

THE PEE DEE
RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AREA PLAN

Overview of the 2002 Update

The original broad goals A – D have been deemed sufficient and remain unchanged.

A. A GROWING ECONOMIC BASE WHICH PROVIDES JOB OPPORTUNITIES AND A BETTER QUALITY LIFE FOR OUR RESIDENTS

While significant accomplishments have been made in the areas of environmental education and dry hydrant/water storage installation, these objectives are being continued in the updated area plan. Additional objectives for this goal added in 2000 are: Assist units of governments, planning boards, chambers of commerce, soil & water conservation districts, and others with transition into the digital information age. Provide guidance and assistance with digital data development, and digital technology transfer; and, Encourage and assist local governments with adoption/implementation of Geographic Information Systems for cadastral data management and land use planning. Objective 3 has been modified to include an emphasis on cultural heritage facility/program development as a means of promoting the tourism industry.

B. A FLOOD REDUCTION PROGRAM WHICH PROVIDES A QUALITY ENVIRONMENT

Numerous ongoing projects have been adopted for this goal. Notable accomplishments are the Brown/Miles Drainage Project in Marlboro County and the Latta Flood Control Project in Dillon County. No new objectives have been added for this goal, however objective 3 has been modified to place an emphasis on the development of digital flood insurance maps for the area.

C. WATER QUALITY/QUANTITY INITIATIVE TO UPGRADE OUR STANDARD OF LIVING

Notable accomplishments include: Establishment of the Pee Dee Land Trust/Mitigation Bank, The Crooked Creek Water Quality Demonstration Project in Marlboro, and development of the Decision Support System for Agricultural Waste Management in cooperation with the University of South Carolina's Earth Science Resource Institute. The Thompson Creek Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Water Quality Assessment Project is an ongoing project related to this goal. Also, the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources is currently inventorying the amount/quality of surface and subsurface water for this area.

D. RECREATIONAL AND WILDLIFE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL CITIZENS AND VISITORS

Accomplishments include: Power for Wildlife, development of the Pee Dee Regional Trails Plan in cooperation with the Palmetto Conservation Foundation, Love Sports Complex in Marlboro, Blue Street Ball Field in Darlington, and developments on the Craig's Mill Trail in Chesterfield. A new objective is added to assist with implementation of the Pee Dee Regional Trails Plan. Also, Objective 4 has been modified to emphasize the development of cultural heritage/agrotourism facilities and programs.

THE PEE DEE
RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AREA PLAN

PREPARED BY
THE PEE DEE RC&D AREA COUNCIL, INC.

2002

ASSISTED BY
THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND
COOPERATING LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL AGENCIES

PREPARED UNDER AUTHORITY OF SECTIONS 1528-1538 OF THE
AGRICULTURE FOOD ACT OF 1981 (PL 97-98)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
1835 ASSEMBLY ST. ROOM 950
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- ◆ Pee Dee Regional Council of Governments
- ◆ Chesterfield County Council
- ◆ Chesterfield Soil and Water Conservation District
- ◆ Chesterfield Town Council
- ◆ Cheraw Town Council
- ◆ Jefferson Town Council
- ◆ McBee Town Council
- ◆ Pageland Town Council
- ◆ Chesterfield County Extension Service
- ◆ Chesterfield County Chamber of Commerce
- ◆ Darlington County Council
- ◆ Darlington Soil and Water Conservation District
- ◆ Darlington City Council
- ◆ Hartsville City Council
- ◆ Lamar Town Council
- ◆ Society Hill Town Council
- ◆ Darlington Chamber of Commerce
- ◆ Hartsville Chamber of Commerce
- ◆ Darlington County Planning Commission
- ◆ Darlington County Extension Service
- ◆ Darlington County Farmers Home Administration
- ◆ Darlington County Palmetto Leadership

- ◆ Dillon County Council
- ◆ Dillon County Soil and Water Conservation District
- ◆ Dillon Town Council
- ◆ Latta Town Council
- ◆ Lake View Town Council
- ◆ Dillon County Chamber of Commerce
- ◆ Dillon County Extension Service
- ◆ Marion County Council
- ◆ Marion Soil and Water Conservation District
- ◆ Marion City Council
- ◆ Mullins City Council
- ◆ Nichols Town Council
- ◆ Sellers Town Council
- ◆ Marion County Chamber of Commerce
- ◆ Marion County Extension Service
- ◆ Marlboro County Council
- ◆ Marlboro Soil and Water Conservation District
- ◆ Bennettsville City Council
- ◆ Clio Town Council
- ◆ McColl Town Council
- ◆ Marlboro County Extension Service
- ◆ Marlboro County Chamber of Commerce
- ◆ Marlboro County Economic Development Board
- ◆ Marlboro Farmers Home Administration
- ◆ Marlboro Electric Cooperative
- ◆ Pee Dee Electric Cooperative
- ◆ SC. Land Resources Commission

