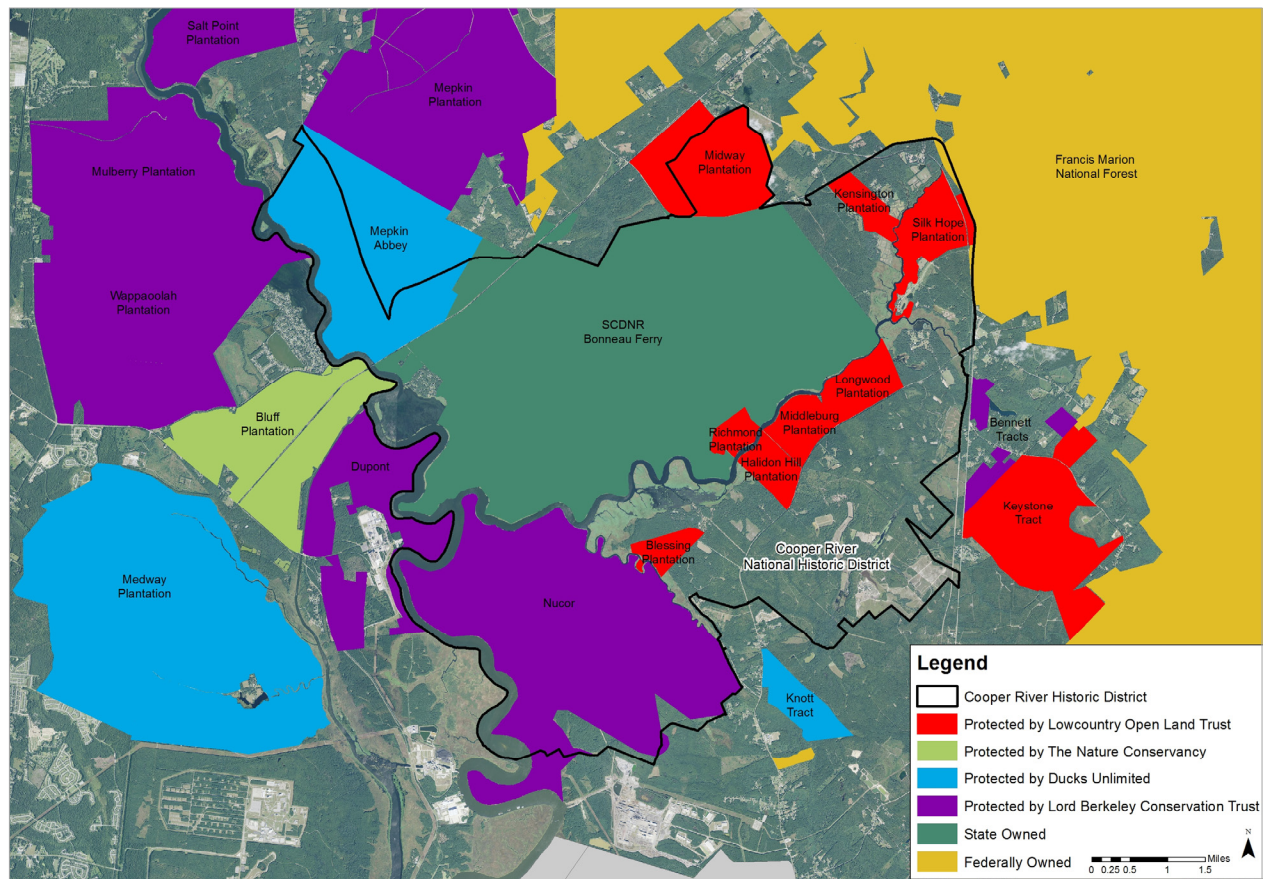


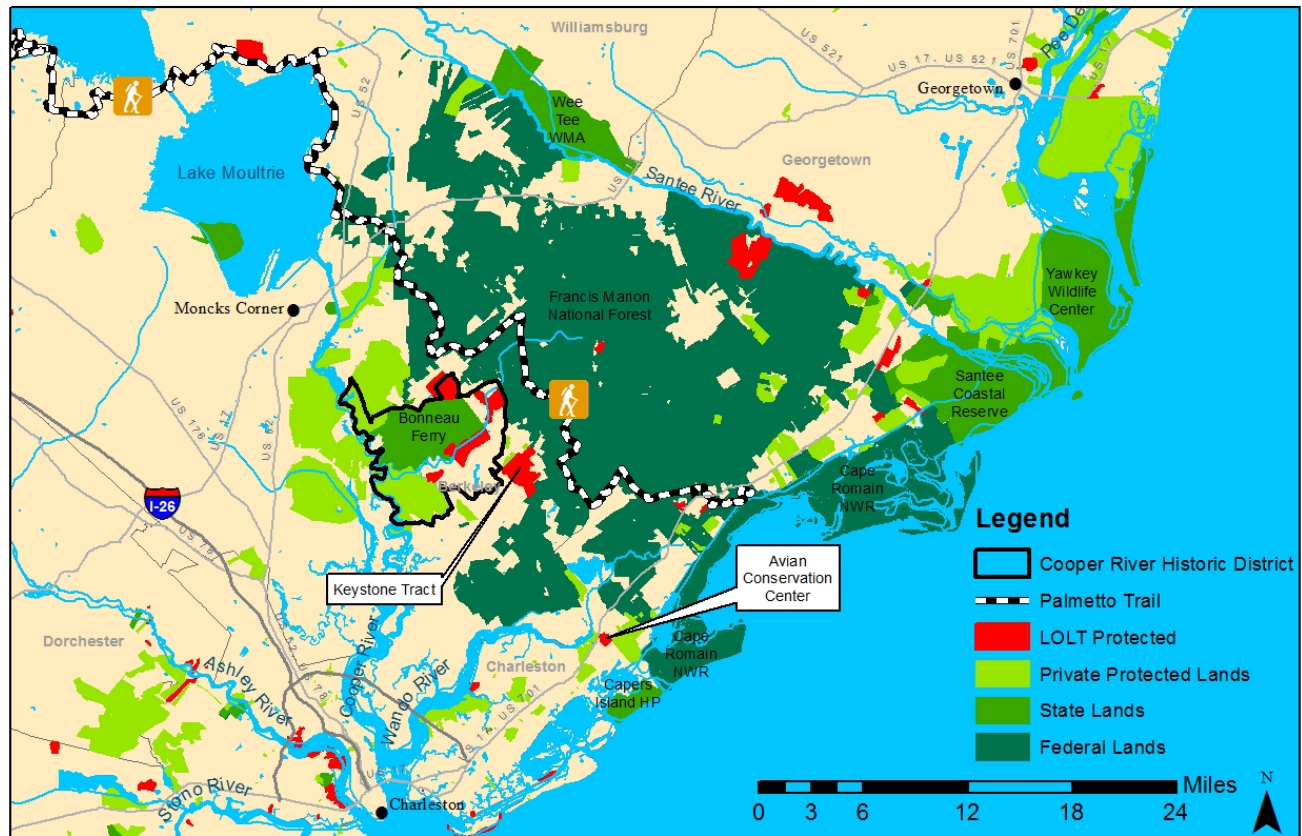
The Cooper River Corridor: a prominent feature of the Cooper-Ashley-Wando-Stono (CAWS) River Basin, the Cooper River Corridor is a remarkably intact historic and cultural landscape containing archaeological features from the eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth centuries, notably the iconic rice plantations. It is a timeless landscape and irreplaceable Lowcountry treasure that has been the focus of a consortium of partners for decades.

The Cooper River Historic District: In recognition of the Cooper River Corridor's unparalleled historic and cultural integrity, historic preservation groups worked together to designate the Cooper River as an historically significant landscape on the National Register of Historic Places. The 30,020-acre Cooper River Historic District encompasses both branches of the Cooper River, and is a significant complement to land and water conservation efforts in the overall Corridor.



Lowcountry Open Land Trust holds 5,182 acres of conservation easements covering 6.5 river miles in the Corridor. These properties in conjunction with the Francis Marion National Forest (260,000 acres), Bonneau Ferry Wildlife Management Area (10,413 acres), Huger Recreation Area (20 acres), Santee Experimental Forest (6,100 acres), and other land trust held easement properties (35,104 acres) help to protect the headwaters and entire Cooper River watershed, preserving a natural view from the river as well as rural agricultural and timber land, historic structures and cultural values, all of which are unique to our way of life in the Lowcountry.

Conservation in the Corridor: The Cooper River Corridor stands apart from all other Lowcountry landscapes because of its uncommon diversity of land ownership with a unifying land ethic. The collaborative effort between public-private entities, industry and corporations, faith based organizations, historic and