

MEETING NOTES

**SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY
SALUDA HYDRO PROJECT RELICENSING
Downstream Flows Technical Working Committee
SCE&G's Lake Murray Training Center
February 25, 2008**

Final JMS 3-21-08

ATTENDEES:

Bill Argentieri, SCE&G	Dave Anderson, Kleinschmidt Associates
Alan Stuart, Kleinschmidt Associates	Tony Bebber, SCPRT
Dick Christie, SCDNR	Harry Tinsley, Cola Fire
Jeni Hand, Kleinschmidt Associates	Travis Carricato, Cola Fire
Mike Weddell, TU	Malcolm Leaphart, TU
Matt Rice, American Rivers	Gerrit Jobsis, American Rivers
Charlene Coleman, American Whitewater	Steve Bell, Lake Watch
Karen Kustafik, City of Cola, Parks	Jim Cumberland, CCL
Vivianne Vejdani, SCDNR	Bill Marshall, LSSRAC

ACTION ITEMS

- Provide Bill Argentieri with a time frame and flows needed for the Columbia Fire Department rescue squad training on the LSR.
Harry Tinsley and Travis Carricato

NEXT MEETING

**Downstream Flows TWC
TBA**

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MEETING NOTES:

These notes serve as a summary of the major points presented during the meeting and are not intended to be a transcript or analysis of the meeting.

Dave Anderson of Kleinschmidt Associates opened the meeting at approximately 10:00 AM and welcomed all committee members. Dave noted that American Whitewater and American Rivers will be presenting their proposals for recreational flow recommendations for the lower Saluda River (LSR). Dave noted that once the group has made the recreational flow recommendations, then the group will discuss the next steps to be taken.

Presentation of American Whitewater Proposal, Charlene Coleman (Attachment A).

Charlene Coleman noted that American Whitewater submitted flow recommendations for the Saluda Hydro Project before the draft application was submitted to FERC. Charlene explained each of the requested flow events month by month. Specifically she noted that in January they have been hosting the Iceman Race for the past seven years during the first non-holiday weekend. In March, for the past five years they have been hosting the Whitewater Festival, which is a good showcase event. She explained that the flows they are requesting are just a general idea, not in black and white. In the month of May, they requested a flow of 10,000 cfs on Mother's Day weekend for the Canoeing for Kids event. She requested that a Rescue Rodeo be scheduled during the third weekend in June. Charlene noted that currently, there is no rescue rodeo in the southeast for rescue teams. She explained that people would find it interesting to watch and it would also give the Columbia Fire Department an opportunity to demonstrate what kind of funding is needed for the department and ideally it would bring all different squads together.

There was extensive discussion about the flows needed by the Columbia Fire Department for swift water rescue training. Harry Tinsley noted that for technical skill development, they would need a flow of 12,000 cfs, which would allow for a better rescue and explained that different flows provide different risks. Harry explained that they would request to have these flows during early spring before it gets hot and people start recreating on the rocks. He explained that since they have approximately 60 techs to train every year, they would like to have flows between 12,000 and 15,000 cfs for approximately 6 hours per day for five days. They would prefer to have the training start in the early morning around 6:00 am until 2:00 pm. They have to conduct the training for a whole week because they will have six shifts. He further explained that they would need to conduct the training twice a year. Gerrit Jobsis noted that may be it would be possible to conduct one of their rescue trainings during the month of December, when SCE&G draws down the reservoir for the winter.

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Charlene continued describing American Whitewater flow requests and noted that for the last weekend in July they would like to have a Whitewater Rodeo. She explained that they use to have this event every year, but took it out. One of the big events that is a big showcase for the City of Columbia is the US Team Jr. Wildwater Racing Practice, which occurs in the month of August. For the month of September, Charlene noted that she put the Columbia Fire Department rescue training in for this month as a starting point for the rescue squad. Finally for the month of October, Charlene noted that they would like to schedule a second canoeing for kids on the third Saturday of the month.

Presentation of American Rivers Proposal, Matt Rice (Attachment B).

