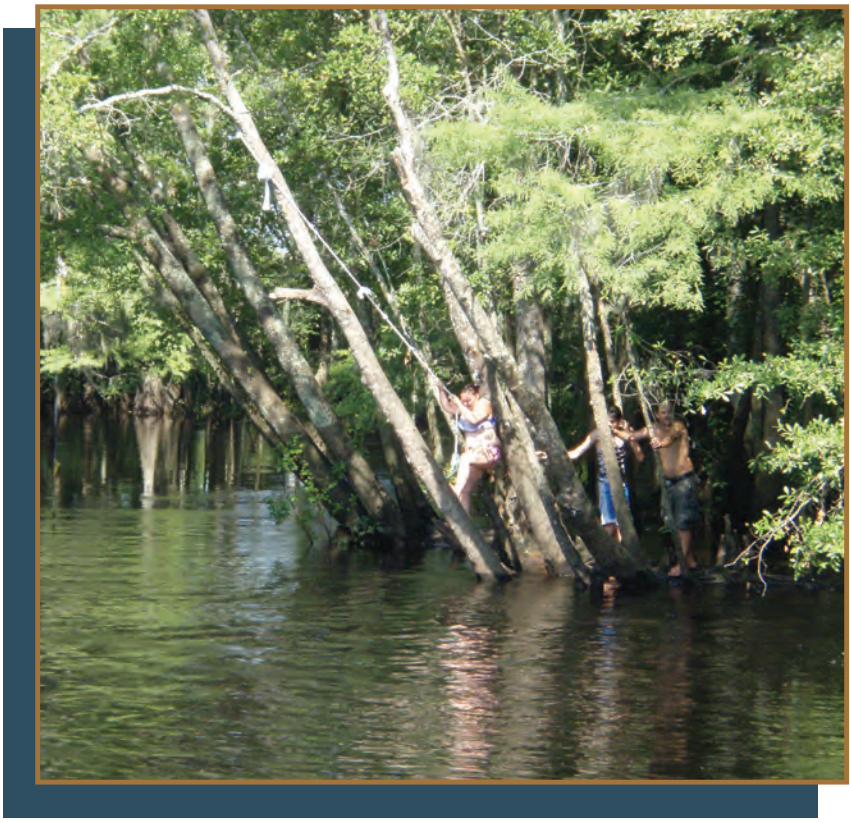
Expected time and location of take out: _____

_____

Date and time you would like a search to begin if you do not return:

_____

**Upon arrival you must notify the people holding your written float plan that you have returned.



Motorized Boat Form

1. Name of person reporting and telephone number _____

_____

2. Description of boat _____
   Type _____ Color _____ Trim _____
   Registration No. _____ Length _____
   Name _____ Make _____ Other _____
3. Engine type _____ H. P. _____
   No. of engines _____ Fuel capacity _____
4. Survival equipment: ☐ PFDs ☐ Paddles ☐ Smoke signals ☐ Anchor
5. Radio Yes No Type _____ Frequency _____
6. Mobile phone Yes No (_____) _____
7. Automobile license number _____
   Type _____ Trailer license _____
   Color _____ Make of auto _____
   Where parked _____
8. Persons onboard

Name	Age	Address & Telephone

9. Do any of the persons onboard have a medical problem?
   ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, what? _____
10. Trip expectations. Leave at _____ ☐ am ☐ pm
    From _____ going to _____
    Expect to return by (time) _____ ☐ am ☐ pm and
    not later than _____ ☐ am ☐ pm
11. Any other pertinent information? _____

_____

12. If not returned by (time) call the local authority _____ ☐ am ☐ pm
13. Phone numbers (_____) _____ (_____) _____

User Survey

Please let us know about your trip by mailing or emailing us your answers to the following survey:

1. Did you use this guide to prepare for your river trip? ☐ yes ☐ no
2. Did you use this guide while you were on the river? ☐ yes ☐ no
3. If yes, did the guide hold up under use? ☐ yes ☐ no
4. Were this guide and its associated maps helpful? ☐ yes ☐ no
5. If not, why? _____

_____

6. How can this guide be improved? _____

_____

_____

7. Do you think SCDNR should print similar guides for each state scenic river? ☐ yes ☐ no
8. If not, why? _____

_____

9. If yes would you be willing to donate to the Scenic Rivers Trust Fund so other books can be printed and placed on-line? ☐ yes ☐ no
10. What projects or activities would you like to see the Little Pee Dee Scenic River Advisory Council pursue? _____

_____

11. Would you be willing to help the Little Pee Dee River by joining the Little Pee Dee Scenic River Advisory Council? ☐ yes ☐ no
12. Tell us about your adventures on the Little Pee Dee River. _____

_____

_____

from:

place stamp here

Scenic Rivers Program
South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
1000 Assembly Street
Columbia, SC 29201

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tape here

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Outfitter List

Accommodations, Outfitters and Conservation Groups along the Little Pee Dee Scenic River-Dillon

1. Hotels and bed and breakfast inns are located in the towns of Dillon and Marion in South Carolina and in Lumberton, North Carolina.

Dillon County Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 1304
Dillon, SC 29536
(843) 774-8551

S.C. Welcome Center (I-95)
195 MM I-95
Hamer, SC 29547
(843) 774-4711

2. Campground:

Little Pee Dee State Park
1298 State Park Road
Dillon, SC 29536
(843) 774-8872
http://www.southcarolinaparks.com

3. Many outfitter and river guide service companies operate in South Carolina. Please research companies online or contact the Little Pee Dee State Park.

