

Poe Creek State Forest WMA

South Carolina Wildlife Management Area | 2,498 acres | Oconee, Pickens County | Zone 1 / potentially Zone 2 boundary

CONFIRMED by SCFC official website (scfc.gov) and SCDNR 2024 Deer Harvest Report (Table 4) and 2025 Turkey Harvest Report (Table 5). SCFC Forest Certification Management Plan (Feb 2023) confirms 'approximately 2,513 acres.' Task description cited 6,200 acres — this figure does NOT match any official SCFC or SCDNR record. The 6,200-acre figure may confuse Poe Creek State Forest with a different property or include adjacent private lands. Official confirmed acreage: ~2,498–2,513 acres.

Managing Agency

SC Forestry Commission (owner/manager); SCDNR (regulates hunting via WMA cooperative agreement)

Phone: (864) 944-1104 (SCFC Poe Creek Director); (864) 654-1671 (SCDNR Clemson Wildlife Office)

Address: 151 Piedmont Nursery Road, Tamassee, SC 29686

Game Species

whitetail deer; black bear; wild turkey; squirrel; rabbit

Seasons (2025-2026)

Species / Season	Dates
deer_archery	Oct. 1 (Game Zone 1 WMA seasons apply; archery concurrent with primitive weapons seasons)
deer_primitive_weapons	Oct. 1 – Oct. 10
deer_gun	Oct. 11 – Jan. 1 (per Game Zone 1 WMA seasons)
deer_youth_hunt_day	January 3
turkey	April 1 – May 5 (statewide WMA season)
dove	None
bear	Oct. 11–16 (still hunt, 1 bear limit); Oct. 17–30 (party dog bear hunts, 5 per party) per Game Zone 1 WMA limits
hog	Jan. 2–10, Mar. 20–27 (with dogs); still hunting during any open game season
small_game	Sept. 1 – Mar. 1 (Game Zone 1 WMA limits)

Bag Limits

deer daily: 2 per day; **deer seasonal:** 5 total (no more than 2 antlered); **antlerless tags:** Only 3 individual antlerless deer tags valid for all Game Zone 1 WMAs combined (starting Oct. 1); **bear:** 1 bear per hunter still hunt; 5 per party dog hunt; **turkey:** 3 gobblers per season, no more than 2 per day

Access Points

Primary access via SC Scenic Highway 11 (Cherokee Foothills Scenic Highway). Address: 151 Piedmont Nursery Road, Tamassee, SC 29686 (Piedmont Forestry Center). Access roads include Little Eastatoee Rd and Shady Grove Rd (from WMA map). Property boundary on both sides of Lake Jocassee at Highway 11. Poe Creek State Forest Road provides internal forest access. Long Shoals Wayside Park on SC 11 provides public access to Little Eastatoee Creek portion. Managed as two discontinuous tracts (Tract 24 near Crescent Resources purchase area; Tract 25 = Piedmont Forestry Center, Cheohee Valley).

Special Regulations

SC hunting license + WMA permit required (WMA permit fees help fund Poe Creek — 100% self-sustaining from permit fees, timber sales, and rentals). SCDNR sets and regulates all methods of harvest, bag limits per annual

regulations. Hunting and fishing only in designated areas during appropriate seasons. No Sunday hunting on WMA lands (unless specifically exempted). Game Zone 1 regulations apply. Forest is cooperatively managed between SCDNR and SC Forestry Commission. International orange required during gun seasons. Steep terrain — safety awareness essential.

Field Tips

Poe Creek State Forest sits in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains adjacent to Jocassee Gorges, with habitat including 45% hardwood, 31% pine, and 19% mixed. Excellent habitat diversity for deer and bear. Dominant hardwood (1,137 acres of upland hardwood) provides strong mast production. Best deer and bear hunting near oak ridges and cove bottoms. The steep terrain of Tract 24 limits access but creates low-pressure hunting. Turkey population supported by diverse forest structure. Bear hunting follows same Game Zone 1 bear seasons as Jocassee Gorges (Oct. 11–30). Trout fishing in Little Eastatoee Creek and Cheohee River adds recreational value. Located about halfway between Piedmont Forestry Center and Keowee-Toxaway State Park on SC 11. Adjacent to Jocassee Gorges WMA, creating a significant contiguous wildlife corridor.

Landmarks & Terrain

SC Scenic Highway 11 (Cherokee Foothills Scenic Highway), Keowee-Toxaway State Park (~5 mi on SC 11), Long Shoals Wayside Park ('Sliding Rock') on SC 11, Little Eastatoee Creek, Cheohee River, Lake Jocassee (adjacent), Jocassee Gorges WMA (adjacent), Piedmont Forestry Center (Tract 25), Table Rock State Park (~15 mi)

Camping & Lodging

No designated hunting camps on Poe Creek WMA itself. Piedmont Forestry Center (Tract 25) has two rental cabins and conference facility available to public. Nearby camping: Keowee-Toxaway State Park (~5 mi on SC 11, has cabins), Table Rock State Park (~15 mi), Devils Fork State Park (Lake Jocassee, ~10 mi), private campgrounds on SC 11 corridor.

Nearest Cities

Salem (Oconee County, ~10 mi); Pickens (~20 mi); Walhalla (~25 mi); Clemson (~30 mi); Greenville (~50 mi)

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Sources & References

- SC Forestry Commission – Poe Creek State Forest official page: 2,498 acres, Oconee/Pickens, hunting deer/bear/turkey/squirrel/rabbit, SC 11 access — <https://www.scfc.gov/state-lands/poe-creek-state-forest/>
- SCFC Poe Creek State Forest WMA Map (Nov 2023) – access roads Little Eastatoee Rd, Shady Grove Rd — <https://www.scfc.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/WMA-PoeCreekStateForest.pdf>
- SCFC Poe Creek State Forest Management Plan 2023 – 2,513 acres, two tracts, WMA enrollment, species details — <https://www.scfc.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/PCSF-Plan-2023.pdf>
- SCDNR 2024 Deer Harvest Report – Poe Creek State Forest: 2,498 acres, Oconee/Pickens — <https://www.dnr.sc.gov/wildlife/deer/pdf/2024harvest/Table4.pdf>
- SCDNR 2025 Turkey Harvest Report – Poe Creek State Forest: 2,498 acres, Oconee/Pickens — <https://www.dnr.sc.gov/wildlife/turkey/pdf/2025/Table5.pdf>
- eRegulations SC Game Zone 1 WMAs – seasons applicable to Poe Creek (GZ1 WMA regulations) — <https://www.eregulations.com/southcarolina/hunting/game-zone-1-wm-as-only>

Compiled by HERE City Network. Always verify current regulations with SCDNR before hunting — seasons, bag limits, and area-specific rules can change year-to-year. SCDNR: 1-803-734-3886 • [dnr.sc.gov](https://www.dnr.sc.gov)