Matt Rice noted that members of the Downstream Flows Technical Working Committee recommend the listed schedule of planned releases aimed to improving safe wade fishing and whitewater boating to be incorporated into SCE&G's new operating license for the Lake Murray Dam. Matt explained that American Whitewater flows are included in the schedule and are not competing. Matt noted that TWC members recommend 37 days and the corresponding flow releases be dedicated to whitewater recreation on the LRS. He noted that this recommendation is for one weekend a month in the months of December through May and two weekends a month June through November. Matt explained that the two boating flow ranges identified on the schedule attempt to address the recreational needs of all skill levels of whitewater users as well as other activities on the LSR. The low boating flow range (1,800 cfs-2,400 cfs) aims to enhance whitewater recreation for novice to intermediate boaters. The high boating flow range (3,800 cfs - 4,500 cfs) aims to enhance whitewater recreation for intermediate to expert boaters. Matt noted that these flows would be protected against a reserve call. It was also noted that establishing a 2-3 day weekend of flows, rather than just a day, would assist in attracting out-of-town visitors to paddle of fish and stimulate weekend tourism activity.

Matt noted that the wade fishing recreational flow recommendation aims to provide safe scheduled, wadeable flows on 42 weekend days in a one year period. He explained that they would like the wading flows to be protected from reserve calls. He noted that these flow proposals are from the Saluda instream flow recommendations. Wade fishing flows are optimum at 700 cfs and needed at "no more than" 1000 cfs. The recommendation is for two weekends a month dedicated to wade fishing from December through August and one weekend a month September through November. These flows would also be useful for swimming/rock use at Mill Race and other current and future access points during the season for other activities.

Dave asked the group if there was any discussion needed on flooding on the Congaree National Park (CNP). Gerrit noted that he is currently developing flows needed for the LSR to inundate the CNP. He explained that inundation occurs with a flow of 18,000 to 30,000 cfs from the Congaree River and noted that he is examining how much the LSR is contributing to the flooding. Gerrit noted that if SCE&G could provide the Columbia fire department rescue squad with their flows during the time the CNP needs to be flooded in the spring, would be beneficial.

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In regards to the flow recommendations from the group, Dave Anderson noted that since the Saluda Hydro Project is used for reserve capacity, SCE&G is willing to provide one weekend a month for recreational flows. Dave explained to the group that when SCE&G provides these recreational flows, Saluda will not be available for a reserve call. Dave also noted that these recreational flows can not be guaranteed as safe because no flows are guaranteed as safe. Gerrit noted that the boating/fishing organizations should have a caucus to discuss their requests, since SCE&G is providing recreational flows for one weekend a month.

After a brief caucus, the organizations returned with a revised draft recommendations for the recreational flow releases on the LSR. The revised recommendations are as follows:

Boating

- 39 days dedicated to whitewater boating.
- 32 days will not be protected from reserve operations (operations OK). These days are highlighted in blue on the chart.
- 7 days including the Wildwater training weekend (2 days), the rescue rodeo weekend (2 days), Memorial Day (1 day), Labor Day (1 day), and July 4 (1 day) will be protected from reserve operations (No operations). These days are highlighted in red.
- Flows for Labor Day, Memorial Day, and July 4: 700cfs-1500cfs

Wade Fishing/Swimming

- 38 days dedicated to wade fishing including MLK Day and Presidents Day
- 38 days protected from reserve operations (No operations)
- Target release window 7:00am-9:00pm (May-October); 7:00am-Noon or Noon-5:00pm, possibly alternating (November-April)
- Make up days: If weather events such as tropical storms make operations necessary on wade fishing days, missed days will be made up in a three month period.

Adaptive management

- Meet annually to schedule recreation days.
- Meet every 3 years to comprehensively review recreation schedule looking at recreation trends, trout reproduction and holdover etc.

Rescheduling

- If a scheduled flow release is cancelled or interrupted due to operational requirements such as dam safety or lake level management cause from climatic conditions, then request to have the flow event rescheduled with in a quarter or three months time frame.

