

Wateree River Heritage Preserve Wildlife Management Area Management Plan



Completed
April 2016

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MANDATE

State law mandates the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) to prepare management plans for Heritage Preserves - S.C. Code of Laws 51-17-80. These plans delineate management objectives, constraints, and strategies and will strive to accurately address both current and anticipated management needs. Changing social and ecological conditions will require that plans periodically be updated.

OBJECTIVES

Primary Objective

The Heritage Trust Act (51-17-10 et Seq.) defines the primary objective of all Heritage Preserves is to "protect the natural or cultural character of any area or feature" for which the property was dedicated. Wateree River Heritage Preserve Wildlife Management Area (WRHP) was transferred to SCDNR pursuant to the Haile Gold Mine Mitigation Plan, submitted in support of the Clean Water Act Section 404 permit application (P/N #SAC 1992-24122-41A) to the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and provided to the South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control (SCDHEC). Objectives for the property are to preserve and enhance natural and cultural resources while restoring and enhancing jurisdictional wetlands and streams on the property.

Secondary Objective

The Heritage Trust Act requires that Heritage Preserves be managed "to provide the maximum public usage . . . which is compatible and consistent with the character of the area" – (S.C. Code of Laws 51-17-40). SCDNR Policy #203.04, *Recreational Use of SCDNR Properties*, provides a statewide framework for determining appropriate and compatible recreational uses of South Carolina Department of Natural Resources properties. **Natural Resources-Dependent Recreational Uses** are appropriate uses of SCDNR properties and are the priority general public uses. These are: (1) hunting; (2) fishing; (3) wildlife or other natural resource observation; (4) wildlife or other natural resource photography; (5) environmental education; and (6) environmental interpretation. Other uses of SCDNR properties will be evaluated according to SCDNR Policy #203.04 to determine if they are appropriate and compatible.

INTRODUCTION

Wateree River Heritage Preserve Wildlife Management Area (WRHP) was established to protect important natural resource habitats for the people of South Carolina. It was purchased by Haile Gold Mine as partial mitigation for a mining operation that was permitted in Lancaster County, SC. WRHP will protect upland, bottomland and managed wetland habitats and provide recreational opportunities including hunting, fishing, hiking, and wildlife observation for the people of SC.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

WRHP is located in southeastern Richland County just north of Eastover, South Carolina. It encompasses 3,674 acres between the Wateree River and SC Highway 601. To reach the preserve from Columbia, go approximately 17 miles east on US Highway 378 (business) to its junction with SC Highway 601 travel 1.3 miles, then turn north on Goodwill Road directly across from Goodwill Baptist Church.

Figure 1. Location of Wateree River Heritage Preserve within Richland County, South Carolina.

