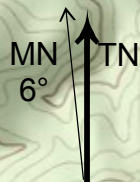
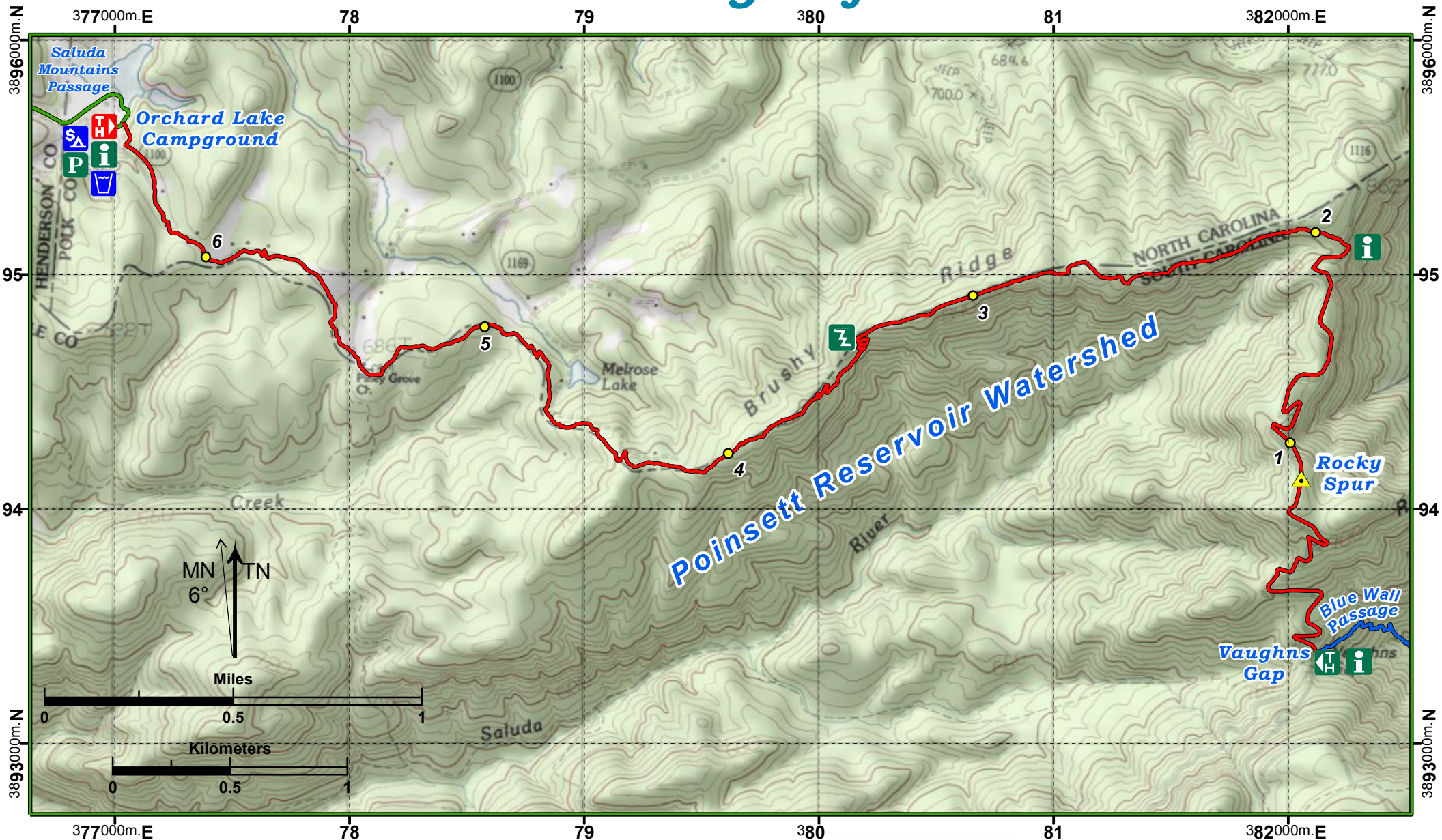
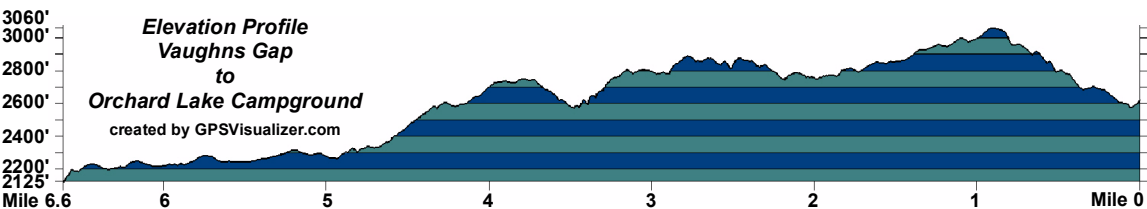


