03060102-02

(Chattooga River)

General Description

Watershed 03060102-02 consists primarily of the Chattooga River and its tributaries from its origin to its confluence with the Tallulah River* at the Tugaloo Dam. The South Carolina portion of watershed 03060102-02 (formerly 03060102-010 and a portion of 03060102-060) is located in Oconee County and resides in the Blue Ridge physiographic region. The Chattooga River watershed extends into North Carolina and Georgia. There are 178,648 acres in the entire watershed; 143,750 acres or 80.5% are outside of South Carolina. Land use/land cover in the South Carolina portion of the watershed includes: 87.6% forested land, 2.5% urban land, 8.9% agricultural land, 0.7% water, and 0.3% forested wetland (swamp). A map depicting this watershed is found in Appendix A, page A-30.

The Chattooga River flows across the North Carolina/South Carolina border in the northwest corner of South Carolina, flowing between the states of South Carolina and Georgia. Streams flowing into the river from the Georgia side are connoted with an asterisk. Flowing out of North Carolina, the river accepts drainage from Bad Creek, East Fork Chattooga River (Dark Branch, Jacks Creek, Slatten Branch, Indian Camp Branch), Harden Creek*, King Creek, Lick Log Creek (Thrift Lake, Pigpen Branch), Ira Branch, Reed Creek*, West Fork*, Holden Branch*, Adline Branch*, Bynum Branch*, and Laurel Branch*. Further downstream, Moss Mill Creek enters the river followed by Warwomen Creek*, Dicks Creek*, Whetstone Creek (Tyler Branch, Swaford Branch, Harts Branch), Rock Creek*, Buckeye Branch*, Lick Long Creek*, and Turpin Branch. Fall Creek (Fall Creek, North Fork Fall Creek, Stump Branch) enters the river next followed by Tilly Branch, Pole Creek*, Reedy Branch, Stekoa Creek*, Cliff Creek*, Long Creek, Pinckney Branch, Daniel Creek*, Camp Creek*, Fishtrap Branch, and Opossum Creek (Sawhead Branch, Shoulder Bone Branch, Camp Branch). The Chattooga River then flows through Lake Tugaloo accepting drainage from Devils Branch, Bad Creek*, and Worse Creek* before merging with the Tallulah River* to form the Tugaloo River. There are a total of 570.6 stream miles and 629.3 acres of lake waters within the extended watershed.

The Chattooga River and its tributaries from the North Carolina line to Opossum Creek are classified ORW with the following exceptions: the portion of East Fork Chattooga River from its confluence with Indian Camp Branch to the Chattooga River is classified TN, Whetstone Creek and Swaford Branch are classified TN, Lick Log Creek from Thrift Lake to its headwaters is classified FW, and Turpin Branch, Fall Creek, Tilly Branch, Reedy Branch, Long Creek, Pinckney Branch, Fishtrap Branch, and Opossum Creek are classified FW. The Chattooga River and its tributaries from Opossum Creek to the Tugaloo River are classified FW. Lake Tugaloo is classified TPGT. The Sumter National Forest extends across the entire watershed.

Surface Water Quality

Station #	Type	Class	Description
SV-308	W/BIO	ORW	EAST FORK CHATTOOGA RIVER AT SC 107, 2 MI S OF STATE LINE
SV-792	BIO	ORW	EAST FORK CHATTOOGA RIVER 300 MI DOWNSTREAM OF HATCHERY OUTFALL
SV-227	INT	ORW	CHATTOOGA RIVER AT SC 28, 3.5 MI NW MT REST
SV-199	W	ORW	CHATTOOGA RIVER AT US 76
SV-359	W	TPGT	LAKE TUGALOO , FOREBAY EQIDISTANT FROM SPILLWAY AND SHORELINE

East Fork Chattooga River – There are two monitoring stations along the East Fork Chattooga River. Although there were pH excursions at the upstream site ***(SV-308)***, aquatic life uses are fully supported based on macroinvertebrate community data. There is a significant increasing trend in five-day biochemical oxygen demand. Recreational uses are fully supported at this site. At the downstream site ***(SV-792)***, aquatic life uses are fully supported based on macroinvertebrate community data.

Chattooga River – There are two monitoring stations along the Chattooga River. Significant decreasing trends in turbidity and total phosphorus concentration at both sites suggest improving conditions for these parameters. Aquatic life and recreational uses are fully supported at the upstream site **(SV-227)**; however, there are significant increasing trends in five-day biochemical oxygen demand, total nitrogen concentration, and fecal coliform bacteria concentration. Although pH excursions occurred, they were considered natural, not standards violations. Aquatic life and recreational uses are also fully supported at the downstream site **(SV-199)**; however, there is a significant increasing trend in five-day biochemical oxygen demand.