4. River Conservation:

Little Pee Dee Scenic River Advisory Council
P.O. Box 167
Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 734-9100

Pee Dee Land Trust
P.O. Box 4
Darlington, SC 29540
(843) 661-1135

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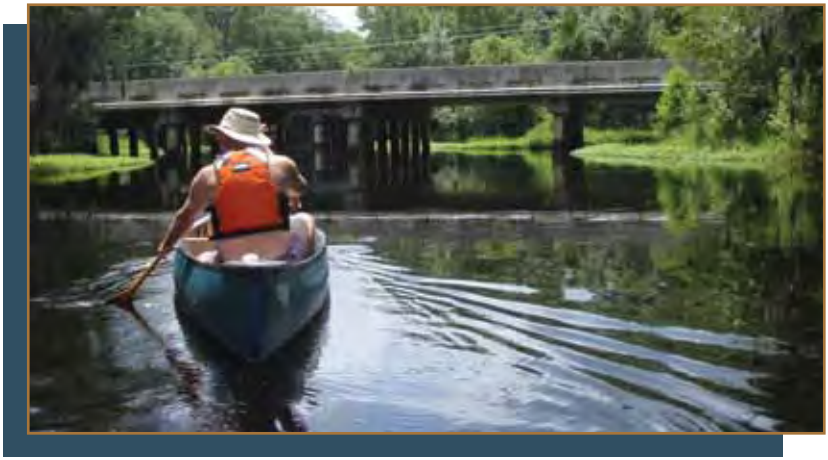


Acknowledgements

This water trail and associated publications would not be possible without the help of many people. This project has been a written goal in the Little Pee Dee Scenic River Management Plan since 2008, thus the Little Pee Dee Scenic River Advisory Council was instrumental in the procurement of local support letters that were submitted with the grant application. Past Chairman John Alford submitted the successful grant application and started this project before his retirement in April 2009. In July 2009, the following people helped with the river survey: Barry Beasley, Walt Meitzen, Kimberly Meitzen, Stewart Grinton, Andrew Crockett and Earl Dutton. John Alford, Larry Monahan, Denise Butler and Geoff Akins aided with shuttle and logistics for the survey. Advisory council members cleaned litter from landings while Billy Monahan and B.J. Sturgeon removed strainers and downfall from the river. James Harrison and Sonny White assisted with motorized boating images. Geoff Akins and his park staff were very helpful during the survey and the staff at Little Pee Dee State Park will continue to monitor this trail through time. Tracking the financial pieces of this grant and providing administrative support were Chris Falcone, Debbie Miller, Jennifer Konarski and Kay Daniels.

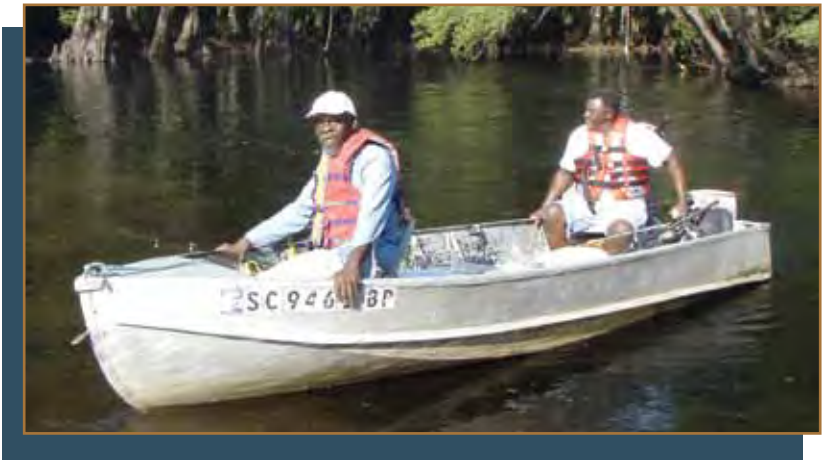
Scott Howard, Bill Marshall, Sam Stokes Jr., Jim Glover, Laurel Barnhill, Elizabeth Osier, Chris Page, Steve Bennett, Sean Taylor and Ann Nolte provided writing and editorial advice. The map and GIS work was performed by Kimberly Meitzen, Richard Lacy and Phil Weinbach. The layout and design of this guide book and the trail signs were created by Kathy Diaz, Denise Froehle, Mark Conrardy and Jessica Elmore. The images showing the historical maps of the Little Pee Dee River were provided by the Alabama University Historical Map and GIS Department.

During the three-day survey of the Little Pee Dee Scenic River, Kimberly Meitzen and I took notes, recorded finds on laminated aerial photographs and operated a Trimble GPS device. Ms. Meitzen collected geological samples and spent time in our geology lab analyzing those samples. She researched and wrote the geology, geomorphology section of this guide. Stewart Grinton provide some photographs and a video for the project which can be seen on the DNR website and Facebook page.

In closing, I would like to thank the South Carolina State Trails Program of the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism and the U.S. Federal Highway Administration for grant funding assistance to complete this project.

Sincerely,

Mary Crockett, Chairperson
Little Pee Dee Scenic River Advisory Council
and South Carolina Scenic River Program Coordinator



The next page contains the decimal degrees in North Latitude (N Lat) and West Longitude (W Long) of each mile along the Little Pee Dee Scenic River Water Trail. Mileage numbers are displayed on the following map pages.