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY/FACT SHEET

The Pee Dee Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area Council was organized in early 1992 and approved by the Secretary of Agriculture in late February of 1994. Our **VISION** is: A Productive Economy with Opportunities for all Citizens.

MISSION: To meet society's changing needs by enhancing the economic and social well being of area residents while sustaining healthy ecosystems in our RC&D Council Area.

Proposed projects come from our local units of government, citizen groups, soil conservation districts, county planning commissions, and others. From May 1992 until September 1993, public input with over 1000 hours of volunteer time led to the development of the original Area Plan. This updated Area Plan has been developed in calendar years 2001 and 2002 with community input from the original contributors and other interested citizens.

RC&D is an independent, non-profit, tax-exempt organization where citizen input is sought, considered, and acted upon when it meets our goals and objectives. The Council's projects and/or activities are determined and directed by a fifteen member board (three members from each of the five counties) comprised of a cross section of local citizens. This "People Program" begins at the grass roots level and works to help individuals and groups organize to help themselves.

Most projects are completed through a combination of cooperative efforts by private citizens, groups, businesses, and units of government, local, state, and federal. After a project is adopted for work, the RC&D Council may seek private or public grants or other funding as needed. The Council may also secure technical assistance from private or public sources to implement various projects.

Four broad goals have been established to guide our work:

- A. A GROWING ECONOMIC BASE WHICH PROVIDES JOB OPPORTUNITIES AND A BETTER QUALITY LIFE FOR OUR RESIDENTS
- B. A FLOOD REDUCTION PROGRAM WHICH PROVIDES A QUALITY ENVIRONMENT
- C. WATER QUALITY/QUANTITY INITIATIVE TO UPGRADE OUR STANDARD OF LIVING
- D. RECREATIONAL AND WILDLIFE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL CITIZENS AND VISITORS

The Pee Dee RC&D Council works with all persons, committees, units of government, agencies, and others to implement its Area Plan and the Plan of Work.

JASPER EADDY
Chairperson

THE PEE DEE RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AREA

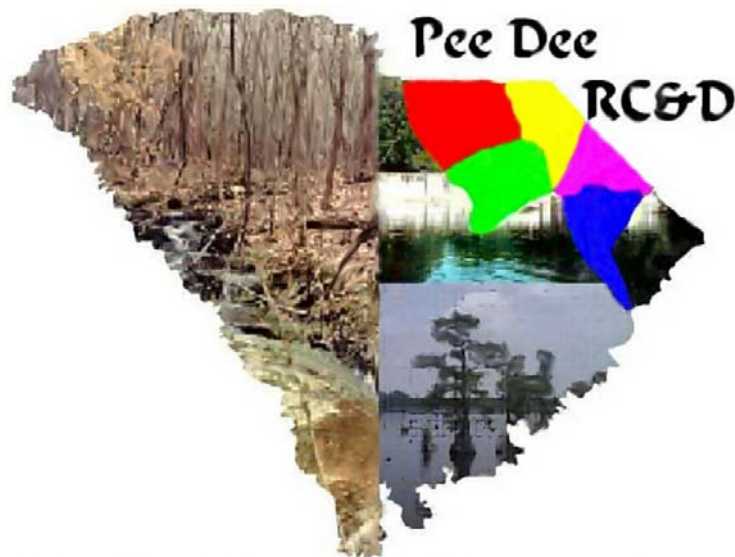
LOCATION AND SETTING

The Pee Dee RC&D Area is located in northeastern South Carolina. This area is made up of five counties totaling 1,800,000 acres. The counties are Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Marion, and Marlboro. According to the 2000 census, 205,168 people reside in the five county area and over 48 percent are minorities. Hartsville and Darlington are the largest populated areas. Other cities and towns include: Chesterfield, Cheraw, Pageland, McBee, Lamar, Society Hill, Dillon, Lake View, Latta, Marion, Mullins, Nichols, Bennettsville, Clio, and McColl. Various smaller communities exist throughout the area. Within this rural area no municipality has a population greater than 10,000. The area has many historical sites and is named after its major river, the Great Pee Dee. There are numerous large rivers and streams in the five counties. The Pee Dee Regional Council of Governments serves all five counties with regional planning responsibilities.

