

BOARD OF NATURAL RESOURCES MEETING

OCTOBER 27, 2026 | ATLANTA, GA


50
SAPELO ISLAND
National Estuarine
Research Reserve
GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WILDLIFE RESOURCES DIVISION
NOAA
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE




CAMP
McDOWELL




ISLAND
ESTUARINE
RESEARCH RESERVE


Thank you

Final Action on Proposed New Rules, Chapter 391-2-1: Private Docks in State Owned Tidal Waters

Jill Andrews
Assistant Director, Coastal Resources Division
October 27, 2026



Private Docks

Chapter 391-2-1

.01 Purpose
.02 Definitions
.03 Issuance of a Revocable License
.04 Standards and Conditions of New Private Docks
.05 Reconstruction and Modification of Existing Private Docks
.06 Maintenance of Existing Private Docks Rule
.07 Variances
.08 General Conditions of Revocable Licenses for Private Docks
.09 Inspections; Revocation, Suspension, or Modification of Revocable License



Coastal Committee Action: August 2026

391-2-1-.04 – Standards and Conditions of New Private Docks:

(3) Proposed: spanning waterways greater than 20 feet wide requires a minimum clear span and engineered drawings

Amended: Private dock must terminate at 1st waterway ≥20ft. at Mean High Water

391-2-1-.07 – Variances:

(1) Proposed: Variance to the length of a fixed walkway may be granted

Amended: Variance allowing length of fixed walkway to exceed 1,500ft. Shall not exceed 10%, or 150ft.

Public Comment Summary

August 26 – September 30, 2026:

- Comments Received: 342*
  - Opposition: 338
  - Support: 4

Comments in Support:

- Property owner's right
- Marsh is already protected
- Very long docks good for organisms and birds
- Should be built/inspected properly



*On time, relevant to topic, non-duplicate

Public Comment Summary

Comments in opposition:

- **Fixed Walkway**: Exceeds current standards and CMPA's "minor alteration"; total area over public lands; width exceeds mobility standards; introduces docks into new habitat areas; more wrack accumulation and shading of vegetation.
- **Variance**: More specific criteria/qualification (hardship)
- **Electrical permit/inspection**: More stringent requirements, mandatory inspections.
- **Public Trust**: Public trust, public access and resource protection not balanced with few riparian homeowners.
- **Definitions**: Change to restrict existing docks from enlarging; maintenance.
- **Fees**: New; support staff and restoration/clean up
- **Research/Data**: Conduct dock inventory first; base standards on current research.



Timeline: Current Proposal

Date	Action
August 25, 2026	Brief Board on revised proposed rules
August 26, 2026	Public Comment Period Start – includes Coastal Committee amendments
September 30, 2026	Public Comment Period Ends
October 27, 2026	Request Board Final Action



Thank you



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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

Briefing on Proposed Amendments to the Rules for Safe Drinking Water, Chapter 391-3-5

October 27, 2026

Veronica Craw

Consumer Confidence Reports

- Community water systems are required to prepare and provide reports on the quality of water delivered by the systems.

- Consumer Confidence Reports, at a minimum, contain information on the quality of the water and characterizes the risks (if any) from exposure to contaminants detected in the drinking water in an accurate and understandable manner.



Purpose

- Amend three Rules for Safe Drinking Water, Chapter 391-3-5, for consistency with changes made by EPA in the Code of Federal Regulations regarding Consumer Confidence Reports

Background: proposed changes to 391-3-5

- On June 24, 2024, EPA finalized revisions under 40 CFR Part 141 regarding Consumer Confidence Reports.

- The Federal rule revisions will take effect with the reports due in 2027.

- To remain consistent with the Federal regulations, EPD is proposing to amend three rules under 391-3-5; 391-3-5-.02, 391-3-5-.30, and 391-3-5-.41.

Summary: proposed changes to 391-3-5

- 391-3-5-.02, "Definitions" is being amended to remove the word "annual" in paragraph (27).
- 391-3-5-.30, "Reporting Requirements" is being amended in paragraph (13) to include a broader reference.
- 391-3-5-.41, "Consumer Confidence Reports" is being amended to change the title of paragraph (2) and to update language in paragraphs (2)(a) and (2)(b) to be consistent with 40 CFR 141.152(c).

Summary: proposed changes to 391-3-5-.41

- Updated timeline in paragraph (2)(c)1 to be consistent with 40 CFR 141.152(d)(1); added new provision from 40 CFR 141.152(d)(3) in paragraph (2)(c)3.

- Added the word "reporting" in paragraph (5).

- Added paragraph (6) to be consistent with 40 CFR 141.153(a) and renumbered subsequent paragraphs.

- Changed "customer's" to "consumer's" in paragraph (8)(a)4.

