



SC DEPARTMENT *of*
**ENVIRONMENTAL
SERVICES**

Capacity Use Area Groundwater Management Plans

Bureau of Water

Water Quantity Programs

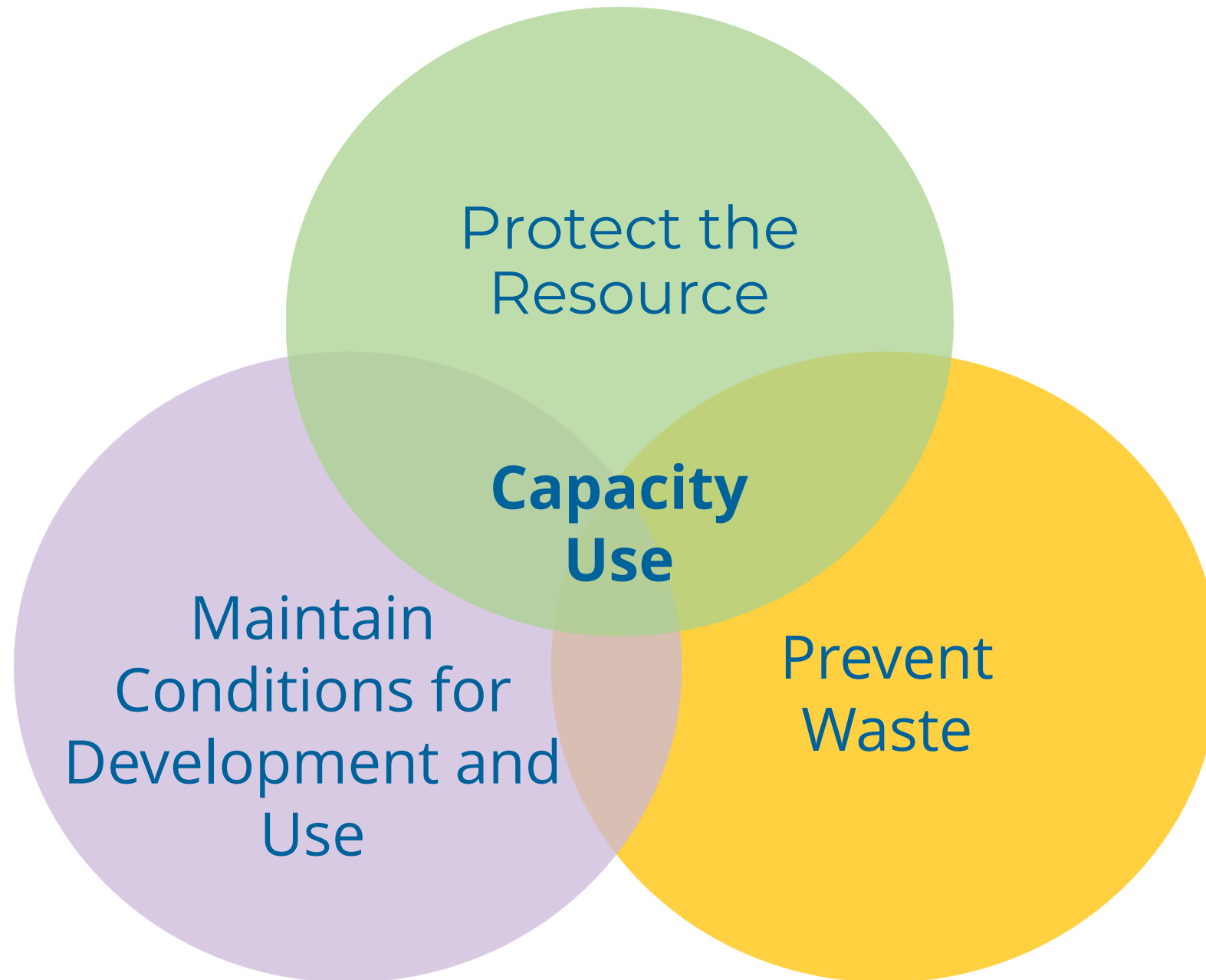
- Groundwater Use and Reporting
 - Since the 1970s
 - Issue permits in designated capacity areas of the coastal plain over for use over 3 million gallons in any month (~1 in of water per week for 28 acres or average use for 1,000 people)
 - Users outside of Capacity Use Areas must register wells if well or well system will use over 3 million gallons in any month
 - All registered and permitted groundwater withdrawers report their annual water use to the Department
- Surface Water Withdrawal, Permitting and Reporting
 - Since June 2012
 - Issue permits / registrations statewide if over 3 million gallons in any month
 - All registered and permitted surface water withdrawers report their annual water use to the Department

What is a Capacity Use Area?