The land use consists of 56 percent woodland, 30 percent cropland and pastureland, 7 percent water bodies, and 7 percent urban/built-up areas, plus other smaller land uses. Soils range from flat coxville bays to steep sandy or clay loam soils.

The majority of the work force is employed in non-agricultural type industries, even though most of the land is used for agricultural purposes. Manufacturing, retail trade, and the service industries employ most of the workforce. Agriculture (number of farms), and the other industries have been on the decline for the past several years. Overall wages and the standard of living remain below the national and state average. The area's economy has seen little improvement in more than ten years.

Tables I through IV depict economic growth, land use and acreage, population, and employment by industry.



PEE DEE RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AREA COUNCIL

CHESTERFIELD DARLINGTON DILLON
MARION MARLBORO

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF AREA:

Major Streams - The major streams, rivers and water bodies in the region include the Great Pee Dee River, Little Pee Dee River, Lynch River, the Lumber River, Lake Robinson, Lake Wallace, and Black Creek.

The Great Pee Dee River originates in North Carolina and flows 169 miles southeasterly through South Carolina. The principal tributary streams are Black Creek near Hartsville and Darlington, and Thompson Creek in the vicinity of Chesterfield.

The Little Pee Dee River also originates in North Carolina and enters South Carolina in Marlboro County where it flows over 116 miles in a southerly direction until it enters the Great Pee Dee River. Drainage is provided by the Lumber River, which starts in North Carolina and flows southerly to the South Carolina State line where it enters the Little Pee Dee River near the town of Nichols in Marion County.

The Lynch River originates in Union County, North Carolina and flows 144 miles in a southeasterly direction from the North Carolina South Carolina State line, along the western edge of Chesterfield and Darlington Counties, to its junction with the Great Pee Dee River near Johnsonville in Florence County.

Land Use - Refer to Table II on following pages for the Acreage and Land Use of the five-county area. It should be noted that various livestock operations are important in the area. The Pee Dee RC&D Area has hundreds of livestock producers including: dairies, beef cows, swine, chickens (broilers, layers, etc.), turkeys, etc. Also, growers are establishing crops such as strawberries, Christmas trees, blueberries, and various horticultural crops.

Vegetation - The following types of vegetation are present in all of the five counties: Woodlands, grasslands, croplands, brush, and riverine wetlands. A large percentage of the Woodlands in the area consist of pines. A mosaic of the vegetative cover types combine to form the grasslands, croplands, and brush type of vegetation. Much of the area is agricultural land on which field crops such as soybeans, corn, small grains, cotton, tobacco, and truck crops are grown. To a lesser extent, are the grasslands of the improved and unimproved pasture and fallow fields which are now converted to native vegetation. The riverine wetlands cover the wooded/shrub swamps and seasonally flooded bottomlands. The wooded swamps are extensive and are located throughout the area.

Soils - The five county Area comprised of Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Marion, and Marlboro covers portions of four major Land Resource Areas. These are the Southern Piedmont, the Carolina and Georgia Sand Hills, the Southern Coastal Plain, and the Atlantic Coast Flatwoods. A brief description of the Resource Areas follows:

1. The Southern Piedmont:

Most of these soils are well drained and have clayey or loamy subsoil. Georgeville, Badin, Rion, Pacolet, Goldston, and Cecil are the dominant upland soils in this region. The soils on the flood plains of the Southern Piedmont are well drained to poorly drained with the same type subsoils and occur along the rivers, streams, and their tributaries. Chewacla, Chastain and Riverview are the major soils in this area.

2. The Carolina and Georgia Sand Hills:

Most of these soils are well drained to excessively drained, with sandy or loamy subsoils. Candor, Troup, Ailey, Pelion, Alpin, and Vaucluse are the dominant upland soils in this area. The soils on the flood plains are poorly to very poorly drained with loamy subsoils. They occur mainly along the creeks and their tributaries. Johnston and Bibb are the major soils along the flood plains.