Public Process Summary

- EPD held a public meeting on September 10, 2026, and accepted comments through September 18, 2026.

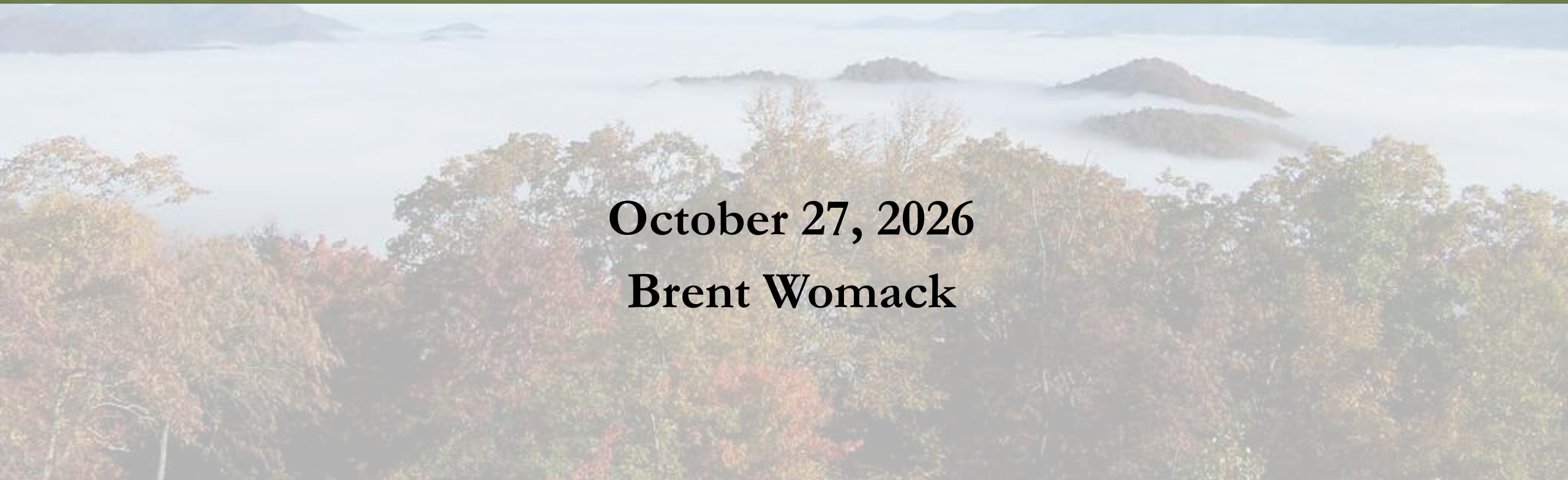
- EPD received one public comment regarding the proposed amendments.
  - The comment did not object to the amendments but posed a question to gain understanding related to the implementation of the rule revisions.
  - The comment received did not result in any changes to the proposed amendments.

Rulemaking Timeline

Date	Milestone
September 10, 2026	Public meeting for stakeholder feedback
October 27, 2026	Brief the DNR Board Environmental Committee
November 2026	Public Notice
December 2026	Public Hearing
February 2027	Request DNR Board Adoption

