

Area to receive federal aid for restoration project

By Liz Carey

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ANDERSON — The National Park Service will continue to help Upstate Forever and Pickens County build out the Twelve Mile River Recreation and Restoration Project.

The waterway lies in Pickens County and stretches to the Clemson Experimental Forest and into Lake Hartwell.

The park service will help to build awareness of the project through a series of public workshops and develop a master recreation and restoration plan for the corridor.

Larry Dyck, a member of the steering committee in Pickens County overseeing the project, said the goal was to focus on the recreational opportunities in the areas three sections — the white-water area, the flat-water area and the lake itself.

So far, two of three dams along Twelve Mile Creek have been removed to help restore the area to its natural state. Negotiations are continuing on removal of a third dam.

“With the removal of the two dams there has been a 100-foot elevation drop over the course of a mile and a half,” Dyck said. “That becomes kayaking water. What we’re trying to get at is that there is a natural flow of the river. Now, with the free flow of the river, it’s a recreational opportunity.”

The Twelve Mile project was one of five receiving funding from the National Park Service. It is part of the agency’s effort to help communities and neighborhoods preserve open spaces, revitalize nearby rivers and develop trail and greenway networks.

The park service announced Thursday it would also fund the Waccamaw River Blue Trail in Georgetown, the Nation Ford Greenway in Fort Mill, the Three River Greenway in Columbia and the Tyger River Trails and Blueways in Spartanburg.