3. The Southern Coastal Plain:

Most of these soils are well drained to somewhat poorly drained with clayey or loamy subsoils. The moderately well and well drained soils occur on the ridges and sloping areas, while the somewhat poorly to very poorly drained soils are on the broad and flat depressions, on the flood plains, or in the many oval shaped depressions commonly known as the "Carolina Bays". The soils which dominate the upland are: Norfolk, Noboco, Dothan, Goldsboro, Lynchburg, Dunbar, Wagram, Coxville, Rains, and Pantego. Lakeland and Foxworth soils occur on the sandy areas. The dominant soils on the flood plains along the rivers, creeks, and along tributaries of the resource area are well drained to poorly drained with clayey or loamy subsoil. Riverview, Chewacla, Chenneby, Tawcaw, Chastain, Wehadkee, Bibb, Kinston, Johnston, Rutlege, and Paxville are the dominant soils in this area.

4. The Atlantic Coast Flatwoods:

The soils in the resource area are very similar to those in the Southern Coastal Plain Resource Area, except that this area is dominated with soils that are moderately well drained to poorly drained and have sandy to clayey subsoils. Persanti, Goldsboro, Lynchburg, Cantey, Rains, Coxville, and Byars are the soils which dominate the upland of this resource area.

TABLE I

ECONOMIC AND GROWTH CHARACTERISTICS

FOR THE

COUNTIES OF CHESTERFIELD, DARLINGTON, DILLON, MARION, AND MARLBORO

COUNTY	POPULATION			MINORITY POPULATION	
	2000	CHANGE, 1990-2000		2000 PERSONS	PERCENT
Chesterfield	42,768	+4193	(+10.9%)	15,253	35.6%
Darlington	67,394	+5543	(+9.0%)	28,992	43.0%
Dillon	30,722	+1608	(+5.5%)	15,241	49.6%
Marion	35,466	+1567	(+4.6%)	20,679	58.3%
Marlboro	28,818	- 898	(-3.0%)	15,998	55.5%
SC.			(+15.1%)		32.8%
U.S.			(+13.2%)		30.9%

COUNTY	UNEMPLOYMENT			PER CAPITA INCOME		% OF 1980 POP. BELOW POVERTY
	3/93	2 YR EDA	5 YR EDA	1987	% OF U S	
Chesterfield	6.3%	5.2%	5.0%	\$8,459	71%	19.5%
Darlington	8.9%	6.8%	6.8%	\$8,574	72%	23.1%
Dillon	11.0%	8.0%	7.3%	\$7,038	59%	30.0%
Marion	15.1%	10.3%	9.7%	\$7,331	61%	26.3%
Marlboro	11.6%	9.7%	9.6%	\$7,212	61%	24.6%
SC.	7.0%					16.6%
U.S.	7.3%			\$11,924		

COUNTY	Industrial Jobs & Capital			1978-87% Change in Agricultural		
	Investment, 1964-1990	Jobs Created	Farms	Cropland	Product Value	
Chesterfield	\$ 427 mil	11,100	-68%	-70%	-51%	
Darlington	\$1,159 mil	8,500	-56%	-32%	- 3%	
Dillon	\$ 101 mil	4,300	-64%	-43%	-25%	
Marion	\$ 214 mil	9,200	-55%	-37%	-13%	
Marlboro	\$ 497 mil	6,300	-64%	-25%	-27%	

Source: Pee Dee Regional Council of Governments/US Census Bureau.

TABLE II

ACREAGE AND LAND USE BY COUNTY

FOR THE

COUNTIES OF CHESTERFIELD, DARLINGTON, DILLON, MARION, AND MARLBORO

COUNTY	*URBAN USES	**AGRI- CULTURE	WOODLAND	WATER	OTHER	TOTALS
Chesterfield	17,800	138,500	347,300	5,300	3,100	512,000
Darlington	29,700	144,700	175,000	4,200	6,600	360,200
Dillon	12,750	102,700	137,900	2,000	4,350	259,700
Marion	15,100	58,500	233,900	3,700	4,200	315,400
Marlboro	16,600	118,800	168,300	1,850	4,950	310,500
TOTALS	91,950	563,200	1,062,400	17,050	23,200	1,757,800

Source: Pee Dee Regional Council of Governments, Regional Land Use and Housing Plan and the USDA - SCS County Resource Inventory data updated 1987.

* Urban includes urban and built-up areas plus roads.

** Agricultural land includes cropland, pastureland, orchards, and truck crops.

- Data includes federally owned land in some cases.

- Data is rounded-off.