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Real Estate Office



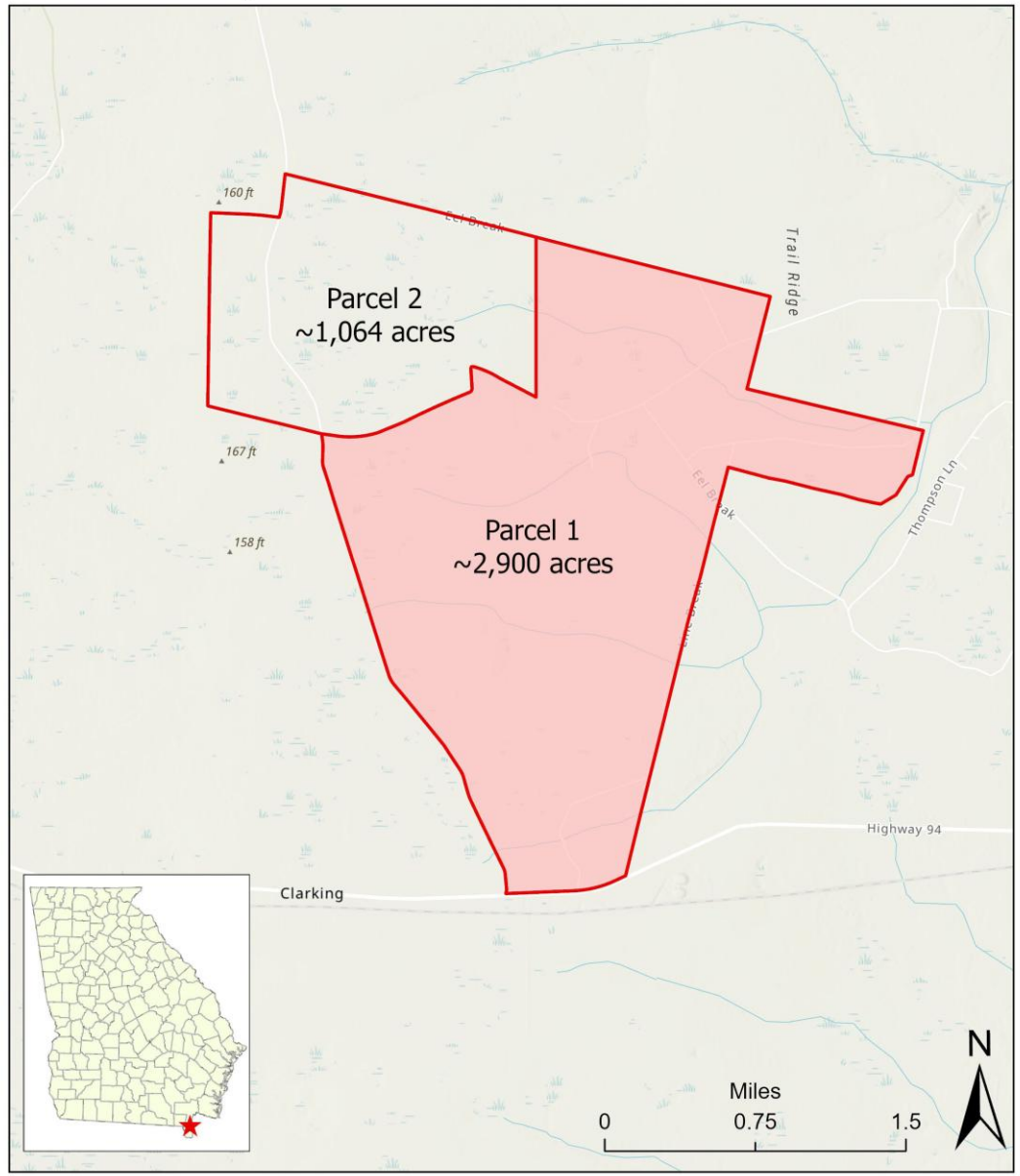
October 27, 2026

Brent Womack

TCF Charlton

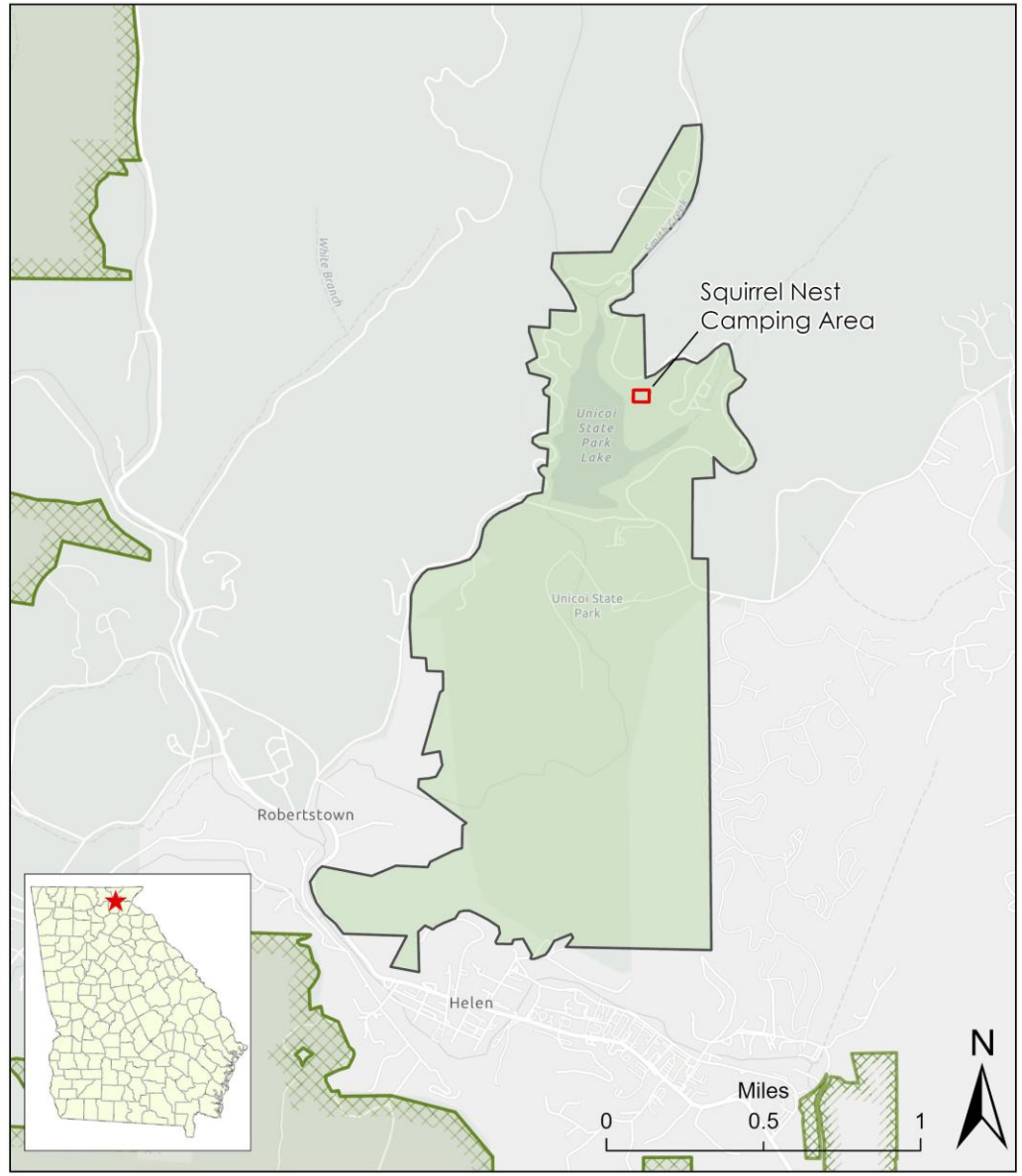
Charlton County

