

# Sumter National Forest

## South Carolina



## Parson's Mountain Lake Recreation Area

Southern Region, USDA Forest Service

Date: 4/11/2006

### Highlights

Parson's Mountain Recreation Area, just south of Abbeville, is home to an artificial 28-acre lake and an 800-foot summit. Although neither terribly high nor dramatic, it offers compelling views of the surrounding countryside. Geologists call this type of hill a "monadnock," a technical term for a mound of hard rock left when all the surrounding land erodes away. The woods surrounding this area overflow with flowering flora such as sparkelberry, redbud, wild ginger, and dogwood.

### Attractions

This 23-site, heavily wooded campground offers the relaxing solitude of nature, with easy access for other activities.

There are designated swimming and picnic areas, and a bath house. This day-use area was designed with an earthen pier, a pedestrian bridge, and a boat ramp for non-motorized boats.

Three marked trails incorporate the upstate's rich history and diverse wildlife habitat: the Parson's Mountain Interpretive trail, the Parson's Mountain Tower trail, and the Parson's Lake trail. Surrounding Area

Nearby points of interest include historic Abbeville, Burt-Stark mansion and well-renowned Opera House. Fell and Midway Camps, Candy Branch Rifle Range, Cedar Springs and Parson's Mountain OHV Trails, and Long Cane Scenic Area are nearby.

### For More Information

*Long Cane Ranger District*

*810 Buncombe Street*

*Edgefield, SC 29824*

*Phone: (803) 637-5396, Fax: (803) 637-5247*

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

**Directions:** From Abbeville, take SC route 28 south 2.1 miles. Turn left on Route S 1-251, drive 1.5 miles to entrance on right.

### Difficulty Level:

- Parson's Mountain Interpretive Trail is easy.
- Parson's Mountain Tower Hiking Trail is moderately difficult with a 400 ft. elevation change.
- Parson's Lake Trail is moderate

### Facilities:

- Handicap accessible day area
- Picnic area has tables, grills, and group shelter (group shelter may be reserved)
- Bath house with flush toilets and showers
- Camping sites with fire ring, table, and lantern post.
- Pit toilets and water pumps are located throughout the campground.

**Fees:** \$7/day, camping, \$3/day, day-use. Self-service fee station for day and camping use. Shelter reservations must be made and fees paid at the district office.

**Requirements:** SC fishing and boating regulations apply.

### Season:

- Campground and picnic area: April 1--mid-December
- Swimming Area: April 1-November 15

The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## Francis Marion & Sumter National Forests

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