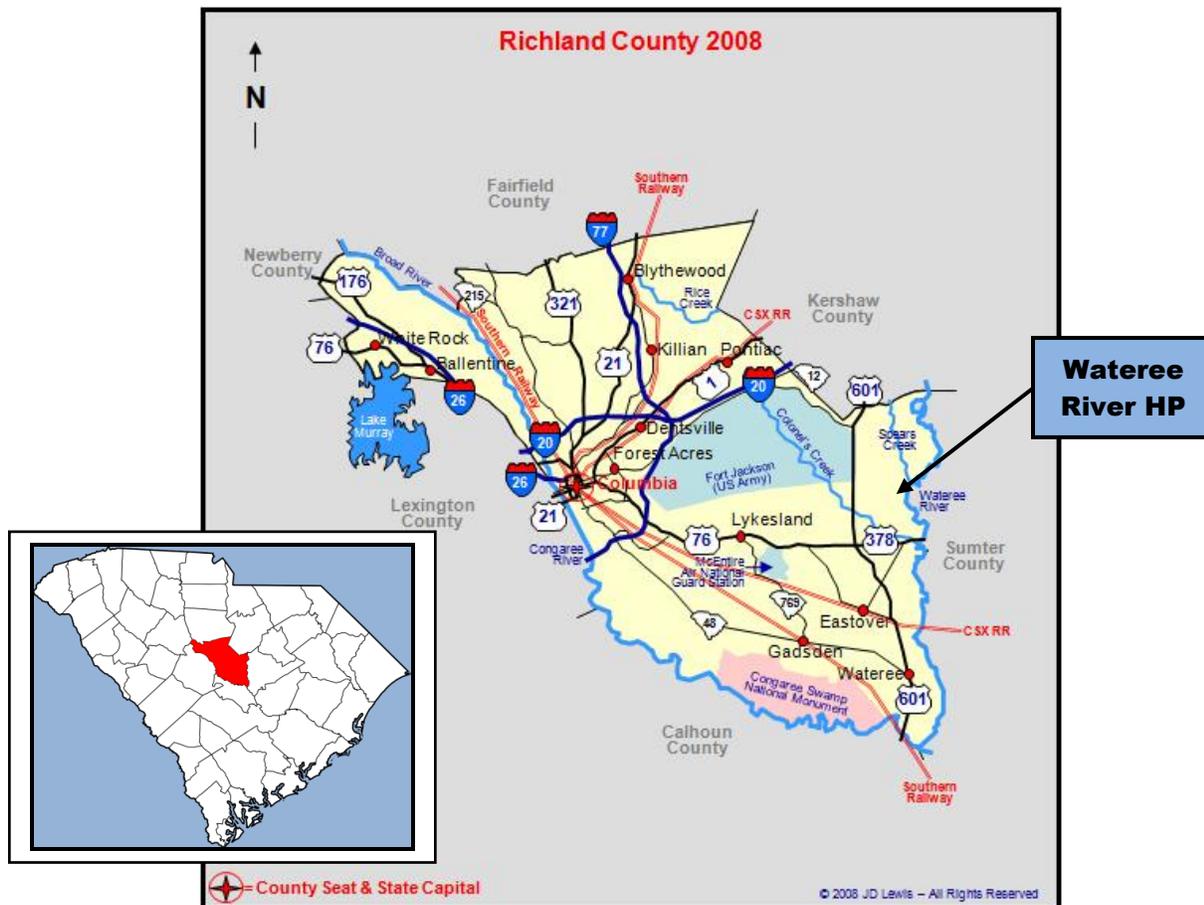
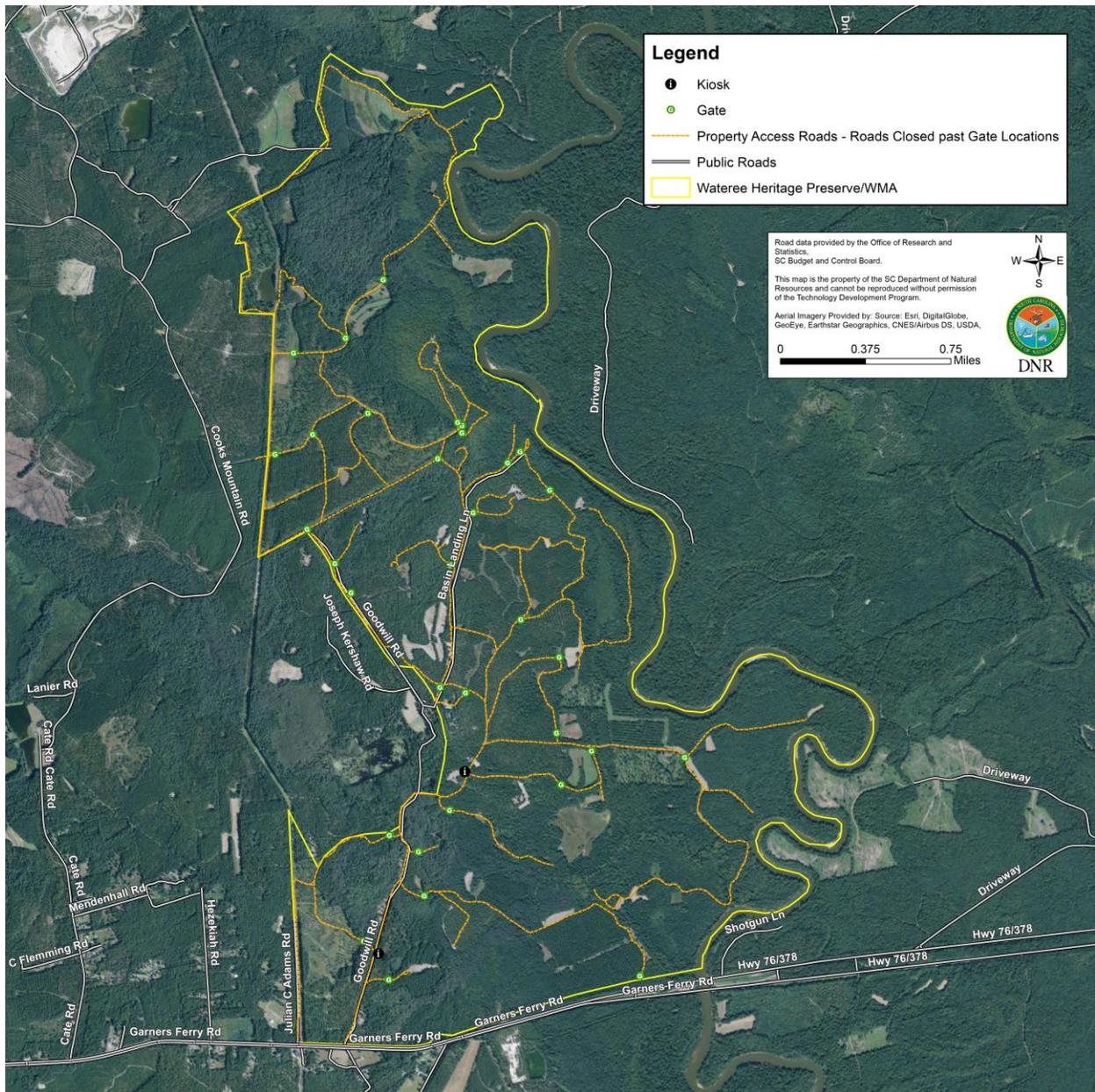


Figure 2. Aerial Map of Wateree River Heritage Preserve with Richland County



HISTORY AND ORIGIN

Wateree River Heritage Preserve is located seventeen miles east of Columbia on the Wateree River in Richland County. WRHP is comprised of the property formerly known as Cook's Mountain Plantation and a portion of the old Goodwill Plantation. This property contains outstanding historic and natural resource characteristics and is a key protected property in the Cowasee Basin Focus Area. Land types on the property range from bottomland hardwood forest along the river rising through uplands to some mixed pine hardwood forests on the northern portion of the property. The property has a wide variety of plant and animal life. The "mountain" itself rises to an elevation of 372 feet above sea level, an anomaly in this area that offers scenic views for miles.

