

# Sumter National Forest

## South Carolina



## Fall Creek Falls

Southern Region, USDA Forest Service

Date: 11/21/2002

### Highlights

Aptly named, Fall Creek is home to three waterfalls, each roughly 30 to 50 feet high in a mile-long stretch. The less intrepid can enjoy a fine view of the first level just below the west side of FS 722. But to explore the entire Fall Creek chain--including the third level, budget about 2 hours for the difficult, two-mile downstream hike. There is no marked trail and dense rhododendron thickets blanket each side of the creek.

### For More Information

*Andrew Pickens Ranger District  
112 Andrew Pickens Circle  
Mountain Rest, SC 29664  
Telephone: (864) 638-9568  
Fax: (864) 638-2659  
Hours: Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.*

**Warning: Waterfalls can be very dangerous! Do not climb on the rocks surrounding the falls.**

**Directions:** From Westminster, drive west 16.2 miles on US 76 and turn right (east) onto Chattooga Ridge Road (Oconee County S-196). Drive about 2.2 miles and turn left (north) onto Fall Creek Road (FS 722). Follow FS 722 until it forks, and take the left (west) fork. At approximately 0.7 mile, FS 722 crosses over Fall Creek. Park beyond the creek. The first level of Fall Creek Falls is visible from the roadside. The first level of Fall Creek Falls is visible from the roadside.

Walk up the road to a faint path and follow it to an old logging road. Within approximately 25 yards, the falls can be seen on your left. Hike through the woods to the falls.

Following the stream downstream will take you to the other levels of the falls, but it is an extremely arduous undertaking because of the mountain laurel and rhododendron thickets.

**Camping:** Primitive camping is allowed, but campsites must be greater than 50 feet from streams and trails, and greater than 1/4 mile from roads.

**Difficulty level:** difficult

**Height:** 30 to 50 feet

**Travel time (hiking):** minimum of 2 hours

**Season:** year-round

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## Francis Marion & Sumter National Forests

4931 Broad River Road, Columbia, SC 29212-3530 (803) 561-4000

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



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## King Creek Falls

Southern Region, USDA Forest Service

Date: 11/21/2002

### Highlights

This 70-foot tumble through a laurel choked gorge is on King Creek. After a moderate 30-minute hike, you will reach a spot where you can relax all day long and enjoy the spray from the falls. Perhaps it is the backward slant of the rocks, but in any case the drop appears to be much higher than 70 feet.

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Fax: (864) 638-2659  
Hours: Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.*

**Warning: Waterfalls can be very dangerous! Do not climb on the rocks surrounding the falls.**

**Directions:** From Walhalla, drive northwest on SC 28 for approximately 8 miles and bear right (north) onto SC 107. Drive 10.4 miles and turn left onto Burrells Ford Road (FS 708, paved for the first 0.3 mile). Drive approximately 3 miles to the parking area on the left. Hike the Chattooga Trail (gravel) that begins at the southern end of the parking lot. Follow it 0.3 mile past the last campsite on the right side of trail and just north of King Creek. Take the first left (east) by the north bank of the creek. Proceed 250 yards and cross the bridge. Turn left (east) onto the trail to the waterfall. Climb the wooden steps, and follow the trail to the waterfall.

**Difficulty level:** moderate

**Height:** 70 feet

**Length of hike:** 0.5 mile

**Season:** year-round

**Surface type:** dirt

**Travel time:** 30 minutes (one way)

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# Opossum Creek Falls

Southern Region, USDA Forest Service

Date: 11/21/2002

## Highlights

The 2-hour journey is quite an effort to reach the 50-foot Opossum Creek Falls. However, reaching the falls could rank among your most rewarding waterfall excursions, or the most difficult. Most of the 2-mile hike ambles along a pleasant trail shaded by an assortment of hardwoods and bordered at times by small partridgeberry wildflowers. But when you reach the Chattooga River, you will turn left onto a heavily vegetated path and scramble around rocks and trees for a half-mile hike to the base of the waterfall.

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*Fax: (864) 638-2659*

*Hours: Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.*

**Warning: Waterfalls can be very dangerous! Do not climb on the rocks surrounding the falls.**

**Directions:** From Westminster, drive west 13.3 miles on US Highway 76 and turn left onto Damascus Church Road (County S-96). Drive 0.9 mile and turn right onto Battle Creek Road (County S-102). Drive 1.9 miles and turn right onto Turkey Ridge Road (FS 755). Drive 2.3 miles to FS 755F on the left. Park. Walk back up FS 755 to the trail one right and hike about 1.5 miles to the end of the trail where Opossum Creek enters the Chattooga River. Turn left and cross over a downed log. Continue upstream on Opossum Creek about 0.5 mile to the base of the waterfall.

**Camping:** Primitive camping is allowed along the trail, but campsites must be greater than 50 feet from streams and trails, and greater than 1/4 mile from roads.

**Difficulty level:** difficult

**Height:** 50 feet

**Length of hike:** 2 miles

**Season:** year-round

**Travel time (hiking):** 2 hours (one way)

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# Sumter National Forest

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### Riley Moore Falls



Southern Region, USDA Forest Service

Date: 11/21/2002

### Highlights

This stubby 12-foot high waterfall is on the Chauga River. On some rivers, this broad, 100-foot-wide cascade would probably pose just a brief obstacle to whitewater paddlers. But don't let that sway you. The moderate 45-minute hike along a recently constructed trail is worth your hiking time.