TABLE III

**POPULATION DATA
FOR THE FIVE COUNTY AREA**

COUNTY	1990 POP.	URBAN	% URBAN	RURAL	%RURAL	FARM POP.
Chesterfield	38,577	8,526	22.1	30,051	77.9	887
Darlington	61,851	20,489	33.1	41,362	66.9	1,937
Dillon	29,114	6,829	23.5	22,285	76.5	939
Marion	33,899	13,568	40.0	20,331	60.0	1,076
Marlboro	29,361	12,030	41.0	17,331	59.0	452
TOTALS	192,802	61,442	31.9	131,360	68.1	5,291

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, "Selected Social Characteristics", Summary Tape File 3A, 1990.

TABLE IV
EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY
1990

	CHESTERFIELD	DARLINGTON	DILLON	MARION	MARLBORO
Total Employment (16+)	17,334	27,574	11,789	14,096	11,847
Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries	889	999	552	668	581
Mining	164	29	13	2	62
Construction	1,105	1,506	740	769	575
Manufacturing	8,089	9,175	2,961	5,668	4,875
Transportation	406	770	1,193	316	381
Communications & other Util.	263	934	95	198	97
Wholesale Trade	424	871	218	404	373
Retail Trade	2,046	4,343	2,004	1,814	1,761
Finance, Real Estate, and Insurance	399	1,143	328	564	256
Services	3,559	7,804	3,215	3,693	2,886

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, "Selected Labor Force and Commuting Characteristics, Summary Tape File 3A, 1990.

PROBLEMS

Problems, concerns, and/or issues are discussed at length in the following pages. Below is a listing of many of the problems, concerns, and/or issues. These concerns were raised by citizens at public meetings, and from input by individuals/groups throughout the 5 county RC&D project area.

- The flooding of homes, businesses, schools, roads, churches, and private properties occur in all the five counties. This affects literally thousands of people, most of whom are minority and low income. Economic, social, and environmental concerns/problems are associated with this issue.
- Population growth over the past ten years affects all residents with respect to social and economic concerns.
- The targeted area has a minority population of over 48 percent, most of whom live below the 1980 poverty level. Many of these residents are also socially disadvantaged.
- The growth of our labor force has been minimal over the last decade as indicated by the table on economic growth. Proper training/education is a primary concern here.
- This five county area has consistently ranked among the highest in unemployment for the state. Dillon, Marlboro and Marion Counties have been in the top ten counties with the highest unemployment during the past decade. Minorities and women bear a significantly greater burden of the unemployment than other population groups.
- Household and per capita incomes are far below the national average and per capita income growth has not kept pace with the nation or the state of South Carolina.
- Over 30 percent of our population live below the national poverty level set in 1980. This is indicative of a great deal of economic and social stress.
- All five counties lag behind in capital investment from industrial and business expansion over the past 25 years (1964-1990).
- The historical agricultural base is in a state of continuous and rapid decline. The number of farms, harvested croplands and the value of our farm products is declining rapidly as depicted by the previous tables. Certainly, diversification is critical to our economic growth and survival.
- Industrial and business closures have increased in the past several years, again indicating a definite weakness in the area's economy.
- Overall, the economy has seen no improvement in over five years, as evidenced by nearly all the economic indicators.

- There is limited planning being done with respect to our water quality or water quantity and other growth issues. Marlboro County already has a water quantity and quality problem for the town of Bennettsville.
- Waste management for both humans and animals is an increasing problem which local governments must solve and develop solutions. The subject of landfills alone is a tremendous economic and social factor affecting every resident.
- Recycling, particularly of paper and plastics, is becoming more and more urgent every month. Many people are concerned and want something done with our recycling efforts.
- Stormwater and sediment reduction programs for developing areas have created much controversy. Education of all our residents is sorely needed.
- The lack of awareness by our citizens for our many recreational and wildlife opportunities is common. An information and education campaign in conjunction with improvements in facilities and programs will benefit the community.
- Rural development in general, with respect to needs such as rural fire protection, rural water systems, and rural sewer systems, is a concern of citizens throughout the 5 county Area. Our minority and low-income population share a disproportionate part of this concern.
- Our illiteracy rate is over 20 percent and the school dropout rate is above the state average. This creates many social and economic problems.
- A more skilled and educated work force is needed so our citizens can compete in today's economy.
- Internal and external communications between all the economic development allies and diversity of citizens and organizations is critical for our economy to progress.
- Expansion of our infrastructure, especially in transportation is essential for our economic development.