Reserve calls

- During planned operation events, SCE&G should incorporate a rate of change (flow) in the event of a reserve call.

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Warning System

- Request that an advanced warning (strobe lights and sirens) system be placed at the Saluda Spillway, Metts Landing and Corley Island.
- Request that a 10-15 minute warning be given in advance to allow people enough time to get off the river.

Fire Department Rescue Training

Not a part of the recreation recommendation

There was a brief discussion about providing the rescue squad the flows needed to train their team. Bill Argentieri noted that SCE&G could come up with an agreement outside of the license to provide flows for training. Bill noted that once the Columbia Fire Department submitted time frames and flows needed then he would discuss this with upper management.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:30 pm and Dave noted that he would contact everyone regarding the next meeting date.

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Final JMS 3-21-08

ATTACHMENT A

American Whitewater Proposal for Recreational Flow Releases on the Lower Saluda River

Recreation Resource Conservation Group

Issue Recommendation Recreational Flow Releases on the Lower Saluda River

DRAFT

February 5, 2008

Issue:

SCE&G currently operates the Saluda Hydro Project in order to provide reserve capacity for the company's utility obligations, a mode of operation that the company proposes to continue under the new license. Project generators are typically offline, i.e., not operating, but can be started and synchronized to the electrical grid and can increase output immediately in response to a generator or transmission outage on SCE&G's system or in response to a call for reserve power from neighboring utilities, with which the company has reserve agreements and obligations. As a result, flows from Saluda Hydro to the lower Saluda River (LSR) are generally unscheduled.

Although there is no minimum flow requirement for the Project, SCE&G has an informal agreement with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) to provide a minimum of 180 cfs at the Project to maintain downstream water quality of the LSR. SCE&G typically releases a minimum flow of approximately 500 cfs to enhance water quality during the low dissolved oxygen (DO) season (July – November). The average annual flow from the Saluda Dam to the LSR is 2,595 cfs with a minimum average daily flow of 285 cfs.

The Lower Saluda Scenic River Advisory Council, South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, American Whitewater, Saluda River Chapter of Trout Unlimited, and Coastal Conservation League/American Rivers have requested instream flows for the LSR to support recreational uses such as small boat navigation, swimming, wade and boat fishing, and other downstream uses.

American Whitewater, the Coastal Conservation League/American Rivers, and the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department have also requested scheduled recreational releases for whitewater boating, wade fishing, and special events.

To some degree, any number or all of the most popular on-water activities are available at flows of 4,000 cfs and less. Boating activities are generally available at flows of between 1,000 cfs and 4,000 cfs, whereas, non-boating on-water activities, such as swimming and wade angling, are best suited for flows of 1,000 cfs or less.

Daily average flows of less than 1,000 cfs are generally available 38 percent of the time year-round. Hourly average flows of less than 1,000 cfs are generally available 60 percent of the time year-round.

Daily average flows of less than 4,000 cfs are generally available 83 percent of the time year-round. Hourly average flows of less than 4,000 cfs are generally available 27 percent of the time year-round.

Higher flows, for whitewater activities such as canoeing/kayaking and rafting, of 12,000 cfs or greater are generally only available approximately 2 percent of the time year-round on a daily average and hourly average basis.

Recreation Resource Conservation Group

**Issue Recommendation
Recreational Flow Releases on the Lower Saluda River**

DRAFT

February 5, 2008

Recommendation:

Based on the results of the Downstream Recreation Flow Assessment, the Recreation RCG recommends:

1. SCE&G meets the attached schedule for recreational flow releases in the LSR; and
2. SCE&G hosts an annual meeting the third week of October of each year to review the previous year's flows, set the specific dates for the following year's flows (with the understanding that the volume of water and number of days will remain consistent from year to year, even if the schedule varies), and discuss any outstanding issues with appropriate stakeholders.

Recreation Resource Conservation Group

**Issue Recommendation
Recreational Flow Releases on the Lower Saluda River**

DRAFT

February 5, 2008

Schedule of Recreational Flow Releases in the Lower Saluda River

Flows will be measured at the USGS gage below the Saluda Dam (02168504). Actual flows may vary $\pm 10\%$.

