

Species Checklist Tables

Lynches Scenic River Flora

Trees	Shrubs / Understory
Water Oak , <i>Quercus nigra</i>	Paw Paw , <i>Asimina triloba</i>
Chestnut Oak , <i>Quercus michauxii</i>	Button Bush , <i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>
Laurel Oak , <i>Quercus laurifolia</i>	Persimmon , <i>Diospyros virginiana</i>
White Oak , <i>Quercus alba</i>	Possumhaw Holly , <i>Ilex decidua</i>
Willow Oak , <i>Quercus phellos</i>	American Holly , <i>Ilex opaca</i>
Red Oak , <i>Quercus shumardii</i>	Alder , <i>Alnus serrulata</i>
Cypress , <i>Taxodium distichum</i>	Swamp Cyrilla , <i>Cyrilla racemiflora</i>
Swamp Tupelo , <i>Nyssa aquatica</i>	Wax Myrtle , <i>Myrica cerifera</i>
Black Gum , <i>Nyssa biflora</i>	Buckeye , <i>Aesculus pavia</i>
Water Hickory , <i>Carya aquatica</i>	Vines
Bitternut Hickory , <i>Carya cordiformis</i>	Poison Ivy , <i>Toxicodendron radicans</i>
Sweet Gum , <i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	Trumpet Vine , <i>Campsis radicans</i>
River Birch , <i>Betula nigra</i>	Virgina Creeper , <i>Parthenosis quinifolia</i>
Red Maple , <i>Acer rubrum</i>	Herbaceous Plants
Sugar Maple , <i>Acer sachahrinum</i>	Cardinal Flower , <i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>
Box Elder , <i>Acer negundo</i>	Mist Flower , <i>Eupatorium coelestinum</i>
Water Elm , <i>Planera aquatica</i>	Palmettos , <i>Sabal minor</i>
Black Willow , <i>Salix nigra</i>	Chain Ferns , <i>Woodwardia virginica</i>
Musclewood , <i>Carpinus carolina</i>	Maiden Hair Fern , <i>Adiantum capillus</i>
Green Ash , <i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	Giant Cane , <i>Arundinaria gigantea</i>
American Elm , <i>Ulmus americana</i>	Aquatic Plants
Slippery Elm , <i>Ulmus rubra</i>	Alligator Weed , <i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i>
Winged Elm , <i>Ulmus alata</i>	Water Primrose , <i>Ludwigia peploides</i>
Honey Locust , <i>Gleditsia aquatica</i>	Spadderdock , <i>Nuphar lutea</i>
Sycamore , <i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	Water Lily , <i>Nuphea odorata</i>
Sugar Berry , <i>Celtis laevigata</i>	Duck Weed , <i>Lemna spp.</i>
Cottonwood , <i>Populus deltoides</i>	Water Willow , <i>Justicia Americana</i>
Sweet Bay , <i>Persea borbonia</i>	Bladderwort , <i>Utricularia vulgaris</i>
American Beech , <i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	Pickerel Weed , <i>Pontadaria cordata</i>

Lynches River Mammals

Beaver , <i>Castor canadensis</i>	Swamp rabbits , <i>Sylvilagus aquaticus</i>
Otter , <i>Lutra canadensis</i>	Red fox , <i>Vulpes vulpes</i>
Nutria , <i>Myocastor coypus</i>	Gray fox , <i>Urocyon cinereoargenteus</i>
Muskrat , <i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>	Wild boar , <i>Sus scrofa</i>
White-tailed deer , <i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>	Black bear , <i>Ursus americanus</i>
Raccoon , <i>Procyon lotor</i>	Coyote , <i>Canis latrans</i>
Possum , <i>Caluromys spp.</i>	

Lynches River Birds

Perching Land Birds	Red-bellied woodpecker , <i>Melanerpes carolinus</i>
Red-eyed vireo , <i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	Yellow-bellied sapsucker , <i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>
White-eyed vireo , <i>Vireo griseus</i>	Red-cockaded woodpecker , <i>Picoides borealis</i>
Brown-headed nuthatch , <i>Sitta pusilla</i>	Red-headed woodpecker , <i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i>
Hermit thrush , <i>Catharus guttatus</i>	Raptors
Wood thrush , <i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	Bald eagle , <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>
Pine warbler , <i>Dendroica pinus</i>	Mississippi kite , <i>Ictinia mississippiensis</i>
Carolina wren , <i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i>	Swallow-tailed kite , <i>Elanoides forficatus</i>
Prothonotary warbler , <i>Protonotaria citrea</i>	Red-shouldered hawk , <i>Buteo lineatus</i>
Carolina chickadee , <i>Parus carolinensis</i>	Red-tailed hawk , <i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>
Northern cardinal , <i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>	Osprey , <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
American crow , <i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Great horned owl , <i>Bubo virginianus</i>
Non-Perching Land Birds	Barred owl , <i>Strix varia</i>
Belted kingfisher , <i>Megasceryle alcyon</i>	Eastern screech owl , <i>Otus asio</i>
Yellow-billed cuckoo , <i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i>	Turkey vulture , <i>Cathartes aura</i>