# Poinsett Reservoir Passage of the Palmetto Trail



Miles

Kilometers



NAD1927 UTM Zone 17S  
Map Scale 1:22,000

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Palmetto Conservation Foundation





# Poinsett Reservoir Passage of the Palmetto Trail

## Trail Information

**Length:** 6.6 Miles

**Use:** *Hiking Only!*

**Difficulty:** Moderate

### Passage Restrictions:

No vehicles

No Camping or Fires

Park ONLY in designated areas

**Trail Marking:** Trail Signs and Yellow Blazes

## Rules and Precautions

- Please practice "Leave No Trace" philosophy, pack out what you pack in
- **Stay on designated trails**
- Leave what you find
- Respect private property
- Be considerate of fellow trail users
- No fire or camping on the trail. Use the Orchard Lake Campground, when open
- **Vehicles are prohibited!**
- Pack plenty of food and water, there is no water on the trail
- **Check the Greenville Water System "Rules for Palmetto Trail" posted at all trail kiosks. These trail rules are online at the Palmetto Conservation web site.**

## Additional Information

### Palmetto Conservation Foundation

722 King Street  
Columbia, SC 29205  
(803) 771-0870

[www.palmettoconservation.org](http://www.palmettoconservation.org)

### Orchard Lake Campground

460 Orchard Lake Rd.  
Saluda, NC 28773  
(828) 749-3901

[www.orchardlakecampground.com](http://www.orchardlakecampground.com)

Open April through October

## Driving directions:

### To Orchard Lake Campground From Greenville:

Take US 25 North past Hwy 11  
Turn right on Old US 25 for 7.1 miles  
Turn right on Saluda Rd for 3.1 miles, the road become Mountain Page Rd @ the NC line  
Turn right on Mine Mountain Rd for 1.3 miles to the junction of Orchard Lake, Fork Creek & W Fork Creek Roads  
Curve right on Fork Creek Rd for .75 mile  
Turn left into the Orchard Lake parking area  
See below [Trailhead Parking & Kiosk](#)

### From Columbia:

Take I-26 West into NC  
Take exit 67 to Tryon for 3.4 miles  
Turn right on US 176 towards Saluda for 4.7 miles, you will see a brown Pearson's Falls sign  
Turn Left on Pearson's Falls Rd for .5 mile, cross Pacolet River & go under railroad trestle  
Turn left on Fork Creek Rd, immediately after crossing under the railroad and go 4 miles  
Turn right into the Orchard Lake parking area

### [Trailhead Parking & Kiosk](#)

The parking area is inside a split rail fence just off of Fork Creek Road. At the other end of the open RV camping area is the trailhead kiosk.

## Vaughns Gap Trailhead

**The Vaughns Gap trailhead is only accessible by foot. The Blue Wall Passage parking area is 3.4 miles from the trailhead. Check the PCF website for information on the Blue Wall Passage.**

**\*\*\* Warning \*\*\***

**The last 2 miles of the Blue Wall Passage up to Vaughns Gap is Extremely Steep!**

## Passage Description

The Poinsett Watershed is a 19,000 acre tract of property that includes the entire watershed feeding the Poinsett Reservoir of the Greenville Water System. The initial section of the Poinsett Passage of the Palmetto Trail is 6.6 miles and begins at Vaughns Gap – the end of the Blue Wall Passage – and continues north along Hog Back Mountain Road for 1.9 miles until it reenters the forest. The trail continues west and climbs to Brushy Ridge before descending several switchbacks into a steep gap. Ascending from this gap via several more switchbacks, the trail again regains the ridges along the SC/NC state line and continues for approximately 3 more miles to Orchard Lake Campground, an intermediate trailhead.

The Greenville Watershed is one of the most significant wilderness areas in South Carolina and a unique natural habitat for rare plants and animals. The watershed property was acquired by the Greenville Water System in the 1950s and has been carefully protected since then as a principal water source for the system. In 1993, the Greenville Water System conveyed an easement on the property to The Nature Conservancy. The commissioners of the Greenville Water System have granted permission for this hiking trail along the northern perimeter of the Watershed. **HELP US PROTECT OUR WATERSHED.**



GreenvilleWater