January

First non-holiday weekend (Saturday and Sunday) (**Iceman Race**)

- 1,000 cfs or 4,000 cfs from 10:00AM to 4:00PM

February

No scheduled flows

March

St. Patrick's Day Weekend (Saturday and Sunday) (**Whitewater Festival**)

- 500 cfs from 8:00AM to 11:00AM
- 2,000 cfs from 11:30AM to 1:00PM
- 3,300 cfs from 1:30PM to 3:30PM
- 14,000 cfs from 4:00PM to 6:00PM

April

No scheduled flows

May

Saturday before Mother's Day (**Canoeing for Kids**)

- 10,000 cfs from 7:30AM to 4:30PM

June

Third weekend (Saturday and Sunday) (**Rescue Rodeo**)

- 1,000 cfs from 7:00AM to 11:00AM
- 3,000 cfs from 12:00PM to 4:00PM

July

Last weekend (Saturday and Sunday) (**Whitewater Rodeo**)

- 3,300 cfs from 8:00AM to 4:00PM

August

Recreation Resource Conservation Group

**Issue Recommendation
Recreational Flow Releases on the Lower Saluda River**

DRAFT

February 5, 2008

First weekend (Saturday and Sunday) (**US Team Jr. Wildwater Racing Practice**)

- 7,000 cfs from 8:00AM to 4:00PM

September

First consecutive Friday/Saturday/Sunday (**Rescue Training**)

- Friday – 800 cfs from 1:00PM to 5:00PM
- Saturday – 1,500 cfs from 7:00AM to 11:00AM; 3,500 cfs from 1:00PM to 5:00PM
- Sunday – 7,000 cfs from 7:00AM to 12:00PM

October

Third Saturday (**Canoeing for Kids**)

- 1,400 cfs from 7:30AM to 4:30PM

November

No scheduled flows

December

No scheduled flows

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Draft JMS 2-27-08

ATTACHMENT B

**American Rivers Proposal of Draft Recommendations for Recreational Flow Releases on the Lower
Saluda River**

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RECREATIONAL FLOW RELEASES ON THE LOWER SALUDA RIVER

Proposed by members of the Downstream Flows Technical Working Committee

The Lower Saluda Scenic River Advisory Council, City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, American Whitewater, the Saluda River Chapter of Trout Unlimited, the Coastal Conservation League, and American Rivers support in-stream flows that enhance safe recreational uses on the Lower Saluda River. Members of the Technical Working Committee recommend the following schedule of planned releases aimed at improving safe wade fishing and whitewater boating be incorporated into SCE&G's new operating license for the Lake Murray Dam. The schedule of planned recreational releases is followed by a justification of the recommended releases.

Target release ranges unless otherwise noted:

Boating low: 1,800cfs-2400cfs

Boating high: 3,800cfs-4500cfs

Wade fishing: 700cfs (not to exceed 1000cfs during fishing hours)

Target release window unless otherwise noted:

Boating: 12:00PM-6:00PM at Millrace (May-October)

10:00AM-4:00PM at Millrace (November-April)

Wade fishing: 7:00AM-7:00PM (May-October)

7:00AM-12:00PM (November-April)

January

Boating: First non-holiday weekend for the Iceman Race (2 days)

Flows: 1,000cfs or 4,000cfs

Wade fishing: Two weekends (4 days)

Flows: 700cfs (not to exceed 1000cfs during fishing hours)

February

Boating: One weekend (2 days). Schedule and flow release posted on SCE&G website

Flows: Either low boating recreation flow range (1,800-2400cfs) or high flow range (3,800-4,500cfs)

Wade fishing: Two weekends (4 days). Schedule posted on SCE&G website

Flows: 700cfs (not to exceed 1000cfs during fishing hours)

March

Boating: St. Patrick's Day Weekend for the Whitewater Festival (2 days)

