

TAKE PALMETTO PRIDE WHERE YOU LIVE

SC LITTER COMMISSION 2026 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



8,706

Litter-Related Citations Issued Statewide (2023–2025)

Environmental crimes know no jurisdiction. Effective enforcement depends on collaboration. State and local partners work together to investigate environmental crimes and protect South Carolina's natural resources.



SC LITTER COMMISSION

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The Litter Commission

The South Carolina Litter Commission brings together the agencies, associations, and organizations whose work intersects with litter prevention, enforcement, and environmental stewardship.

The goal is direct: find solutions, coordinate strategy, and reduce litter across all 46 counties.

2026 Commission Members

- **S.C. Department of Natural Resources**
  Col. Jamie Landrum, Chairman
- **S.C. Department of Transportation**
  Ted Creech, Director of Governmental Affairs
- **S.C. Department of Probation, Parole & Pardon Services**
  Deborah Douglas, Director of External Affairs
- **S.C. Department of Public Safety**
  Captain C. B. Hughes, Administrative & Regulatory Compliance Unit
- **S.C. Court Administration**
  Karama Herrington, State Court Administrator
- **PalmettoPride**
  Sarah Lyles, Executive Director
- **Keep South Carolina Beautiful**
  Joseph Berry, KSCB Manager
- **Municipal Association of South Carolina**
  Todd Glover, Executive Director
- **South Carolina Association of Counties**
  John Wienges, Jr., Deputy Director of Governmental Affairs
- **South Carolina Sheriffs' Association**
  Sally Foster, Executive Director
- **South Carolina Trucking Association**
  Taryn Shekitka, Director of Operations

Chairman’s Message



I am pleased to present this report highlighting our continued efforts to reduce litter and protect South Carolina's natural resources and communities.

Keeping our state clean requires a shared commitment among state agencies, local governments, law enforcement, community organizations, and citizens. Through education, enforcement, and community engagement, the Commission and its partners continue to make meaningful progress in preventing litter and promoting environmental stewardship.

While challenges remain, this report demonstrates the impact that collaboration and dedication can achieve. I extend my sincere appreciation to the many partners and volunteers whose efforts help preserve the beauty of South Carolina for future generations.

Col. James R. Landrum, Jr.
SCDNR Law Enforcement
Chairman, South Carolina Litter Commission

