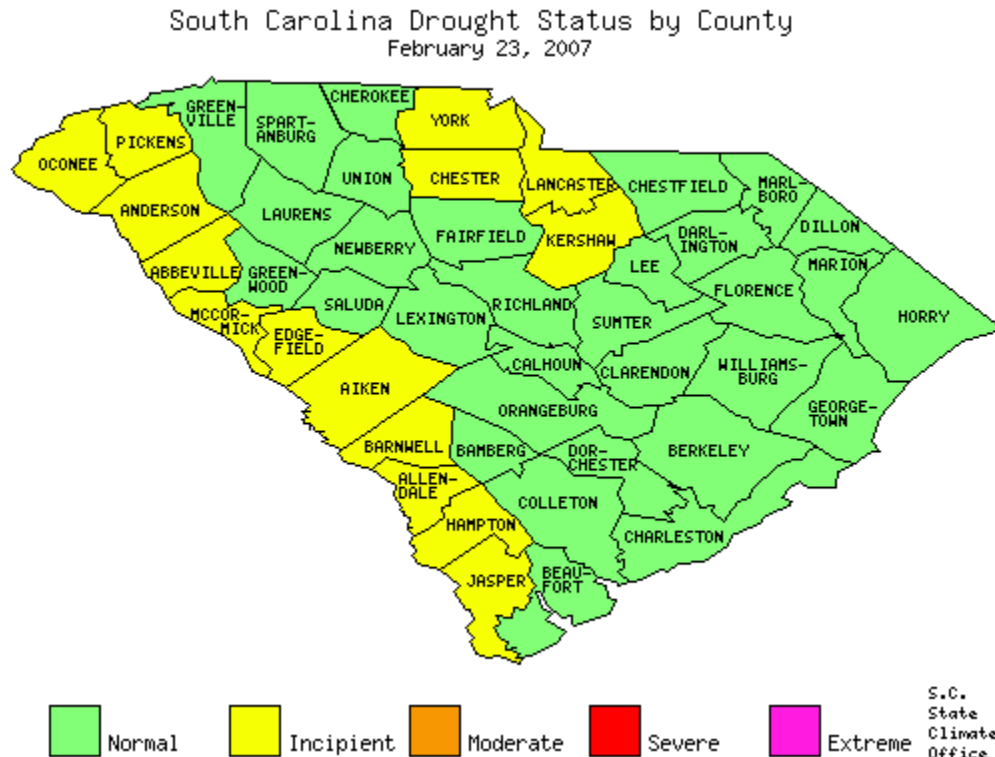


# South Carolina Current Drought Status

State Climate Office (803) 734-9100  
SPECIAL NEWS RELEASE  
Statement Date: February 23, 2007:

## DROUGHT RESPONSE COMMITTEE DOWNGRADES TO "INCIPIENT" STATUS



[Table of all counties and drought status.](#)

After receiving reports of improved hydrologic conditions, the South Carolina Drought Response Committee voted Feb. 23 in Columbia to downgrade the Savannah Basin from the "moderate" category to "incipient." The Committee declared a moderate drought on September 20, 2006, and maintained the declaration during the November 8, 2006, conference call.

Lake levels in Hartwell, Russell, and Thurmond have returned to near normal according to the U.S Army Corps of Engineers, but without normal rainfall may be at Stage 1 in 14 days. According to Duke Energy lake management manager George Galleher, "We had above average rainfall in November and December, but January saw below average rainfall and as of Feb. 17 we are below average. Duke Energy continues to think of the Keowee-Toxaway Area as being in a drought."

Reports from forestry and agriculture were cautiously optimistic. According to David Tompkins with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, "Soil moisture is in good shape going into the spring, however, we are dependent on adequate rainfall during the growing season." Darryl Jones with the SC Forestry Commission reported the state is experiencing an average number of fires, but, "We're just beginning the fire season with another month and half or so ahead of us. We're busy, but not abnormally so."

"In the process of moving from moderate to incipient, the DNR will increase its monitoring and notify the members of the committee in two week intervals about levels, flows, and rainfalls," said Alfred Vang, director of the S.C. Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Land, Water and Conservation Division. ♦ If there is a trend that appears to be negative, then we would call a meeting of the committee."

"We want to maintain our vigilance in monitoring this situation," said State Hydrologist Bud Badr. "Especially as we are beginning to move into the normally drier or reduced rainfall period of the year in South Carolina."

**Drought Status: 02-23-2007**

<b>County</b>	<b>Status</b>
Abbeville	Incipient
Aiken	Incipient
Allendale	Incipient
Anderson	Incipient
Bamberg	Normal
Barnwell	Incipient
Beaufort	Normal
Berkeley	Normal
Calhoun	Normal
Charleston	Normal
Cherokee	Normal
Chester	Incipient
Chesterfield	Normal
Clarendon	Normal
Colleton	Normal
Darlington	Normal
Dillon	Normal
Dorchester	Normal
Edgefield	Incipient
Fairfield	Normal
Florence	Normal
Georgetown	Normal
Greenville	Normal
Greenwood	Normal
Hampton	Incipient
Horry	Normal
Jasper	Incipient
Kershaw	Incipient
Lancaster	Incipient
Laurens	Normal
Lee	Normal
Lexington	Normal
Marion	Normal

<b>County</b>	<b>Status</b>
Marlboro	Normal
McCormick	Incipient
Newberry	Normal
Oconee	Incipient
Orangeburg	Normal
Pickens	Incipient
Richland	Normal
Saluda	Normal
Spartanburg	Normal
Sumter	Normal
Union	Normal
Williamsburg	Normal
York	Incipient