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WILDLIFE RESOURCES DIVISION



Unicoi SP
Proposed Demolition
White County

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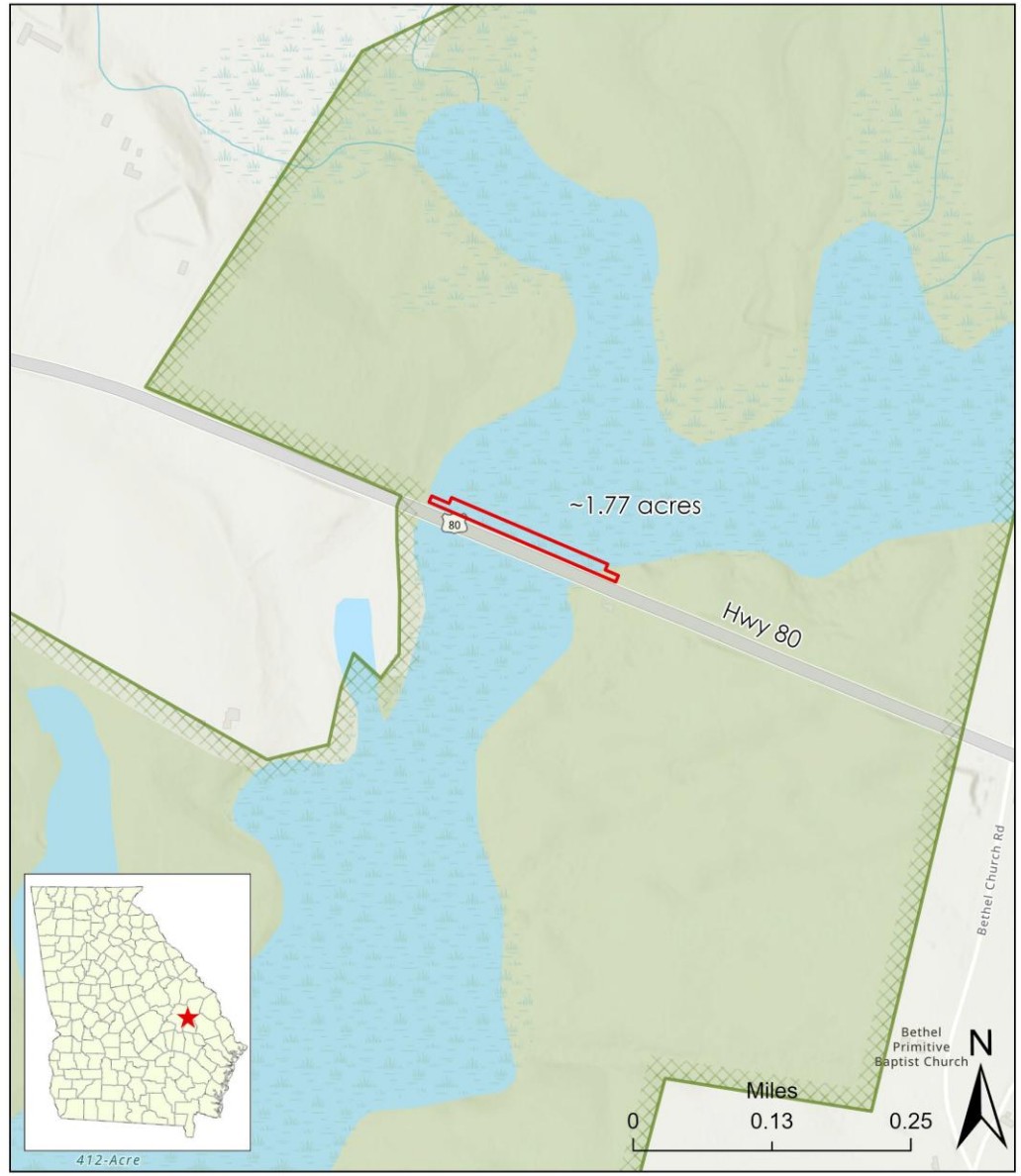