Swimming and Wading Water Birds	Northern rough-winged swallow, <i>Stelgidopteryx ruficollis</i>
Mallard, <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Acadian flycatcher, <i>Empidonax virescens</i>
American black duck, <i>Anas rubripes</i>	Green-winged teal, <i>Anas crecca</i>
Wood duck, <i>Aix sponsa</i>	Ring-necked duck, <i>Aythya collaris</i>
Worm-eating warbler, <i>Helmitheros vermivora</i>	Hooded merganser, <i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i>
Swainson's warbler, <i>Limnithlypis swainsonii</i>	American woodcock, <i>Scolopax minor</i>
Kentucky warbler, <i>Oporornis formosus</i>	Double-crested cormorant, <i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>
Hooded warbler, <i>Wulisonian citrine</i>	Anhinga, <i>Anhinga anhinga</i>
White-throated sparrow, <i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>	Great egrets, <i>Ardea alba</i>
Tufted titmouse, <i>Parus bicolor</i>	Little blue heron, <i>Egretta caerulea</i>
Eastern towhee, <i>Pipilo throphthalmus</i>	Great blue heron, <i>Ardea herodias</i>
Purple martin, <i>Progne subis</i>	Snowy egret, <i>Egretta thula</i>
Lynches Scenic River Fauna: Reptiles, Amphibians, and Invertebrates	
Reptiles Alligators and Snakes	Cane-break rattlesnake, <i>Crotalus horridus</i>
American alligator, <i>Alligator mississippiensis</i>	Pygmy rattlesnake, <i>Sistrurus Miliaris</i>
Red-bellied snake, <i>Nerodia erythrogaster</i>	Copperhead, <i>Agkistrodon contortrix</i>
Banded Water snake, <i>Nerodia fasciata</i>	Water moccasin, <i>Agkistrodon piscivorus</i>
Brown water snake, <i>Nerodia taxipilota</i>	Coral snake, <i>Micrurus fulvius</i>
King snake, <i>Lampropeltis getula</i>	Reptiles: Turtles
Indigo snake, <i>Drymarchon corais</i>	Snapping turtle, <i>Chelydra serpentina</i>
Rough green snake, <i>Opheodrys aestivus</i>	Mud turtle, <i>Kinosternon spp.</i>
Garter snake, <i>Thamnophis sirtalis</i>	Eastern box turtle, <i>Terrapene carolina</i>
Black racer, <i>Coluber constricta</i>	Red-ear slider, <i>Trachemys scripta elegans</i>

Reptiles:Turtles (cont)		Invertebrates (cont)	
	Yellow-bellied slider, <i>Trachemys scripta scripta</i>		Water boatman, Family Corixidae
	Softshell turtle, <i>Trionyx spp.</i>		Backswimmer, Family Notonectidae
	Cooter, <i>Chrysemys Floridiana</i>		Caddisfly, Order Trichoptera
Amphibians: Frogs			Whirligig beetle, Family Gyridae
	Barking tree frog, <i>Hyla gratiosa</i>		Mosquito, Family Culcidae
	Narrow mouth toad, <i>Gastrophryne carolinensis</i>		Stonefly, Order Plecoptera
	Eastern spadefoot, <i>Scaphiopus holbrookii</i>		Water strider, <i>Gerris spp.</i>
	Gopher frogs, <i>Rana capito</i>		Mayfly, Order Ephemeroptera
	Southern leopard frog, <i>Rana sphenoccephala</i>		Crane fly, <i>Tipula spp.</i>
	Peeping oak toad, <i>Bufo quercicus</i>		Water scorpion, Family Nepidae
Amphibians: Salamanders			Midge, Family Chironomidae
	Tiger salamander, <i>Ambystoma tigrinum</i>		Damselfly, <i>Agrinum spp.</i>
	Marbled salamander, <i>Ambystoma opacum</i>		Green darner, <i>Anax junius</i>
	Flatwoods salamander, <i>Ambystoma cingulatum</i>		Bumblebee, <i>Bombus spp.</i>
	Spotted salamander, <i>Ambystoma maculatum</i>		Yellowjacket, <i>Vespula spp.</i>
	Mabees salamander, <i>Ambystoma mabeei</i>		Water flea, <i>Daphnia pulex</i>
	Eastern newt, <i>Notophthalmus viridescens</i>		Pond crayfish, <i>Procambarus clarki</i>
Invertebrates			Roanoke slabshell, <i>Elliptio roanokensis</i>
	Swallowtail butterfly, Family Papilionidae		Yellow lampmussel, <i>Lampsilis cariosa</i>
	Monarch butterfly, <i>Danaus plexippus</i>		Common leech, <i>Macrobdella spp.</i>

