

03050109-11

(Little Saluda River/Lake Murray)

General Description

Watershed 03050109-11 (formerly 03050109-170 minus the Clouds Creek arm of the lake) is located in Saluda County and consists primarily of the **Little Saluda River** and its tributaries from its origin to Lake Murray. The watershed occupies 143,678 acres of the Piedmont region of South Carolina. Land use/land cover in the watershed includes: 50.8% forested land, 37.7% agricultural land, 7.1% urban land, 1.6% forested wetland (swamp), 1.5% water, and 1.3% barren land.

The Little Saluda River is formed by the confluence of Mine Creek (Little Mine Creek, Dry Creek) and Red Bank Creek (Penn Creek, Salem Branch) and flows through the Saluda Reservoir near the Town of Saluda. Further downstream, the Little Saluda River is joined by Canebrake Branch, Burnets Creek, Richland Creek (Poplar Branch, Corley Branch), and Big Creek (Dry Creek, Shiloh Branch, Persimmon Creek, Watermelon Branch). Indian Creek and Dailey Creek flow into the Little Saluda River arm of Lake Murray forming small coves. There are a total of 527.1 stream miles and 3,217.0 acres of lake waters in this watershed, all classified FW. The western most corner of the watershed is within the Sumter National Forest.

Surface Water Quality

<u>Station #</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Description</u>
S-050	W	FW	LITTLE SALUDA RIVER AT US 378, E OF SALUDA
S-123	INT	FW	LITTLE SALUDA RIVER AT S-41-39, 5.2 MILES NE OF SALUDA
RS-05590	RS05	FW	BIG CREEK AT SC 39, 5.1 MI NW OF SALUDA
S-222	W	FW	LAKE MURRAY, LITTLE SALUDA RIVER ARM AT SC 391

Little Saluda River – There are two SCDHEC monitoring stations along the Little Saluda River. At the upstream site (**S-050**), aquatic life uses are not supported due to dissolved oxygen excursions. Recreational uses are fully supported. At the downstream site (**S-123**), aquatic life uses are not supported due to dissolved oxygen excursions, which are compounded by a significant decreasing trend in dissolved oxygen concentration. In addition, there is a significant increasing trend in five-day biochemical oxygen demand. Significant decreasing trends in turbidity, total phosphorus concentration, and total nitrogen concentration suggest improving conditions for these parameters. Recreational uses are partially supported due to fecal coliform bacteria excursions; however, a significant decreasing trend in fecal coliform bacteria concentration suggests improving conditions for this parameter.

Big Creek (RS-05590) – Aquatic life uses are fully supported, but recreational uses are not supported due to fecal coliform bacteria excursions.

Little Saluda River Arm of Lake Murray (S-222) - Aquatic life uses are not supported due to pH and total phosphorus excursions. There is a significant decreasing trend in pH. Significant decreasing trends in total phosphorus concentration and total nitrogen concentration suggest improving conditions for these parameters. Recreational uses are fully supported.

Natural Swimming Areas

<i>FACILITY NAME</i>	<i>PERMIT #</i>
<i>RECEIVING STREAM</i>	<i>STATUS</i>
CAMP BARSTOW	41-N01
LITTLE SALUDA RIVER ARM OF LAKE MURRAY	ACTIVE

NPDES Permitted Activities

Active NPDES Facilities

<i>RECEIVING STREAM</i>	<i>NPDES#</i>
<i>FACILITY NAME</i>	<i>TYPE</i>
LITTLE SALUDA RIVER	SC0022381
TOWN OF SALUDA	MINOR DOMESTIC
BIG CREEK TRIBUTARY	SCG731068
FD RILEY & SONS/HARMON ROAD MINE	MINOR INDUSTRIAL
BIG CREEK TRIBUTARY	SCG731121
CHEROKEE, INC./DENNY HWY PIT MINE	MINOR INDUSTRIAL

Nonpoint Source Permitted Activities

Land Disposal Activities

Landfill Facilities

<i>LANDFILL NAME</i>	<i>PERMIT #</i>
<i>FACILITY TYPE</i>	<i>STATUS</i>
GENTRY POULTRY CO.	-----
INDUSTRIAL	INACTIVE
GOFF LCD&YT LANDFILL	412682-1701
C&D	ACTIVE
NORBORD ASH	303747-8001
LA	ACTIVE