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*Hours: Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.*

**Warning: Waterfalls can be very dangerous! Do not climb on the rocks surrounding the falls.**

**Directions:** From Westminster, drive west 7.5 miles on US Highway 76 and turn right onto Cobb Bridge Road (Oconee County S-37). Drive 1.6 miles; turn left onto Spy Rock Road (FS 748, graveled). Drive 1.8 miles to FS 748C (on the right) and park by the side of the road. Hike east on FS 748C for 0.3 mile to the trail and hike 0.7 mile to the waterfall.

**Camping:** Primitive camping is allowed along the trail, but campsites must be greater than 50 feet from streams and trails, and greater than 1/4 mile from roads.

**Difficulty level:** moderate

**Height:** 12 feet

**Length of hike:** 1 mile

**Travel time (hiking):** 45 minutes (one way)

**Season:** Year-round

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### Spoonauger Falls



Southern Region, USDA Forest Service

Date: 11/21/2002

## Highlights

Set back into a hillside and surrounded by an explosion of shrubbery, Spoonauger Falls runs down a stepped rock face in a broad sheet. The 50-foot high waterfall is among the more popular in this area of the Chattooga River Watershed, no small part due to the easy, 20-minute hike. Like its cousin, King Creek Falls, this waterfall is camera-friendly, especially in the summer when plants snake all about and afternoon light highlights the innumerable horizontal slashes of the rock.

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*Fax: (864) 638-2659*

*Hours: Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.*

**Warning: Waterfalls can be very dangerous! Do not climb on the rocks surrounding the falls.**

**Directions:** From Walhalla, drive north 9.5 miles on SC Highway 28 to the junction of SC 28 and SC 107. Bear right (north) onto SC 107. Drive 10.4 miles and turn left onto Burrells Ford Road (FS 708, paved for first 0.3 mile). Drive about 3 miles to the Chattooga Trail parking on the left (look for bulletin board). Hike the trail north, which roughly parallels the Chattooga River for 0.25 miles and cross Spoonauger Creek. Follow the directions posted to reach the waterfall.

**Camping:** Primitive camping is allowed, but campsites must be greater than 50 feet from streams and trails, and greater than 1/4 mile from roads.

**Difficulty level:** easy

**Height:** 50 feet

**Length of hike:** 0.5 mile

**Season:** year-round

**Surface type:** dirt

**Travel time (hiking):** 20 minutes (one way)

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### Station Cove Falls



Southern Region, USDA Forest Service

Date: 11/21/2002

## Highlights

Station Cove Falls, a stepped 60-foot waterfall forms from headwaters atop Station Mountain. An easy, 30-minute hike through a gorgeous Appalachian cove takes you to the waterfall. In the spring and summer, countless wildflowers bloom along the trail. You may see trillium, may apple, pink lady's slipper orchids, bloodroot, and redbud.

## Surrounding Area

Oconee Station State Historic Site

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**Warning: Waterfalls can be very dangerous! Do not climb on the rocks surrounding the falls.**

**Directions:** From the intersection of SC Highway 11 and SC 183, drive 1.5 miles north on SC 11 and turn left (northwest) onto Oconee Station Road (County S-95). Drive 2.4 miles to trailhead on the left. Parking is limited to 4 cars. The 0.5-mile hike begins behind the bulletin board.

**Difficulty level:** easy

**Height:** 60 feet

**Length of hike:** 0.5 mile

**Season:** year-round

**Travel time (hiking):** 30 minute (one way)

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## Yellow Branch Falls

Southern Region, USDA Forest Service

Date: 11/21/2002

### Highlights

A moderately difficult out-and-back trail leads you to the base of a spectacular 50-foot vertical cascade. After a short hike on the Yellow Branch Nature Trail, you will come to the junction with the Yellow Branch Falls Trail. You will pass through groves of dignified hardwoods and cross meandering creek bottoms before turning to circumnavigate the steep terrain. In the winter when the trees are bare, you can see the Walhalla vicinity as you hike. Wear sturdy shoes and use extra caution during wet conditions as the trail skirts the edges of deep ravines. Conversely, if it hasn't rained for some time, the falls may be just a trickle of water over a series of ledges.

### Surrounding Area

The Stumphouse Ranger Station (district office for the Andrew Pickens Ranger District) is located 1/4 mile north of the picnic area. A wide variety of information is available here. Items such as maps, field guides, and Smoky Bear items may be purchased.

Stumphouse Tunnel Park, owned by the Pendleton Historical Society, is located between the picnic area and the ranger station. The tunnel is no longer opened due to safety concerns, but picnic tables, a small stream and Isaqueena Falls are there for your enjoyment.

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**Directions:** From Walhalla, drive west 6.8 miles on SC Highway 28 and turn left into Yellow Branch Picnic Area. Hike 0.2 mile on the Yellow Branch Nature Trail to the Yellow Branch Falls Trail. Hike 1.3 miles to the waterfall.

**Difficulty level:** moderate

**Height:** 50 feet

**Length of Hike:** 1.5 miles

**Travel time:** 1 hour (one way)

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