Lynches River Fish

Herrings and Shad		Eels and Bowfin	
	Blueback herring , <i>Alosa aestivalis</i>		American eel , <i>Anguila rostrata</i>
	Hickory shad , <i>Alosa mediocris</i>		Bowfin , <i>Amia calva</i>
	American shad , <i>Alosa sapidissima</i>	Sunfish, Bass, and Perch	
	Gizzard shad , <i>Dorosoma cepedianum</i>		Banded sunfish , <i>Enneacanthus obesus</i>
	Threadfin shad , <i>Dorosoma petense</i>		Blackbanded sunfish , <i>E. chaetodon</i>
Carps, Minnows, Shiners			Bluespotted sunfish , <i>E. gloriolus</i>
	Grass carp , <i>Ctenopharyngodon idella</i>		Warmouth , <i>Lepomis gulosus</i>
	Common carp , <i>Cyprinus carpio</i>		Bluegill sunfish , <i>Lepomis macrochirus</i>
	Eastern Silvery Minnow , <i>Hybognathus regius</i>		Redbreast sunfish , <i>Lepomis auritus</i>
	Lined topminnow , <i>Fundulus lineolatus</i>		Pumpkinseed , <i>Lepomis gibbosus</i>
	Golden shiner , <i>Notemigonus cryoleucas</i>		Dollar sunfish , <i>Lepomis marginatus</i>
	Iron color shiner , <i>Notropis chalybaeus</i>		Redear sunfish , <i>Lepomis microlophus</i>
	Dusky shiner , <i>Notropis cummingsae</i>		Spotted sunfish , <i>Lepomis punctatus</i>
	Tailight shiner , <i>Notropis maculatus</i>		Flier , <i>Centrarchus macropterus</i>
	Coastal shiner , <i>Notropis petersoni</i>		Banded pygmy , <i>Ellasoma zonatum</i>
Suckers			White crappie , <i>Pomoxis annularis</i>
	Creek chubsucker , <i>Erimyzon oblongus</i>		Black crappie , <i>Pomoxis nigromaculatus</i>
	Lake chubsucker , <i>Erimyzon sucetta</i>		Tesselated darter , <i>Etheostoma olmstedi</i>
	Spotted sucker , <i>Minytrema melanops</i>		Swamp darter , <i>Etheostoma fusiforme</i>
	Robust redhorse , <i>Maxostoma robustum</i>		Sawcheek darter , <i>Etheostoma serrifer</i>
	Shorthead redhorse , <i>M. macrolepidotum</i>		Largemouth bass , <i>Micropterus salmoides</i>
Catfish and Madtoms			Striped bass , <i>Morone saxatilis</i>
	Flat bullhead , <i>Ameiurus brunneus</i>		Yellow perch , <i>Perca flavescens</i>
	Yellow bullhead , <i>Ameiurus natalis</i>		Pirate perch , <i>Aphredoderus sayanus</i>
	Brown bullhead , <i>Ameiurus nebulosus</i>	Mud and Swamp Fish	
	Channel catfish , <i>Ictalurus punctatus</i>		Eastern mudminnow , <i>Umbra pygmae</i>
	Margined madtom , <i>Noturus insignis</i>		Swampfish , <i>Chologaster cornuta</i>
	Tadpole madtom , <i>Noturus gyrinus</i>		Eastern mosquitofish , <i>Gambusia holbrooki</i>

Pikes, Sturgeon and Gar		Shortnose sturgeon, <i>Acipenser brevirostrum</i>
	Redfin pickerel, <i>Esox americana</i>	Longnose gar, <i>Lepisosteus osseus</i>
	Chain pickerel, <i>Esox niger</i>	Florida gar, <i>Lepisosteus platyrhincus</i>

For notes:

Human History

Pre-Colonial Period

We may never know the names of this river's earliest human inhabitants or what they may have named this river. Their presence is evident from the remnants of everyday tools and products they left behind. Early Native Americans made their living from the landscape in various ways, and for nearly 10,000 years some form of hunting and gathering characterized their lifestyle. While evidence of horticulture can be dated to perhaps 3,000 years ago, even these early farmers weren't settled in one permanent place along this river. On other rivers such as the Great Pee Dee, Native American villages were located near the river and usually on a higher-elevation bluff, river terrace, peninsula or island that could be easily defended. Waterways, such as the Lynches and Great Pee Dee rivers, served as important travel corridors and trade routes. Their boats were canoes of dug-out cypress logs. We do know that in the early historic period the Catawba, Santee, Wateree, Waxhaw, Congaree, Peedee, Cape Fear, Waccamaw, Winyah, Eno, Keyauwee, Shakori, Sissipaw and Sugeree tribes inhabited central and northern South Carolina and likely passed along the Lynches at some point.

1500-1670

In 1514, Lucas Vasques de Ayllon of Spain made an expedition to the coast somewhere between present-day Georgia and North Carolina. He is credited with making the first contact with the Native American people of South Carolina. Ayllon ordered a second expedition near Beaufort in 1521. In 1526, the Spanish founded, and then abandoned, the town of San Miguel de Gualdape near present-day Beaufort. Other failed attempts to colonize what was to become the state of South Carolina were Spanish Santa Elena in 1559 and French Charles Fort in 1562. In 1670, the English developed a permanent settlement called Charles Towne.



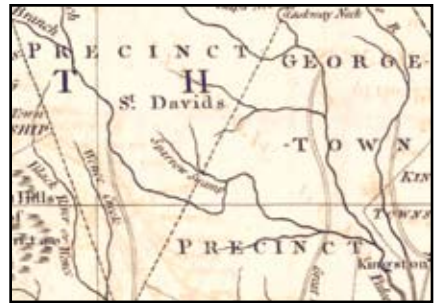
Thomas Jefferys, 1757

1670-1725

The European settlement of Charles Towne grew in population through trade with the Native American populations. In 1685, Lynches Creek, as it was known in this time period, became a part of Craven County in the province of Carolina, one of four counties ordered by the Lords' Proprietors to be used as election districts for the Assembly. Much of Craven County was populated by Native Americans. Parishes were established in 1706 as the principal election divisions of local government. Lynches Creek covered the area known at this time as the Parishes of St. David's, Prince Fredrick and Prince George.

