

03050207-05

(Little Salkehatchie River)

General Description

Watershed 03050207-05 (formerly 03050207-080, -090, -100, and -110) is located in Bamberg and Colleton Counties and consists primarily of the lower *Little Salkehatchie River* and its tributaries from Lemon Creek to its confluence with the Salkehatchie River. The watershed occupies 183,421 acres of the Lower Coastal Plain region of South Carolina. Land use/land cover in the watershed includes: 43.1% forested land, 30.1% forested wetland, 22.0% agricultural wetland, 3.8% urban land, 0.8% nonforested wetland, 0.1% water, and 0.1% barren land. A map depicting this watershed is found in Appendix A, page A-14.

This section of the Little Salkehatchie River accepts drainage from its upstream reach together with Drawdy Branch, Hurricane Branch, Little Swamp (Bull Bay), Buckhead Creek (Steedley Branch, Bear Branch, Hog Branch, and Deep Bottom Creek, Deep Bottom Bay, Fosters Bay), Oldfield Creek, and Bryans Lake. Further downstream, Willow Swamp (Fender Creek, McCuren Branch, Ashton Branch, Dry Branch, Moselle Swamp, Cedar Branch, Rum Gully) flows into the river followed by Indian Creek (Horse Bay), Deep Creek, and Sandy Run. The Little Salkehatchie River joins with the Salkehatchie River to form the Combahee River. There are a total of 828.8 stream miles and 303.0 acres of lake waters in this watershed, all classified FW.

Surface Water Quality

<u>Station #</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Description</u>
CSTL-119 INT		FW	BUCKHEAD CREEK AT SC 212
CSTL-117 INT		FW	LITTLE SALKEHATCHIE RIVER AT SC 64
CSTL-118 INT		FW	WILLOW SWAMP AT S-15-27
CSTL-120 INT		FW	LITTLE SALKEHATCHIE RIVER AT SC 63
CSTL-585 BIO		FW	SANDY RUN AT US 21

Buckhead Creek (CSTL-119) – Aquatic life uses are fully supported. This is a blackwater system, characterized by naturally low pH and dissolved oxygen conditions. Although pH and dissolved oxygen excursions occurred, they were typical of values seen in blackwater systems and were considered natural, not standards violations. A significant decreasing trend in turbidity suggests improving conditions for this parameter. Recreational uses are not supported due to fecal coliform bacteria excursions.

Little Salkehatchie River - There are two SCDHEC monitoring stations along this portion of the Little Salkehatchie River. This is a blackwater system, characterized by naturally low pH and dissolved oxygen conditions. Significant decreasing trends in turbidity at both sites suggest improving conditions for this parameter. At the upstream site (***CSTL-117***) aquatic life uses are fully supported. Although pH excursions occurred, they were typical of values seen in blackwater systems and were considered natural, not standards violations. Recreational uses are partially supported due to fecal coliform bacteria excursions. At the downstream site (***CSTL-120***), aquatic life uses are not supported due to occurrences of copper and zinc in excess of the aquatic life chronic criterion. There is a significant decreasing trend in pH. Although pH and dissolved oxygen excursions occurred, they were typical of values seen in

blackwater systems and were considered natural, not standards violations. Recreational uses are fully supported.

Willow Swamp (CSTL-118) – Aquatic life uses are not supported due to occurrences of copper in excess of the aquatic life chronic criterion. There is also a significant increasing trend in total phosphorus concentration. This is a blackwater system, characterized by naturally low pH and dissolved oxygen conditions. Although pH and dissolved oxygen excursions occurred, they were typical of values seen in blackwater systems and were considered natural, not standards violations. A significant decreasing trend in turbidity suggests improving conditions for this parameter. Recreational uses are partially supported due to fecal coliform bacteria excursions.

Sandy Run (CSTL-585) – Aquatic life uses are fully supported based on macroinvertebrate community data.

A fish consumption advisory has been issued by the Department for mercury and includes the Little Salkehatchie River within this watershed (see advisory p.37).