These concerns and others were gathered from input resulting from public meetings, council meetings, executive committee meetings, other groups, resource committees, units of government, etc. By no means are all the problems and concerns listed, but we have attempted to list the priority items. Our Pee Dee RC&D Council will strive to work with other groups, units of government, the Pee Dee Council of Governments, etc. to study, plan, obtain needed resources, coordinate, and/or implement projects to accomplish the goals and objectives as set forth in this Area Plan and our Plan of Operation.

PEE DEE RC&D AREA COUNCIL, INC.

ISSUES/CONCERNS, GOALS, AND OBJECTIVES

ISSUES/ CONCERNS

Education is one of the key factors in improving our economic base. Decreasing the illiteracy rate of over 20 percent and providing a more skilled work force is vital. The school dropout rate of over 20 percent is alarming and detrimental to our society and economic base. Programs to increase our family stability and parenting skills are also much needed for our social and economic survivability.

To attract business and industry, the need to expand and provide an adequate infrastructure is a must. We also have to develop and implement an area transportation plan if we are to compete for business and industrial development.

There is a definite need to improve the internal and external communication with all economic development allies and build a framework for team work, cooperation, and coordination.

GOAL A: DEVELOP A GROWING ECONOMIC BASE WHICH PROVIDES JOB OPPORTUNITIES AND A BETTER QUALITY LIFE FOR OUR RESIDENTS.

Objective 1: Decrease the illiteracy rate and provide a more skilled work force for business and industry.

- a. Encourage area technical schools to get the necessary training programs for prospective industry.
- b. Assist agencies, groups, etc. to identify and develop programs for individuals in need of training.
- c. Develop and implement a campaign to promote literacy.
- d. Work with school districts and county governments to obtain more "on site" work place literacy programs. Provide the needed coordination.

Objective 2: Assist with the planning and implementation of a county wide water system in all 5 counties.

- a. Meet with county officials and the water department officials to document needs.
- b. Assist with seeking funds for the different phases of project implementation.

Objective 3: Encourage and assist local communities with the planning and implementation of cultural heritage/agrotourism and environmental education facility development.

Objective 4: Provide information and coordination of programs to our units of government, chambers of commerce, civic groups, etc. with respect to countywide planning.

Objective 5: Seek funds and materials for each county to install additional dry hydrants for rural fire protection and a lower ISO rating for property owners.

Objective 6: Work with the Regional Council of Governments, County governments, City governments, the planning commissions, development boards, etc. to develop and implement a Transportation Plan to meet the needs for the future of the five-county area. The proposed interstate 73 and improvements of existing highways are typical of area transportation needs.

Objective 7: Develop, with the above units of government, etc., a coordinated effort to plan and implement the recycling of paper, aluminum, plastics, and other solid waste.

Objective 8: Encourage and assist local governments with adoption/implementation of Geographic Information Systems for cadastral data management and land use planning.

a. Provide information and assistance to county councils, our city councils, development boards, chambers of commerce, and other applicable groups, on long range planning.

Objective 9: Assist units of governments, planning boards, chambers of commerce, soil & water conservation districts, and others with transition into the digital information age.

a. Provide guidance and assistance with digital data development, and digital technology transfer.

PEE DEE RC&D AREA COUNCIL, INC.

ISSUES/CONCERNS, GOALS, AND OBJECTIVES

ISSUES/ CONCERNS

The population of these five counties is comprised of more than 48 percent minority families. The concern is that many are low income residents living in low lying areas subjected to frequent flooding. Many water management problems exist throughout the area. Homes, roads, schools, businesses, agricultural land, and other private property experience frequent flood damages. There is a lack of data on the amount, location, and economic loss due to this flooding. Communication and cooperation between the public, units of government, and agencies is a must. Financing and staffing for the implementation of the area's sediment and erosion control programs is needed for the training, education, and in some cases, the enforcement.

GOAL B: A FLOOD REDUCTION PROGRAM WHICH PROVIDES A BETTER QUALITY ENVIRONMENT.

Objective 1: Reduce flood damages throughout the area.

Objective 3: Encourage the Update/development of digital flood insurance maps for the area.

Objective 4: Coordinate the incorporation of drainage and flooding considerations in land use planning by local officials and units of government.

Objective 5: Educate the county governments, developers, lenders, engineers, home buyers, and realtors with regard to flooding and erosion problems and solutions.