1725-1776

A 1725 Map of South Carolina by Herbert shows the Pee Dee River with the Native American towns of the Peedee and Saraws, but it does not show any roads or paths along the river nor does it show Lynches Creek. In the 1730s, to better settle the backcountry, Governor Robert



J. Hilton, 1779

Johnson and Colonel John Barnwell proposed the township plan for orderly settlement. The plan called for 11 townships to be located on South Carolina's major rivers, and by 1759 nine townships were extant. One of those townships was Queensborough, located on the Pee Dee River and settled by Welsh Baptists from Wales and from Delaware to Pennsylvania. Later, the land adjacent to Queensborough along the

Pee Dee River, Little Pee Dee River and Lynches Creek was known as the Welsh Tract or Neck. During this time the Lynch family settled in the St. James Santee Parish area and became wealthy by cultivating rice and indigo. Settlers moved into the Welsh Neck between the Great and Little Pee Dee Rivers and, as the landscape filled, subsequent settlers moved into the Lynches Creek drainage.

Horses were the most common form of transportation; however, many people preferred water transportation since it was much more efficient to transport goods and crops by water to markets in George Town or Charles Town. The colonists used schooners, periaugers and dug-out



Old cypress canoe from Lynches River

canoes on the creek. The settlers' first cash crop was tar, turpentine and pitch harvested from the pine trees located on the bluffs, while rice and indigo were cash crops along the coast. Settlers harvested timber from the area and floated the logs by water to saw mills near George Town, which became an important port city in the 1700s. After the settlers cleared their fields, they planted tobacco, cotton and corn. They also fished and hunted. From the 1755 Mouzon map, *An Accurate Map of North and South Carolina*, Lynches Creek is named along with family names of Witherspoon, Wraggs, Keith, Brown, McKeithy, Corkfield, Summons, Pursley, Hurst, Polays, Chandler, Mires, Wards, Andrews, Wiler, Palyers, Sparrow, Raburn, Godsen, Warren, Debuskes, Roose and Carrier in the George Town and Cheraw districts.

1776-1800

On August 2, 1776, Thomas Lynch, Jr. (for whom the river is named) and three other delegates from South Carolina signed the Declaration of Independence and the American Revolution began. Many places in South Carolina played host to that war. In the Lynches Creek Watershed and in the Pee Dee Region, many persons were loyal to the King, and it became the scene of much activity. General Francis Marion, the Swamp Fox, helped prolong the war with the British to enable a victory for the American colonies. Marion's base of operations was Snow Island at the confluence of the Great Pee Dee River and Lynches Creek. At the upper end of the river, another Revolutionary War battle took place between Scape Hoar Creek and Ratcliff's Bridge on Lynches Creek between



H.C. Carey and J. Lea, 1822

General Thomas Sumter, the Gamecock, and Major Thomas Fraser. Sumter lost and retreated across the river on Ratcliff's Bridge. Under Lieutenant Colonel Hamilton the Americans also held British prisoners of war near this creek.

After the Revolutionary War, the state built many improvements such as ferries, roads and bridges. In 1789, a law was enacted to create a public ferry across the Lynches Creek at the mouth of Sparrow's swamp on lands belonging to Robert Nettles, Jr. His family operated this ferry for 14 years. Some of the earlier ferry boats were large canoes or flat-bottomed scows that were either paddled or poled across the river. Later, large, flat wooden platforms were attached to a pulley system anchored on both sides of the river. These platforms could hold a four-wheeled wagon with a team of horses. Tolls ranged from one cent for one person to \$1.00 for a large carriage with horses. In 1792, the South Carolina General Assembly ordered the Lynches Creek cleared for navigation by the local landowners or their servants/slaves. Each household contributed six days per year to keeping the waterway and roads clear of debris.

1800-1900

In 1827, the state chartered the South Carolina Canal and Railroad Company. By 1860, 11 railroads operated in South Carolina and at least three tracks crossed Lynches Creek. The Wilmington and Manchester Railroad crossed near Lynchburg, the Seaboard Airline Railroad crossed near Johnsonville and the Cheraw crossed near present day Highway 52. Three present day crossings occur along the river: one below Highway 15 near Bishopville, one near Highway 52 and the other along Highway 41/51 near Johnsonville.



Cannon in front of
Bishopville Courthouse

During the Civil War, also known as the War Between the States, railroads carried troops, cargo and prisoners across Lynches Creek. The creek and swamps sheltered slaves and livestock from the ravages of war. The most interesting story of the Civil War concerns a group of Union soldiers commanded by General Howard. As the troops crossed the Bishopville Bridge, they and a team of horses hauling a canon were swept off the bridge. Other soldiers came to the rescue of

the men and horses, but let the cannon sink to the bottom of the river. A few years after the war, during a time of low water, local citizens retrieved the cannon from the creek. Today, the cannon is mounted in front of the Lee County Courthouse in Bishopville.



Effingham train station

The city of Florence, named after Florence Henning Harllee, daughter of William Harllee (president of the Wilmington and Manchester Railroad), was chartered on March 9, 1871. The state created the county of Florence in 1888 by incorporating parts of Darlington, Marion, Clarendon and Williamsburg counties. In 1888, the town of Bishopville was incorporated. Lee County was formed in 1897, incorporating pieces of Sumter, Kershaw and Darlington counties. On July 5, 1880, the last duel in South Carolina was fought near the Highway 15 Bridge. Colonel Ellerbe Cash killed Colonel William Shannon believing that Shannon had wrongfully accused his wife of fraud. Following this incident the South Carolina General Assembly outlawed duels.