Key Achievements

ACROSS PARTNER AGENCIES



223 Tons

SCDNR LE removed 36 Vessels from SC Waterways FY26

9,253 Tons

SCDOT Highway Litter Cumulative Removal FY24-FY26

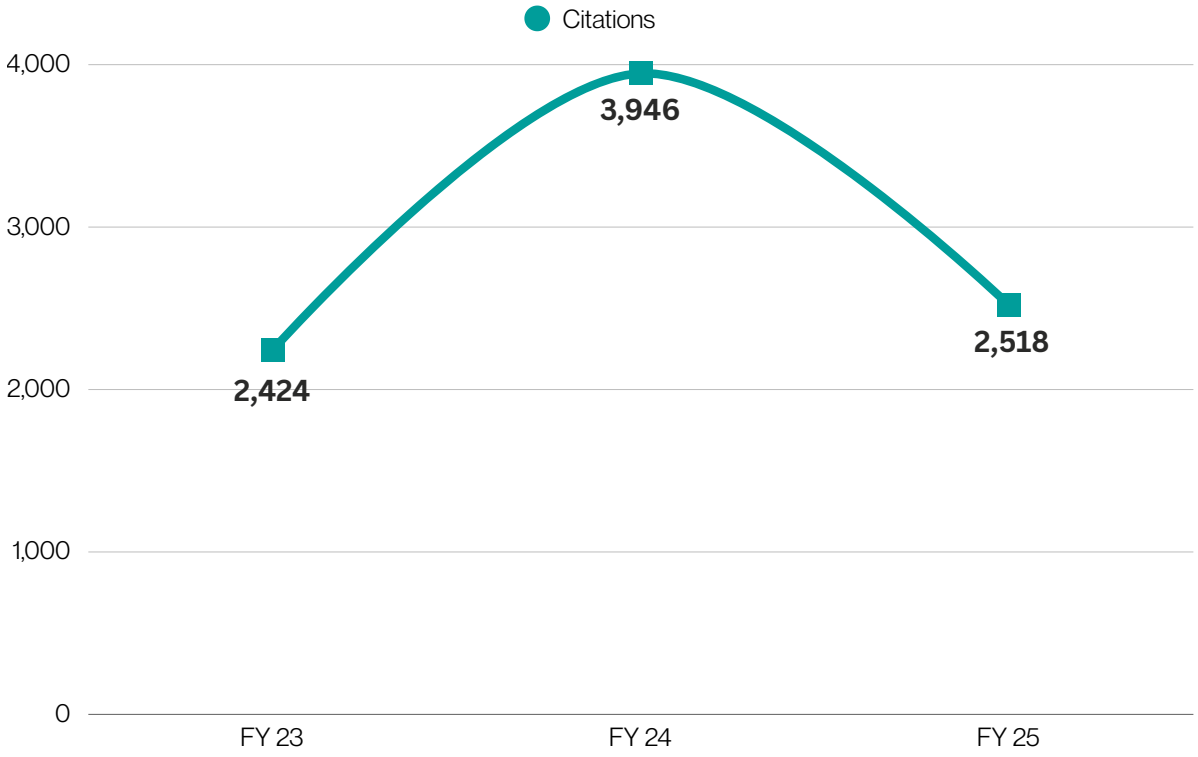
$1.1M

Litter Prevention Grants through PalmettoPride

$5.4M

State cost avoidance through PalmettoPride's litter prevention efforts across 31 counties

Measuring Success Across the State: Citations



Data source: South Carolina Judicial Branch (citations for all litter-related offenses)

Section 16-11-700

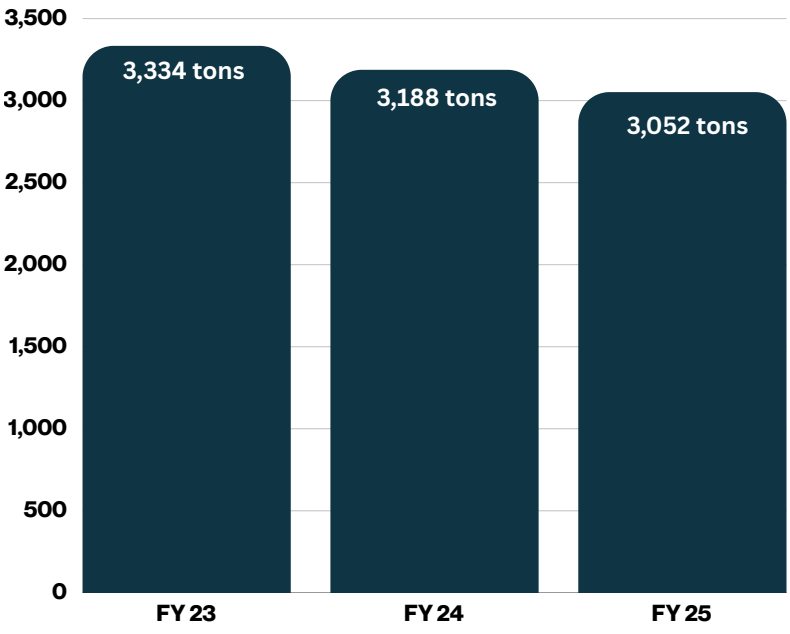
(C) A person who violates the provisions of this section in an amount not more than fifteen pounds, including cigarette butts and cigarette components, is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be fined not less than twenty-five dollars and not more than one hundred dollars or imprisoned for not more than thirty days. In addition to the fine or term of imprisonment, **the court also must impose eight hours of litter-gathering labor or other form of community service.**