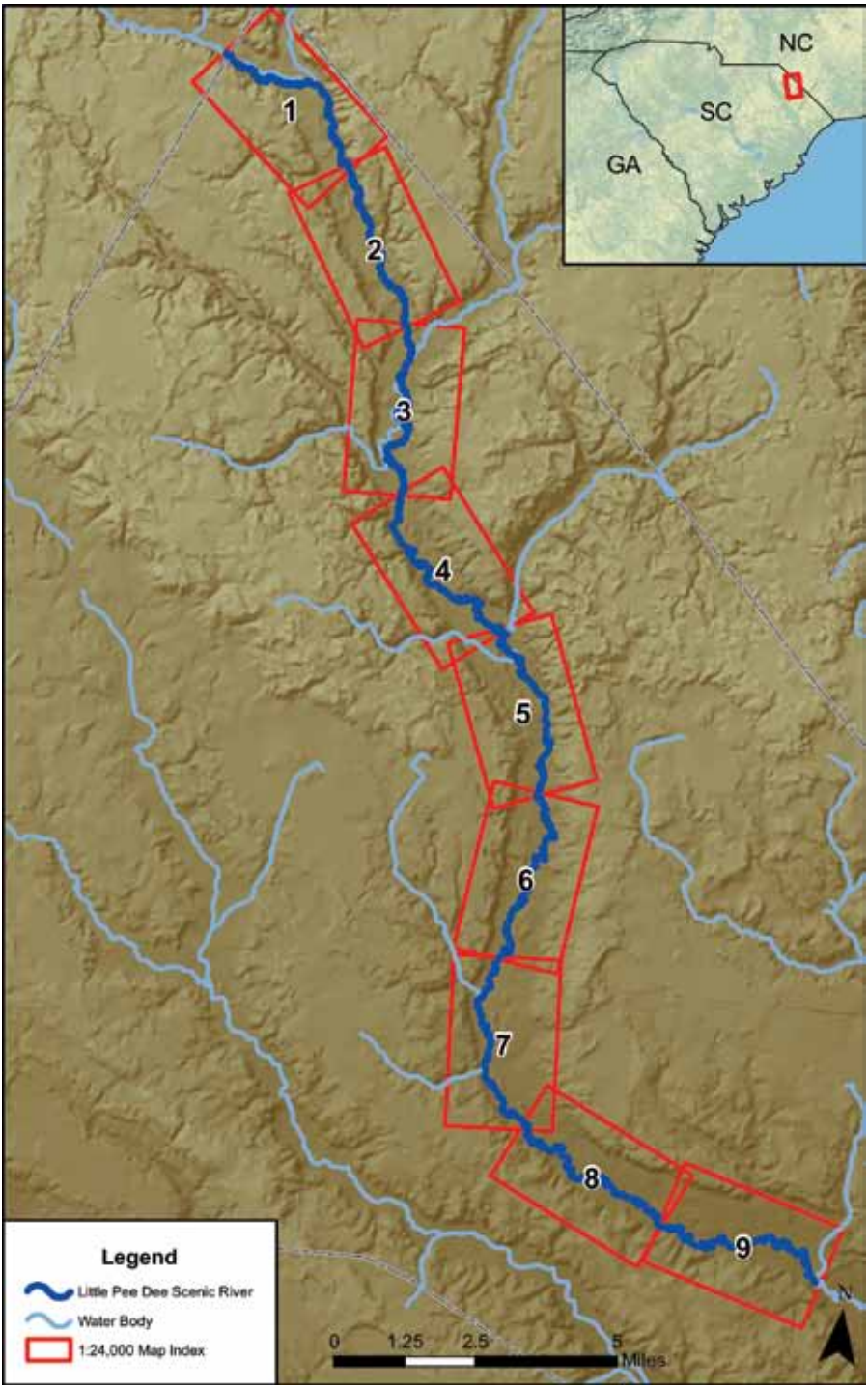
River Miles Coordinates Table

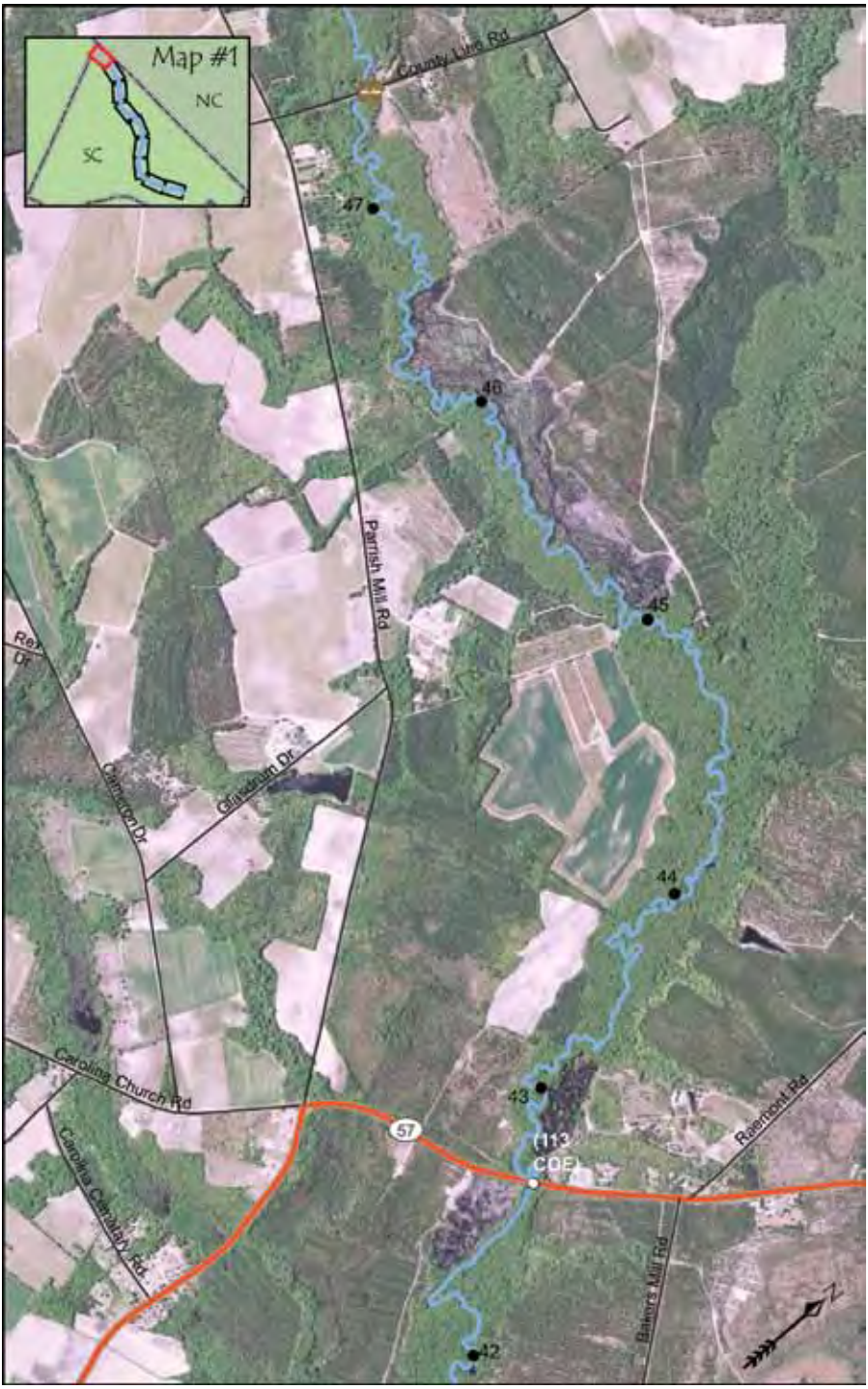
River Mile	Latitude	Longitude
1	34.3126	-79.2459
2	34.3148	-79.2546
3	34.3145	-79.2650
4	34.3119	-79.2744
5	34.3153	-79.2840
6	34.3184	-79.2924
7	34.3227	-79.3014
8	34.3266	-79.3114
9	34.3287	-79.3201
10	34.3325	-79.3273
11	34.3378	-79.3345
12	34.3441	-79.3426
13	34.3545	-79.3483
14	34.3648	-79.3517
15	34.3754	-79.3503
16	34.3831	-79.3449
17	34.3939	-79.3436
18	34.4014	-79.3434
19	34.4079	-79.3375
20	34.4164	-79.3377
21	34.4247	-79.3413
22	34.4345	-79.3396
23	34.4453	-79.3420