Mining Activities

<i>MINING COMPANY</i>	<i>PERMIT #</i>
<i>MINE NAME</i>	<i>MINERAL</i>
BOWERS LEASING CO.	0637-81
HUGHES MINE	SAND

Growth Potential

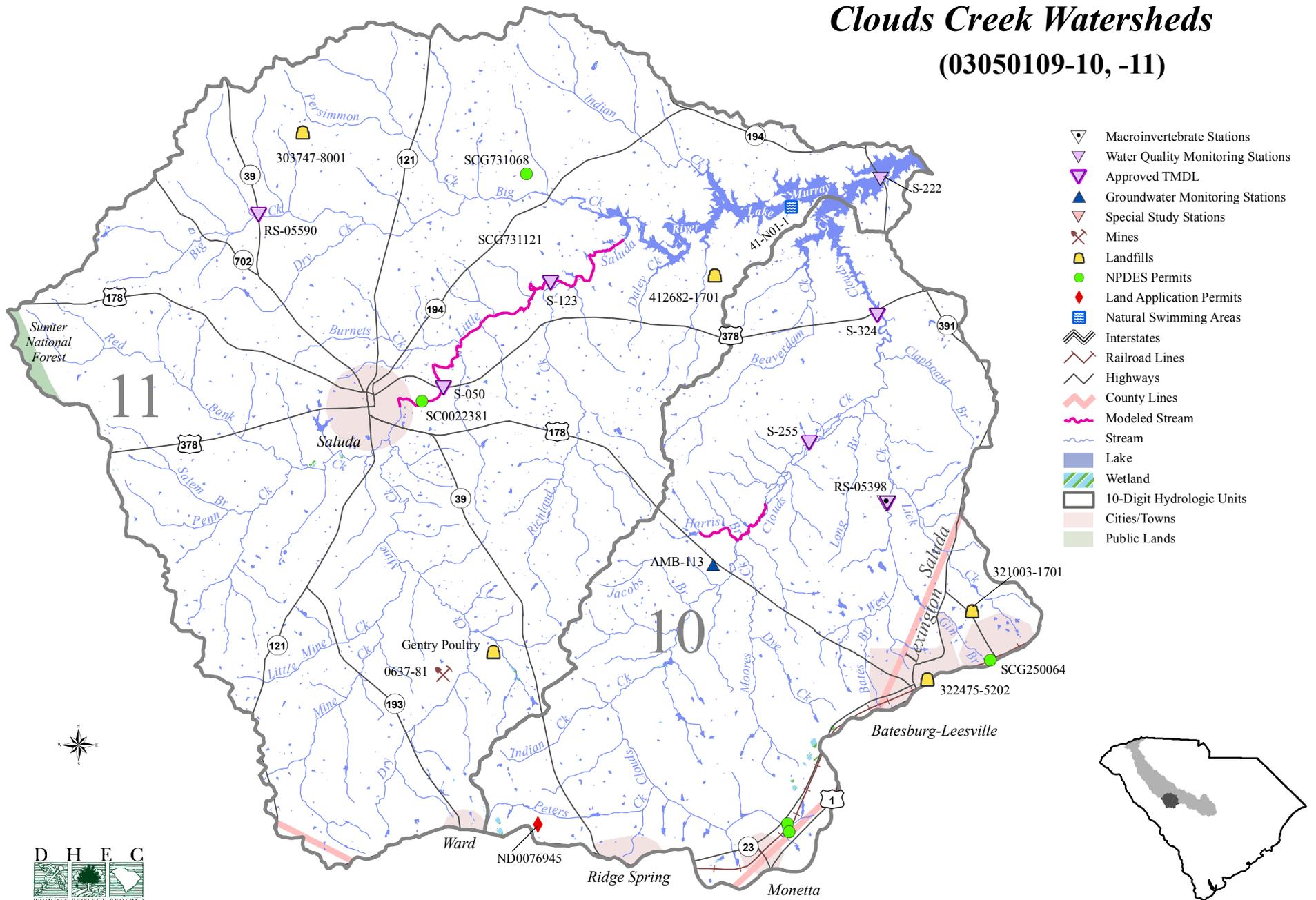
Growth for the Town of Saluda, found in the center of this watershed, is limited due to water and sewer constraints. A portion of the Town of Ward also resides in the watershed. Saluda County connected into the Edgefield County Water and Sewer Authority's Regional Sewer Collection System, which should provide more potential for future growth. US Hwys 178 and 378 run through the watershed, and together with existing industry may encourage growth in this area.

Watershed Protection and Restoration Strategies

Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)

TMDLs were developed for SCDHEC and approved by EPA for the **Little Saluda River** at water quality monitoring sites S-050 and S-123. TMDLs determine the maximum amount of fecal coliform bacteria waterbodies can receive and still meet water quality standards. The Town of Saluda operates a wastewater treatment facility in the Little Saluda River watershed. This watershed has no designated or potential MS4s. Possible sources of fecal coliform bacteria in this watershed are failing septic systems, cattle watering in the creeks, birds, and wildlife. The TMDLs require reductions of 65% and 68% in fecal coliform loading for this stream to meet the recreational use standard. The nonpoint source component of the Little Saluda River TMDL is currently being implemented using §319 grant funds. Implementation is scheduled to be completed in December 2012. For more information on §319 grants, visit <http://www.scdhec.gov/environment/water/grants.htm#319>.

Little Saluda River/ Clouds Creek Watersheds (03050109-10, -11)



- ▽ Macroinvertebrate Stations
- ▽ Water Quality Monitoring Stations
- ▽ Approved TMDL
- ▲ Groundwater Monitoring Stations
- ▲ Special Study Stations
- ✕ Mines
- Landfills
- NPDES Permits
- ◆ Land Application Permits
- Natural Swimming Areas
- == Interstates
- Railroad Lines
- Highways
- - - County Lines
- ~ Modeled Stream
- ~ Stream
- Lake
- ▨ Wetland
- ▭ 10-Digit Hydrologic Units
- ▭ Cities/Towns
- ▭ Public Lands