The Wateree River is the eastern boundary of the property. The Wateree Indians and other tribes inhabited the area when European settlers arrived in the 1700's. The Wateree is a continuation of the Catawba River which originates in the mountains of North Carolina.

Cook's Mountain Plantation's earliest known date of existence was 1770. The mountain was the home of Mr. James Cook, who produced the Cook Map of South Carolina in 1773. Since that time Cook's Mountain was owned by a number of timber companies and individuals, who utilized the property for timber production and recreation associated with wildlife. The previous owners of Cooks Mountain enhanced wetlands for migratory waterfowl. Over 150 acres of seasonally flooded impoundments were created which were planted to annual grains and flooded during the winter. Upland wildlife openings (approximately 35 acres) were planted and managed for mourning doves, white-tailed deer and other wildlife species. The property was protected under a conservation easement with Ducks Unlimited on December 30, 2004.

Goodwill Plantation's earliest known date of existence was 1795. Daniel Huger II purchased and consolidated about 3,500 acres of unimproved land to form Goodwill. He began to construct a canal irrigation system to drain the land for agriculture. Daniel Elliott Huger, who was the son of Daniel Huger II, acquired Goodwill after his father's death in 1827. He continued to plant cotton and subsistence crops like his father.

In 1854 Goodwill Plantation consisted of 7,465 acres. In 1858, Edward Barnwell Heyward purchased Goodwill from Daniel Elliott Huger. He continued to plant cotton but also grew sweet potatoes, peas, beans, and corn. During the Civil War, Heyward sent his slaves from his other plantations to Goodwill to wait out the war. George Wickes purchased the plantation in 1869. He operated a grist mill and sawmill and produced some crops. Between 1874 and 1888, Goodwill Plantation changed ownership many times and 1888 was purchased by Julia Clarke. During Mrs. Clarke's ownership, several tracts of the plantation's land were sold.

In 1910, Samuel B. McMasters purchased the plantation, and under his ownership, the plantation was used by tenant farmers, for timber production, and as a hunting and fishing preserve. Farming on the plantation continued until the 1950s, and the grist mill ran until about 1944. In 1986, the Goodwill Stock Company was owner of record and in 1990 Larry Faulkenberry purchased the plantation. Then in 2013 both the Cook's Mountain Plantation and a portion of

Goodwill Plantation were purchased by Haile Gold Mine through a mitigation plan, and the properties were transferred to SCDNR on June 2, 2015.

DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION

Desired future condition (DFC) is a term used to express pragmatic ideas about ecosystem futures. It encompasses the potential for human use interwoven with the natural resource or ecological legacy and condition that will exist as a result of attaining mutually compatible resource objectives (Caplan 1992).

The DFC for WRHP is an ecosystem that reflects the natural communities that occurred on the property before European colonization and the managed wetlands that were constructed after their arrival. It will contain all of the natural ecotypes now on the preserve such as bottomland hardwood forest interspersed with cypress-tupelo swamp, longleaf pine ecosystem and mixed pine-hardwood stands, and the rare plants and animals that occur within them. Some of these ecotypes may spatio-temporally shift because of ecological succession and events that alter succession such as fire or natural disasters. One primary goal of the DFC is to provide public access for outdoor recreation including hunting while protecting the natural and cultural resources of the property. Success in achieving the DFC must be judged, not only at certain points in time, but also over the long run.

HABITATS AND MANAGEMENT

Longleaf Pine Ecosystem

The preserve's longleaf pine ecotypes have persisted because of periodic fire. Historically, the use of fire was common in this area. Longleaf pines occur on higher-elevation sites on WRHP in stands that range in age from 40-50 years. These stands will be managed through selective harvest and prescribed fire for older trees with a fire-maintained understory. Other canopy tree species in these stands are loblolly pine, water oak, southern red oak, post oak, and sweetgum. The sub-canopy exhibits certain scrub oak species which include turkey oak and blackjack oak. The rock chestnut oak and scarlet oak also occur sporadically throughout this site. Other shrub species include wax myrtle, sparkleberry, winged sumac, and sourwood. The herbaceous layer exhibits bracken fern, broomstraw, panic grasses, lespedeza, beggartick, and a number of other grasses and legumes.

Planted Pine Stands

There are multiple stands of planted loblolly pine on the tract in both upland and bottomland areas. These planted pine stands exhibit low vegetative diversity and typically provide marginal habitat for most wildlife species. In order to improve wildlife habitat quality and achieve the DFC for the property, the upland stands where longleaf pine historically occurred will be converted to longleaf pine stands during normal timber stand rotations. These potential longleaf pine stands will be confirmed by examining the soil type of each site and by reviewing a topographical map of the area. This will be done through selective harvest followed by clearcutting at stand maturity. Some loblolly stands may be converted earlier in the stand

rotation where early successional vegetation is lacking. Bottomland pine stands will be converted to site-adapted hardwood species.

Naturally Regenerated Pines

There are areas of naturally regenerated pines located on WRHP in moderately and well drained soils in the center of what was the Cook's Mountain Plantation property. This area is located in a gently sloping zone and receives its seed source from surrounding loblolly and longleaf pines. This area was also clear-cut and has been allowed to regenerate since 1988. These stands will be evaluated for conversion to longleaf pine based on soils, stocking, health, understory, and age. Those not converted will be managed with selective harvest and burning to improve wildlife habitat, aesthetic qualities, recreation opportunities, and timber quality.