Lake Tugaloo (SV-359) - Aquatic life uses are partially supported due to pH excursions. There are also significant increasing trends in five-day biochemical oxygen demand and total nitrogen concentration. There is a significant decreasing trend in pH. Recreational uses are fully supported.

A fish consumption advisory has been issued by the Department for mercury and includes Lake Tugaloo within this watershed (see advisory p. 38).

NPDES Program

Active NPDES Facilities

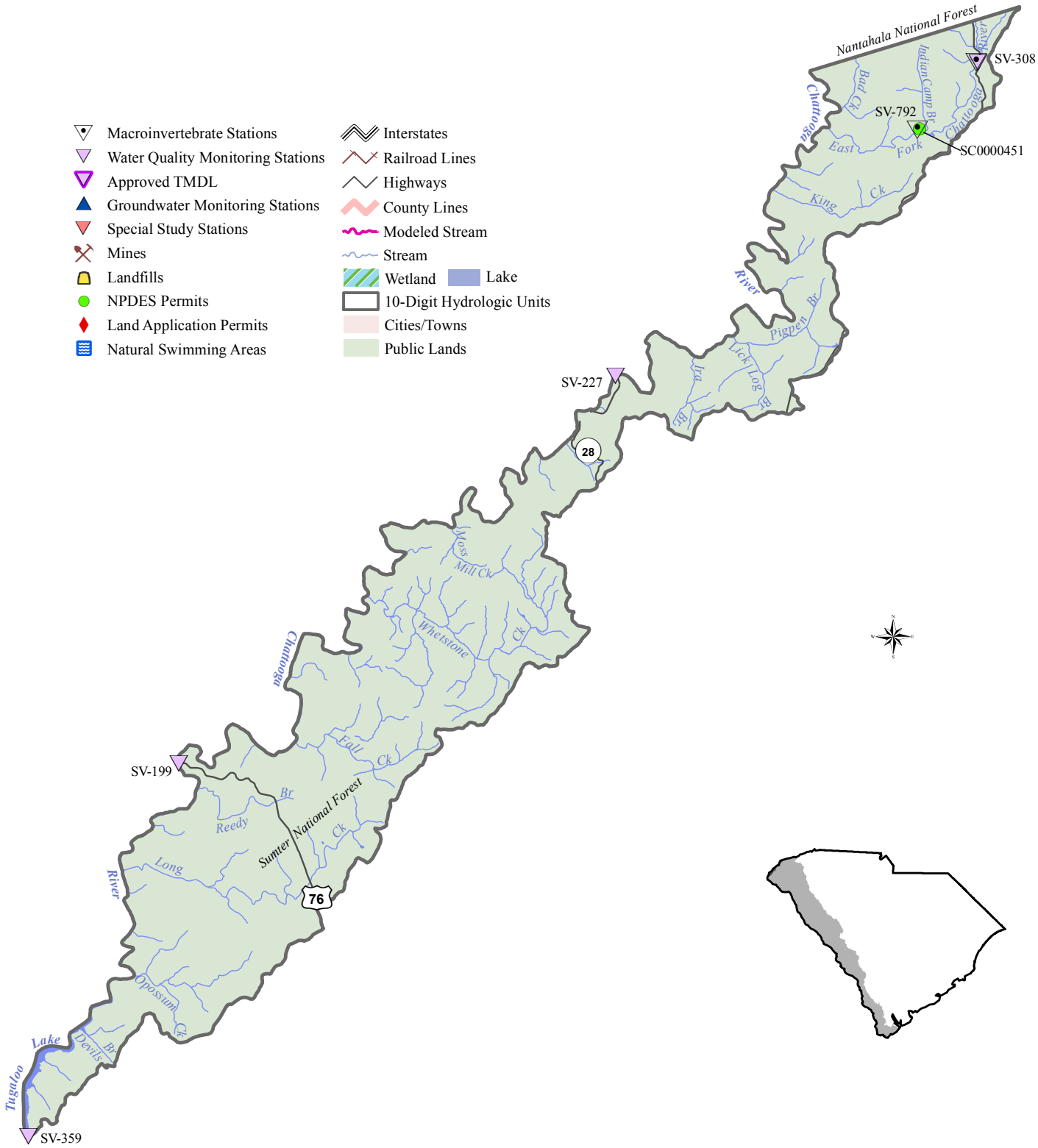
RECEIVING STREAM ***FACILITY NAME***	***NPDES#*** ***TYPE***
EAST FORK CHATTOOGA RIVER SCDNR/WALHALLA FISH HATCHERY	SC0000451 MINOR INDUSTRIAL

Growth Potential

There is a low potential for growth in this watershed, which resides entirely within the Sumter National Forest. The steep slopes of this region would limit establishment of infrastructure and any serious growth.

Chattooga River Watershed

(03060102-02)



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