“..[A]n area, designated by the Board, where excessive groundwater withdrawal presents potential adverse effects to the natural resource or poses a threat to public health, safety, or economic welfare or where conditions pose a significant threat to the long-term integrity of a groundwater source, including saltwater intrusion”

Groundwater Use and Reporting Act Legislative Declaration of Policy

“The General Assembly declares that the general welfare and public interest require that the groundwater resources of the State be put to beneficial use to the fullest extent to which they are capable, subject to reasonable regulation, in order to conserve and protect these resources, prevent waste, and to provide and maintain conditions which are conducive to the development and use of water resources.”



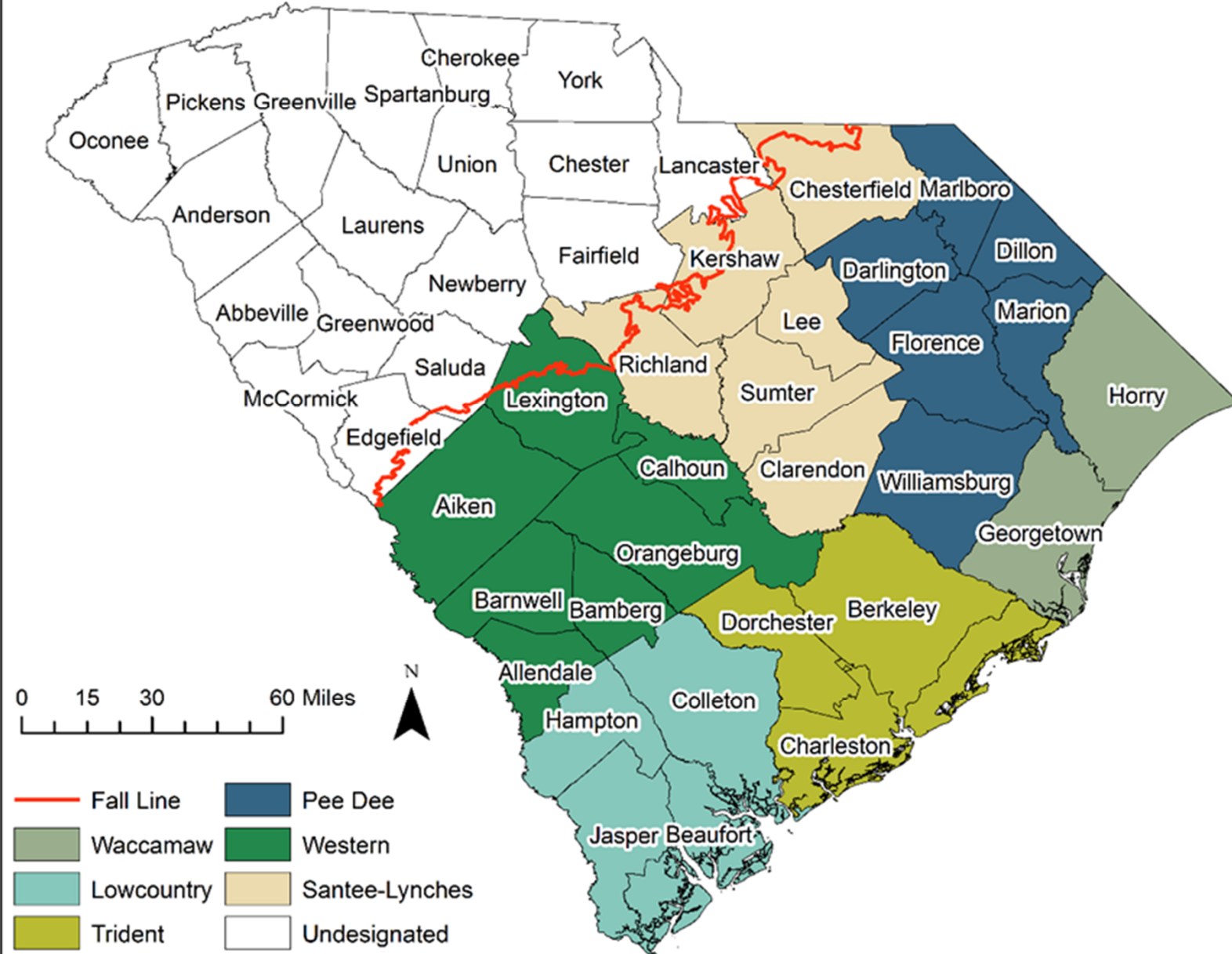
What are the Capacity Use Areas?