NPDES Program

Active NPDES Facilities

RECEIVING STREAM FACILITY NAME	NPDES# TYPE
BUCKHEAD CREEK RUFFIN HIGH SCHOOL/COLLETON CSD	SC0033766 MINOR DOMESTIC

Nonpoint Source Management Program

Land Disposal Activities

Landfill Facilities

LANDFILL NAME FACILITY TYPE	PERMIT # STATUS
SOUTHEASTERN RESEARCH AND RECOVERY INDUSTRIAL INACTIVE	052632-2001

Mining Activities

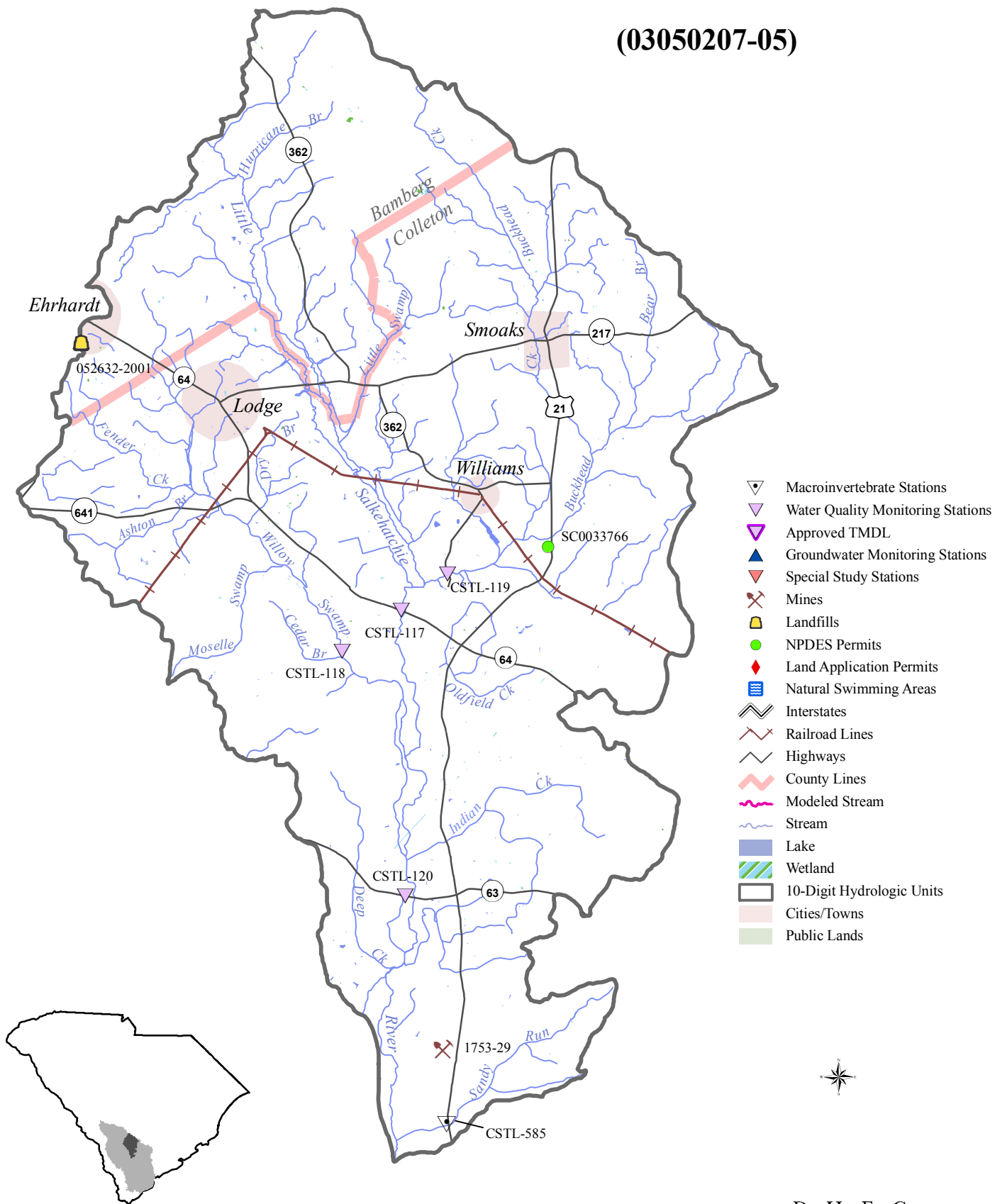
MINING COMPANY MINE NAME	PERMIT # MINERAL
TA-MONS DIRT TA-MONS DIRT MINE	1753-29 SAND

Growth Potential

There is a low potential for growth in this watershed, which contains the Towns of Smoaks and Williams, and portions of the Towns of Lodge and Ehrhardt. Bamberg County has adopted a zoning ordinance that includes River and Streamside Management Areas, restricting development within 100 feet of a river and 50 feet from perennial streams, which flow directly into the river.

Little Salkehatchie River Watershed

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- ▽ 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