River Mile	Latitude	Longitude
24	34.4531	-79.3508
25	34.4589	-79.3562
26	34.4631	-79.3589
27	34.4698	-79.3655
28	34.4710	-79.3748
29	34.4784	-79.3833
30	34.4830	-79.3912
31	34.4929	-79.3933
32	34.5015	-79.3944
33	34.5078	-79.3978
34	34.5148	-79.3955
35	34.5213	-79.3949
36	34.5304	-79.3950
37	34.5390	-79.3967
38	34.5472	-79.3997
39	34.5541	-79.4069
40	34.5636	-79.4113
41	34.5706	-79.4158
42	34.5781	-79.4198
43	34.5854	-79.4258
44	34.5927	-79.4280
45	34.5978	-79.4366
46	34.5984	-79.4472
47	34.5999	-79.4555

The next few pages contain the maps of the Little Pee Dee Scenic River. The official water trail begins on Map 4 at the Moccasin Bluff Landing. The map pages begin with the Marlboro County line and end at the Highway 41 Bridge Landing. The first four maps are for your information and display the upper miles of the Little Pee Dee Scenic River.

Little Pee Dee Scenic River
North Carolina
Marlboro County
Dillon County
Marion County
15
401
130
711
501
83
381
57
710
301
34
9
95
38
917
41
0
2.5
5
10
Miles
N

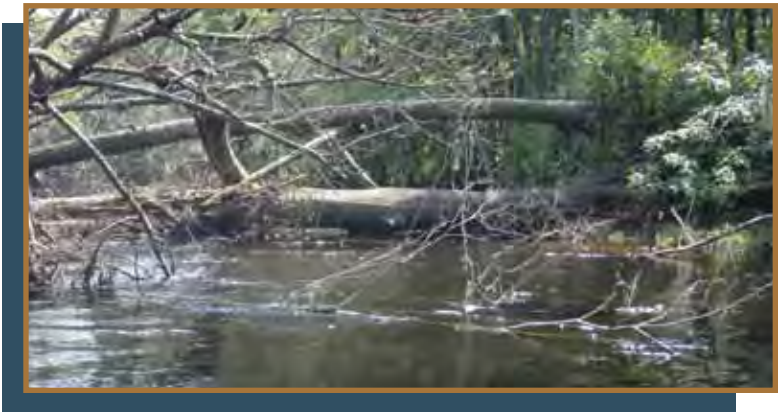

NC
SC
GA
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
Legend
Little Pee Dee Scenic River
Water Body
1:24,000 Map Index
0
1.25
2.5
5
Miles
N

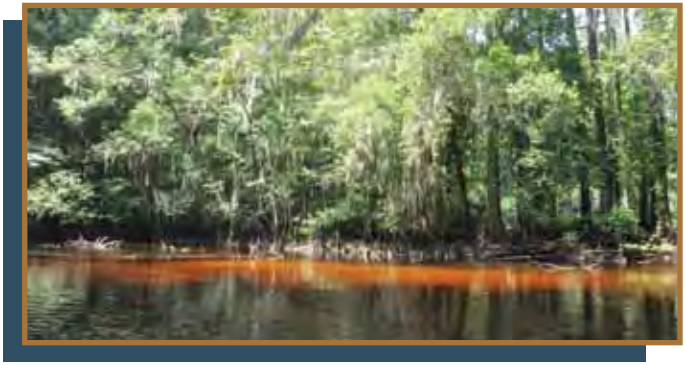

Map #1
NC
SC
County Line Rd
47
46
45
44
43
42
Parrish Mill Rd
Rex Dr
Clemmon Dr
Grissdrum Dr
Caroline Church Rd
Caroline Church Rd
57
(113
COE)
Raemont Rd
Baker's Mill Rd
N

County Line Road Throw-In to Highway 57 Throw-In

Throw-In opportunities are found at bridge crossings that do not have public landings. The land within a few feet of either side of a bridge is known as the right-of-way and is considered public, but along both sides of the river adjacent to a bridge throw-in, the land is privately owned. One needs to be careful as you launch your boat to stay within the right-of-way and not to trespass on private land. It is also best not to park along the side of the road, instead please get someone to leave you and your gear at the bridge.

On this section of the river one will encounter many opportunities to choose a route along some of the more swampy areas, especially between miles 43 to 45. When one encounters more than one path, look for the stream with the darkest color, deeper water, and fastest current. One still may need to walk the boat or portage over or around an obstacle. This section is a wild and wooly swampy part of the river with very few exit options in an emergency, thus it is recommended for experienced and intermediate boaters only.





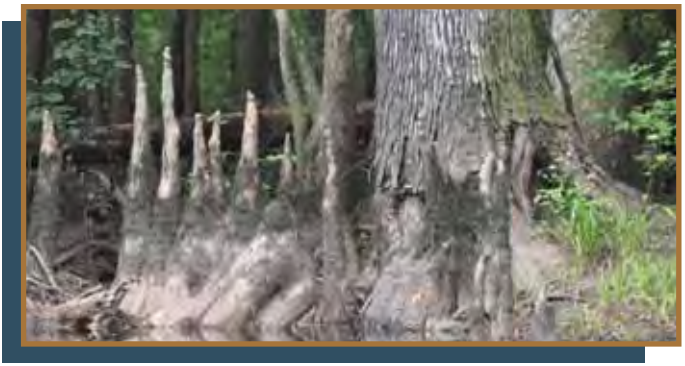
Map #2
NC
SC
42
(112
COE)
41
57
40
Dian Dr.
Baker's Mill Rd
Mickel Farm Rd
Dian Dr.
39
Miller Dr
38
(109
COE)
Mckays Bridge Rd
Samuels Ct
37

Highway 57 Throw-In to McKays Bridge Throw-In

This 5 mile section as shown on Maps #1-2 is also a narrow twisty river better suited for the experienced boater as there are many strainers and large cypress trees. The cypress knees along the entire river display many unique forms, inviting the river photographer to stop and study their beauty and art forms.