Objective 6: Improve the interagency cooperative efforts on flood and sediment reduction with:

1. Water Resources Commission
2. Department of Health and Environmental Control
3. Corps of Engineers
4. SC Department of Natural Resources
5. U.S. Department of Agriculture
6. U.S. Geological Survey
7. Environmental Protection Agency
8. Federal Emergency Management Agency
9. Soil and Water Conservation Districts
10. City and County Governments
11. Council of Governments

PEE DEE RC&D AREA COUNCIL, INC.

ISSUES/CONCERNS, GOALS, AND OBJECTIVES

ISSUES/ CONCERNS

Water quality and quantity concerns are a high priority for the citizens in our RC&D project area. Data indicates that we are depleting our deep water aquifers much faster than they are being replenished. There is also a growing concern for the pollution of our surface water and wells from agricultural, industrial, and other sources. The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources is currently inventorying the amount/quality of surface and subsurface water for this area.. One of our counties has already experienced a shortage of water for human consumption and a contamination of a town's water supply. This, along with the possibility that our surface and subsurface water supplies may be contaminated from industrial and agricultural chemicals, has resulted in the initiative of improving our water quality and quantity.

GOAL C: WATER QUALITY/QUANTITY INITIATIVE TO UPGRADE THE STANDARD OF LIVING.

Objective 1: Reduce the degradation of our water quantity and water quality.

Objective 2: Inform the public through all news media about the issues facing everyone with respect to our water quality and water quantity.

Objective 3: Preserve and protect our natural and manmade wetlands. Assist in promoting the Pee Dee Land Trust/Mitigation Bank.

Objective 4: Encourage and assist local governments with inventorying the amount/quality of surface and subsurface water in each county.

Objective 5: Encourage the development of land use control measures to ensure compatible land uses.

Objective 6: Assist with project implementation to ensure all area citizens have a dependable supply of drinking water.

Objective 7: Encourage and assist with development of new age technology for the planning and establishment of waste treatment/utilization, both human and agricultural.

PEE DEE RC&D AREA COUNCIL, INC.

ISSUES/CONCERNS, GOALS, AND OBJECTIVES

ISSUES/ CONCERNS

Many recreational and wildlife opportunities exist throughout the Pee Dee area. The problem is that many residents and tourist either do not know of these areas or are simply not taking advantage of these opportunities. There is also a need for more of these type facilities distributed throughout the area for the citizens and the many tourists who visit. In addition, we need to preserve our visual/cultural heritage by supporting the efforts of the Black Creek Land Trust and Pee Dee Land Trust. A concerted effort is needed to inventory and improve the current cultural heritage facilities. An enhanced tourist industry could contribute hundreds of thousands of dollars to our five county area's economy. This issue has many economic, social, and environmental ramifications.

GOAL D: RECREATIONAL AND WILDLIFE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL CITIZENS AND VISITORS.

Objective 1: Implement Recreational and Wildlife improvements throughout our area.

a. Continue to administer the Power for Wildlife Program in cooperation with local utility companies.

Objective 2: Assist with Implementation of the Pee Dee Regional Trails Plan published in 2002.

Objective 3: Promote more stringent state and local ordinances on litter control.

Objective 4: Work with all media for the public education of the area's wildlife and recreational opportunities and efforts.

a. Establish an information network for local leaders to develop and beautify rural communities to provide a better quality of life.

b. Ensure that beautification is an economic development issue and incentive.

c. Provide for the protection of our Visual, Cultural, and Natural Heritage through units of government, local planning commissions, The Pee Dee Land Trust etc.

The PEE DEE RC&D COUNCIL, INC. hereby adopts this Area Plan and agrees to judiciously use the assistance provided by the Department of Agriculture to accomplish the goals and objectives outlined in this plan.

The Pee Dee RC&D Council, South Carolina

By: _____ Date: _____
Jasper Eaddy, Chairman

This action authorized at an official meeting of the Pee Dee RC&D Area Council on _____.

Attest: _____
Joyce Frankin, Secretary/Treasurer

U.S. Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service

By: _____ Date: _____
Walt Douglas, State Conservationist

Compliance with Civil Rights Act:

The program conducted will be in compliance with the non-discrimination provisions as contained in Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 (Public Law 100-259) and other non-discrimination statutes, namely, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and in accordance with regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture (7 CRF-15, Subparts A & B) which provide that no person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, marital status, or handicap be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance from the Department of Agriculture or any agency thereof.