Flows: 8:00AM-11:00AM – 700cfs

11:00AM-1:00PM – 1,800-2,500cfs

1:30PM-3:30PM – 3,800-4,500cfs

3:30PM-6:00PM – 14,000cfs

Wade fishing: Two weekends (4 days)

Flows: 700cfs (not to exceed 1000cfs during fishing hours)

**DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RECREATIONAL FLOW RELEASES ON THE
LOWER SALUDA RIVER**

Proposed by members of the Downstream Flows Technical Working Committee

April

Boating: One weekend (2 days)
Flows: Low flow (1,800-2,400cfs) or high flow boating release (3,800-4,500cfs)

Wade fishing: Two weekends (4 days)
Flows: April 1-15: 1000cfs (higher flows for striped bass passage)
April 15-30: 1300cfs

May

Boating: Weekend before Mothers Day for Canoeing for Kids (2 days)
Flows: 7:30AM-4:30PM: 10,000cfs

Wade fishing: Two weekends (4 days)
Flows: May 1-15: 1300cfs (higher flows for striped bass passage)
May 15-31: 1000cfs

June

Boating: Two weekends including the third weekend for the Rescue Rodeo event (4 days)
Flows: First weekend – low or high boating release
Third weekend – 7:00AM-11:00AM: 1000cfs
12:00PM-4:00PM: 3,000cfs

Wade fishing: Two weekends (4 days)
Flows: 700cfs (not to exceed 1000cfs during fishing hours)

July

Boating: Two weekends including the last weekend for the Whitewater rodeo (4 days)
Flows: High boating flow 3,800cfs-4,500cfs

Wade fishing: Two weekends (4 days)
Flows: 700cfs (not to exceed 1000cfs during fishing hours)

August

Boating: Two weekends including the first weekend for U.S. Team Wildwater Racing practice (4 days)
Flows: 8:00AM-4:00PM: 7,000-10,000cfs

Wade fishing: Two weekends (4 days)
Flows: 700cfs (not to exceed 1000cfs during fishing hours)

**DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RECREATIONAL FLOW RELEASES ON THE
LOWER SALUDA RIVER**

Proposed by members of the Downstream Flows Technical Working Committee

September

Boating: Two weekends including the first consecutive Friday/Saturday/Sunday for rescue training (5 days)
Flows: Friday-700cfs
Saturday-7:00AM-11:00AM: low boating flows (1,800-2,400cfs)
1:00PM-5:00PM: high boating flows (3,800-4,500cfs)
Sunday- 7:00AM-12:00PM: 7,000cfs

Wade fishing: One weekend (2 days)
Flows: 700cfs (not to exceed 1000cfs during fishing hours)

October

Boating: Two weekends including the third weekend for Canoeing for Kids (4 days)
Flows: Third weekend-low boating flows (1,800-2,400cfs) additional weekend-low or high boating flows (4 days)

Wade fishing: One weekend (2 days)
Flows: 700cfs (not to exceed 1000cfs during fishing hours)

November

Boating: Two weekends (4 days)
Flows: Either high (3,800-4,500cfs) or low boating flows (1,800-2,400cfs)

Wade fishing: One weekend (2 days)
Flows: 700cfs (not to exceed 1000cfs during fishing hours)

December

Boating: One weekend (2 days)
Flows: Either high (3,800-4,500cfs) or low boating flows (1,800-2,400cfs)

Wade fishing: Two weekends (4 days)
Flows: 700cfs (not to exceed 1000cfs during fishing hours)

Holiday Recreational Flows

January 1 – Wade fishing 7:00AM-5:00PM flows: 700cfs (not to exceed 1000cfs during fishing hours)

January 21 – Wade fishing 7:00AM-5:00PM

Presidents Day – Wade fishing 7:00AM-5:00PM

Memorial Day – Wade fishing 10:00AM-7:00PM

July 4 – Boating 10:00AM-6:00PM (not to exceed high or low boating flow ranges unless scheduled in advance)