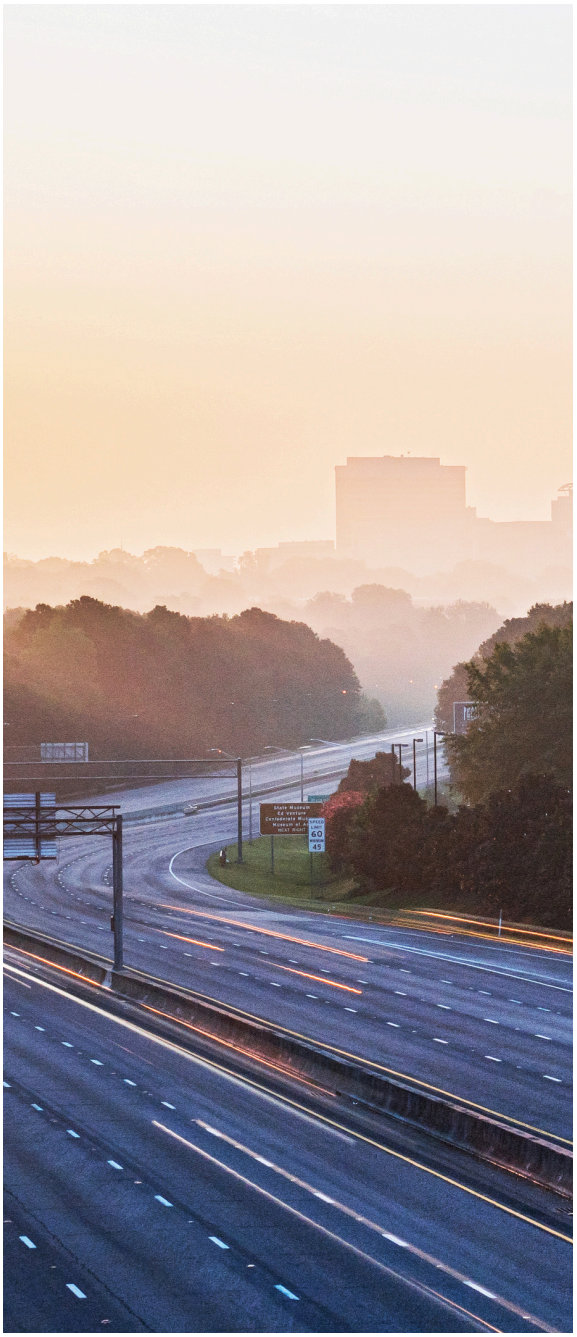
S.C. Department of Transportation

The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT), is now in its fifth year of successfully implementing a statewide program utilizing contractors for litter pick-up along highways and secondary roads across all 46 counties.

SCDOT maintains approximately 851 centerline miles of interstate highways, including 734 bridges, which collectively carry about 29% of the state's vehicular traffic. Contractors operating statewide have played a critical role in identifying and removing debris from the interstate system, helping to improve safety and enhance the overall appearance of these high-traffic corridors.

The data below reflects trash collection efforts as reported by SCDOT, including contributions from the Adopt-A-Highway program and SCDOT maintenance forces.





For three consecutive fiscal years, SCDOT has removed more than 3,000 tons of litter from state highways and secondary roads across all 46 counties.

PalmettoPride
Keep South Carolina Beautiful

Education

Governor's Art Contest on Litter Prevention
25,311 Students
153 Schools

Marionette Show
84,295 Students
249 Schools

Litter Pickup

2,695,493 Lbs. Litter Removed

63,568 Volunteers

$5,455,191 SC Cost Avoidance

Grants

$1,117,022

$249,056 Litter Supplies

2,786 Trees Donated

Adopt-A-Highway

30,788 Voluneers

8,382 Miles Adopted

1,306,728 Lbs. Litter Removed

PalmettoPride fights litter in South Carolina by addressing prevention through education, supporting enforcement, connecting community groups to resources, and mobilizing volunteers.The data represented is from 2024 and 2025.