Agricultural Fields and Wildlife Openings

Agricultural fields and wildlife openings may be planted in a variety of annual and perennial crops to provide supplemental food resources for the wildlife of the property. Wildlife openings increase diversity by providing different levels of cover and additional food sources. Many of the wildlife openings will provide excellent bugging areas for wildlife and allow them to get the additional protein they need for growth from the insects attracted to the planted crops. The wildlife openings potentially enhance hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities by concentrating and localizing movement of wildlife. The rotation of crops can include field corn, grain sorghum, wheat, rye, sunflowers, and browntop millet. Chufas and white clover may occasionally be planted along borders of fields. Loblolly pines are prevalent and will be removed from open areas. Herbaceous components include blackberries, thoroughworts, and broomstraw. Vines along the hedgerows form dense thickets and include Japanese honeysuckle, muscadine, summer grape, yellow jessamine, trumpet vines, and greenbriers.

Bottomland Hardwood Forest

Alluvial bottomlands adjacent to the Wateree River and subject to seasonal flooding support the bottomland hardwoods forests. These stands will be maintained in native hardwoods and generally protected from harvest. Stands may be silviculturally managed to improve age or species composition, improve stand hydrology, and to remediate damage from natural events. This plant community occurs on floodplain terraces interspersed with cypress-tupelo swamps. A well-developed canopy exhibits sweetgum, overcup oak, water oak, laurel oak, willow oak, swamp chestnut oak, cherrybark oak, American elm, and ash species. Subcanopy tree and shrub species include sugarberry, American holly, river birch, ironwood and cottonwood. There are sporadic occurrences of loblolly pine in the bottomland forest canopy. Other subcanopy tree and shrub species include possumhaw, pawpaw, and privet. Vines are very common and include trumpet vine, muscadine, summer grape, rattan vine, pepper vine and poison ivy. The herbaceous layer is more diverse on drier sites. Common herbs include rice cutgrass, false nettle, river oats, dayflowers, violets, and many other herbs and ferns.

Included in this plant community description is an associated ecotone often found along major rivers and adjacent to bottomland hardwood forests. The levee plant community is a terrestrial system that occurs along major river channels at points along the course of the river where

alluvial deposits have accumulated forming natural overflow barriers between the river and the floodplain. Canopy dominants are loblolly pine, American sycamore, river birch, sweetgum, tulip poplar and red maple. Other canopy trees species include swamp chestnut oak, laurel oak, water hickory, boxelder, silver maple, water elm, and bottomland ashes such as Carolina ash, pumpkin ash and green ash. Subcanopy species include black willow and ironwood. The shrub layer includes pawpaw, tag alder, and hawthorns. The herbaceous layer is quite diverse, but may vary considerably from site to site depending upon elevation, frequency of flooding and sunlight penetration. Herbaceous species include river oats, switch cane, false nettle, and blackberries. Vines include summer grape, muscadine, greenbriers, trumpet vine, Virginia creeper and cross vine.

Cypress-Tupelo Swamp

Cypress-tupelo swamps are located on the lower elevations of the floodplain including in areas typically known as sloughs. These stands will be maintained in native hardwoods and generally protected from harvest. Stands may be silviculturally managed to improve age or species composition, improve stand hydrology, and to remediate damage from natural events. The canopy is closed in most places and is dominated by bald cypress and swamp tupelo. Some of the cypress trees appear to be very old. Other common canopy and subcanopy trees are water tupelo, red maple, sweetgum, and Carolina ash. Loblolly pine occasionally occurs. A high diversity of shrubs and small trees occurs in this swamp. These include fetterbush, wax myrtle, Virginia willow, red bay, titi, American holly, deciduous holly, boxelder, possumhaw, river birch, tag alder, and dwarf palmetto. Despite reduced sunlight penetration due to the canopy of trees, herbaceous plants are numerous and diverse. Commonly encountered species are lizard's tail, arrow arum, pennywort, Asian coin leaf, violets, cardinal flower, Spanish moss, false nettle, royal fern, sensitive fern, netted chain fern, blackberries, and Asiatic dayflower. Vines include poison ivy, climbing hydrangea, trumpetvine, muscadine, and summer grape.

Waterfowl Impoundments

Four seasonally-flooded waterfowl impoundments have been constructed in the floodplain through the use of dikes and water control structures. Management has included annual planting of these units to cereal grains or manipulation of soil moisture to encourage naturally-occurring moist-soil annuals and perennials, followed by shallow flooding in late fall to provide food and cover for migratory waterfowl. This management will continue. These areas are flooded by gravity flow from the surrounding swamps or by pumping from the Wateree River. The dikes, ditches, and water control structures of these units must be maintained in order to provide for water management capability as well as holding back flooding of the Wateree River.

In addition to planted crops and targeted naturally occurring species, these impoundments support a diverse community of shrubs, herbs, and aquatic plants. There are sporadic occurrences of swamp tupelo. Shrubs include tag alder, wax myrtle, buttonbush, black willow, and sweet bay, most of which are growing on hummocks within the ponds. Herbaceous components include common cattail, water willow, plume grass, wool grass bulrush, and panic grasses. Aquatic emergent plants include flat sedges, smartweeds, and sedges. Sphagnum

mosses occur in shallow flooded zones. The floating pad plant components include white waterlily, spatterdock, and water shield.