Columbus Day – Boating 10:00AM-6:00PM

Friday after Thanksgiving – Wade fishing 7:00AM-5:00PM

Christmas day – Wade fishing 12:00PM-5:00PM

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RECREATIONAL FLOW RELEASES ON THE LOWER SALUDA RIVER

Proposed by members of the Downstream Flows Technical Working Committee

The Lower Saluda River is a unique and valuable resource for the people of Richland and Lexington Counties. With adequate river flows, the river is regionally known as a productive trout fishery as well as an exciting whitewater destination. These recreational uses of the river compete. According to the Recreational Flow Assessment conducted by Kleinschmidt and experienced local wade fishermen and whitewater boaters, flows between 500cfs and 1000cfs were ideal for wade fishing and swimming where flows between 1000cfs-4000cfs were adequate for boaters. The proposal above is an effort to enhance safe wade fishing/swimming and whitewater boating on the LSR by providing scheduled safe releases for each activity (no reserve peaking operations during scheduled recreational release) while accounting for the overall biological health of the river and other competing uses including Lake Murray management.

Whitewater Boating

Members of TWC recommend 37 days and the corresponding flow releases be dedicated to whitewater recreation on the Lower Saluda River. The recommendation calls for one weekend a month in the months of December through May and two weekends a month June through November. The logic behind this schedule is as follows:

December through May (one weekend a month) – This time period is popular for wade fishing because of DNR’s stocking schedule and cooler water temperatures. Recreational releases should favor wade fishing during these months.

June through August (two weekends a month) – This time period is popular for boating.

September through November (two weekends a month) – This time period coincides with the reservoir draw down, theoretically providing an opportunity to schedule draw down releases to enhance white water recreation.

The group believes the boating flow days should occur on consecutive weekend days to encourage out of town boaters to spend at least one night in the Columbia area to bring valuable tourist dollars to the region.

The two boating flow ranges identified on the schedule attempt to address the recreational needs of all skill levels of whitewater users as well as other activities on the LSR. The low boating flow range recommendation aims to enhance whitewater recreation for novice to intermediate boaters. The high boating flow range aims to enhance whitewater recreation for intermediate to expert boaters. The group recommends equal release days of both the low boating flow and the high boating flow throughout the year depending on water availability.

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RECREATIONAL FLOW RELEASES ON THE LOWER SALUDA RIVER

Proposed by members of the Downstream Flows Technical Working Committee

Target Recreational Releases

Low Boating flow range 1,800cfs-2,400cfs

The final flow assessment identified a flow of 2,272cfs as good to excellent for whitewater boaters, flatwater boaters, swimmers and tubers. This flow, which falls within the low boating flow range, was better suited for novice to intermediate whitewater boaters. This flow range was also identified as a desirable flow by boaters outside of the recreational flow assessment.

High Boating Flow Range 3,800cfs-4,500cfs

The final flow assessment identified a flow of 3,938cfs as good to excellent for intermediate to expert whitewater boaters as well as flatwater boaters. This flow falls within the high boating flow recommendation and is aimed at enhancing intermediate to expert whitewater recreation.

High Event Flows 7,000cfs +

The group recommends high releases of 7,000cfs and above five days a year. These flows will benefit specific events; U.S. team Jr. Wildwater Racing Practice, Rescue Training, Whitewater Festival, and Canoeing for Kids. These high flows would also allow local outfitters to run whitewater raft trips. High flows are only recommended if they do not severely degrade trout habitat, inhibit potential trout spawning, or substantially lower Lake Murray in low water years.

It is critical SCE&G post scheduled boating flows in advance and cease reserve peaking operations at Lake Murray Dam during the target recreational release window on all days dedicated to whitewater recreation in order to ensure the safety of all LSR users.

Wade Fishing

The Lower Saluda River is a unique fishery in South Carolina. It is a popular destination for trout fishermen throughout the state. It supports a healthy put, grow, and take rainbow and brown trout fishery. There is anecdotal evidence that increasing numbers of trout are holding over every year. With adequate minimum flows, improved dissolved oxygen, and proper management, there is potential trout will spawn in the future. A “wild” trout fishery will bring greater numbers of anglers to the Columbia area further increasing tourist revenues associated with the LSR.