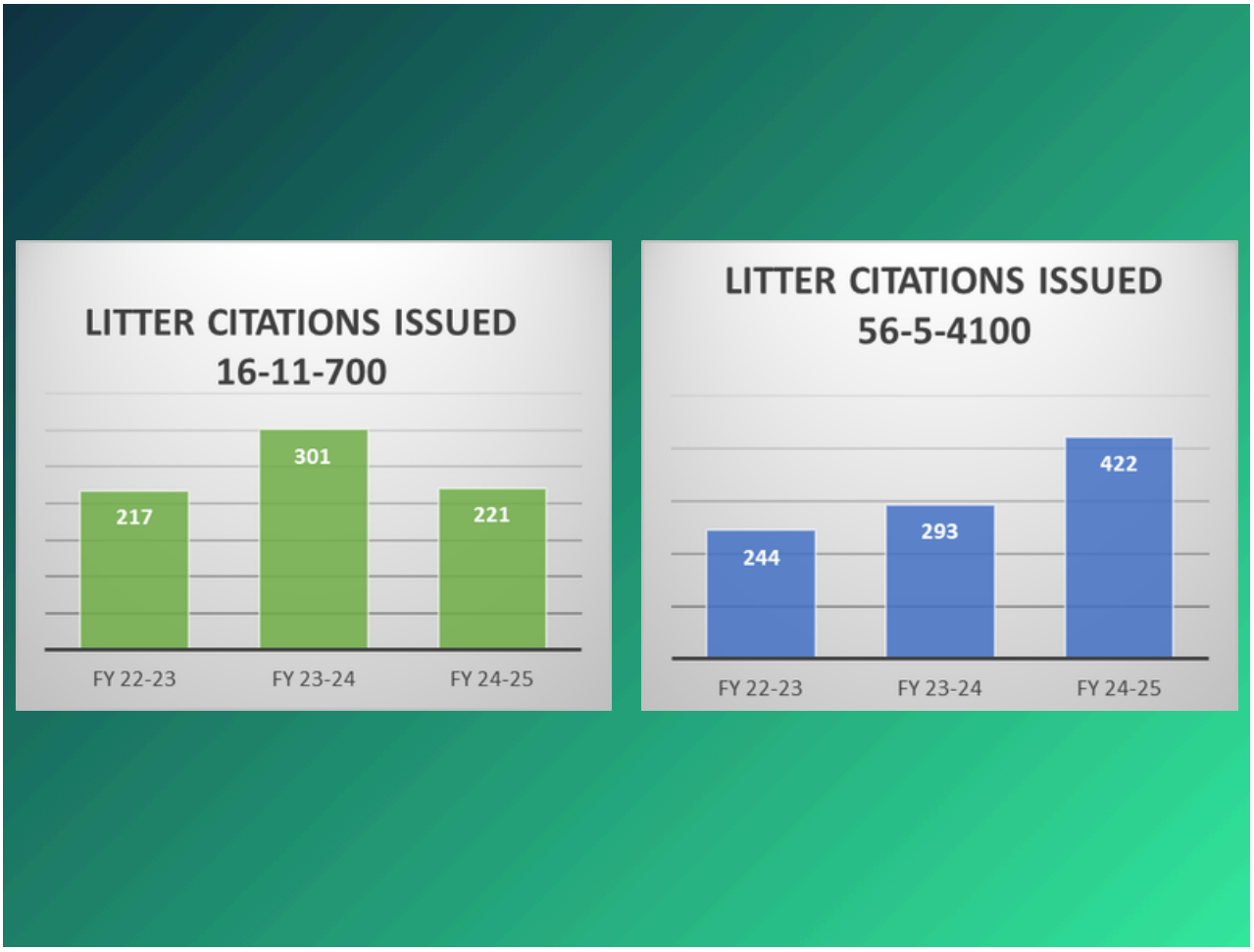
ANNUAL EVENTS

Litter Summit
Francis Marion National Forest Cleanup
SC Sweep
Great American Cleanup of SC
Zero Tolerance for Litter
Governor's Art Contest for Litter Prevention at the State House

S.C. Department of Public Safety

South Carolina Department of Public Safety (SCDPS) officers patrol state highways, enforcing traffic laws and identifying violations that contribute to South Carolina's litter problem. Through their daily enforcement efforts, SCDPS officers work to address littering and the improper disposal of materials on our roadways.

The three-year analysis highlights the enforcement efforts of SCDPS officers in addressing violations of state laws related to dumping and littering (Section 16-11-700) and preventing materials from escaping vehicles (Section 56-5-4100).



Keep South Carolina Beautiful

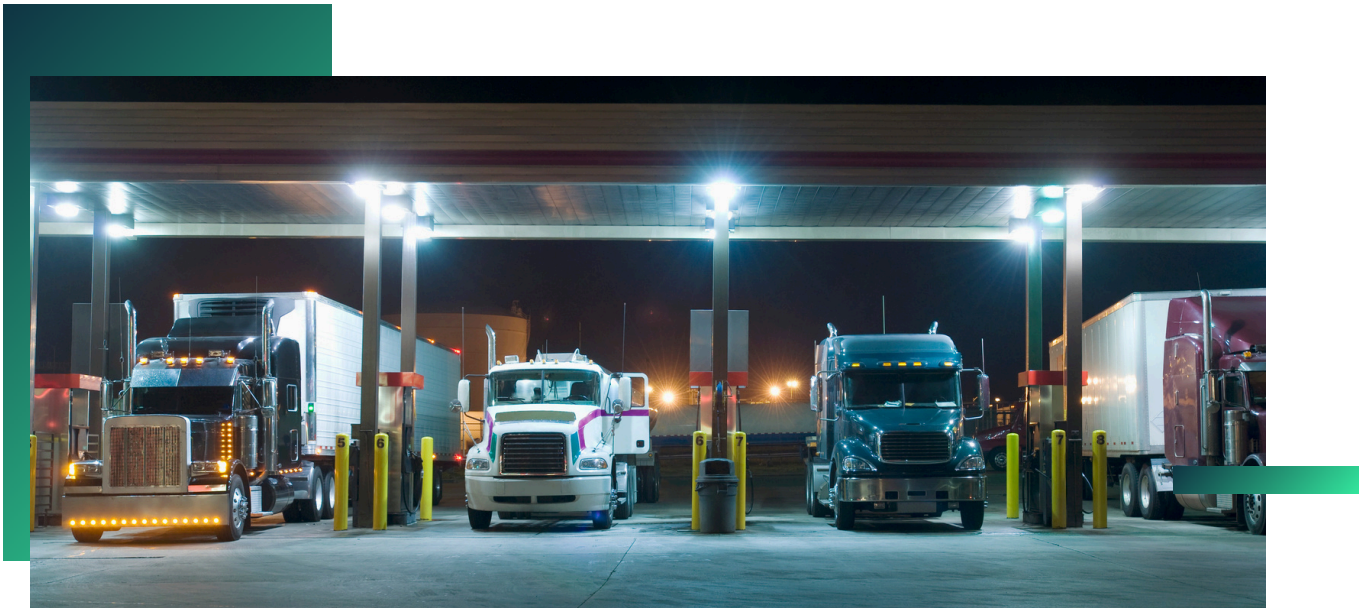
Keep South Carolina Beautiful (KSCB) continues to work with the Keep America Beautiful network of affiliates throughout the state, including maintaining 36 active affiliates with additional groups in the pre-certification process.