1900-2000

In the early 1900s, the people of Lee, Sumter, Darlington and Florence counties were busy growing cotton, tobacco and corn -- all of which are still grown in the area today. Sometime before 1904, the name Lynches Creek was changed to Lynches River as shown on maps of this period.



Hwy 15 steel and wood bridges across Lynches River. Wood bridge removed in 1947.

From 1900 to 1920, the textile industry boomed and the area thrived. Johnsonville, a community near Snow Island, moved to its current site in 1911 to accommodate the Seaboard Airline Company railway. Johnsonville was not part of Florence County until 1921 when the county annexed Johnson Township from Williamsburg County. During the Great Depression, businesses closed and farming declined as the price for crops declined. In 1935, Lee County acquired Lee State Natural Area due to tax delinquencies. From 1933-1940, New Deal projects included the construction of roads and bridges by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and Lee State Park by the Civilian

Conservation Corps (CCC). Lee County obtained a CCC camp through the efforts of Senator Robert Ellison Dennis and on August 16, 1935, Camp Robert E. Lee, officially known as Company 4471, SC P-88, began work on the park project and many other projects in the area. Power lines began to cross the river to power cities and rural farm houses. From 1950-1960, farm tractors and machinery began to boost the agriculture economy of the Lynches River Watershed.

In April 1972, the state acquired 676 acres to construct Lynches River State Park, now Lynches River County Park. Industrial development in cities fostered population increases in those cities, allowing the rural forests, swamps and farm areas to remain intact. On March 24, 1994, the Lynches River from the Highway 15 Bridge downstream to the eastern boundary of Lynches River State Park was designated as a State Scenic River. In 1999, the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism (SCPRT) entered into a 50-year lease agreement with Florence County and the park became Lynches River County Park.

2000-2009

In May 2001, the canoe launch at Lynches River County Park was completed and in February 2003 the property was deeded to Florence County. On June 11, 2008, the Lynches River from the eastern boundary of Lynches River County Park to the confluence of the Great Pee Dee River was also designated as scenic. From the last half of the twentieth century to the present day, the Lynches Scenic River has been used to assimilate treated domestic and industrial waste, for irrigation, industrial manufacturing and drinking water, and for recreational uses such as hunting, fishing, swimming and boating.



Discovery Educational Center at Lynches River County Park

Boating Information

Boating Laws

Persons younger than 16 years of age may operate a boat powered by 15 horsepower or more [including personal watercraft (PWCs), such as jet skis] only if they are accompanied by an adult at least 18 years old who is not under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or they have passed a **boating safety course approved by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources.**

South Carolina Law concerning Boat, PWC or Canoe Registration

You must have a South Carolina Certificate of Number (registration) and validation decals to legally operate a boat or PWC on public waters in South Carolina. The only exceptions are:

- A non-motorized boat,
- Boats documented with the U.S. Coast Guard, or
- Boats or PWC with valid registration in another state or country, temporarily used in South Carolina.

If you place an electric or gas motor of any kind on a canoe, it must be registered.

The certificate (registration card) must be on board and available for inspection by a law enforcement officer whenever the boat or PWC is operated.

The Charleston and Columbia SCDNR offices process registration and titling of new boats and outboard motors, transfers of boats and outboard motors, registration renewals, duplicate titles, duplicate boat and outboard motor decals and hunting and fishing license sales. The Clemson and Florence offices can process registration renewals, duplicate boat and outboard motor decals and hunting and fishing license sales. SCDNR offices are open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., with the exception of state holidays. The boat registration and titling office has a toll free phone number: 1-866-714-3611 or go to the website, www.dnr.sc.gov.

Legal Requirements for Trailers

South Carolina requires the following for trailers.

- Trailers weighing less than 2,500 pounds are not required to be licensed or registered.
- Trailers must have proper lighting, including turn signals, tail lights and brake lights. All trailer lights must be maintained in an operable

condition, same as when the trailer was manufactured.

- All towing vehicles must be connected to the trailer by safety chains or cable of sufficient strength to maintain connection under all conditions.
- Trailer hitches must not obscure more than two inches of the license plate of the towing vehicle.

For further information, contact the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles.

Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs/lifejackets)

- All boats must have on board at least one Type I, II, III or V personal flotation device that is U.S. Coast Guard-approved, wearable and of the proper size for each person on board. Sizing for PFDs is based on body weight and chest size.
- South Carolina law requires all children 12 years of age and under to wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved PFD while on board a Class A (less than 16 feet long) boat or PWC. The PFD must be fastened and of the proper size for the child.
- Each person riding on a PWC must wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device.
- Each person being towed behind a vessel must wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved PFD.
- All PFDs must be in good and serviceable condition and must be readily accessible.



Navigation Lights

The required navigation lights must be displayed between sunset and sunrise and during periods of restricted visibility. Motor boats are required to have red and green sidelights on the bow of the boat and white all around (360) stern light. Paddle craft are required to have a hands free all-around white light. Most paddlers carry a hat-mounted or strap-on head lamp where the beam can project up. You should never leave shore without a flashlight. Even if you plan to return before dark, unforeseen developments might delay your return past nightfall.