McKays Bridge Throw-In to Harllees Bridge Throw-In

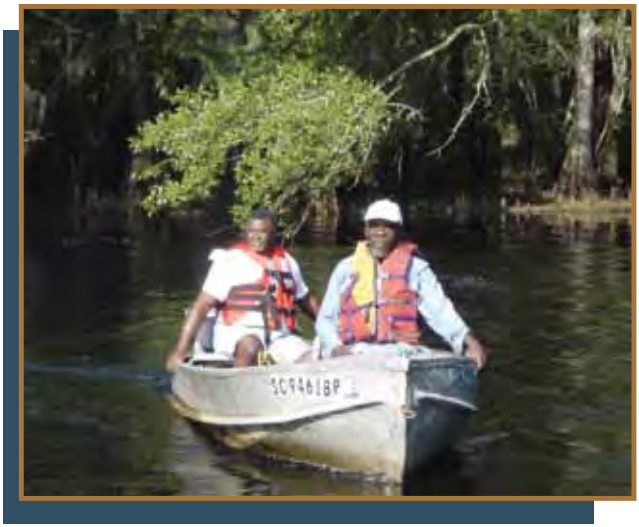
This 8-mile section of the river as shown on Maps #2-3 is also very remote and swampy with narrow channels. There are many opportunities to get lost exploring multiple channels within the floodplain at higher water levels. One may want to enter this section at the break of dawn as it can take an entire long summer day to complete. Travel at any water level can be very difficult and is recommended for the experienced boater only.



Map #3
NC
SC
37
(107
COE)
36
Hidden Hollow Pl
Mobave Bridge Rd
Gully Branch Pl
35
Zinna Dr
Leah Dr
34
Dunes Ct
Oakland Rd
Wesley Dr
33
32

Harllees Bridge Throw-In to Moccasin Bluff Landing

Harllees Bridge is an old crossing and there are remnants of an historic swimming area consisting of cement steps leading to the river on river right or the south side of the river. Swimming is an enjoyable pastime for boaters and is best along exposed or submerged point bars. Along this 4-mile stretch of river one encounters more human activity such as houses and docks. There is a public landing on river right called Nortons Landing between mile 28 and 29. This landing has a dirt landing and parking area and may be the local swimming hole complete with rope swing. Before arriving at Moccasin Bluff Landing one will see approximately a dozen houses, and if you are observant one will notice an old bridge crossing near the end of the houses.

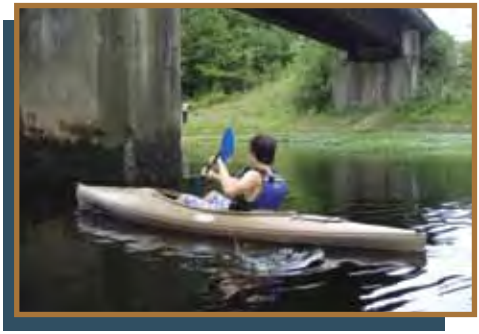


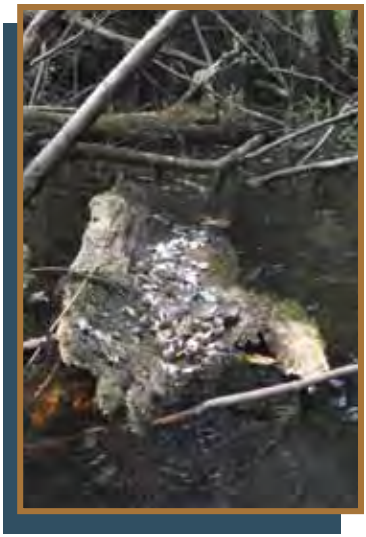
Map #4
NC
SC
(102
COE)
31
30
29
28
27
26
Hadlees Bridge Rd
Oakland Rd
Oakland Rd
Oswal Dr
Pistenedie Cr
Whisperwind Ct
Whispering Pines Ct
Eagle Dr
Raven Ct
Canary Ln
Sparrow Dr
Rebecca Rd
Knotty Pine Ct
Oscar Dr
Kelly Ct
Sea Horse Dr
Fisherman Ln
Brim Ct
Turtle Ct
Whirlwind Ct
Norton's Landing
Norton's
Landing
Robin Ct
Germantown Pl
Cricket Ct
Melon Dr
Roy Lee Rd
Baybreeze Dr
Moccasin Bluff Rd
Longbluff Dr
Start of Water Trail
Moccasin Bluff
Landing
Threlle St
Victoria St
Scotland Rd
Titan Rd

Moccasin Bluff Landing to Stafford's Bridge (U.S. 301/501) Landing

Once on the trail, the boater will notice extensive clear cutting along the south side of the river. After navigating a few bends of the river one will begin to hear I-95 road noise. The current is swift but can be easily navigated by intermediate skilled paddlers and the boater will have to watch out for downfall and strainers. Be on the lookout for signs of beaver activity and feeding stations (small piles (scatter) of clam shells where animals have been feeding) indicating otter or raccoon activity. On a warm day you may see a black snake on an exposed portion of a pointbar.

The boater will pass a house on the south side of the river as one navigates the deep channel of dark blackwater. As you pass under I-95 look up and notice the mud nests of the swifts and swallows. Just past I-95 as you float under power lines and over a gas line, notice the beautiful green ash tree on the north side of the river, past the gas line. Downstream of the railroad bridge, boaters can choose which channel to explore as there are several channels and all lead back to the main channel. The landing is on the north side of the river after passing under the Stafford's Bridge (U.S. 301/501).

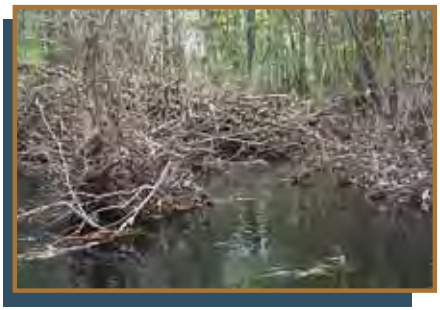




Map #5
NC
SC
26
(98 COE)
25
(97 COE)
95
24
Seaboard Coastline
Sandy Ridge Rd
Dixie Ct
(95 COE)
Tall Pines Rd
23
Commerce Dr
Rabbit Pl
301
Stafford Ct
Joan Dr
Ellen Ln
Susan Ct
E Reaves Ave
Lee Cir
Dillon
Maple Dr
Lakeside Ct
Lennon Ct
Johnston Dr
Roberts Rd
Laurel Ln
Julia Ln
Jewell Ct
River Dr
Mcldan Dr
Oakland St
Rockland St
John St
Lakeside Dr
N 24th Ave
22
Cypress Bluff Ct
Mt Calvary Rd
Black Oak Pl
21
W Country Club Rd
Fairway Loop
Pine Way

Stafford's Bridge (U.S. 301/501) Landing to Dillon County Park Landing

The boater will notice a wider channel in this section of the river with some very white sandy pointbars at low water levels. This sand is white, well sorted quartz similar to what is found on our coastal beaches. As you float this section keep an eye out for birds of prey such as owls, hawks and kites. One may notice a regenerating future forest behind a narrow vegetative buffer on both sides of the river. Around mile 20, be on the lookout for a beaver lodge. As one passes under the power lines see if you can hear traffic noise from Highway 9. Just downstream from the highway is an island where the boater may choose which channel to navigate. The landing, which was a popular swimming area in the early 1900's, will be on river right (southwest side of the river).