KSCB also worked to have over 25 affiliates be recognized as President Circle Affiliates, meaning they achieved 100% completion of operations and reporting the previous year. In February 2026, SCDNR was recognized at the 2026 Keep America Beautiful National Summit as an Outstanding State Agency Partnership. PalmettoPride nominated the agency for their work supporting Keep South Carolina Beautiful affiliates.

At the statewide Litter Summit, KSCB recognized outstanding work and people dedicated to impacting litter in South Carolina. This included the KSCB Board Member of the Year, Harold Donnelly from Keep Orangeburg County Beautiful; KSCB Volunteer of the Year, Howard "Beach Santa" Hogue of Keep Berkeley Beautiful; and KSCB Program of the Year, Keep York County Beautiful Waste-Free Costume Swap and Giveaway.

36	2	25+
Active Affiliates	Emerging Affliates	President Circle Affiliates

S.C. Trucking Association



The South Carolina Trucking Association supports the state's trucking industry through education, advocacy, safety initiatives, and workforce development. By working with industry stakeholders and policymakers, the Association advances transportation policies that strengthen South Carolina's supply chain, support economic growth, and improve transportation infrastructure.

Adapting to Change: Litter and Load Containment Compliance Training

The South Carolina Trucking Association (SCTA) developed a training program for commercial motor carriers focused on litter prevention, waste tire transportation, and cargo securement compliance. Designed for carrier leadership, safety professionals, driver trainers, and commercial drivers, the program provides guidance on:

- South Carolina litter and illegal dumping laws
- State litter control programs and enforcement efforts
- Waste tire transportation regulations
- Federal cargo securement requirements
- Carrier compliance strategies and best practices

