“A concerted community effort to protect the natural resource base in Jasper County for generations to come....”
PARTNERSHIPS
The Key To Success

- Jasper Soil and Water Conservation District
- USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service
- SC Department of Natural Resources
- SC Sea Grant Consortium
- USDA- Farm Service Agency
- American Farmland Trust
- USFWS – Refuges and Ecological Services Divisions
- Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service
- The Nature Conservancy
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- SC Forestry Commission
- Good Hope Corporation
- Turkey Hill Plantation
- Okeetee Club
- Spring Hill Plantation
- Nada Williams Realty
- Copper Station
- Private Landowners
- SC Department of Health and Environmental Control
- Ocean of Coastal and Resources Management
- Jasper County
- Town of Ridgeland
- City of Hardeeville
- NOAA – CSC
- Town of Bluffton
- Beaufort County Planning Department
- Beaufort County Open Land Trust
- AgSouth
- AAC Building Service
- SC Conservation League
- Lowcountry Council of Governments
- TPL
- Fife Plantation
- Kinghorn Insurance Companies
- Lowcountry Institute
- Mead-Westvaco
The Community

- All Levels of Government
- NGOs
- Industry / Business
- Private Landowners
- Citizens
Locally Led Conservation
Locally Led Conservation

- **Starts with community leaders** – Jasper Soil and Water Conservation District

- **Critical element** - community stakeholders

- **It is based on the principle that community stakeholders are best suited to deal with local resource problems**
These conservation partners share a single mission: To coordinate assistance from all available sources—public and private, local, state and federal—in an effort to develop locally driven solutions to natural resource concerns.
Our Goal

• Government, NGO’s, and Private Sector
  – All work together!

• Develop a conservation plan that will serve as a platform for decision making

• Conserve not just land, but the Economy and Quality of Life
Public Input

Conservation Needs Assessment
Our Game Plan

1. INVENTORY: Assess the natural resources and conservation needs
2. Set Goals
3. Develop an Action Plan
4. Implement the Plan
5. Evaluate Success
The Focus Group

- A Collaborative Effort To Gather Information

- THE WRITING TEAM
8 Sections

1. Streams, Rivers, and Watersheds
2. Wetlands
3. Critical Ecosystems
4. Traditional Land Management Practices
5. Archaeological, Historic, and Cultural Resources
6. Urban Growth Management
7. Natural Resource Economics
8. Environmental Education
Current Status

- People are now moving away from the city and into the country to attain a higher quality of life
  - Long Commutes
  - More Solitude, Better Scenery, etc..
  - Baby Boomers Retiring and Headed South and West

- This trend toward rural living has enormous implications for the health of our natural resources
Jasper County Tradition

• “Jasper County has retained the simple, original flavor of the Lowcountry”

• “known as a sportsman paradise. Its 662 square miles are dotted with a number of hunting clubs and plantation grounds housing large populations of wildlife

• “The Gateway to the Lowcountry”
Jasper County – An Overview

• Total Acres – 423,680
  – Private Lands *(of 95 people who own 250+ ac)* – 219,120
  – 16 individuals or groups own >3,000ac
  – 8 of these own >5,000ac
  – 4 of these own >10,000ac
  • These 16 own almost 70% of the 219K +

– Public Lands – 33,800
– Timber Company Lands – 64,700
FLORIDA'S FULL! Golf Homes in Hilton Head from the 280's!

Island West

Exit 8 9 miles ahead to Island West!

D.R. HORTON America's Builder 843-706-3600 drhorton-homes.com
Urban Sprawl

- Increase air, noise, and light pollution
- Traffic Congestion
- Destroys farmland and natural areas
- Pollutes watersheds
- Fragments habitat
- Social problems, increase crime
Today: Permanently Converting Lands

- We live in a culture that now produces more malls than high schools, more prisoners than farmers, and devours the land at the warp speed of 365 acres per hour. Today, the average American can recognize one thousand corporate logos, but can't identify ten plants and animals native to their region.
  – The Center For Whole Communities

- South Carolina: A Case Study Example
  – SC losing 2ac farmland per minute
  – Each 100,000 increase is accompanied by 150,000ac conversion
“Never doubt that a small, thoughtful group of concerned citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”
Urban Growth Management

• Urban Growth Boundaries
• Natural Resources Review Team
• Conservation Easements
• Impact Fees – Priority Based
• County Conservation Bank
Streams, Rivers, and Watersheds

- Low Impact Development Techniques
- New River as a State Scenic River
- Minimum Buffers
Jasper County
Threatened and Endangered Species
Traditional Land Management Practices

- Prescribed Fire Ordinance & Firewise Communities
- Agricultural Districts – protecting rights...
- Charge impact fees for development on prime farmlands...
- Wetlands
- Longleaf
- Prime Farmland
Environmental Education
“If you are protecting what is inevitably an island in the midst of degradation, you’ve lost.” – Bruce Babbitt
The world’s in a big mess because of the things that people do to it. I’ll do my bit to help it out by sitting here and doing nothing.
Conservation is best defined as...

A. To protect and preserve natural resources and mitigate human impacts as much as possible

B. To protect, improve (when necessary), and wisely use natural resources, while ensuring a healthy supply for future generations

C. A work to remove people and pollution from the natural environment
A widely used and the most acceptable definition of *wildlife* below is is

A. Any animal that has the potential to harm human beings
B. Undomesticated plants and animals
C. Wild (undomesticated), free-ranging vertebrate animals
D. Wild birds and mammals
Which region of the United States is the richest in species diversity

A. Southeast
B. Northeast
C. Pacific Northwest
D. Midwest
E. California
The human population in the U.S. is expected to _____ over the next 50 years.

A. Remain fairly stable due to conservative family choices
B. Decrease slightly due to projected global warming trends
C. Increase slightly due to advances in modern medicine
D. Increase to well over 400 million people

25% 25% 25% 25%
Which of the following is accurate based on land ownership in the Southeast?

A. Approximately 70% public, including government parks, refuges, forests, etc.
B. Approximately 85% privately owned
C. Approximately 50:50, public to private
D. None of the above