BLLIP #28599

George L. Smith SP

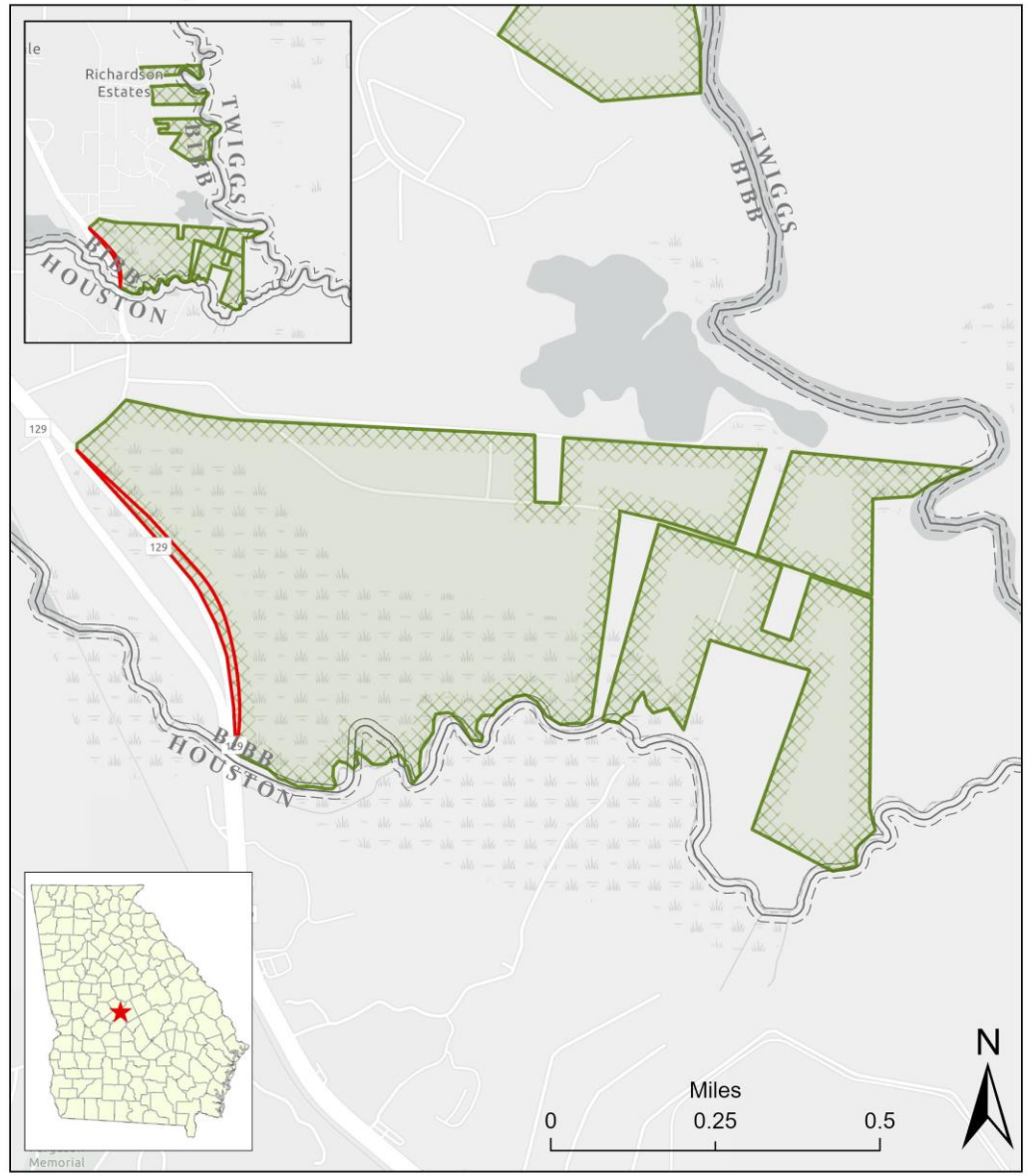
Emanuel County

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