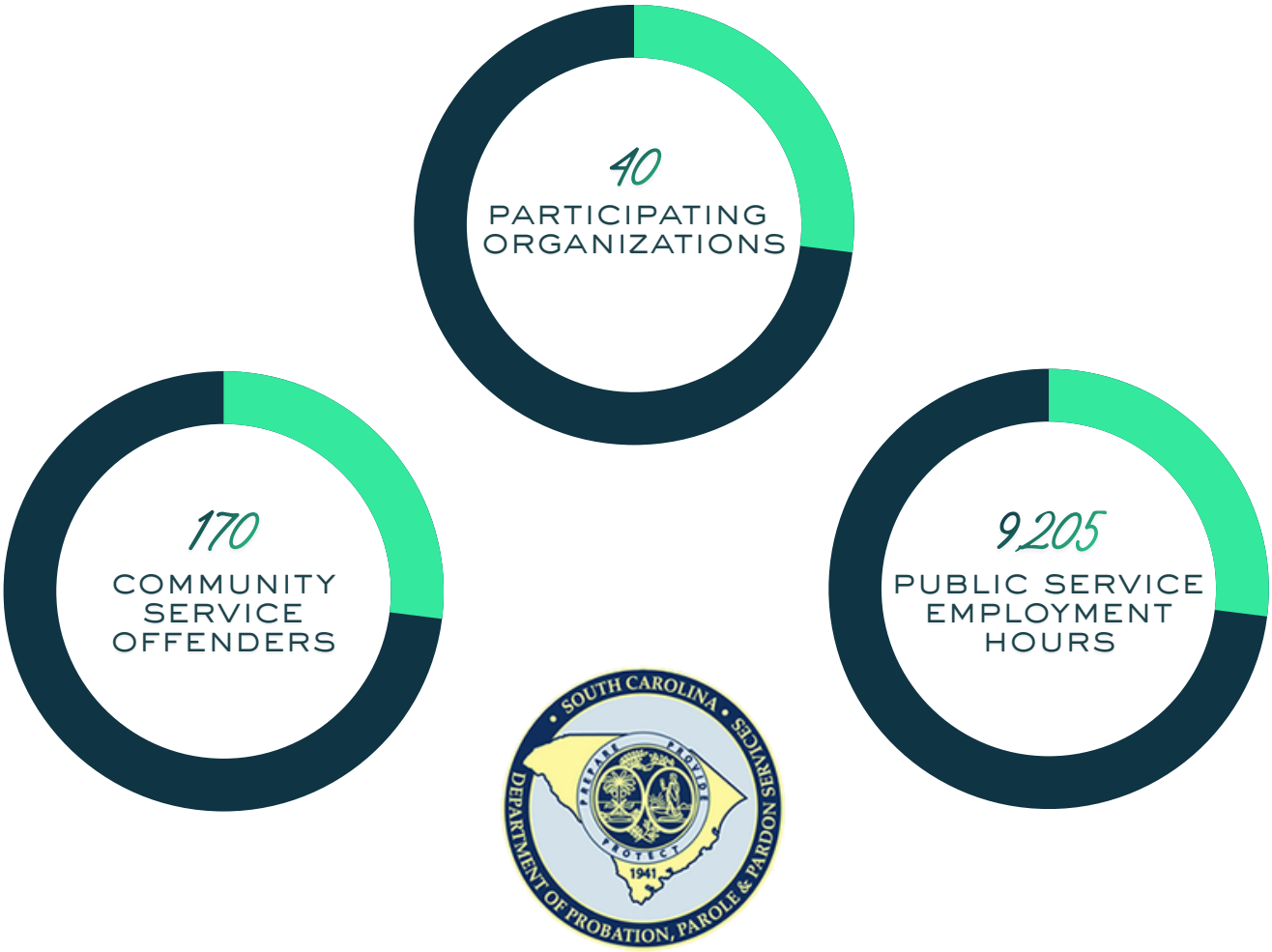
The training supports cleaner highways, improved public safety, environmental protection, and stronger collaboration between the trucking industry and state agencies.

SOUTH CAROLINA TRUCKING ASSOCIATION

S.C. Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services

The South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole & Pardon Services (SCDPPPS) offers public service employment (PSE) as one of its community-based programs. The General Sessions Court has the authority to place convicted nonviolent offenders in unpaid positions with nonprofit or tax-supported agencies to perform a specified number of “community service” work hours. This program is an integral part of SCDPPPS efforts to intervene with supervised offenders by providing them the opportunity to perform useful volunteer work in their community, either as a sentencing alternative, a condition of probation or parole, or a sanction via the violation process. Public service employment enables the community to hold these individuals accountable for their actions through direct service back to the community in which they live.

170 *offenders provided 9,205 public service employment (PSE) hours, picking up litter for 40 organizations during FY '24 and FY ‘25.*



S.C. Department of Natural Resources

The Golden Trashcan Award

Region Four of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) Law Enforcement Division earned the Golden Trashcan Award recognizing outstanding efforts in litter enforcement, prevention, education, and community engagement. The year-long competition, held from July through June, encourages collaboration among the Division's four regions while promoting statewide efforts to protect South Carolina's natural resources. Led by Captain Dennetta Dawson, Region Four includes Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, Georgetown, Hampton, Horry, and Jasper counties.



Competition with a Purpose

What began as a friendly contest between the four regions of the Law Enforcement Division has grown into an annual tradition filled with bragging rights, camaraderie, and celebration all in the shared effort to prevent and mitigate litter across South Carolina. The award continues to inspire greater participation, new partnerships, and expanded outreach across the state.