- Waccamaw: est. June 22, 1979, Horry and Georgetown Counties
- Lowcountry: est. July 24, 1981, Jasper, Beaufort, and Colleton Counties (Hampton county added June 10, 2008)
- Trident: est. August 8, 2002, Charleston, Berkeley, and Dorchester Counties
- Pee Dee: est. February 12, 2004, Marion, Marlboro, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, and Williamsburg Counties
- Western: est. November 8, 2018, Aiken, Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun, Allendale, Lexington, and Orangeburg Counties
- Santee-Lynches: est. July 15, 2021, Chesterfield, Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee, Richland, and Sumter Counties



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South Carolina Capacity Use Areas



Groundwater Management Planning

After notice and public hearing, the department shall coordinate the affected governing bodies and groundwater withdrawers to develop a groundwater management plan to achieve goals and objectives stated in [Legislative Declaration of Policy] .

In those areas where the affected governing bodies and withdrawers are unable to develop a plan, the department shall take action to develop the plan.

Groundwater Management Plan Process

Convene Planning Workgroup	Open House Forums	Finalize Plan & Submit to DHEC Board
Publish full calendar of meetings and workgroup members	Input from stakeholders on the draft Groundwater Management Plan	Additional public hearing prior to Board vote
Written comments from public shared with workgroup		Review & issue permits consistent with the plan

Aspects of Water Use Addressed in Groundwater Management Plan:

- Current groundwater sources used
- Current water demand by type and amount
- Current aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) and water reuse
- Projected population and growth
- Projected water demand
- Projected opportunities for ASR, and water reuse
- Projected groundwater and surface water options
- Water conservation measures

Table of Contents

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- Introduction
- Definitions
- Geo-Political Structure
- Regional Description
- Groundwater Level Trends
- Current Groundwater Demand
- Groundwater Demand Trends
- Population, Growth, and Water Use Projections
- Groundwater Management Strategy
- Groundwater Management Plan Reports

Groundwater Management Goals:

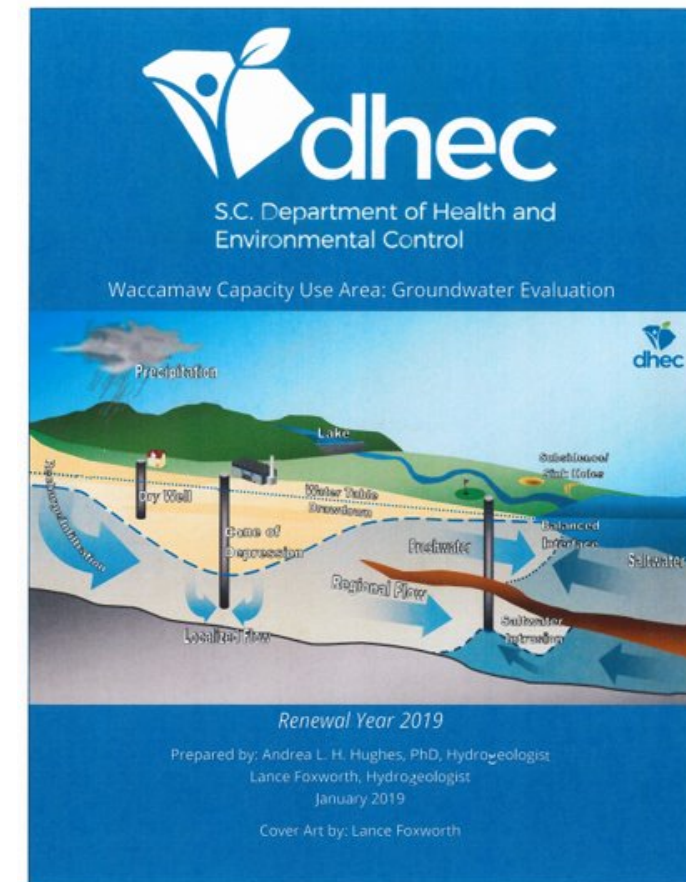
- Ensure sustainable development of the groundwater resource by management of groundwater withdrawals
- Monitoring of groundwater quality and quantity to evaluation conditions
- The protection of groundwater quality from salt-water intrusion (Lowcountry CUA)
- Promote educational awareness of the resource and its conservation (Western CUA)