The wade fishing recreational flow recommendation aims to guarantee safe, scheduled, wadeable flows on 42 weekend days in a one-year period. The recommendation calls for two weekends a month dedicated to wade fishing from December through August and one weekend a month September through November. The logic behind the schedule is as follows:

December through May (two weekends a month) - This time period is the most popular and productive for wade fishing. It coincides with DNR’s stocking schedule and water temperatures are cooler.

June through August (two weekends a month) - This time period is popular for fishing, swimming, and rock hopping.

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RECREATIONAL FLOW RELEASES ON THE LOWER SALUDA RIVER

Proposed by members of the Downstream Flows Technical Working Committee

September through November (one weekend a month) - This time period is less productive for wade fishing because it is pre-stocking. The reservoir is also drawn down during this time theoretically presenting an opportunity to release recreational boating flows.

Wading flows should be released on consecutive weekend days to encourage visits from out of town anglers. Flows during wade fishing days should not exceed 1,000cfs at any time during the target release window (7:00am-7:00pm in the summer months and 7:00am-Noon in winter months) to guarantee angler safety. Currently, anglers wade at their own risk due to Lake Murray Dam operations. **It is critical SCE&G halt reserve peaking operations during the target release window on days dedicated wade fishing to ensure wade fishing safety.**

**DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RECREATIONAL FLOW RELEASES ON THE
LOWER SALUDA RIVER**

Proposed by members of the Downstream Flows Technical Working Committee

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RECREATIONAL FLOW RELEASES: LOWER SALUDA RIVER					
MONTH	ACTIVITY AND FLOW	BOATING DAYS	BOATING HOURS	WADE FISH DAYS	WADE FISH HOURS
January	<u>Boating</u> : first non-holiday weekend for Iceman Race (2 days) Flows: 1,000cfs or 4,000cfs	2	12	4	20
	<u>Wade fishing</u> : two weekends (4 days) Flows: 700cfs				
February	<u>Boating</u> : one weekend (2 days) Flows: Either low boating recreation flow range (1,800-2,400cfs) or high flow range (3,800-4,500cfs)	2	12	4	20
	<u>Wade fishing</u> : two weekends (4 days) Schedule posted on SCE&G website. Flows: 700cfs				
March	<u>Boating</u> : St. Patrick's Day Weekend for the Whitewater Festival (2 days) Flows: 8:00am-11:00am – 700cfs 11:00am-1:00pm – 1,800-2,500cfs 1:30pm-3:30pm – 3,800-4,500cfs 3:30pm-6:00pm – 14,000cfs	2	20	4	20
	<u>Wade fishing</u> : two weekends (4 days) Flows: 700cfs				
April	<u>Boating</u> : one weekend (2 days) Flows: low flow (1,800-2,400cfs) or high flow release (3,800-4,500cfs)	2	12	4	20
	<u>Wade fishing</u> : two weekends (4 days) Flows: April 1-15: 1,000cfs April 15-30: 1,300cfs (higher flows for striped bass passage)				
May	<u>Boating</u> : weekend before Mothers Day for Canoeing for Kids (2 days) Flows: 7:30am-4:30pm – 10,000cfs	2	12	4	48
	<u>Wade fishing</u> : two weekends (4 days) Flows: May 1-15: 1300cfs May 15-31: 1,000cfs (higher flows for striped bass passage)				
June	<u>Boating</u> : two weekends including third weekend for Rescue Rodeo (4 days) Flows: Rescue Rodeo weekend - 7:00am-11:00am – 1,000cfs 12:00pm-4:00pm – 3,000cfs Other weekend – either low flow (1,800-2,400cfs) or high flow (3,800-4,500cfs);	4	30	4	48
	<u>Wade fishing</u> : two weekends (4 days) Flows: 700cfs				

**DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RECREATIONAL FLOW RELEASES ON THE
LOWER SALUDA RIVER**

Proposed by members of the Downstream Flows Technical Working Committee

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RECREATIONAL FLOW RELEASES: LOWER SALUDA RIVER					
MONTH	ACTIVITY AND FLOW	BOATING DAYS	BOATING HOURS	WADE FISH DAYS	WADE FISH HOURS
July	<u>Boating</u> : two weekends including the last weekend for the Whitewater Rodeo (4 days) Flows: high boating flow 3,800cfs-4,500cfs (high on both weekends?)	4	24	4	48
	<u>Wade fishing</u> : two weekends (4 days) Flows: 700cfs				
August	<u>Boating</u> : two weekends including the first weekend for U.S. Team Wildwater Racing practice (4 days) Flows: 8:00am-4:00pm - 7,000-10,000cfs; Other weekend – either low flow (1,800-2,400cfs) or high flow (3,800-4,500cfs)	4	28	4	48
	<u>Wade fishing</u> : two weekends (4 days) Flows: 700cfs				
September	<u>Boating</u> : two weekends including the first consecutive Friday-Saturday-Sunday for rescue training (5 days). Flows: Rescue training – Friday - 700cfs (7am-5pm??), Saturday - 7:00am-11:00am: low boating flows (1,800-2,400cfs); 1:00pm-5:00pm: high boating flows (3,800-4,500cfs), Sunday - 7:00am-12:00pm: 7,000cfs; Other weekend – either low flow (1,800-2,400cfs) or high flow (3,800-4,500cfs)	5	37	2	24
	<u>Wade fishing</u> : one weekend (2 days) Flows: 700cfs				
October	<u>Boating</u> : two weekends including third weekend for Canoeing for Kids (4 days) Flows: CFK on third weekend - low boating flows (1,800-2,400cfs); Other weekend – either low flow (1,800-2,400cfs) or high flow (3,800-4,500cfs)	4	24	2	24
	<u>Wade fishing</u> : one weekend (2 days) Flows: 700cfs				
November	<u>Boating</u> : two weekends (4 days) Flows: either high (3,800-4,500cfs) or low boating flows (1,800-2,400cfs)	4	24	2	10
	<u>Wade fishing</u> : one weekend (2 days) Flows: 700cfs				
December	<u>Boating</u> : one weekend (2 days) Flows: either high (3,800-4,500cfs) or low boating flows (1,800-2,400cfs)	2	12	4	20
	<u>Wade fishing</u> : two weekends (4 days) Flows: 700cfs				
Totals		37	247	42	350

REVISED DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RECREATIONAL FLOW RELEASES ON THE LSR

Boating

- 39 days dedicated to whitewater boating.
- 32 days will not be protected from reserve operations (operations OK). These days are highlighted in blue on the chart.
- 7 days including the Wildwater training weekend (2 days), the rescue rodeo weekend (2 days), Memorial Day (1 day), Labor Day (1 day), and July 4 (1 day) will be protected from reserve operations (No operations). These days are highlighted in red.
- Flows for Labor Day, Memorial Day, and July 4: 700cfs-1500cfs.

Wade Fishing/Swimming

- 38 days dedicated to wade fishing including MLK Day and Presidents Day.
- 38 days protected from reserve operations (No operations).
- Target release window 7:00am-9:00pm (May-October); 7:00am-Noon or Noon-5:00pm, possibly alternating (November-April).
- Make up days: If weather events such as tropical storms make operations necessary on wade fishing days, missed days will be made up in a three month period.

Adaptive management

- Meet annually to schedule recreation days.
- Meet every 3 years to comprehensively review recreation schedule looking at recreation trends, trout reproduction and holdover etc.

Rescheduling

- If a scheduled flow release is cancelled or interrupted due to operational requirements such as dam safety or lake level management cause from climatic conditions, then request to have the flow event rescheduled with in a quarter or three months time frame.

Reserve calls

- During planned operation events, SCE&G should incorporate a rate of change (flow) in the event of a reserve call.

Warning System

- Request that an advanced warning (strobe lights and sirens) system be placed at the Saluda Spillway, Metts Landing and Corley Island.
- Request that a 10-15 minute warning be given in advance to allow people enough time to get off the river.

Fire Department Rescue Training

- Not a part of the recreation recommendation.