

**JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE
CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69A HAGOOD AVENUE
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29403-5107
AND
THE S.C. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL
Office of Environmental Quality Control
Water Quality Certification and Wetlands Programs Section
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201**

**NOTE: THIS IS A CORPS OF ENGINEERS
CIVIL WORKS PROJECT**

CESAC-PM-M

February 28, 2003

Refer to: P/N # 2003-1R-051

Wilson Branch
Chesterfield County
South Carolina

The Charleston District, Corps of Engineers, Charleston, South Carolina, proposes to perform work described herein with due consideration and review given to the relevant provisions of the following laws:

1. The Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1251, et. Seq.).
2. The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531, et. Seq.).
3. The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (U.S.C. 470, et. Seq.) and the preservation of Historical Archeological Data Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 469, et seq.).

The purpose of this notice is to advise all interested parties of an aquatic ecosystem restoration project at Wilson Branch in Cheraw, Chesterfield County, South Carolina (See Figures 1 and 2). The proposed project involves constructing stone weir cross-vanes to create artificial pool-riffle habitat within the stream and planting of riparian habitat (See Figures 3-7).

In order to give all interested parties an opportunity to express their views

NOTICE

is hereby given that written statements regarding the proposed work will be received at this office until

12 O'CLOCK NOON, MONDAY, MARCH 31, 2003

from those interested in the activity and whose interest may be affected by the proposed work.

PROJECT INFORMATION

This project is being conducted in accordance with the Water Resources Development Act of 1996, which authorizes the Federal government to construct ecosystem restoration projects without additional and specific congressional authorization.

Wilson Branch is a small perennial stream located in the mostly residential part of Cheraw, South Carolina (Figures 1 and 2). The lower end of the stream flows through the small neighborhood Park before outletting into Huckleberry Creek, approximately 1.5 miles above the PeeDee River. Development in the drainage basin has reduced the amount of open land and greatly increased the impervious area in the basin. This has led to an entrenched stream upstream of the park with a low base flow and high peak discharges following rainfall events. Erosion in the basin and along this reach of channel has formed a stream with few pools and little structure within the stream. The slope of the channel in the park is much flatter creating a deposition area for the sediment, needing frequent maintenance to keep the flow within-bank.

Riparian plantings will be a restoration component to improve the aquatic condition of the stream. Species to be planted include those native to the bottomland area in this region of South Carolina. Nursery stock, bare root trees will be planted at a rate of 223 trees per acre or at a spacing of 14 feet by 14 feet in the easement areas (approximately 5 acres) along the top of bank, 50 feet on each side of the 2,000-foot restoration reach of the tributary and main stem of Wilson Branch (Figure 3).

The use of stone weir cross-vanes will create artificial pool-riffle habitat within the stream (Figure 4). The cross-vanes, approximately one-foot high, will direct the flow over the structure and to the middle of the stream creating a pool downstream of the structure. Rock used for construction of the cross-vanes will consist of a standard gradation with an 18 inch maximum width. Figure 5 provides three separate views of the cross-vane. The Cross Section and Profile Views show the rock being placed from the bank at an angle of 2 to 7% to the bottom of the stream. The Plan View shows how the rock will be placed from the bank in the upstream direction and an angle of 20 to 30 degrees from the bank. The rock being placed at these angles forces the water to flow away from the banks and into the center of the stream creating pools. A series of ten step-pools is recommended to create improved aquatic habitat within the entrenched channel and reduce channel bottom degradation and bank erosion along the 2,000-foot channel reach (Figure 6). This will also reduce the sedimentation buildup in Huckleberry Park thus reducing maintenance activities at the park. Ten cross-vane structures are planned for the main stem of the creek and its tributary. Pools will be created at all ten locations and approximately 2,000 feet of channel will be protected from erosion. Additionally, point bars should begin to form within the entrenched channel and a new floodplain should begin to form within the enlarged channel section.

Operation and maintenance needs for the stone weir structures will be limited to maintaining the weir elevation and shape to provide the grade control and pool creation capability of the structures. This will involve periodic replacement of some stones and repair of the structures to design grade and shape after significant storm events. Debris should be removed to prevent accumulations that can divert flows and cause unwanted erosion at the site.