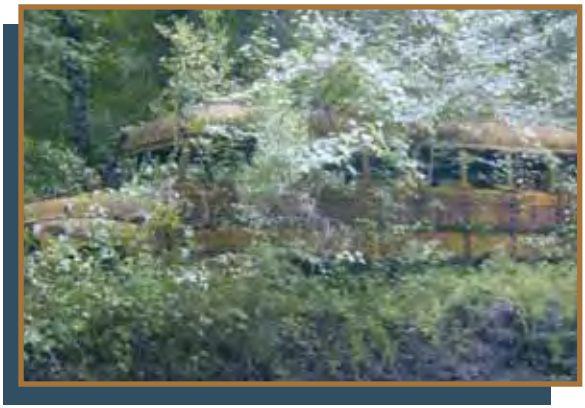


Map #6
NC
SC
Dillon
Mclean Dr
Country Ct
Stanton Pl
Matthew Dr
Summer Rd
Debbie Dr
Crestside Ct
Mt Calvary Rd
Rosewood Dr
Blackstone Cove
E Jackson St
E Jefferson St
William Ave
Bradby Ave
Deerwood Ave
Hunters Ridge Dr
E Main St
(92 COE)
Hyatt St
Hardy St
Curry St
Lincoln St
McDaniel Dr
Lee Dr
St Marys Dr
Perry Ave
Preston Dr
Hughes St
Hogharvo Dr
Rose Bend Pl
Pee Dee Church Rd
Dogwood Lakes Pl
Sonby Rd
Sonby Dr
Jordan Rd
Dudley Ct
Erica St
Meekins Rd
Troy Ct
Mobil St
Lakewood Rd
20
19
18
17
16
9
57

Dillon County Park Landing to Floyd Dale (Floydale) Bridge Landing

After leaving the landing you will float under two sets of power lines. Keep an eye out for large mammals such as deer feeding in the clearings under the power lines. After mile 13, be on the lookout for a housing complex built by the original owner of a famous Dillon County business known as South of the Border. Everyone should visit Pedro at America's favorite highway oasis along the North Carolina/South Carolina state line in Dillon at least once in their lives.

The boater will pass another private residence on the south side of the river with a concrete step landing. Between mile 11 and 12, if you are observant and the water is low, you may see some cultural scenes such as an old yellow school bus in the forest and bridge/ferry pilings in the river. Floyd Dale (Floydale) Bridge Landing will be on the north side of the river. Please help us improve this landing by spending time picking up litter and reporting all crimes to the Dillon County Sheriffs' Office. At the date of this publication, a corner store is close to this landing where the boater can purchase a hot breakfast or lunch and secure ice, food and drinks for their river trip.

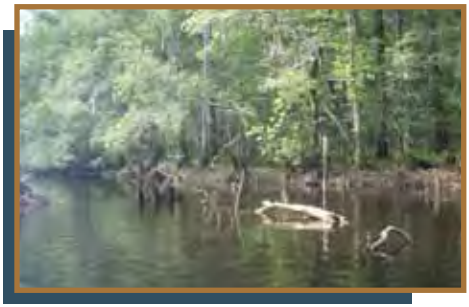


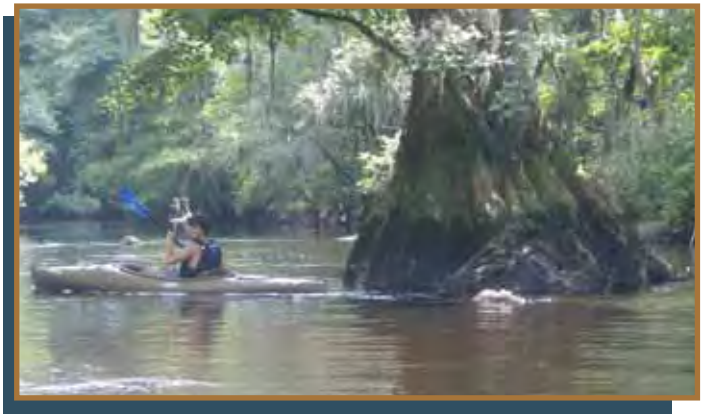
Map #7
NC
SC
15
Branch Rd
Dillon County
Park Landing
River
Access
Drive
Rocky Pt
14
Dove Mill Rd
57
Tobacco Land Rd
13
(86 COE)
Acorn Dr
Oak Ridge Dr
Seaboard Air Line
Turbeville Dr
Dove Mill Rd
12
Judge Rd
11
N

