

## 03060102-03

### (Chauga River)

#### General Description

Watershed 03060102-03 (formerly 03060102-120) is located in Oconee County and consists primarily of the **Chauga River** and its tributaries. The watershed occupies 70,770 acres of the Blue Ridge region of South Carolina. Land use/land cover in the watershed includes: 82.9% forested land, 12.2% agricultural land, 0.5% forested wetland (swamp), 0.5% water, 3.8% urban land, and 0.1% barren land. A map depicting this watershed is found in Appendix A, page A-31.

Village Creek (West Village Creek, Mountain Rest Lake) and East Village Creek (Clear Branch, Big Stakey Creek, Ores Mill Creek, Chattooga Lake, Taylor Creek) join to form the Chauga River. The river accepts drainage from Jerry Creek (Crystal Lake, Lake Becky, Oconee State Park Lake), Miller Field Branch, Coppermine Branch, Limestone Creek (Grapevine Branch), Bone Camp Creek (Sawyer Branch, Orchard Branch, Chambers Branch), Hell Hole Creek (Long Branch), and Shingle Mill Branch. Further downstream, the Chauga River accepts drainage from Hickory Flat Branch, Rhoda Branch, Mill Creek (Woodall Branch), Double Branch, Spider Valley Creek (Persimmon Branch, Laurel Creek, Sand Creek), Doran Creek, and Crooked Creek. Cedar Creek (Baker Branch) enters the river next, followed by Spy Rock Creek, Devils Fork Creek (Flint Creek), Barton Creek, Muddy Creek (Findley Branch), and Rocky Fork. The Chauga River and its tributaries from its origin to 1 mile above US 76 are classified ORW, with the exception of Jerry Creek (FW).

The Chauga River then accepts drainage from Ramsey Creek (Collins Lake) and Dickson Lake. West Toxaway Creek and East Toxaway Creek join to form Toxaway Creek (Big Branch, Little Longnose Creek, Sourwood Branch, Little Toxaway Creek, Harper Pond), which flows into the Chauga River near the base of the watershed to form an arm of Lake Hartwell. The Chauga River and its tributaries from 1 mile above US 76 to its confluence with the Tugaloo River are classified FW. There are a total of 323.4 stream miles and 456.3 acres of lake waters in this watershed. The upper two thirds of the watershed resides within the Sumter National Forest.

#### Surface Water Quality

<u>Station #</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Description</u>
RS-04538	RS04	FW	CHAUGA RIVER AT FOOT BRIDGE IN CHAU-RAM COUNTY PARK
SV-344	INT	FW	CHAUGA RIVER AT S-37-34
SV-225	BIO	FW	TOXAWAY CREEK AT S-37-34
RS-04380	RS04/BIO	FW	CHAUGA TRIB. AT BRIDGE ON CO.RD.S-37-142, 5.8 MI SW OF WESTMINSTER

**Chauga River** – There are two SCDHEC monitoring stations along the Chauga River (**RS-04538**, **SV-344**). Aquatic life and recreational uses are fully supported at both sites; however, there are significant increasing trends five-day biochemical oxygen demand and total nitrogen concentration at the downstream site (**SV-344**).

*Toxaway Creek (SV-225)* – Aquatic life uses are fully supported based on macroinvertebrate community data.

*Chauga River Tributary (RS-04380)* - Aquatic life uses are fully supported based on macroinvertebrate community data. Recreational uses are not supported due to fecal coliform bacteria excursions.

***Natural Swimming Areas***

<i>FACILITY NAME</i> <i>RECEIVING STREAM</i>	<i>PERMIT #</i> <i>STATUS</i>
CAMP CHATUGA ORES MILL CREEK	37-N04 ACTIVE
OCONEE STATE PARK JERRY CREEK	37-N02 ACTIVE

**NPDES Program**

***Active NPDES Facilities***

<i>RECEIVING STREAM</i> <i>FACILITY NAME</i>	<i>NPDES#</i> <i>TYPE</i>
JERRY CREEK SCPRT/OCONEE STATE PARK	SC0024872 MINOR DOMESTIC

**Water Supply**

<i>WATER USER (INTAKE #)</i> <i>STREAM</i>	<i>TOTAL PUMP. CAP.(MGD)</i> <i>RATED PUMP. CAP.(MGD)</i>
TOWN OF WESTMINSTER (S37103) RAMSEY CREEK	3.8 1.8
TOWN OF WESTMINSTER (S37104) CHAUGA RIVER	8.0 4.0

**Growth Potential**

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

# Chauga River/ (Upper) Tugaloo River Watersheds (03060102-03, 04)

- ▽ 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
- 🌿 Wetland
- 🌊 Lake
- 🗺 10-Digit Hydrologic Units
- 🏘 Cities/Towns
- 🌲 Public Lands

