

## Hydrology Section — Land, Water and Conservation Division

South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

www.dnr.sc.gov

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DNR

### PROJECT: Springs Database

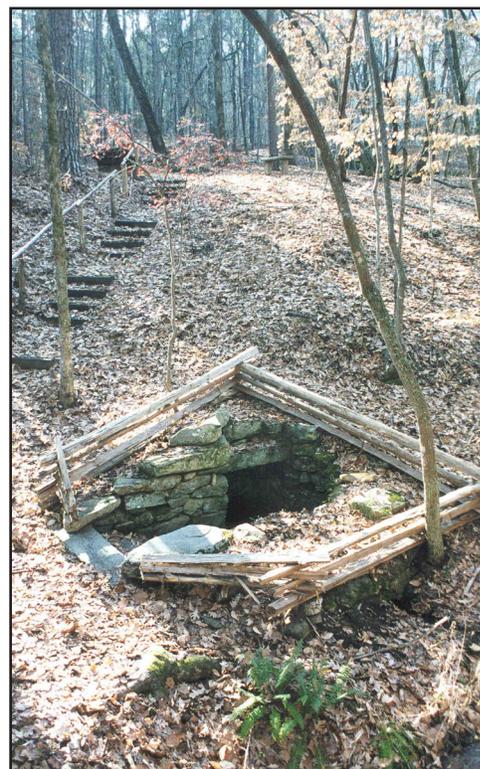
**OBJECTIVE: Develop a database containing information about springs in South Carolina**

A spring is a place where groundwater flows naturally from rock or soil onto the land surface or into a body of water. Most of the State's springs are located in the Piedmont and Blue Ridge provinces, or the northwest third of South Carolina. This is because the igneous and metamorphic rocks of this area have many fractures and faults, which allow the movement of ground water from depth to the surface. In addition, the greater topographic relief in these areas facilitates the flow of spring water. There are numerous springs in the Coastal Plain also, although most groundwater reaching the surface naturally in the lower two-thirds of the State shows itself as creeks and marshy areas. Springs observed in the Coastal Plain commonly occur in the Upper Coastal Plain region where local relief is greatest.

Springs played an important role in South Carolina's early history, with many communities being founded near springs that provided a reliable source of fresh water. Bottling plants have been built near a few springs to market the naturally mineralized water, and many resorts were built around other springs that were used as a source of water for spas and baths. Although water from some springs has traditionally been considered by many to have healing or therapeutic powers, the chemical properties of spring water is usually very similar to that of water pumped from nearby wells.



Blenheim Springs in Marlboro County.



Jews Harp Spring in Union County.



Cave Hall Spring in Calhoun County.

Over the past 15 years, DNR has identified almost 500 springs in South Carolina, with many other springs yet to be inventoried. This inventory will be developed into a database that will contain information on the name and location of each spring and, where available, additional information such as general water chemistry, owner, and historical information pertaining to the use of the spring. Photographs will also be available for most of the springs. The database will be used as a source of information for citizens, environmentalists, and others who want information regarding the location and nature of springs. It will also provide information on water availability for supplementing water supplies in local communities, especially those in the Piedmont region of the State where groundwater resources are generally scarce. The database is in its early stages of development, and is expected to be completed in early 2014.

For more information about springs in South Carolina, refer to DNR Hydrology/Geology Map 6: *Springs of South Carolina* (2004) by H. Lee Mitchell: <http://www.dnr.sc.gov/water/admin/pubs/pdfs/scspringslettersize.pdf>

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