Pond

One pond exists on WRHP and is stocked with native warm water fish species. The pond was formed by the damming of a small spring originating on the property. Tree species along the pond margin include loblolly pines, sweetgum, water oak, black willow, black cherry, laurel oak, and red maple. Shrubs include tag alder, wax myrtle, and sparkleberry. The herbaceous layer around the pond margins include false nettle, vaseygrass, crabgrass, asters, goldenrods, thoroughworts, and blackberries.

Rare Species

WRHP contains numerous rare plants and animal species of state and regional concern which can be found in the Statewide Action Plan (<http://dnr.sc.gov/swap/index.html>). Some of the species of concern that can be found on the property are Carolina bird-in-a nest, water tupelo, and swamp blackgum. SCDNR will ensure these species of concern and their habitats are protected on the property.

Game Management

White-tailed deer, eastern wild turkey, raccoon, gray squirrel, southern fox squirrel, and other small game species as well as wood duck and some migratory waterfowl are found on the preserve. Regulated hunting provides recreation for the state's citizens, and is an important habitat management tool. The preserve is in the SCDNR's Wildlife Management Area program, and regulations pertaining to the preserve will be published annually in the SCDNR *Rules and Regulations*, for hunting, fishing and SCDNR public lands. The Wildlife Section sets bag limits and season lengths- based on population dynamics of the relevant species, and these species' impact on the ecosystem.

Wildlife Damage Management

Wildlife biologists, once faced primarily with the problem of declining wildlife populations, now often face the opposite problem, an overpopulation of certain species. Whenever possible, wildlife populations will be controlled through regulated public hunting. If this is not feasible, the SCDNR may use habitat modification, exclusion, repellents, lethal, or other means to control and reduce wildlife damage.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Timber Harvesting and Regeneration

A detailed forest management plan will be prepared by SCDNR within one year. The forestry plan will be maintained in project files and modified as needed. This forest plan will follow the

general guidelines contained in this management plan, with the common element of the DFC of the property as the goal of both plans.

Professional forest management can enhance natural systems to promote appropriate ecological conditions and improve habitat quality for wildlife and plant species. Judicious timber harvesting opens up the canopy and stimulates understory development that is beneficial to certain species of plants and animals, and can be a valuable tool in restoring degraded and altered ecosystems. SCDNR will thin and/or clearcut loblolly pine plantations on WRHP. After the plantations are removed, they will be regenerated with longleaf pine to restore the original ecosystem. These potential longleaf pine stands will be confirmed by examining the soil type of each site and by reviewing a topographical map of the area. Longleaf pine will be under-planted in certain stands that currently have a sparse pine overstory. Selective thinning will be used to enhance natural stands that have achieved crown closure and no longer have optimal sunlight reaching the ground. Hardwood stands will be protected from harvest unless tree species composition or stand health can be improved. The SCDNR will work with South Carolina Forestry Commission (SCFC) to plan and implement timber sales. All harvesting operations shall follow the SCFC's Best Management Practices.

Prescribed Fire

Prescribed fire on WRHP will be conducted by a Certified Prescribed Fire Manager of the SCFC or the SCDNR. The main objective of prescribed fire on WRHP will be to restore and maintain the fire-dependent ecotypes thus promoting both species and habitat diversity. Prescribed burning on WRHP also produces other benefits such as minimizing the risk of wildfires through the reduction of fuel loads, controlling exotic and invasive plant species, enhancing aesthetics, and improving public access. A burning program with different burn frequencies, intensities, and seasonality (dormant season vs. growing season) creates a mosaic of vegetation and habitat diversity beneficial to a wide variety of wildlife species. Growing season burns will be used when practical and appropriate. Dormant season burns will be used as well, particularly on certain pine plantations and wherever significant vulnerable age classes of pine regeneration occur.

Existing firebreaks such as roads and trails, as well as natural breaks such as creeks and wetlands, will be used whenever possible. Firebreaks shall be no wider or deeper than is necessary to contain the fire. The soil will be disturbed as little as possible to avoid altering the site's hydrology and harming archaeological/cultural elements, flora, and fossorial herpetofauna.

EXOTIC, INVASIVE, AND NUISANCE SPECIES

Exotic and invasive species have the potential to pose significant threats to native species, and their introduction on Heritage Preserves is generally prohibited. However, the SCDNR reserves the right to introduce exotic species as biological control agents to control or eradicate other exotic species that may harm native species. Such introductions will be allowable only under the following conditions. First, the harmful exotic species must present a clear danger to native species. Second, the bio-controls must have proven efficacy against the targeted pest species.

Third, the bio-controls must themselves, through wide application, be known not to pose an environmental threat.

Pesticides may also be used to control or eradicate exotic or invasive plant and animal species, if mechanical control methods are not practical. All pesticide use will follow state and federal guidelines. SCDNR staff will watch closely for aggressive exotic species. Appropriate control measures will be implemented as required. Regulated harvest, trapping, or other means may also be used to remove exotic, invasive, or nuisance animal species.

CULTURAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Archaeological Inventory

SCDNR shall conduct an archaeological inventory of 3,674 acres of the mitigation properties known as WRHP. A Cultural Resource Identification Work Plan has been written. This document describes the objectives of archaeological inventory and how these objectives will be accomplished. The purpose of this inventory is to define the extent of both unknown and known archaeological sites, and assess their integrity and eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Tasks include, but are not limited to, archival research and synthesis of relevant data, archaeological survey and site evaluation, global positioning system (GPS) and geographical information systems (GIS) mapping of archaeological components located on the mitigation properties, archaeological site recording, artifact analysis, collections management, prehistoric and historic synthesis, cultural resources management plans, report preparation, and the development of public interpretive materials. A cultural resource management plan will be developed at the completion of the archaeological inventory. The plan shall include a section on cultural resources management including a description of how any identified historic properties and future discoveries will be managed. SCDNR shall seek the review and comment from the Corps and SHPO on draft management plans for each of the sites. The entire project is expected to take 45 months to complete.

Management Activities

The goal of the cultural resources management section is to insure the protection of archaeological sites located on WRHP by planning in advance to protect archaeological sites in perpetuity during both normal and emergency management activities. Should avoidance of archaeological sites during management activities become impossible, this section will serve as a guide to protect the significant archaeological resources on WRHP. This section will be used in consultation with the SCDNR archaeologist and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

Avoidance of land disturbing impacts within the defined boundaries of known sites will be the preferred and primary management strategy. All eligible and potentially eligible sites will require further archaeological research if any impact is planned.

Discovery of Archaeological Materials

If unanticipated archaeological materials (e.g., large, intact artifacts, or animal bones; large clusters or artifacts or animals bones; patterns of soil stains; buried brick or stone structures; clusters of brick or stone) or human skeletal remains are discovered on the WRHP during land altering activities, and the archaeological resources have not been addressed by previous studies and consultation, then SCDNR shall temporarily halt those activities and immediately notify the SCDNR archaeologist who may decide to notify the Corps and SHPO, if necessary, of the discoveries. Upon such occurrence, SCDNR will also implement the following steps specified below:

- (a) A 50-foot buffer shall be immediately established around such archaeological materials. The buffer must be flagged by appropriate personnel. All project personnel must be notified by SCDNR that no land altering activities will be allowed within the buffer zone until the course of action hereinafter described has been established. The halt will afford the Corps and SHPO the opportunity to assess the situation and recommend a course of action within two (2) business days after such notification.
- (b) If human remains are found, they should be left in place and protected until appropriate consultation is completed. SCDNR is responsible for notifying SHPO, the Corps, the local coroner or medical examiner, and other interested parties. The signatories recognize that human remains and burial grounds are subject to South Carolina law that addresses abandoned cemeteries, including but not limited to, S.C. Code Ann. §§ 27-43-10 to 30; 16-16-600 and 61-19-28 to 29.

Categorical Exclusions

Some activities conducted on WRHP have little to no potential to affect archaeological sites. These undertakings may occur in areas that have not been surveyed for archaeological sites. The following undertakings shall be categorically exempted from review by the SCDNR archaeologist and SHPO:

1. Routine grounds maintenance such as mowing and tree trimming;
2. Cemetery maintenance such as mowing, trimming brush, and reseeding;
3. Landscaping such as in-kind paving repair and minor plant removal/ replacement;
4. Rehabilitation of existing trails with in-kind materials;
5. Paving existing roads or parking areas with grading limited to 0-8 cm (0-3 in.), or repaving with in-kind materials without grading or removal of existing surface;
6. Replacement, maintenance, or replacement of utility lines, transmission lines, and fences within existing easements;
7. Routine forestry and timber management activities limited to the following:
 - a) plowing existing firebreaks
 - b) prescribed or controlled burns where no above ground architecture is present
 - c) timber harvesting without mechanical equipment
 - d) herbicide applications

- e) pesticide applications;
- 8. Plowing existing wildlife food plots;
- 9. Routine roadway, roadside, and drainage system maintenance activities;
- 10. Construction or placement of buildings that require minimal site grading (0-8 cm [0-3 in.]), no foundations and no dug footings.

Emergency Response to Catastrophic Event

A plan was developed by SCDNR to deal with catastrophic events such as hurricane, tornados, or wildfire. The following Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) will be used when responding to emergencies on WRHP. Immediate rescue and salvage efforts to preserve life and property are exempt. The current SCDNR strategy is to restore infrastructure as quickly as possible. Once accomplished, a period of evaluation would commence followed by timber salvage operations. Efforts will be made to avoid impact to the archaeological sites during the restoration of infrastructure through consultation with the SCDNR archaeologist.

Immediately after a catastrophic event the SCDNR archaeologist will be notified. The SCDNR will take immediate action to assess obvious damages to archaeological sites and take preventive measures to reduce further damage. During the recovery phase and restoration of infrastructure the SCDNR archeologist will be on site for consultation on archaeological sites. During any timber salvage operations, the forest management guidelines will be followed.

Archaeological Research and Investigations

Research and study opportunities will be encouraged. Archaeological investigations will be allowed when reviewed and approved by the Preserve Manager/Wildlife Biologist, SCDNR Archeologist and SHPO. Requests by professional archaeologists to work on the property must be submitted in writing along with a detailed research design and vitae of project principals to the South Carolina DNR Archaeologist, PO Box 167, Columbia, SC 29202. The archaeologist must meet or exceed the Standards of the Secretary of the Interior (48 F.R. 44738-44739) and act pursuant to the criteria set forth by the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office Guidelines and Standards for Archaeological Investigations.