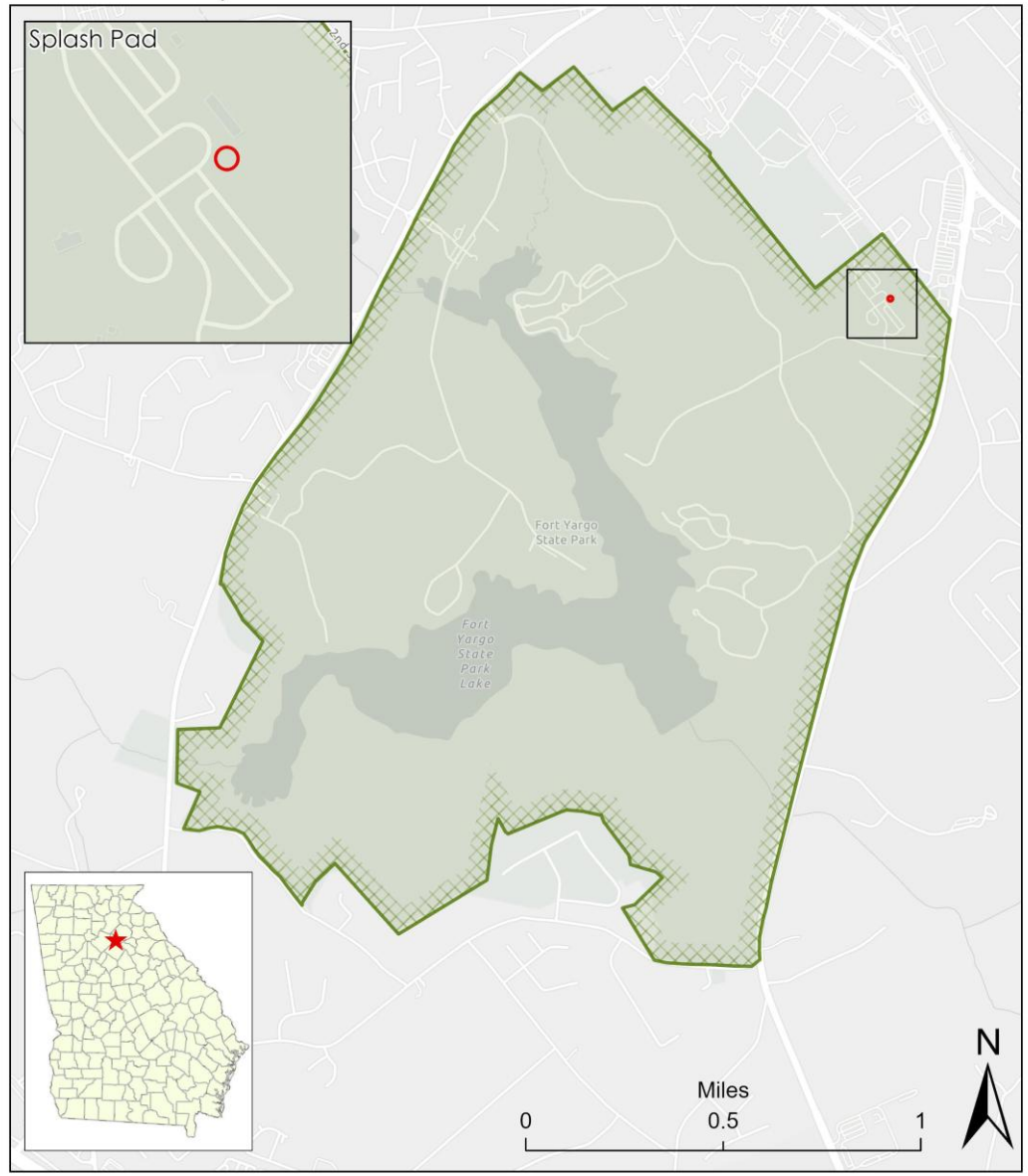
Echeconnee Creek WMA
Bridge Replacement
Bibb County