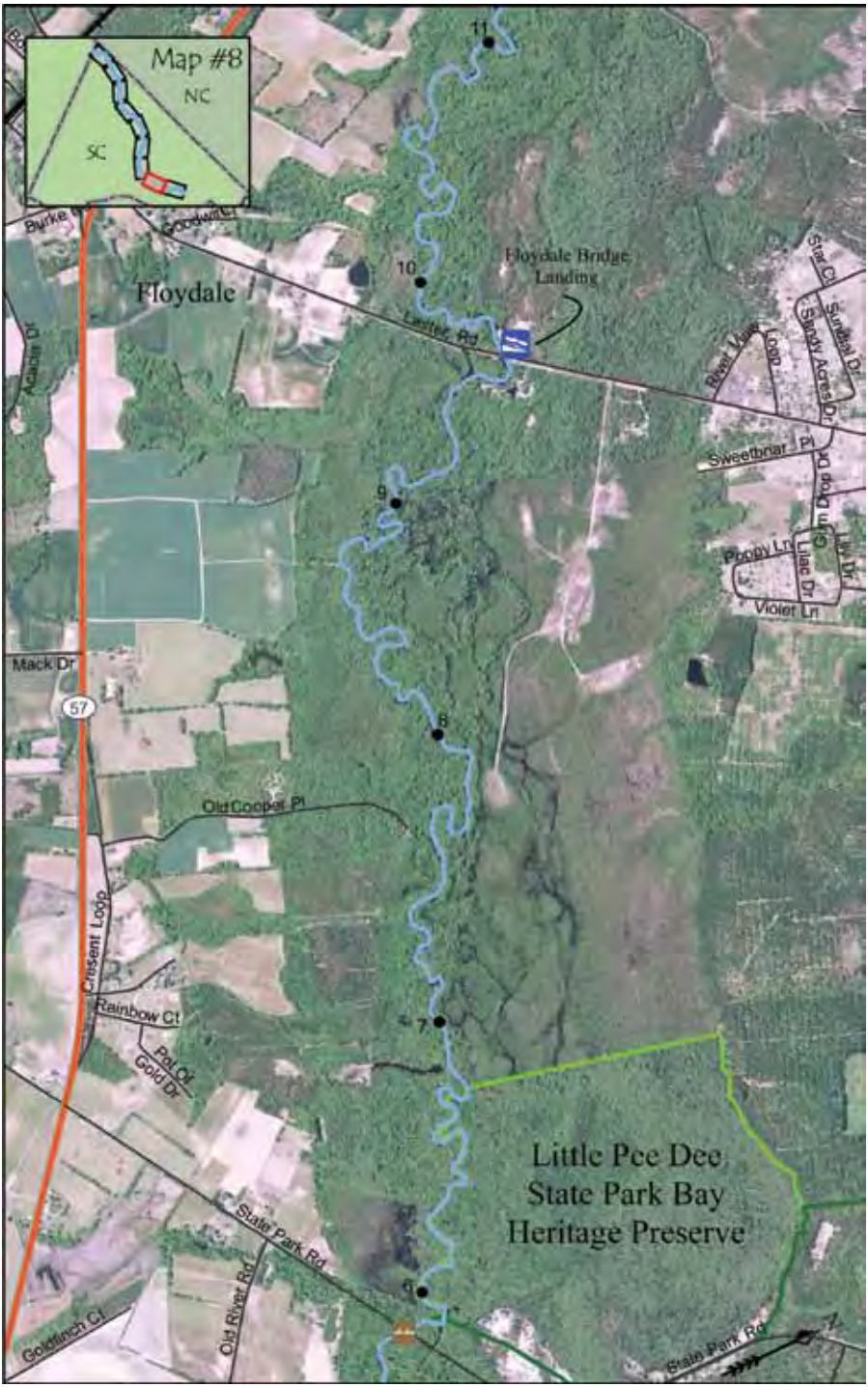
Floyd Dale (Floydale) Bridge Landing to Carmichael's Bridge / Heritage Trust Landing

As you float this section of the river, you may notice a wider channel and a more lake-like or slower water flow. Try to spot the Spanish moss and mistletoe in the oak, tupelo and cypress trees. Notice the wonderful shapes of the many cypress knees along the river banks. The sandy pointbars are also a little larger at low water levels and are great places to stop for a swim break.

The Heritage Trust landing is located on the north side of the river just upstream from Carmichael's Bridge. The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources' Heritage Trust Program acquired 301 acres to protect an undisturbed medium-sized Carolina bay. This Carolina bay is located on the edge of the floodplain just north of this landing. Carolina bays are oval depressions with a northeast to southeast orientation and are usually filled with bay trees and other wetland vegetation. There are many theories as to the origin of these bays. As you enter or exit the landing road you will travel near the bay's sand rim through xeric (extremely dry) vegetative habitats. Little Pee Dee State Park is adjacent to the Heritage Trust property and offers a wonderful campground next to a 54-acre lake.

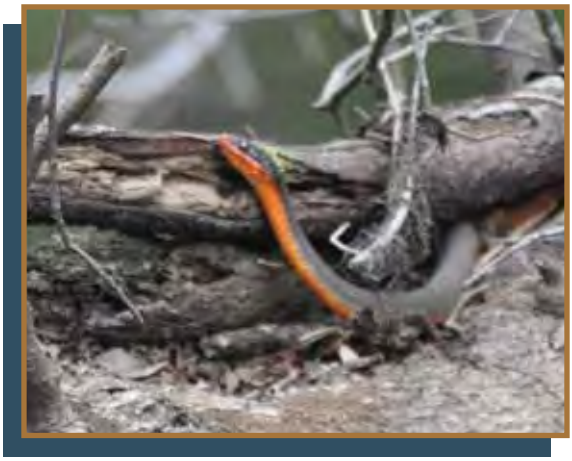





Map #8
NC
SC
11
10
9
8
7
6
Floydale
Floydale Bridge Landing
Burke
Goodwin Ct
Lawton Rd
Acacia Dr
River Lane
Loop
Sandy Acres Dr
Sundial Dr
Star Ct
Sweetbriar Pl
Poppy Ln
Lilac Dr
Violet Ln
Mack Dr
57
Old Cooper Pl
Crescent Loop
Rainbow Ct
Pot Of Gold Dr
Little Pee Dee State Park Bay Heritage Preserve
State Park Rd
Old River Rd
Goldfinch Ct

Carmichael's Bridge /Heritage Trust Landing to Huggin's Bridge (S.C. Highway 41) Landing

At this landing you may notice old bridge pilings crossing the river and at the bridge the channel splits around an island. Both channels are fun to explore. Look for butterflies gathering minerals of cobbles and sand at the pointbars. If the boater is quiet and observant he can observe brown and red-bellied water snakes either on a low hanging branch or along the water's edge. Along this section are remains of both an old railroad and highway bridge. The landing will be on the south side of the river after floating under the Highway 41 Bridge.