cultural preservation groups, and the conservation community and private landowners has resulted in thousands of acres of land protection, miles of unspoiled, scenic river frontage, and superb public access opportunities such as hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, as well as biking and hiking along South Carolina's premier cross-state recreational passage – The Palmetto Trail.



New Partnerships: Today, the work continues as new initiatives begin and additional partners are engaged.

- In 2015, the **SC Ports Authority** announced a milestone agreement with Lowcountry Open Land Trust and the Coastal Conservation League for the Post-45 Harbor Deepening Project that includes a significant Port contribution to land conservation efforts within the Cooper River Corridor. The Ports Authority will be partnering with the Land Trust on identifying and protecting key parcels within the Corridor, which will have a profound impact on wildlife habitat, water quality and landscape connectivity.
- In 2014, **Boeing Corporation** acquired three critically important properties within the Corridor as mitigation for the expansion of their North Charleston facility. Lowcountry Open Land Trust partnered with Boeing on the 1,682-acre Keystone Tract and is actively restoring wetlands and longleaf pine habitat. The Land Trust will work with the S.C. Department of Natural Resources on long-term stewardship and management of the property.
- In 2012-2013, **BP Foundation** funded a partnership grant between Lowcountry Open Land Trust, Southeastern Wildlife Exposition and the Avian Conservation Center to enhance and protect wildlife habitat within the Corridor and to offer outreach and education opportunities for the public to learn about the benefits of conservation.

Each of these initiatives serve to bring communities together toward the common goal of protecting and stewarding our precious natural resources and preserving the quality of life in South Carolina.