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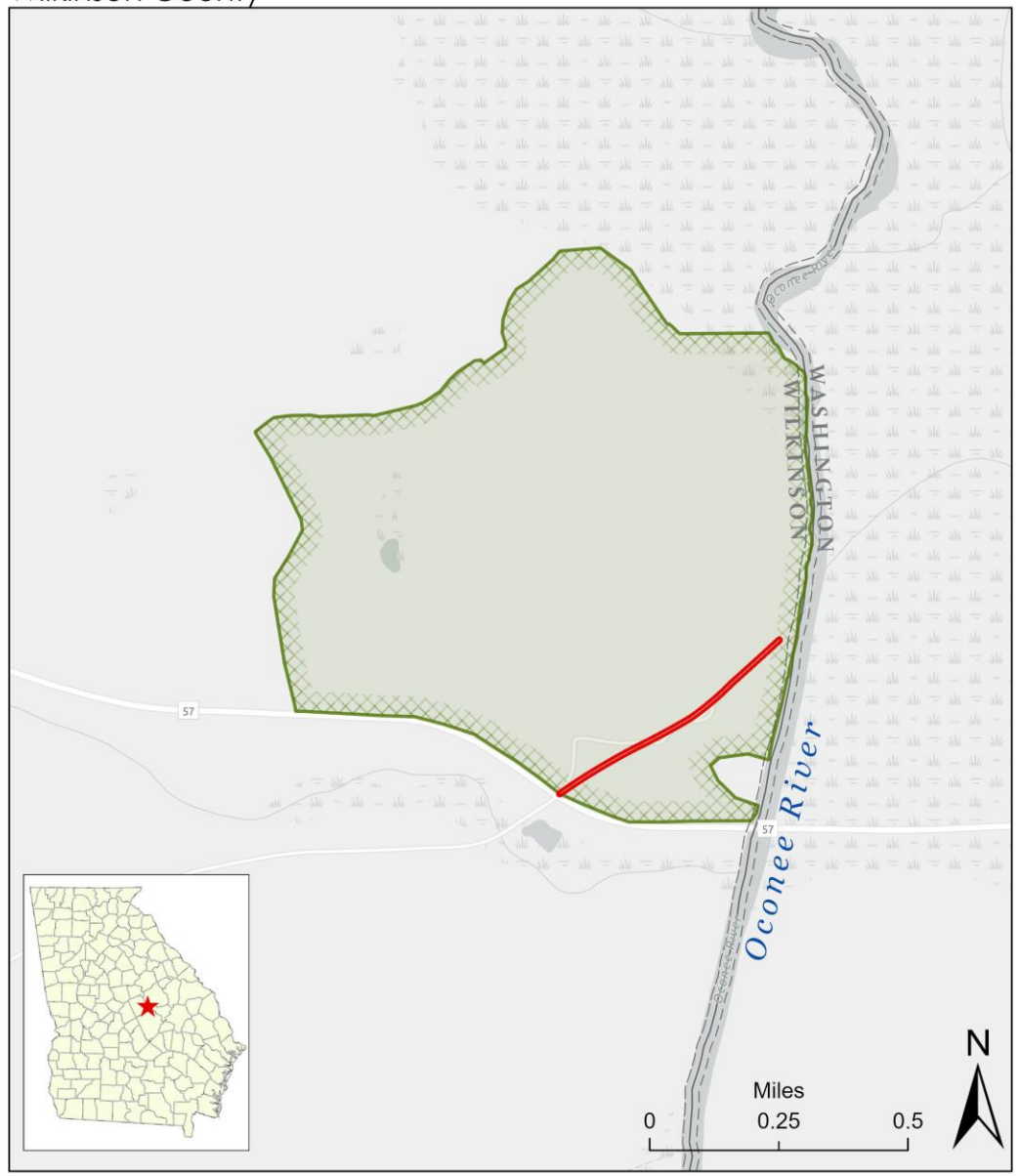
Fort Yargo SP
GA Power RLA
Barrow County

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Balls Ferry SP
Washington EMC RLA
Wilkinson County