Map #9
NC
SC
Farm Ln
State Park Rd
Little Pee Dee
State Park
Park Access Rd
Groundhog Rd
Turkey Ridge Dr
Bluff Hen Pl
Old River Rd
William Dr
41
Moore Rd
Rollins Dr
Old River Rd
(74 COE)
5
4
3
2
1

Legend

River Points of Interest

- Camping With Facilities
- Confluence

Boating/Paddling Facilities

- Throw-In
- Dirt Public/Private Landing
- Paved Public Landing

River Distances

- USACOE River Mile
- River Mile

Utilities

- Gas Line
- Power Line

Infrastructure

- Interstate
- Highway
- Local Road
- Railroad

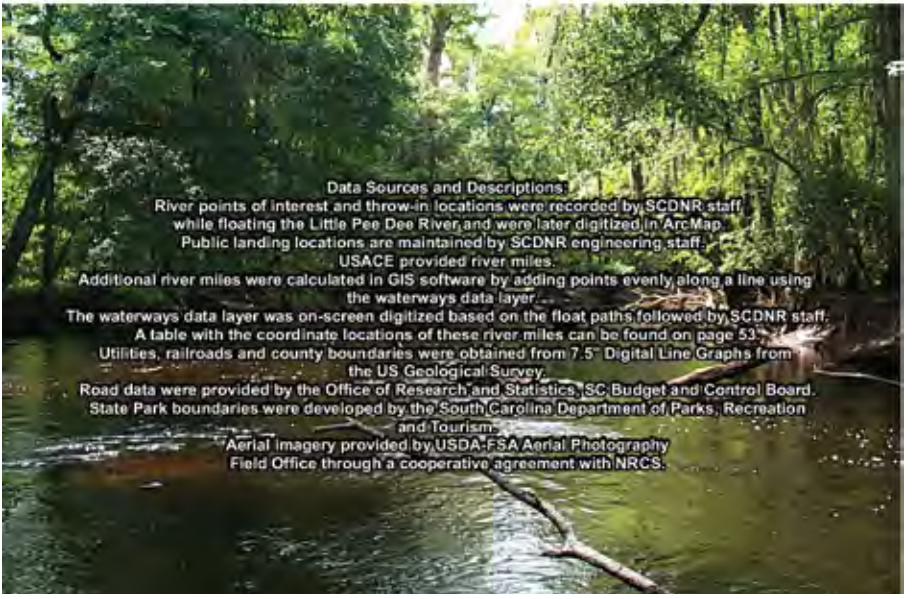
Property Boundaries

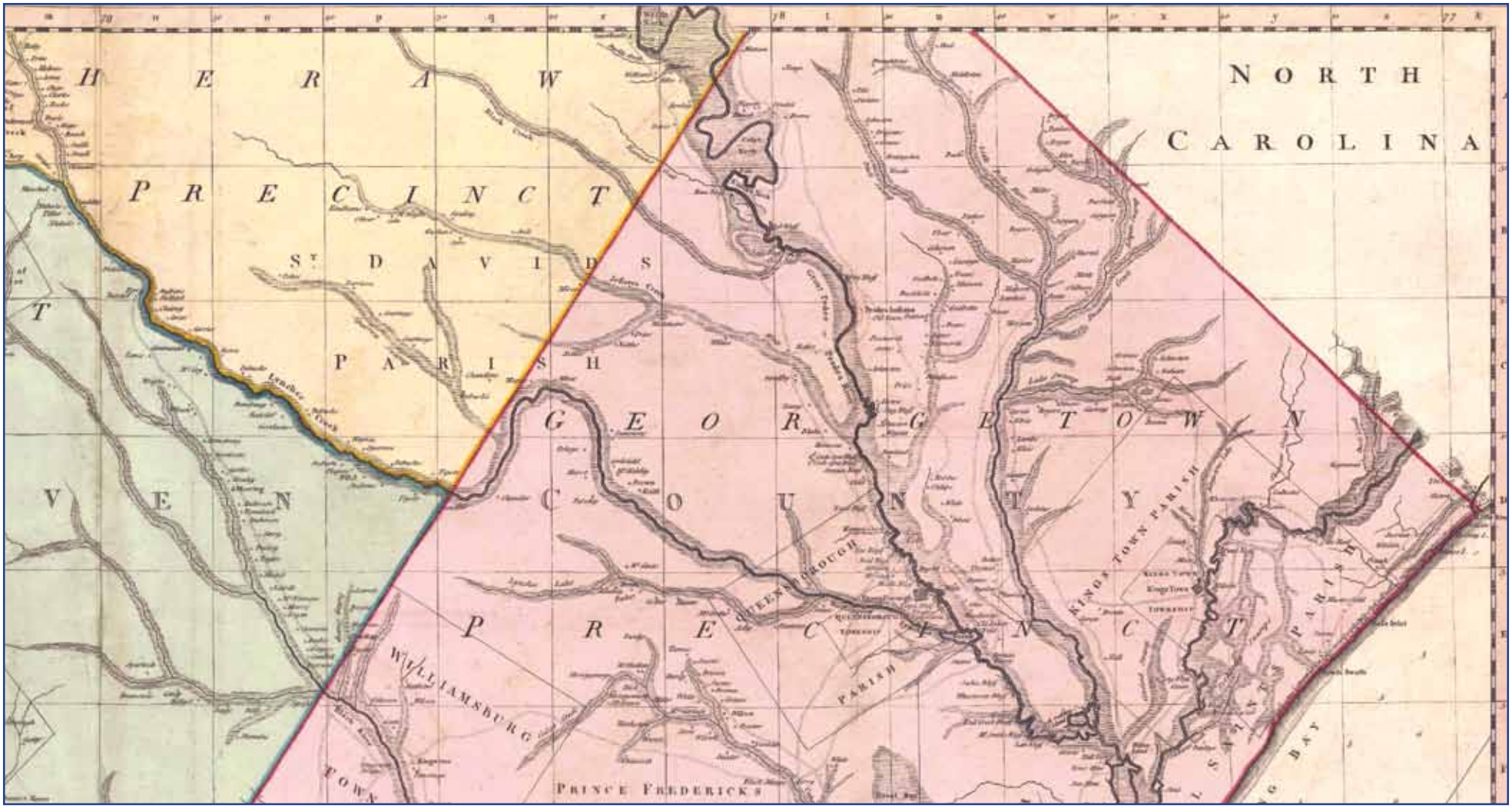
- County Boundary
- DNR Land
- Municipality
- State Park

Waterways

- Little Pee Dee Scenic River

All maps were produced with a scale of 1:24,000
(1 inch = 2,000 feet) unless otherwise noted.





Life's Better **OUTDOORS**

South Carolina STATE TRAILS Program

SOUTH CAROLINA SCENIC RIVER

DNR

South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism

U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration

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