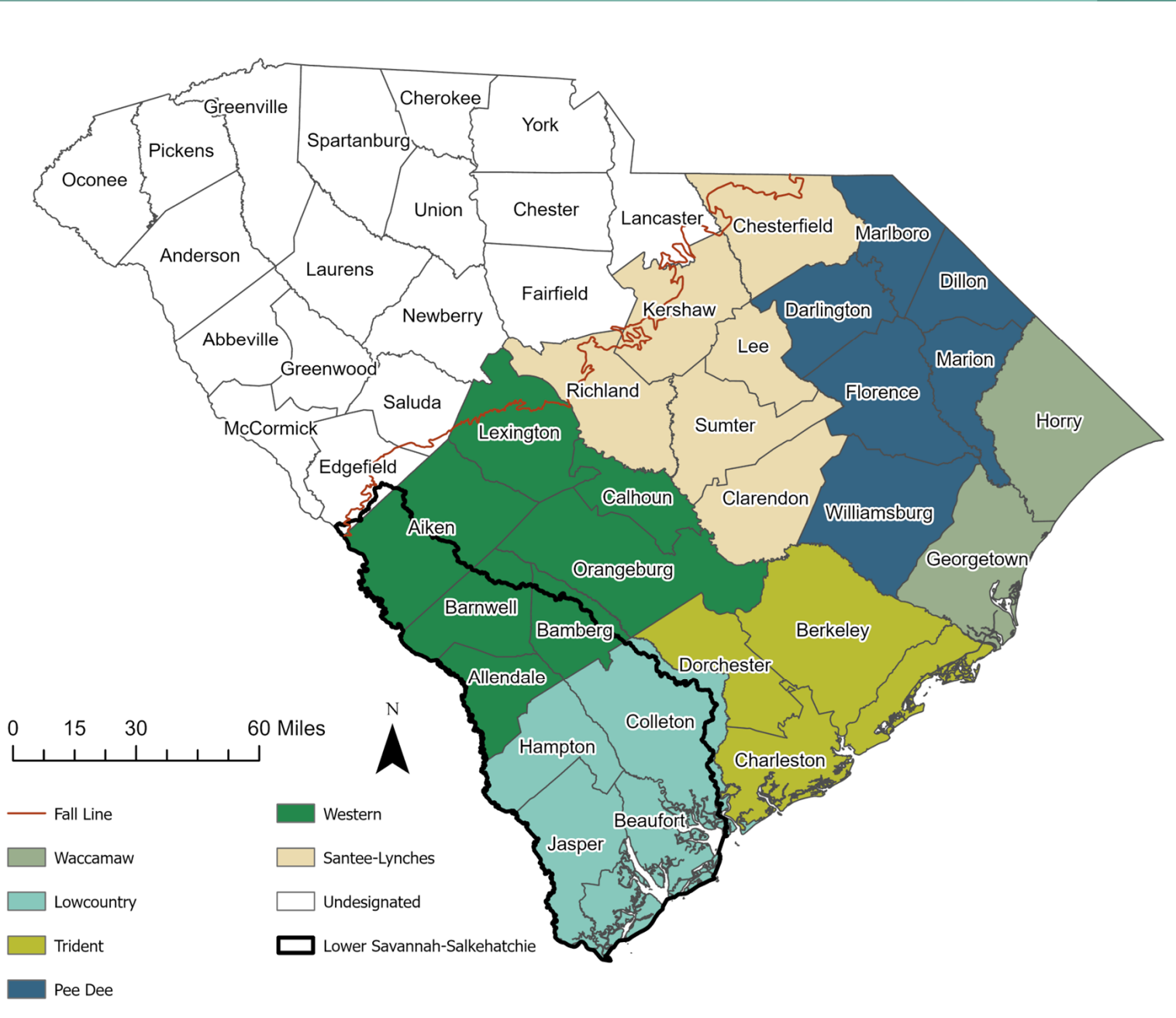
Groundwater Management Strategies

- Strategy #1: Identify areas where a leveling and/or reduction in pumping is appropriate.
- Strategy #2: Review of permit applications based on demonstrated reasonable use.
- Strategy #3: Establish a comprehensive groundwater monitoring program.
- Strategy #4: Establish a conservation educational plan for the public and existing groundwater withdrawers.
- Strategy #5: Regulation and Planning.
- Strategy #6: Establish a plan for continual stakeholder engagement and awareness of groundwater development (only in Western and Santee-Lynches CUA)

Assessment and Evaluation Reports

- Every 5 years total annual groundwater withdrawals are compiled and compared to hydrographs and aquifer potentiometric maps.
- All permitted withdrawers, permitted limits, and average groundwater withdrawals are listed.
- Withdrawals are evaluated by category and aquifer
- Areas of aquifer stress are identified.
- Recommendations and renewal restrictions are listed as appropriate.





Capacity Use Area Assessments, Evaluations, and Renewals

Lowcountry

- 2021 Assessment and Evaluation Report
- 2022 Permit Renewal
- 2026 Assessment and Evaluation Report
- 2027 Permit Renewal

Western

- 2023 Assessment and Evaluation Report
- 2024 Permit Renewal
- 2028 Assessment and Evaluation Report
- 2029 Permit Renewal

Questions?



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