PUBLIC USE AND VISITATION

SCDNR encourages recreational activities such as hunting, fishing, hiking, birding, plant and wildlife observation, and photography. Close adherence to the regulations that apply to all Department of Natural Resources owned and managed land is necessary to protect their ecological integrity. Regulations specific to this property also apply. Various statutes including the Heritage Trust Act (51-17-10), State Sanctuary Areas (50-11-860) and the WMA General Regulations (50-11-2200, Chapters 123-40 & 123-200) provide for regulations concerning uses on SCDNR owned properties.

WRHP will be open to public access during daylight hours except during lottery hunts. The area will be closed to public access during nighttime except for legal hunting. All users must follow

written instructions at access points on closures, as well as sign-in and sign-out procedures. Waterfowl impoundments will be closed to all access during the late fall and winter except for lottery hunters. Other areas on the property may be closed by signs when necessary due to flooding, road maintenance, management activities, or research projects.

A primary access road system is maintained to permit access to important areas throughout the property. The main access road will be open year round except during lottery hunts. Other primary access roads are opened each year for motorized, vehicular access from September 15 to January 15 and March 20 to May 10, subject to safety and management issues. All primary and secondary roads are open for foot travel, unless closed by signage. Both seasonally open roads and permanently closed roads will be marked with signs.

Each year the primary access road system requires substantial maintenance which is accomplished with a farm tractor, motor grader, and bulldozer. Secondary roads are graded, stabilized and seeded to prevent erosion, soil movement and impacts to the stream system. Secondary roads are used for forest monitoring, management of invasives or exotics, timber harvest, woodland fire management, search and rescue, plant and animal surveys and numerous general management purposes. The minimum standards for Best Management Practices for Forestry in South Carolina are generally exceeded in maintaining all forest management roads.

ATV use will not be allowed on the property. Horseback riding will be allowed by special permit only. Non-motorized bicycle use is allowed except where closed by signage. Foot travel is encouraged during open periods.

Camping will be allowed on the Wateree River Heritage Preserve Wildlife Management Area by special permit. Camping permits will only be issued to organized groups of a conservation nature such as scouting organizations, with prior approval. No existing campgrounds exist on WRHP. Camping will be primitive with no facilities and will require no trace standards.

REGULATIONS

Close adherence to the regulations that apply to all Heritage Preserves is necessary to protect the ecological integrity of the preserve. Regulations specific to this preserve may also apply in the future. Inordinate degradation of any portion of the preserve may force the SCDNR to temporarily or permanently exclude the public from affected areas.

The Law Enforcement Division of SCDNR, plus all other state and local law enforcement officials, have the authority to enforce Heritage Preserve regulations. Officers will enforce state hunting and fishing regulations, as well as preserve regulations. SCDNR personnel who hold deputy commissions also have authority to enforce regulations.

PHYSICAL FACILITIES

The boundaries of the preserve have been painted and marked with "Heritage Preserve" and "WMA" signs. The boundaries will be painted and posted on an as-needed basis. The facilities on WRHP are for DNR activities to accomplish the management goals on the property.

Shed 1

This shed is an open shed constructed on the former Goodwill Plantation tract in 2011 and it is approximately 3,250 square feet in size and 20 feet in height.

Shed 2

This shed is an open shed constructed on the former Goodwill Plantation tract in 2012 with closed sections on each end, one which is a storage area and the other is a shop area. The combined area of the enclosed portions is approximately 1,000 square feet and the total square footage of the shed 2 is 3,700 square feet with a building height of 24 feet.

Shed 3

This shed is an open shed constructed on the former Goodwill Plantation tract in 2012 and it is approximately 3,000 square feet in size and 20 feet in height. All three sheds have electrical power and lights.

Mobile Home

The mobile home was placed on the former Goodwill Plantation tract in 2015 to provide housing for a biologist or technician.

Cook's Mountain Shed

This is a pole and truss construction with a metal roof. The date of construction is unknown, the shed appears to be between 15 and 20 years old. It includes enclosed areas at each end which have approximate total area of 850 square feet. The combined area of the shed is 2,800 square feet.

Cook's Mountain House

The 2-story residential structure is log construction on the exterior with interior stud and drywall construction. The building has an approximate 12/12 pitch roof with dormers and asphaltic/fiberglass architectural shingles. The building is on a raised foundation. The structure has attached porches front and rear as well as an attached deck on the rear of the structure. The structure consists of 3 bedrooms, living area, kitchen and 3 baths. The structure is 2,498 square feet of heated area with a building height of approximately 30 feet and was constructed in 1988.

The Office and Education Center

The structure is wood frame construction with post and beam construction on the open air pavilion area. The interior is stud and drywall construction. The structure is 1-story with a gazebo-style roof with an approximately 4/12 pitch and asphaltic/fiberglass architectural shingles. The structure is on a combination raised and slab foundation. The structures consist of a small indoor meeting area and a larger outdoor meeting area as well as one bedroom, kitchen and bathroom. The structure is approximately 1,200 square feet with a building height of approximately 18 feet and was constructed in 2001.

ADDITIONAL REMARKS

Specific management actions will generally be implemented within the preceding guidelines. However, the SCDNR recognizes that unforeseen management needs, conditions, and opportunities may arise, and therefore reserves the right to implement action in such situations, as long as such actions (1) adhere to the guidelines of the Heritage Trust Act, and (2) further the primary objective of this plan. This plan will be amended as needed to cover changing conditions. Pertinent deeds, plats, dedication agreements, and other preserve information are available for public inspection at the SCDNR headquarters office in Columbia. For more information on this preserve contact the Wildlife Region 3 Coordinator, 1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29202 (803-734-3886).