The decision to proceed with the proposed action will be based on evaluation of the probable impact, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity on the public interest. This decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. Benefits, which may be reasonably expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors, which may be relevant to the proposal, will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

This document serves as a public notice on behalf of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) for water quality certification. A certification is required from SCDHEC stating that the proposed construction will be conducted in a manner

consistent with the Clean Water Act. By this notice, the Charleston District requests SCDHEC to issue that certification. Persons wishing to comment on State Certification are invited to submit same in writing to SCDHEC, 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201, within 30 days of the date of this notice.

The Charleston District is coordinating with the State and specific federally recognized tribes to determine the presence of absence of archeological and/or historic resources that may be present within the project site boundaries.

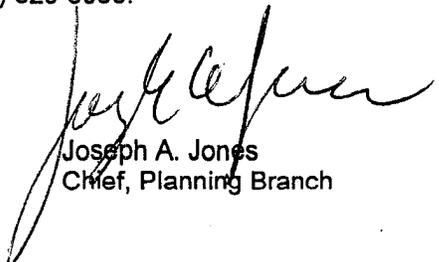
The District Engineer has consulted the most recently available threatened and endangered species information and has determined that the proposed project will have no effect nor will it result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated or proposed critical habitat. This public notice serves as a request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for any additional information they may have on whether any listed or proposed endangered or threatened species or designated or proposed critical habitat may be present in the area which would be affected by the proposed activity, pursuant to Section 7 (c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (as amended).

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Implementation of the proposed project may impact estuarine substrates and emergent wetlands utilized by various life stages of species comprising the red drum, shrimp, and snapper-grouper management complexes. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would not have a substantial individual or cumulative adverse impact on EFH or fisheries managed by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the NMFS. Our final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by, and coordination with, the NMFS.

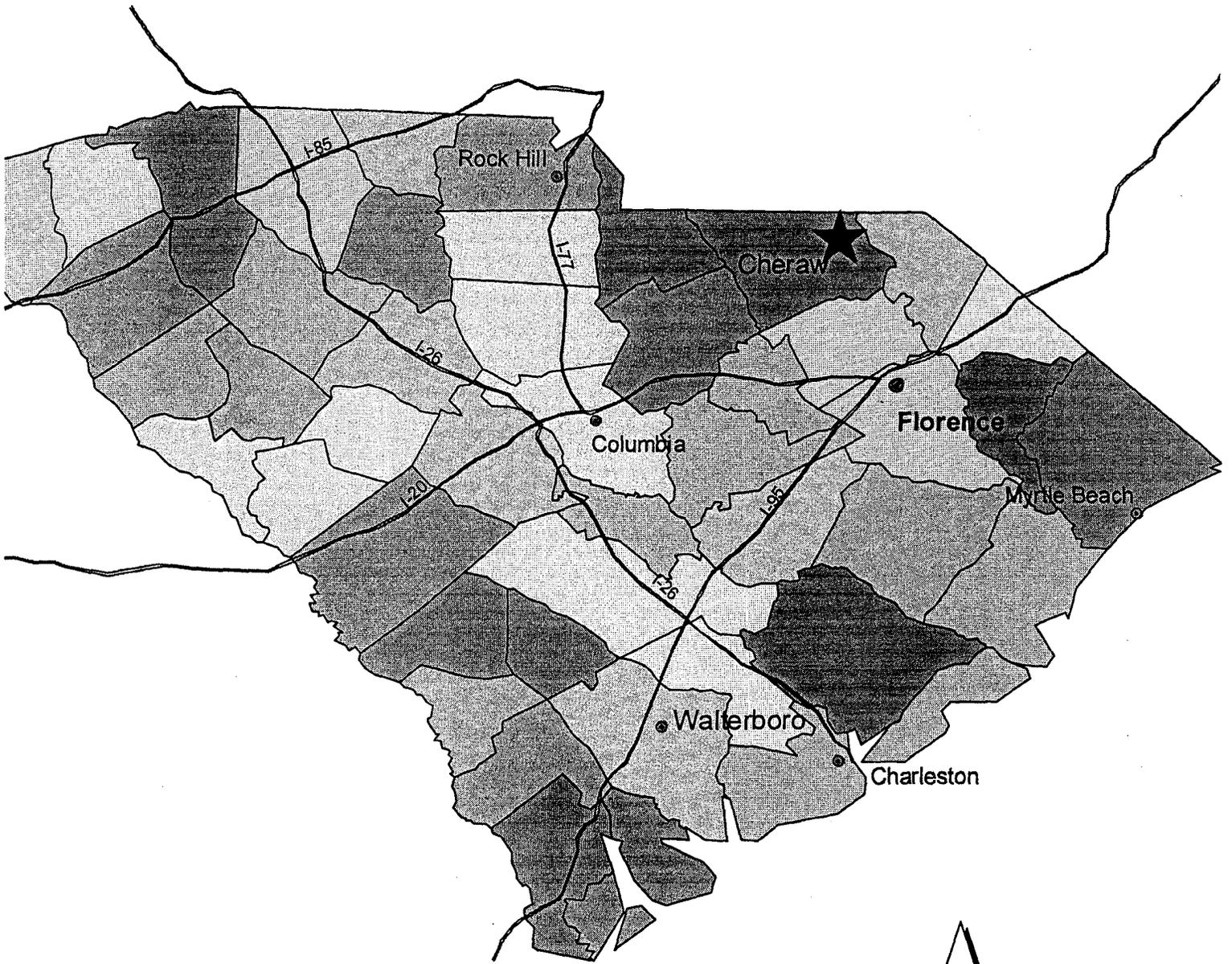
Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this proposed project. Request for a public hearing shall state, with particularity, the reason for holding a public hearing. These requests should be made to SCDHEC at the address listed above.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to proceed with the project. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine other overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Questions or comments concerning this notice should be directed to Mr. Andy Borden, Project Manager (PM-P), at telephone number (843) 329-8050.



