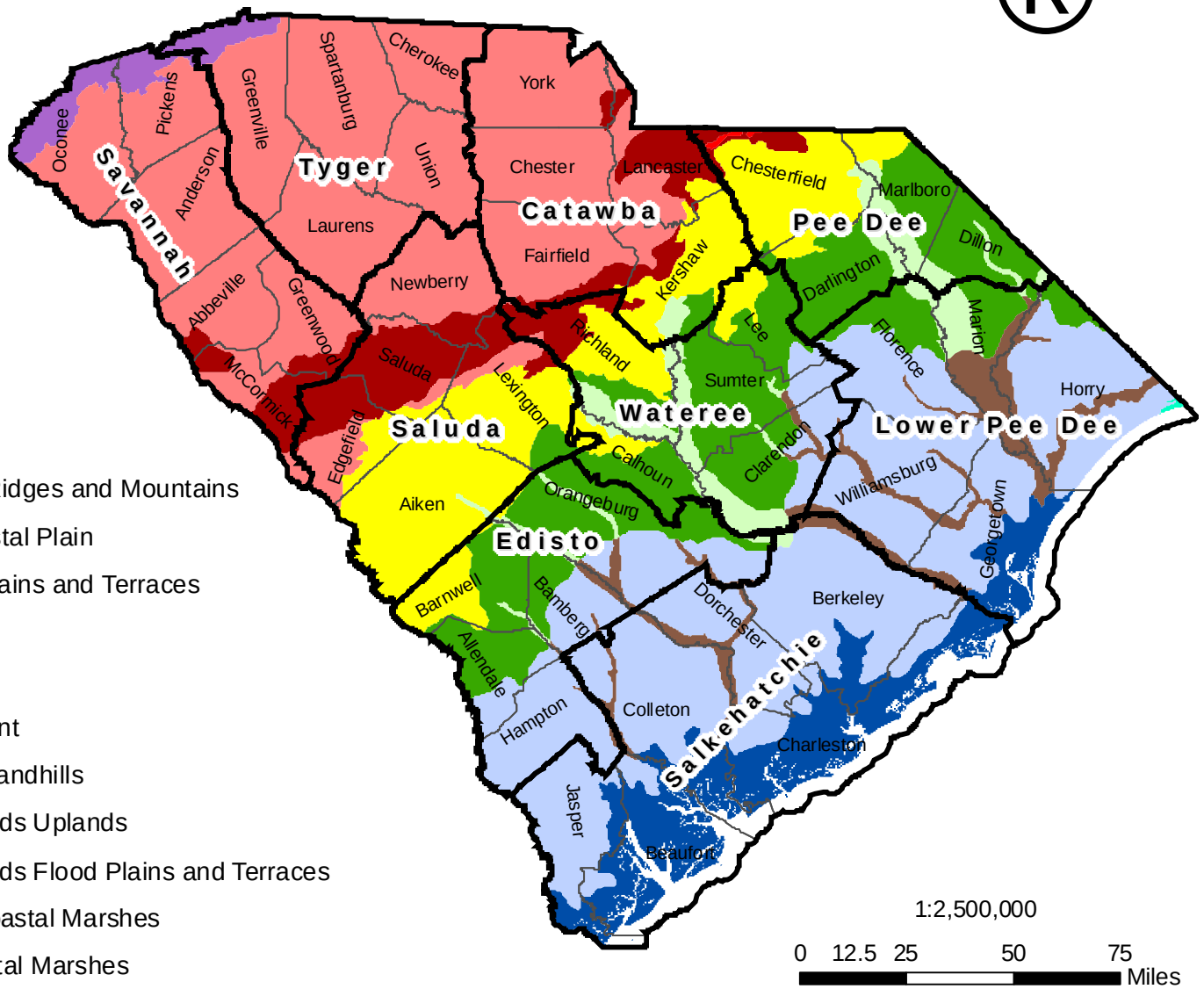
South Carolina Common Resource Areas



Legend

- 130B.2 - Southern Crystalline Ridges and Mountains
- 133A.5 - Southern Rolling Coastal Plain
- 133A.7 - Coastal Plain Flood Plains and Terraces
- 136.2 - Triassic Basins
- 136.3 - Carolina Slate Belt
- 136.4 - Southern Outer Piedmont
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- 153A.1 - Atlantic Coast Flatwoods Uplands
- 153A.2 - Atlantic Coast Flatwoods Flood Plains and Terraces
- 153B.3 - Barrier Islands and Coastal Marshes
- 153B.4 - Sea Islands and Coastal Marshes

1:2,500,000

0 12.5 25 50 75 Miles

Source: National Common Resource Area Database; USDA-NRCS-National Soil Survey Center
Coordinate System: UTM Zone 17, NAD 1983
January 2004