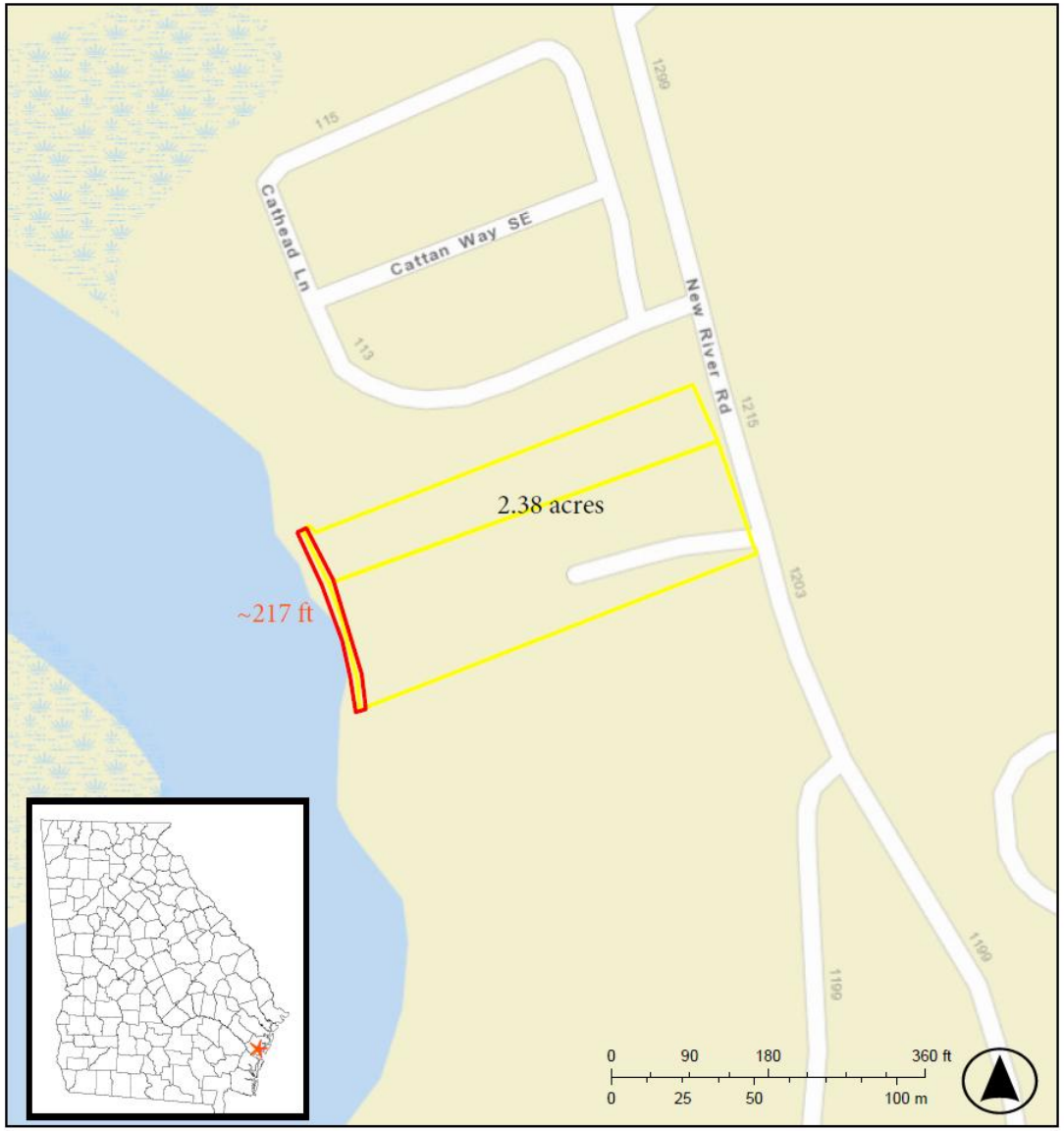
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Cathead Creek Properties

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McIntosh County





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Rivers Alive





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Saltwater Regulatory Update



Doug Haymans

DIRECTOR

Exempted Fishing Permit: Red Snapper
October 9 - 22

- Both weekends weathered out. 7-ish fishable days. Kept trips low.
  - 1/angler/day
- 622 anglers + youth = 518 trips
  - 333 Completed reports
  - 87 Trips canceled
  - 98 Outstanding
- 457 Kept
  - 36 released dead
  - 1617* Released Alive
    - *includes 1 trip w/3 anglers who claimed to release 321 fish
- EFP Allowable harvest: 4859
  - “Should” have additional days in December



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Questions?



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WILDLIFE RESOURCES DIVISION

Wildlife Resources Division Board Report

October 2026

Brett Albanese, WCS Asst. Chief

Communications, Education and Outreach Section





NASBLA Training

DNR staff were recently trained for better boating safety on the job.

DNR Wildlife Resources and DNR Law Enforcement teamed up to conduct the NASBLA-certified Inland Boat Operator Safety Training course.

Course participants included WRD and Parks staff.

This training ensures that staff have knowledge and skills needed to safely operate boats while performing their job duties.



Game Management Section

Alligator Hunting Season Summary

Georgia has had an alligator hunting season since 2003.

The season is one of the most sought-after hunting experiences in the state.

In 2026, 1,130 hunters were drawn to participate.

In total, 533 alligators were taken. The average length was 103 inches and average weight was 216 pounds.







Fisheries Management Section

Trout Tagging Project Taking Place

Trout fishing is an important part of Georgia's fisheries resources.

Regular trout stockings take place throughout the year to supplement waterways with catchable trout.

A new project will evaluate the effectiveness of stocking 50,000 trout below Morgan Falls Dam.

Study will help staff learn more about survival, movement, and other population dynamics.



(Left) The project includes injecting trout with a fluorescent dye.

(Below) Fisheries staff tagging trout.



Wildlife Conservation Section





Upatoi Natural Area Opens!

The 5,900-acre Upatoi Natural Area is now open.

The area offers a complex network of hardwood ravines in a very hilly landscape.

The area will feature mainly backcountry hunting experiences, including the first deer quota hunt in November, but staff have already upgraded nearly 20 miles of access road and nearly 1,000 acres of hardwood forest restoration.



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