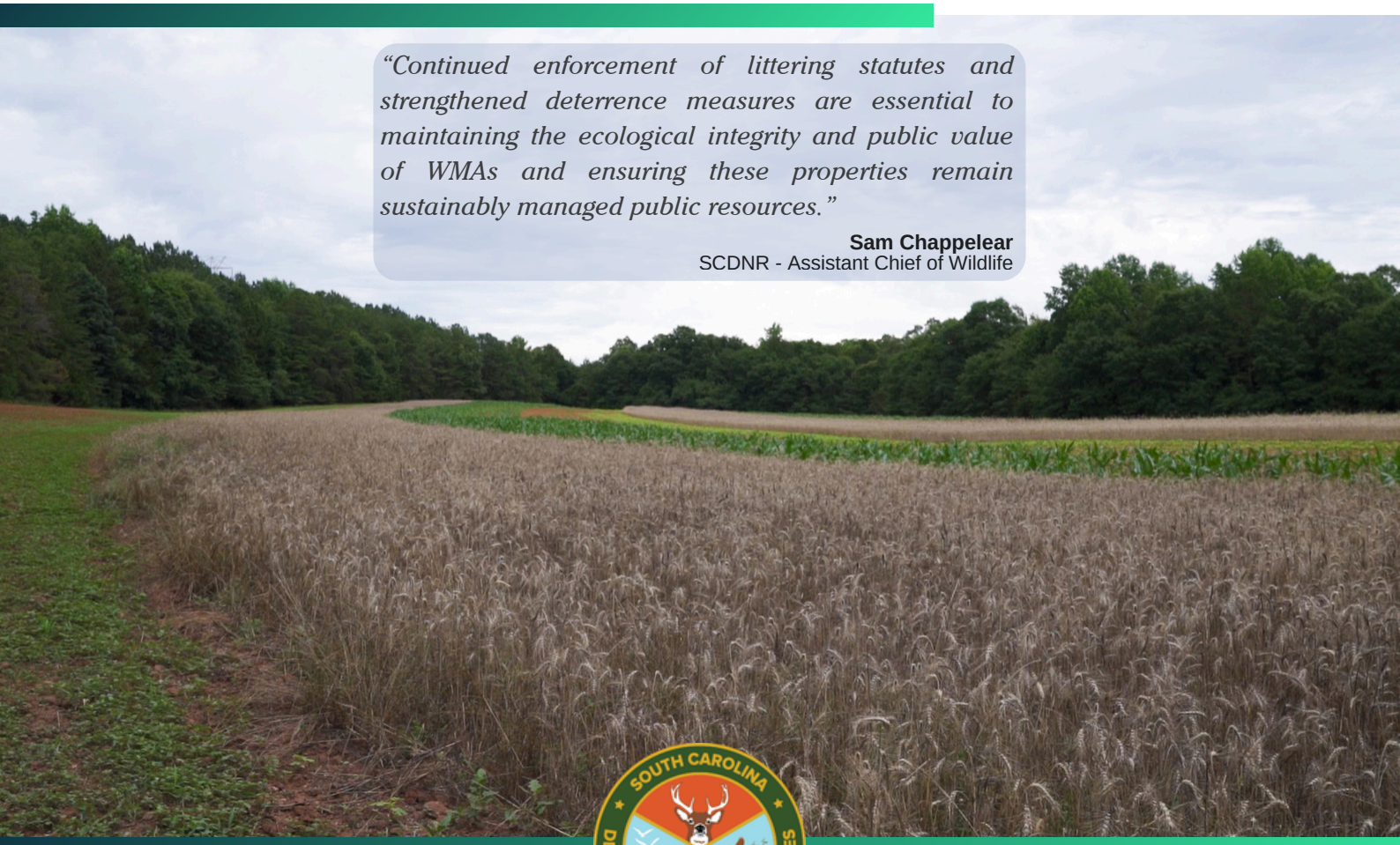
Division Stats

203	7,130	29	36	220	82
Citations & Warnings	Patrol Hours	Outreach Events	Vessels Removed	Tons of Trash Removed	Community Service Hours Validated

June 6th - National Secure Your Load Day

Turning Enforcement into Encouragement

On National Secure Your Load Day, SCDNR Law Enforcement officers statewide **recognized more than 800 responsible motorists** who helped prevent roadway litter by properly securing their loads.