NRCS

South Carolina CRA Legend

MLRA	CRA	CRA Name	CRA Description
130B	130B.2	Southern Crystalline Ridges and Mountains	Pronounced ridges and mountain massed separated by high gaps and coves. Mountain flanks are steep and well dissected. Typically, Inceptisols, (Dystrudepts) and Ultisols (Hapludults) developed from the bedrock. Stoniness and steepness are characteristics of these soils.
133A	133A.5	Southern Rolling Coastal Plain	This CRA is a rolling, hilly, dissected portion of the Inner Coastal Plain that is made up of sedimentary material; mostly underlain by unconsolidated Tertiary sand, silt, clay, and gravels; Ultisols are dominant. Common crops are peanuts, cotton, corn, and soybeans.
133A	133A.7	Southern Coastal Plain Flood Plains and Terraces	It consists of low elevation, flat plains, with many swamps, marshes, and estuaries. Forest cover in the region, once dominated by longleaf pine in the Carolinas, is now mostly loblolly and some shortleaf pine, with patches of oak, gum, and cypress near major streams, as compared to the mainly longleaf-slash pine forests of the warmer Southern Coastal Plain . Its low terraces, marshes, dunes, barrier islands, and beaches are underlain by unconsolidated sediments. Poorly drained soils are common, and the region has a mix of coarse and finer textured soils compared to the mostly coarse soils
136	136.2	Triassic Basins	The Triassic Basins are irregular plains with low rounded hills, gentle ridges, and shallow valleys. The underlying sedimentary strata are characteristic and are distinct from the metamorphic rocks of the surrounding portions of the Piedmont. Today, a mosaic of woodland, pastureland, and cropland occurs. Shortleaf pine, loblolly pine, Virginia pine, and mixed hardwood are common in old fields. Corn, tobacco, cotton, soybeans, small grains, and truck crops are grown.
136	136.3	Carolina Slate Belt	The Carolina Slate Belt is an irregular plain with low rounded ridges and shallow ravines. It is characteristically underlain by deeply weathered, fine-grained metavolcanic and metasedimentary rocks of the Carolina Slate Belt that have been intruded by igneous rock. The soils of the Carolina Slate Belt were derived from residuum and have a high silt content.
136	136.4	Southern Outer Piedmont	This CRA is an irregular plain with low, rounded ridges and shallow ravines; ranges of low hills are scattered throughout the area; relief increases on western side; an area of rapids, cascades, waterfalls, and islands (the Fall Zone) occurs along the eastern boundary and contains urban and industrial areas. Ultisols are dominant and have developed from residuum; the soils are commonly clay-rich, acid, and relatively low in base saturation. Forestry and agricultural activity dominate most of the areas. Mixed forest, pine plantations, pasture; hay and cattle production.
137	137.1	Carolina and Georgia Sandhills	Stream flow is consistent; streams seldom flood or dry up because of the large infiltration capacity of the sandy soil and the great ground-water storage capability of the sand aquifer. On drier sites, turkey oak and blackjack oak grow with longleaf pine and a wiregrass ground cover. Shortleaf-loblolly pine forests and other oak-pine forests are now more widespread due to fire suppression and logging. The Sand Hills are a center of rare plant diversity in the Carolinas. The region in most areas has soils that are poorly suited to crops due to the droughtiness and rapid leaching of plant nutrient
153A	153A.1	Atlantic Coast Flatwoods Uplands	The Atlantic Coast Flatwoods Uplands are a broad plain composed of middle-elevation terraces, sandy ridges, and broad, shallow valleys. Drainage is often restricted and Aquults are the most extensive soils. Corn, soybean, pasture crops, and peanuts are often grown where drainage permits. Poultry, livestock, and dairy cattle farms also occur.
153A	153A.2	Atlantic Coast Flatwoods Flood Plains and Terraces	Southeastern Floodplains and Low Terraces comprise a riverine ecoregion that provides important wildlife corridors and habitat. Composed of alluvium and terrace deposits of sand, clay, and gravel, the region includes large sluggish rivers and backwaters with ponds, swamps, and oxbow lakes. It includes oak-dominated bottomland hardwood forests, and some river swamp forests of bald cypress and water tupelo
153B	153B.3	Barrier Islands and Coastal Marshes	The Barrier Islands and Coastal Marshes are composed of beaches, dunes, low terraces, beach ridges, and barrier islands that are fringed by lagoons, bays, tidal salt marshes, mudflats, tidal channels, or ocean. It is underlain by Quaternary unconsolidated sand, silt, and clay that were laid down as beach, dune, barrier beach, saline marsh, terrace, and near shore marine deposits.
153B	153B.4	Sea Islands and Coastal Marsh	The Sea Islands and Coastal Marshes are poorly drained flat plains. Pleistocene sea levels rose and fell several times creating different terraces and shoreline deposits. Spodosols and other wet soils are common, although small areas of better drained soils add some ecological diversity. Loblolly and slash pine plantations cover much of the region. Water oak, willow oak, sweetgum, blackgum and cypress occur in wet areas.