Appendix

American elm	<i>Ulmus Americana</i>
American holly	<i>Ilex opaca</i>
American sycamore	<i>Plantanus occidentalis</i>
Arrow arum	<i>Peltandra virginica</i>
Ash	<i>Fraxinus spp.</i>
Asian coin leaf	<i>Centella asiatica</i>
Asiatic dayflower	<i>C.communis</i>
Asters	<i>Aster spp.</i>
Bald cypress	<i>Taxodium distichum</i>
Beggartick	<i>Desmondium spp.</i>
Black willow	<i>Salix nigra</i>
Blackberries	<i>Rubus spp.</i>
Blackjack oak	<i>Q. marilandica</i>
Boxelder	<i>A. negundo</i>
Bracken fern	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>
Broomstraw	<i>Andropogon virginicus</i>
Buttonbush	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>
Cardinal flower	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>
Carolina ash	<i>F. caroliniana</i>
Carolina bird-in-a- nest	<i>Macbridea cardiniana</i>

Cattail	<i>Typha latifolia</i>
Cherrybark oak	<i>Q. pagoda</i>
Climbing hydrangea	<i>Decumaria barbara</i>
Cottonwood	<i>Populus deltoids</i>
Crabgrass	<i>Digitaria sanguinalis</i>
Cross vine	<i>Bignonia capreolata</i>
Dayflowers	<i>Commelina spp.</i>
Deciduous holly	<i>I. decidua</i>
Dwarf palmetto	<i>Sabal minor</i>
False nettle	<i>Boehmeria cylindrical</i>
Fetterbush	<i>Leucothoe racemose</i>
Flat sedges	<i>Cyperus spp.</i>
Goldenrods	<i>Solidago spp.</i>
Gray squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>
Green ash	<i>F. pennsylvanica</i>
Greenbriars	<i>Smilax spp.</i>
Hawthorns	<i>Crataegus spp.</i>
Ironwood	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>
Japanese honeysuckle	<i>Lincera japonica</i>
Lespedeza	<i>Lespedeza spp.</i>
Lizard's tail	<i>Saururus cernuus</i>
Loblolly pine	<i>P. taeda</i>
Longleaf pine	<i>Pinus palustris</i>
Muscadine	<i>Vitis rotundifolia</i>
Netted chain fern	<i>Woodwardia areolate</i>
Overcup oak	<i>Quercus lyrata</i>
Panic grasses	<i>Panicum spp.</i>
Pawpaw	<i>Asimina triloba</i>
Pennywort	<i>Hydrocotyle umbellate</i>
Pepper vine	<i>Ampelopsis arborea</i>
Plume grass	<i>Erianthus giganteus</i>
Poison ively	<i>Toxicodendron radicans</i>
Possumhaw	<i>Viburnum nudum</i>
Post oak	<i>Q. stellata</i>
Privet	<i>Liqustrum sinense</i>
Pumpkin ash	<i>F. tomentosa</i>
Raccoon	<i>Procyon lotor</i>
Rattanvine	<i>Berchemia scandens</i>
Rice cutgrass	<i>Leersia oryzoidesi</i>
River birch	<i>Betula nigra</i>
River oats	<i>Uniola latifolia</i>
Rock chestnut oak	<i>Q. prinus</i>
Royal fern	<i>Osmunda regalis var. spectabilis</i>
Scarlet oak	<i>Q. coccinea</i>
Sedges	<i>Carex spp.</i>
Silver maple	<i>A. saccharinum</i>

Smartweeds	<i>Polgonum spp.</i>
Sourwood	<i>O. arboretum</i>
Southern fox squirrel	<i>Sciurus niger niger</i>
Southern red oak	<i>Q. falcata</i>
Spanish moss	<i>Tillandsia usneoides</i>
Sparkleberry	<i>V.arboretum</i>
Spatterdock	<i>Nuphar advena</i>
Sphagnum mosses	<i>Sphagnum spp.</i>
Sugarberry	<i>Celtis laevigata</i>
Summer grape	<i>Vitis aestivalis</i>
Swamp chestnut oak	<i>Q.michauxii</i>
Swamp tupelo	<i>Nyssa biflora</i>
Sweet bay	<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>
Sweetgum	<i>Liquidambar stryaciflua</i>
Switch cane	<i>Arundinaria tecta</i>
Tag alder	<i>Alnus serrulata</i>
Thoroughworts	<i>Eupatorium spp.</i>
Titi	<i>Cyrilla racemiflora</i>
Trumpet vines	<i>Campsis radicans</i>
Turkey oak	<i>Q. laevis</i>
Vaseygrass	<i>Paspalum urvillei</i>
Violets	<i>Viola spp.</i>
Virginia willow	<i>Itea virginica</i>
Water elm	<i>Planera aquatica</i>
Water hickory	<i>C. aquatica</i>
Water oak	<i>Quercus nigra</i>
Water tupelo	<i>N. aquatica</i>
Water willow	<i>Decodon verticillantus</i>
Watershield	<i>Brasenia schreberi</i>
Wax myrtle	<i>M. cerifera</i>
White waterlily	<i>Nymphaea odorata</i>
Whitetail deer	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>
Wild turkey	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>
Winged sumac	<i>Rhus copallina</i>
Wool grass bulrush	<i>Scirpus cyperinus</i>
Yellow jessamine	<i>Gelsemium sempervirens</i>

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WATEREE RIVER HERITAGE PRESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN

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