Sound-Producing Devices

All boats are required to carry a whistle or horn. You should wear a whistle on your lifejacket (PFD) at all times. Common river rescue whistle signals:

- 1 blast = stop or slow down
- 2 blasts = Attention
- 3 blasts long and repeated = Emergency or need of rescue

Negligent, Reckless and Other Illegal Operation

Failure to exercise the care necessary to protect the safety of persons or property is illegal.

- Chasing, harassing or disturbing wildlife is unlawful.
- Boating in restricted areas without regard for other boaters or persons, posted speeds and wake restrictions or diver-down flags is unlawful.
- Failure to maintain a proper lookout for other boats or persons is unlawful.
- Boat operators are responsible for any damage caused by their wake.
- South Carolina law prohibits anyone from operating a moving motorized boat while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Scuba divers or snorkelers should display a diver-down flag to mark their diving area and boaters should stay 50 feet from a diver's flag.
- "Idle Speed" or "No Wake, Idle Speed"
When you see these words displayed on buoys or signs they indicate a restricted boating area established to protect the safety of the public and property. In these areas, a boat cannot proceed at a speed greater than that speed necessary to maintain steerage way.

Boating Education

Drinking Water

Although water quality is good, river water is not potable without filtering or treatment. Plan to bring your own drinking water or plan to filter or boil the river water.

Discharge of Trash

It is illegal to dump garbage and plastics into state waters. Take out everything you bring in plus any other trash you see that you can safely retrieve. Spend a few minutes scouting your camp area and pick up

litter that may have been left behind by others. Remember, cigarette butts, twist ties, aluminum cans, plastic bottles and food scraps are all trash, so please carry them all out. Never bury or burn trash. Dispose of trash and human waste appropriately by taking it to an approved landfill or solid waste container. Even if the next landing has a trash container, please do not leave your waste at the landing as those containers are not emptied every day.



Hunting and Fishing

A South Carolina license is required in order to hunt or fish along the Lynches and Great Pee Dee rivers. You may purchase a hunting or fishing license locally or online at the SCDNR website listed below. These laws, regulations and rules are strictly enforced by the officers of the SCDNR Law Enforcement Division, U.S. Coast Guard and other authorized law enforcement agencies. They have the right to stop and board boats to check for compliance with federal and state laws. The operation game theft and boating accident phone number is 1-800-922-5431. For more information, visit the SCDNR website (www.dnr.sc.gov/regulations.html).



Angler in sneak boat

Camping

The only designated camping areas on the Lynches River are located at Lee State Natural Area and Lynches River County Park; reservations are recommended. Rental cabins may be reserved at Lynches River County Park. Primitive camping is available in low-water conditions when sandbars along the river can provide camp sites below the ordinary high water mark. Camping permits are not required on the river; however, permission from landowners is required to camp in upland areas (above the ordinary high water mark), most of which are privately owned. The Evelyn and Rivers Scarborough Camping Platform, located upriver from the Highway 401 Landing, is a 16 X10 foot platform space with a 6x10 foot shelf for gear and equipment. This platform is accessible only from the river and is sponsored by the Pee Dee Land

Trust on private property. For platform reservations and information, go to the Pee Dee Land Trust website (www.peedeelandtrust.org).

For group outings, we recommend limiting group size to two to ten people or two to five boats, as the landings, potential camp sites and places to get out and stretch legs all tend to



Sandbar camping

be small areas. Select camp spots that fit your group size and on rare occasions you may have to share a camp with another group that arrives late. Be courteous, make new friends, enjoy the evening and continue on your trip.

Respect Private Property

Although all sandbars and shoreline below the ordinary high water mark are public, most of the land above the ordinary high water mark is private. Respect private property and enter only with permission of the landowner.

For other lodging options consult the local cities and towns along the river.

Large Woody Debris

The Lynches is a natural and dynamic river system that is always changing. Trees fall in the river as the banks erode, the wind causes them to fall and human or animal activity cause trees to enter the river. The health of our fish and wildlife habitats depend on the presence of large woody debris in the river, thus the boater will always encounter



Log jumping along the Lynches River

this physical and mental challenge along this river. We recommend that boaters carry a hand saw or hand bow saw in the boat. When you encounter large woody debris you have the option of going under the tree, over the tree, portaging around the tree or trimming or cutting out a 3-6 foot section near the crown area of the tree.

River Etiquette and Ethics

You may find solitude along this river but you will not be alone and your actions affect this river as you boat its waters and visit its landings and sandbars. People come here to experience the challenge of boating a remote, scenic river. No one comes to this area to find landings and sandbars scarred with fire rings or fouled with human waste or litter. This river cannot stay scenic if you do not work hard to protect it. Enjoying the use of this river without leaving a trace is a big challenge, but here is how you can help.

Human Waste

In South Carolina it is not mandatory to carry out all human waste, but it is a good practice to do so. There are many sanitary pack-out products on the market today. One is the GO anywhere toilet kit (formerly known as WAG bag), another is the Restop, both found in camping



equipment stores or online. If you choose not to carry out, please use cat holes (6-8" deep hole 70 paces from any water source) and bury your solid waste on dry ground away from the river. Please urinate on wet ground or in the river because urinating on dry ground or on dry objects may leave an offensive odor and may attract insects. Please Leave No Trace of your time spent on this river.

