

# Group wants local eyes

Friends of Keowee to prod counties to increase their roles as monitors

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PICKENS COUNTY NEWS  
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A local group that monitors development and water quality for Lake Keowee plans to push Pickens and Oconee counties to more closely monitor commercial development along the lake.

The effort comes as the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission reviews a final Recreation Management Plan submitted in December by Duke Energy.

The plan would serve as a guide to managing cur-

rent recreation resources on lakes Keowee and Jocassee until 2016, when Duke's current FERC license expires.

It outlines what the Friends of Lake Keowee Society calls a "robust" schedule for development of several recreational facility enhancements at lake public-access areas in the two counties.

The two lakes serve as a border between Pickens and Oconee counties.

Duke Energy completed the plan following a year-long collection of informa-

tion in 2007 that looked at existing developed and undeveloped Duke access areas, state and municipal parks, and commercial recreation facilities within and adjacent to the two lakes.

Society President Bill Graham said the group has general praise for the plan.

"At its core, it's a really good plan," Graham said. "It has been thoughtfully put together."

But, the nonprofit group questions the federal agency's apparent dismissal of its concern over continued commercialization of the public lake access areas on Lake Keowee. Work is currently underway on a marina at Warpath Landing on

## on lake development

the Pickens County side of the lake that would include a restaurant, hotel and other amenities.

"The plan's desire for improvements to public access areas should be more passive than aggressive," Graham said.

He said most of the people who commented on the plan during the data-gathering phase wanted moderate upgrades to the access points, such as courtesy docks and possibly future fueling stations and bait shops.

Graham said his organization is working with Oconee County Council on a lakeside overlay district around Keowee that would



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Plans are underway to build a hotel, restaurant and marina at the Warpath Landing public access area.

limit development. He said the group hasn't formally approached Pickens County about an overlay district on that side of the lake.

"An overlay district is important in terms of how intense development could potentially be on the lake," he said.