

# THE IMPORTANCE OF WATER RESOURCES AT SCDNR



Water is one of South Carolina's most precious resources, underpinning much of the state's culture, economy and natural beauty.



Boating, fishing and swimming are more than pastimes – they're part of South Carolina's cultural heritage and are shared from one generation to the next.



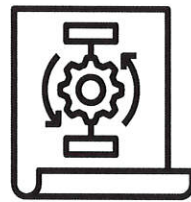
Industry, agriculture and other key drivers of the South Carolina economy depend on well-studied and reliable water resources.

For nearly three decades, SCDNR has worked to ensure the state has a reliable supply of clean water and drought/flood predictions.



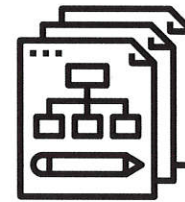
The goal of water planning is to determine

where water is located and how much there is – and then to equitably balance South Carolina's water resources with its needs, ensuring clean water will be available to sustain all future uses.



To best manage the state's water resources, SCDNR staff:

- conduct extensive water monitoring at ~180 wells
- delineate and monitor the state's aquifers
- forecast demands up to 50 years in the future
- use computer modeling for surface and groundwater assessments
- conduct water studies across the state



New 'River Basin Plans' will take a grassroots approach to

empower people from each of South Carolina's eight major river basins to proactively manage their water, starting with a pilot program in the Edisto River Basin. Together, these plans will help inform the overall State Water Plan.

Many SCDNR programs would be challenged to fulfill their missions in the absence of an in-house water program.



In-house water data is critical to law enforcement, climatologists and many others for natural disaster preparation, response and recovery, flood/drought mitigation and envr. review and FERC relicensing.



SCDNR's water program has built a a robust coalition of partners who share concerns that restructuring will delay the State Water Plan update in progress.