Fires

Use fires only when needed, using equipment and methods that work best for you. Help us keep the sandbars clean by burning all wood to ash. Trash should never be burned. When the fire is finished, please bury or rake all the ashes into the river and scatter any unused firewood

so the sandbar looks natural and scenic. If possible, carry and use a fire pan and camp cooking stove.

Dishwater

Food bits left on the sand are magnets for ants and biting insects, so please make sure you strain out food particles and put them with your trash. Then scatter the remaining dishwater well away from your camp.

Bathing

You can reduce the need to bathe by swimming frequently in the river, however, if you need to bathe please do so away from the river and use small amounts of biodegradable soap if absolutely necessary.

Ramp Manners

Please use the ramp for loading or unloading your boats from a trailer or car only. Once your boat is off the trailer, please move it away from the ramp and out of the way of others. Pack or unpack your boat to the side of the launch area so others may trailer their boat.

River Encounters

Common sense and polite communication are the keys to successful interaction with other river users. Remember that human-powered crafts have the right-of-way and motor boats should slow to no wake as



Group taking a sandbar break.

they pass a drift or human-powered boat. Give anchored fishing boats a wide berth as you pass them. Avoiding confrontational behavior will ensure a peaceful coexistence.

Respect Cultural and Archaeological Sites

Along the river you will see evidence of past communities and their historic structures, such as old bridge pilings, abandoned buildings and roads. Please do not disturb them. It is illegal to remove, deface or destroy archaeological sites in South Carolina. If you plan to dive for artifacts in this river you must obtain



Old cypress boat

an underwater diving permit and have a diving license as provided by the South Carolina Institute of Archeology and Anthropology Underwater Division. Please refer to this website: www.cas.sc.edu/sciaa/ Or contact the SCDNR State Archaeologist at 803-734-9100.



Old bridge pilings

River Safety

7.5 minute topographic Maps: Bishopville East, Elliott, Sardis, Olanta, Mill Bay, Effingham, Scranton, Evergreen, Pamlico South, Prospect Crossroads, Johnsonville, Lake City East, Snow Island, Outland, Lynchburg and Yauhannahare are available from the State Geodetic Survey or may be downloaded from SCDNR's GIS Data Clearinghouse.

County Maps: Lee, Darlington, Sumter, Florence, Williamsburg and Marion

Difficulty: flatwater (advanced boating skills and river rescue training advised)

Hazards: Swift currents, fallen trees, road pilings and multiple stream channels.

When planning a trip on the Scenic Lynches River:

1. Know the river

- Read all you can about the river; use maps and guide books.
- Be aware of river level changes with rain events.
- Be a competent swimmer and able to handle yourself underwater and in moving water with a current. We recommend that you have some river rescue and wilderness first aid experience.

2. Set up locations for put in and take outs

- Use a public landing or seek permission from private landowners.
- Think about the location of breaks, lunch, camp etc.... making sure not to trespass on private property unless you have prior permission.
- Consider time, distance and water level to be traveled and the amount of sunlight you have available.
- Arrange for a shuttle.

3. Think about the participants in your group

- Never go paddling alone.
- Limit the size of the group. Think about the environmental impacts (cat holes, soil compaction, vegetation destruction, noise pollution, etc.) your group will have on the resource.
- Designate your on-river leaders (they should be experienced with river travel, river rescue and wilderness first aid).

- Think about the total group strength (beginners should not be on this river without boaters who have advanced paddling skills, rescue skills and wilderness first aid skills).
- All must assume the responsibility for the group.
- Group ethics
 1. Obey all rules and regulations.
 2. Respect private property.
 3. Be considerate of others on the water.
 4. Give anglers a wide berth.
 5. Never change clothes in public view.
 6. Pack out human waste in sensitive or heavily used environments or dig cat holes away from the river.
 7. Do not feed or disturb wildlife.
 8. Avoid building campfires, except for emergencies.
 9. Keep the river clean and pick-up and pack out all litter, even litter of others (leave a place better than you found it).
 10. Volunteer your time to help the river resource.

4. Equipment and Clothing

- Plan to get wet. Prepare for the weather and river water temperature.
- Stay visible -- have a hands free flashlight, whistle and other medical/safety/rescue equipment.
- Wear proper footwear, layer your clothing and wear your personal flotation device (PFD). (85% of boating fatality victims were not wearing a PFD at the time of the accident.)
- Carry a supply of food and water adequate for your trip length.
- Carry a spare paddle and a spare PFD if possible.
- Carry navigation equipment.



5. Other Safety Concerns

It is recommended that the trip leader or someone in the group take a wilderness first aid class and be aware that the following conditions may occur.