Joseph A. Jones
Chief, Planning Branch



★ Study Location

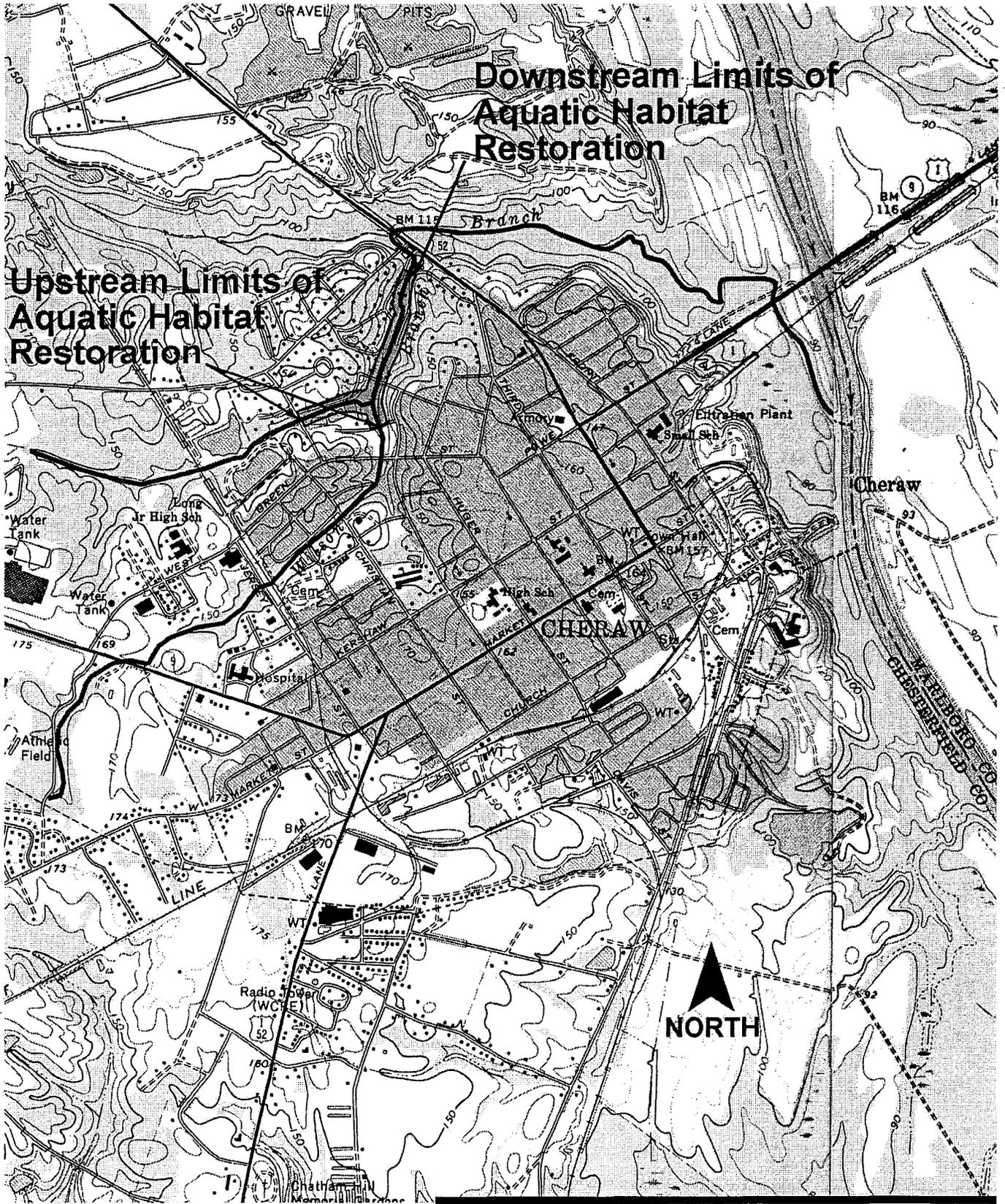


Vicinity Map

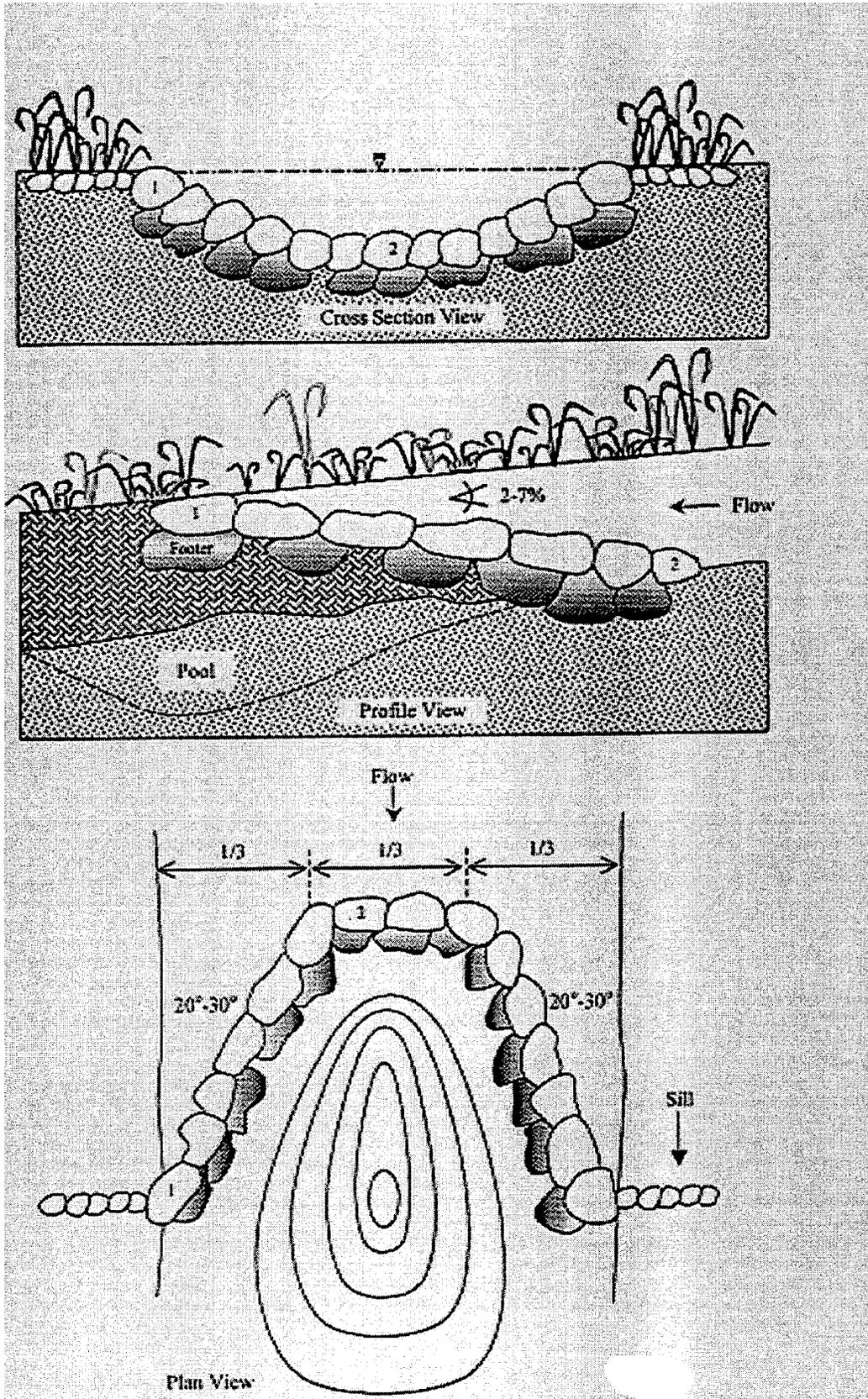
SECTION 206, Wilson Branch

Cheraw, South Carolina

