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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Saluda-Reedy Watershed Consortium Honored as
the Conservation Organization of the Year**

The South Carolina Wildlife Federation (SCWF) honored the Saluda-Reedy Watershed Consortium as the Conservation Organization of the Year at its annual Conservation Awards Banquet on Saturday, January 21, 2006 in Spartanburg, SC. Fourteen individuals and organizations, including the Consortium, were recognized for the parts they have played in conserving South Carolina's natural habitats for future generations. "The South Carolina Wildlife Federation is a well-respected member of the state's conservation community that has recognized outstanding contributions to conservation in South Carolina for more than 40 years," said Jennifer Rennicks, project coordinator for the Saluda-Reedy Watershed Consortium. "We are extremely pleased and honored to be chosen for this year's award. It is a wonderful acknowledgement of the project's value and a validation of the hard work of the project partners to date."

What is the Saluda-Reedy watershed, and why is it important?

The Saluda-Reedy Watershed is the entire land area that drains to Lake Greenwood. It encompasses over 1100 square miles, includes nearly 1500 miles of streams, and is over 80 miles long. "Though its boundaries are subtle and pass unnoticed by most of its residents, what happens within our watershed has a real impact on our rivers – and on our quality of life," explains Jennifer S. Rennicks, project coordinator for the Saluda-Reedy Watershed Consortium.

From the falls of the Reedy in downtown Greenville to Lake Greenwood's tranquil shores, the rivers and lakes of our watershed are central to what makes the Upstate such a special place. They are also a critical element of the natural infrastructure that keeps our economy strong. "Future growth depends on protecting water quality – not just in the rivers themselves, but across the watershed as a whole," Rennicks said.

What is the Saluda-Reedy Watershed Consortium?

The Saluda-Reedy Watershed Consortium is a collaborative effort by organizations and individuals concerned about the impacts of changing land use on the quality and abundance of water in the Saluda-Reedy basin. The Consortium includes a wide variety of partners from the public, private, and nonprofit sectors that are working together to provide assistance, support and science-based information to state and local agencies and the public in addressing the immense challenges that confront the watershed.

The work of the Consortium is made possible by the generous financial support of our funders, the V. Kann Rasmussen Foundation and Fuji Photo Film Inc. The V. Kann Rasmussen Foundation is a charitable foundation that supports causes in Greenwood and throughout South Carolina. Fuji Photo Film Inc., whose principal U.S. manufacturing facility is in Greenwood, also supports this project and others in the Greenwood community and throughout South Carolina.

Who can I contact for more information?

More information about this award is available to the public online:

Saluda-Reedy Watershed Consortium: <http://www.saludareedy.org/newsandinfo.html>

For more information about the Saluda-Reedy watershed project as a whole, contact:

Jennifer S. Rennicks
Project Coordinator, Saluda-Reedy Watershed Consortium
Upstate Forever, P.O. Box 2308 Greenville, SC 29602
864-250-0500 ext 34
jrennicks@upstateforever.or
www.upstateforever.org.

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