- **Hypothermia:** the lowering of the core body temperature due to cold air temperature, exposure to rain, or immersion in cold or cool water. This can happen any time of year.
- **Heat stroke:** the raising of the core body temperature due to exposure to sunny, hot and humid conditions. Our South Carolina summers are very hot, so please drink lots of water and cool your body often with river water. Wear clothing that reflects the sun.
- **Dehydration:** The average person needs 2-3 liters of fluids per day, more if you are exerting physical activity in a hot and humid climate. Drink water and sports drinks on your river trip.
- **Sunburn:** Wear sun screen and clothing that reflects the sun.
- **Insects:** Bees, wasps, hornets, ticks, mosquitoes, gnats, deerflies, yellowjackets, spiders, scorpions, redbugs and many others make their home along the river. Come prepared to deal with all of them by having a well-appointed first aid kit and effective insect repellent.
- **Poison Ivy:** Learn to recognize this plant and try to avoid it. There will be times on this river that it cannot be avoided such as pulling over and through downfalls or navigating through the swamp sections where the channel is very narrow. When you know you have touched this plant, swim, rinse or wash the body part in the river as soon as possible.
- **First aid:** Know how to treat broken bones, sprained joints and burns as it may be a long period of time between the accident site and an emergency room or trained medical help.
- **Thunderstorms:** In the spring and summer thunderstorms may occur every day, usually in the late afternoon. The best response to a thunderstorm is to head for shore, secure your boat, put on your rain gear, grab your tarp, paddle and spare PFD, find a low place on the ground away from tall trees and sit or squat on your PFDs. Persons in your group should be scattered, not all in one area. If you have a light and mobile canoe or kayak



Poison Ivy

it can be used as a shelter, making sure that you stay on top of your PFD. Do not let your skin touch the ground during a thunderstorm.

A List of Suggested Gear:

Wearable personal floatation device (PFD/lifejacket), sized to fit

Sound device audible for ½ mile – whistle or horn

Flashlight that is mounted or worn (no hands)

Extra batteries

Cell phone or marine radio

This booklet and compass or GPS

Rescue gear (throw bag/rope, carabineer, etc.)

Knife, saw hatchet

Sunscreen

Insect repellent

Hat

Rain gear

First aid kit

Drinking water and/or sport drinks

Duct tape

Trash bags

Waterproof matches or other fire-making device

Extra clothing

Extra PFD and paddle or pole

Food and water

Camping gear (tent, sleeping bag, cook stove, etc.)

Waterproof bag for all of the above and tied/strapped to the boat

** Please do not leave valuables in your vehicle.

For more information, consult:

ACA website (www.AmericanCanoe.org)

Leave No Trace website (www.LNT.org)

US Coast Guard website (www.uscgboating.org)

SCDNR website (www.dnr.sc.gov)

Before the trip

Permits to float the river are not required, however it is a good practice to tell someone or give a friend or family member a written float plan of your trip. A float plan can be copied, torn from this book or found on the DNR website (www.dnr.sc.gov). It should be filled out and given to a friend or family member not going on the trip. Don't forget to check water levels and weather forecasts for the area you plan to float. Make sure all paddlers/boaters are experienced or you are going with an experienced guide. Do not forget your lifejacket, whistle, white light and safety gear.



Float Plans: (Please cut out this sheet or make as many copies of these plans as needed. File this written plan with two people who will check on you after a certain amount of time.)

Canoe Form

Name of trip leader: _____

Address of trip leader: _____

Phone Number of Trip Leader: _____

**Cell phone number
of the Trip Leader:** _____

Names of boaters in group _____

Descriptions of the boats in the group: _____

Type of boats (length, model and colors): _____

How many boats are in your group? _____

Vehicles

(Make, model, license number and color of vehicles in the group)

List where each one is parked along the river. _____

Trip Expectations

Expected departure time and location: _____

Expected route and alternate route: _____

Dates you plan to be on the river: _____

Expected time and location of take out: _____

Date and time you would like a search to begin if you do not return:

* Upon arrival you must notify the people holding your written float plan that you have returned.

Motorized Boat Form

1. Name of person reporting and telephone number

 (_____) _____

2. Description of boat

Type _____ Color _____ Trim _____

Registration No. _____ Length _____

Name _____ Make _____ Other _____

3. Engine type _____ H. P. _____

No. of engines _____ Fuel capacity _____

4. Survival equipment

PFDs Paddles Smoke signals Anchor

5. Radio Yes No Type _____ Frequency _____

6. Mobile phone Yes No (_____) _____

7. Automobile license number _____

Type _____ Trailer license _____

Color _____ Make of auto _____

Where parked _____

8. Persons onboard

Name	Age	Address & Telephone
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_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

9. Do any of the persons onboard have a medical problem?

Yes No If yes, what _____

10. Trip expectations. Leave at _____ am pm

From _____ going to _____

Expect to return by (time) _____ am pm and

not later than _____ am pm

11. Any other pertinent information?

12. If not returned by (time) call the local authority

_____ am pm

13. Telephone numbers

(_____) _____ (_____) _____

User Survey

(Please let us know about your trip by mailing or emailing us your answers to the following survey.)

- 1) Did you use this guide to prepare for your river trip? ___yes ___no
- 2) Did you use this guide while you were on the river? ___yes ___no
- 3) If yes, did the guide hold up under use? ___yes ___no
- 4) Were this guide and its associated maps helpful? ___yes ___no
If not, why?

- 5) How can this guide be improved?

- 6) Do you think SCDNR should print similar guides for each state scenic river? ___yes ___no
If not, why?

- 7) If yes, would you be willing to donate to the Scenic Rivers Trust Fund so other books can be printed and placed on-line?
___yes___no

- 8) What projects or activities would you like to see the Lynches Scenic River Advisory Council pursue?

- 9) Would you be willing to help the Lynches River by joining the Lynches Scenic River Advisory Council? ___yes ___no

- 10) Tell us about your adventures on the Lynches River.