Figure 1



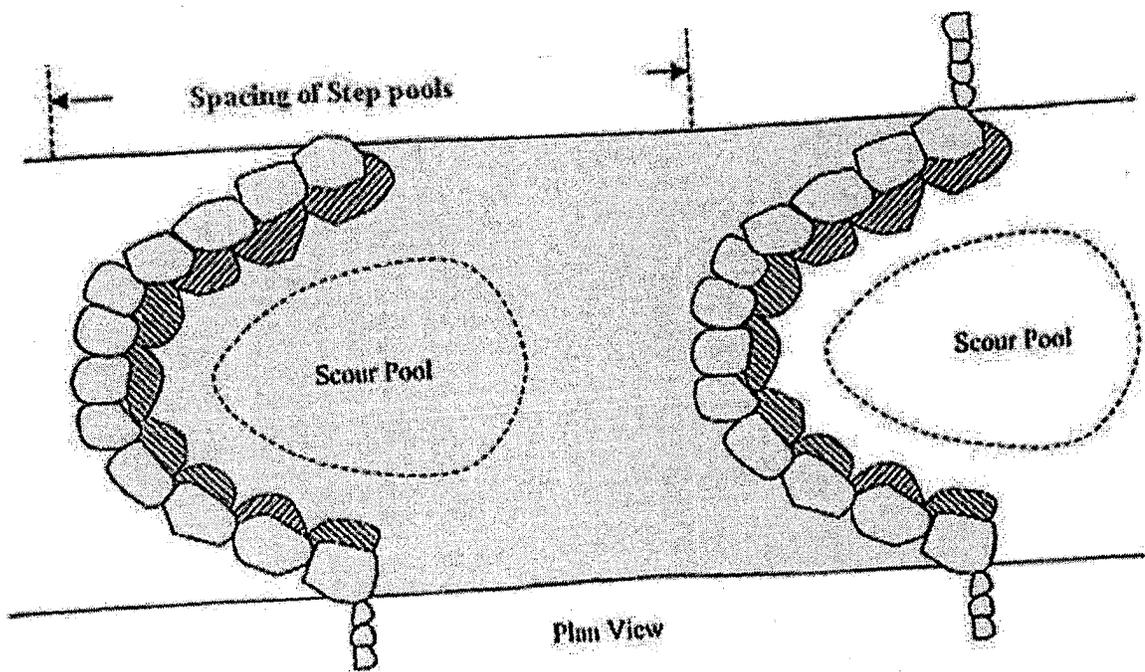
PROJECT MAP
SECTION 206, WILSON BRANCH
Cheraw, South Carolina
Figure 2



**STONE WEIR CROSS-VANE
SECTION 206, WILSON BRANCH**

Cheraw, South Carolina

Figure 5



Use of Cross-Vane for step/pool restoration.

**SPACING FOR STONE WEIR CROSS-VANES
TO CREATE STEP/POOL HABITAT
SECTION 206, WILSON BRANCH
Cheraw, South Carolina
Figure 6**