> *"Continued enforcement of littering statutes and strengthened deterrence measures are essential to maintaining the ecological integrity and public value of WMAs and ensuring these properties remain sustainably managed public resources."*
>
> **Sam Chappelear**
> SCDNR - Assistant Chief of Wildlife

Field Notes: Wildlife Management Areas

The Problem with Littering on SCDNR Wildlife Management Areas

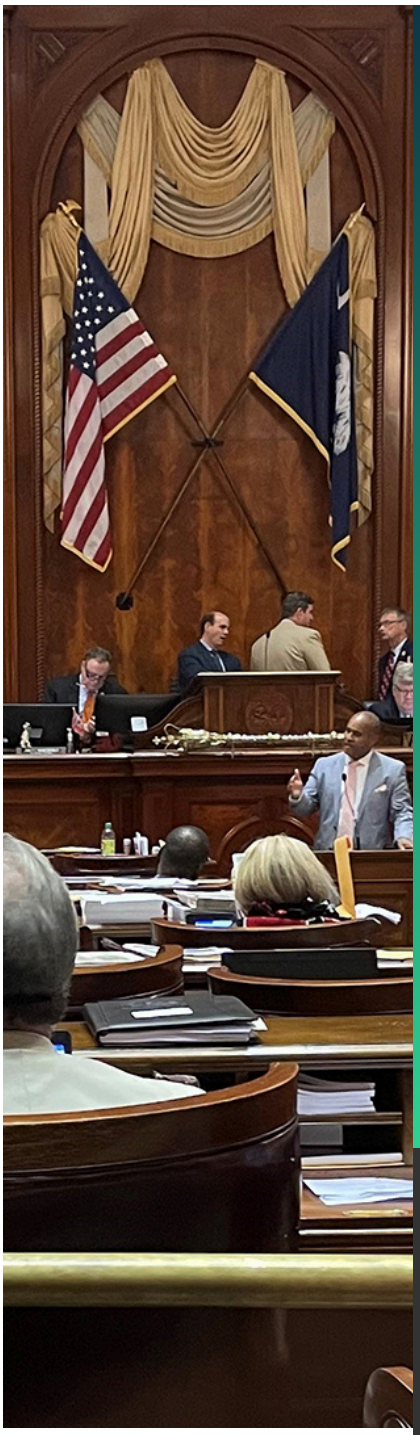
Littering and other violations on Wildlife Management Areas continue to present ongoing challenges for land management and conservation operations. Assistant Chief of Wildlife for SCDNR, Sam Chappelear, who oversees two of the four Wildlife Management regions in South Carolina, reports that these issues are encountered regularly and contribute to increased operational burdens, resource diversion, creates a danger to wildlife species, and causes the degradation of public lands managed for wildlife conservation and public use.

In describing the issue from a field operations perspective, Chappelear stated:
"From a wildlife management and property operations perspective, littering on Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) represents both a regulatory compliance issue and a direct resource burden. Agency staff regularly address illegal dumping of trash on these properties, which is inconsistent with the statutory purpose of WMAs managed for conservation, wildlife sustainability, and public benefit. Littering also diverts staff time and financial resources away from core activities such as habitat management, wildlife monitoring, and infrastructure maintenance, particularly in high-use areas. This reduces overall operational efficiency, effectiveness and can be costly. Continued enforcement of littering statutes and strengthened deterrence measures are essential to maintaining the ecological integrity and public value of WMAs and ensuring these properties remain sustainably managed public resources. If someone observes littering occurring on a WMA, they can report it immediately at 1-800-922-5431."

In response, efforts have been directed toward improving compliance and deterrence across WMAs under his supervision, including the installation and standardization of updated signage and surveillance cameras intended to discourage littering and reinforce applicable regulations. These measures are part of a broader strategy to reduce recurring violations and support the long-term stewardship and integrity of South Carolina's Wildlife Management Areas.

Legislative Recommendations

The Litter Commission has no legislative recommendations at this time. However, several litter-related bills were introduced during the 126th Session of the South Carolina General Assembly.



H. 4247 Commodity Code Execution (ACT)

- A litter control officer may make custodial arrests only if certified as a law enforcement officer under Chapter 23, Title 23.
- Arrest powers apply only to enforcement of litter control laws and ordinances, and to other violations that occur incidentally during litter enforcement activities.
- Officers cannot stop or arrest individuals for unrelated violations unless the stop or arrest stems directly from a litter control enforcement action.

S. 171 Waste Tire Hauling Requirements

- Creates a statewide manifest system for tracking waste tire movement.
- Defines key terms (e.g., waste tire, hauler, generator, facility).

H. 3393: Civil Penalties for Litter

- Local law enforcement can issue civil citations for littering when the act is not witnessed by an officer.
- A person can be found civilly liable if there is a preponderance of evidence (e.g., eyewitness reports, submitted evidence).
- If litter is discarded from a vehicle, there is a rebuttable presumption that the registered owner committed the offense.
- Mandatory civil penalty: $50 per violation.


Picture a litter free South Carolina

Take Palmetto Pride Where You Live

SC Litter Commission