Broad River









The Broad River flows along the eastern side of the Enoree District. Called the Broad River since 1745, it once was a boundary between the Cherokee and Catawba Indian tribes.

The river runs through a millrace at Lockhart leaving the riverbed virtually dry for more than a mile. The best points to get onto the river are five miles down river at the Broad River boat ramp or Woods Ferry Recreation area. The 16.6-mile float to Neal Shoals Dam is primarily flat-water with a few riffles. There is a small inlet to the river on the east bank where you can portage .4 miles around the dam. Once around the dam, the river passes under Hwy. 72/121 (no access).

The Sandy River flows into the Broad from the east, and there is an access point just around the bend of the confluence. South of the Sandy River is the liveliest part of the trip. Riffles and ledges are present but the paddling is not difficult. The next landmark is Shelton Island; stay to the right channel. Henderson Island is next and a nice place to take a break. Take the left channel. As you travel under the Hwy. 34 bridge, you leave the forest.

Difficulty Level: Moderate; novice paddler or better. River brochure available at district office for more detail.

Length: Approximately 32 miles

Travel Time: 11 hours, depending on paddling speed and the number of stops along the river

Season: Year round; low water levels may make some ramps inaccessible. Check water levels: http://waterdate.usgs.gov/nwis

Water Type: Slow moving river, gentle current.

Safety: Neal Shoals Dam is about two miles down stream from Woods Ferry. Watch for seasonal flooding and fallen trees. Check local weather forecast before your trip. Study maps of the area and learn the terrain. Know the access points as some are NOT visible from the river. Portage around dam is .4 miles.

Camping: Primitive camping is allowed on national forest along the river by permit only. Contact Tyger Office.

Trash: Pack it in, pack it out.

Sumter National Forest



U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service Southern Region

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Access Points

Broad River Boat Ramp: From Hwy. 49 and 215, Monarch Mills, on 215 drive southeast 1.7 miles. Turn left onto Secondary 389 and drive 7.5 miles. Turn right onto Secondary 86 and drive 0.1 miles. Turn left on State Rd. 389 and drive to the end.

Woods Ferry Boat Ramp: From Hwy. 72 and Leeds Rd., drive north 1.8 miles. Turn left onto County Rd. 49 drive .10 miles. Cross railroad tracks and drive north 3.4 miles. Take left on Park Rd. Drive 3.6 miles to end of paved road.

From Hwy. 9 and County 49, drive south 5.6 miles. Turn right on Park Rd. and drive 3.6 miles to end of paved road. FS road 304 to Neal Shoals Dam and Canoe access-portage only. See back for directions.

Neal Shoals Dam Canoe Access (portage): From SC 9 and SSR S-12-49 drive south 5.6 miles. Turn right onto Park Road, County 12-574, and drive south, turn left onto Neal Shoals Road, Forest Service Road 304, and drive .6 miles and take right fork to end of road. Boaters can expect to portage their boats from the end of the road to the base of dam.

Sandy River Boat Ramp: From Hwy. 72 and Hwy. 215 intersection in Carlisle, drive east 3.3 miles on Hwy. 7. Turn right on FS Rd. 406 for 1.1 miles. Turn right on FS Rd. 406A for 0.9 miles to primitive ramp.

Forest Road 402 Primitive Ramp: From Newberry, drive 7.0 miles on Hwy. 34 and turn left on State Hwy. 55. Drive 4.0 miles and turn left on State Hwy. 45. Drive 4.0 miles and turn right on State Hwy. 54. Drive 1.0 miles and turn right on State Hwy. 702. Drive 1.0 miles and look for gravel road FS Rd. 402.Drive 3.0 miles. Access to the river is at the end of the road. Managed by Newberry County.

Strother Boat Ramp: From Newberry, take Hwy. 34 for 14 miles. Cross over the Broad River and turn right at sign for boat ramp. Managed by SCDNR.

For more information

Enoree Ranger District 20 Work Center Road Whitmire, SC 29178

Phone: (803) 276-4810 Fax: (803) 276-9303 Hours: Monday–Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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