GEORGIA
BOARD OF NATURAL RESOURCES

AGENDA

Board of Natural Resources
DNR Boardroom
2 MLK Jr. Drive, SE
Suite 1252, East Tower

Tuesday, October 27, 2026
9:00 a.m.
This meeting will be streamed live. Please see link below.

I. Board Meeting

a) Call to Order — Chairman Patrick Denney

b) Moment of Inspiration — Rep. Chas Cannon

c) Resolution Honoring Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve (SINERR) 50th Anniversary

II. Board Committee Meetings

Coastal Resources Committee
Nancy Addison, Chair
Members: Harley Yancey (Vice Chair), Dellinger, DePriest, Hatfield, Hennessy, Hodge, Jones, Lambert, Layton, Peavy, Shailendra

a) Action on proposed amendment of Subject 391-2-1 of the Rules of the Department of Natural Resources to establish rules for private docks in state owned tidal waters (Jill Andrews, Asst. Director)

Environmental Protection Committee
Ray Lambert (Chair)
Members: Duncan Johnson (Vice Chair), Addison, Andrews, Garcia, Hodge, Hufstetler, Jones, Layton, Reynolds, Shailendra, Sinyard

a) Briefing on Proposed Amendments to the Rules for Safe Drinking Water, Chapter 391-3-5, Pertaining to Consumer Confidence Reports, (Veronica Craw, Chief, Watershed Protection Branch)

Land Committee

Mark Hennessy, Chair

Members: Penn Hodge (Vice Chair), Addison, Andrews, Dellinger, Garcia, Hatfield, Hufstetler, Johnson, Reynolds, Shailendra, Yancey

a) Acquisition (purchase) of 1,064± acres from the Conservation Fund, 2nd Phase of the Charlton County Project, Charlton County.
b) Requesting approval via Executive Order to demolish the Unicoi State Park Squirrels Nest Camping Area in White County.
c) Granting of a Revocable License Agreement and Permanent Easement of up to 1.77± acres by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to Pineland Telephone Cooperative and Excelsior Electric Membership Corporation (EMC) at George L. Smith State Park, Emanuel County.
d) Granting of a Revocable License Agreement and Permanent Easement of up to 2.607± acres by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) at Echeconnee Creek WMA, Bibb County.
e) Granting of a Revocable License Agreement and Permanent Easement of up to 0.12± acres by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to Georgia Power Company at Fort Yargo State Park for Victor Lord Park, Barrow County.
f) Granting of a Revocable License Agreement and Permanent Easement of up to 0.4242± acres by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to Washington Electrical Membership Corporation (EMC) at Balls Ferry Park, Wilkinson County.
g) Approval to amend the IGA to allow a sublease to Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) for the staging of construction materials on the Premises for the removal of an old dock and installation of a new bulkhead in McIntosh County.

III. Board Meeting

Approval of Minutes

a) Minutes of the Board of Natural Resources meeting on September 22, 2026

EPD Director's Report

a) Remarks

b) EPD Quarterly Report

DNR Commissioner's Report

a) Action on proposed amendment Rule 391-5-13-.03 Recreational Trails Program (Ouicia Jolly, Program Coordinator)

b) Commissioner's Report

c) Division Updates

d) DNR Capital Outlay Status Report

e) DNR Weekly Updates sent via email

Report of the Coastal Resources Committee
Nancy Addison, Chair

a) Action on proposed amendment of Subject 391-2-1 of the Rules of the Department of Natural Resources to establish rules for private docks in state owned tidal waters (Jill Andrews, Asst. Director)

Report of the Land Committee
Mark Hennessy, Chair

a) Acquisition (purchase) of 1,064± acres from the Conservation Fund, 2nd Phase of the Charlton County Project, Charlton County.

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g) Approval to amend the IGA to allow a sublease to Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) for the staging of construction materials on the Premises for the removal of an old dock and installation of a new bulkhead in McIntosh County.

Other Business

a) Appointment of the Nominating Committee for the 2027 Officers of the Board of Natural Resources by Board Chairman Patrick Denney (No Material)

IV. Adjourn

The next Board of Natural Resources meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 1, 2026, at 9:00 am at Lake Blackshear Resort (2459 US-280 West, Cordele, GA 31015).

Live Stream Link:

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84490681726?pwd=72nvdAx3DdvjSIrcwREQEchUIv8vib.1
Passcode:918114

Phone one-tap:
+13092053325,,84490681726#,,,,*918114# US
+13126266799,,84490681726#,,,,*918114# US (Chicago)

GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
COASTAL RESOURCES DIVISION
ONE CONSERVATION WAY · BRUNSWICK, GA 31520 · 912-264-7218

WALTER RABON
COMMISSIONER

DOUG HAYMANS
DIRECTOR

October 15, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Board of Natural Resources

FROM: Doug Haymans

SUBJECT: Action on Proposed Rules for the Regulation of Private Docks in State Owned Tidal Waters

In August, you were briefed on the proposed adoption of Subject 391-2-1 of the Rules of the Department of Natural Resources to establish Rules for private docks located over state owned tidal water bottoms. In this new subject, new Rules 391-2-1-.01 through 391-2-1-.09 are proposed. These new Rules will replace the former Subject 391-2-1 and Rules 391-2-1-.01 through 391-2-1-.08, which were repealed on May 21, 2013. The proposed Rules will establish a process for issuing revocable licenses for the construction, reconstruction, modification and maintenance of private docks in state-owned tidal water bottoms which meet the exemptions in O.C.G.A. §12-5-295 (7) and (7.1). Additionally, these Rules institute a process for inspecting and enforcing standards for private docks in tidal waters.

A public notice, background, and synopsis statement of the rule were presented to the public for comment. The public comments received via email and mail have been considered. Included in this packet are the following:

- Public Notice — Page A 2 - 3
- Background and Synopsis — Pages A 4 - 5
- Date, Time and Place of Board Action — Page A 6
- Explanation of the Public Participation Plan — Page A 6
- Summary of Public Comments — Pages A 7 - 10
- Analysis of Small Business Impacts — Page A 11
- Proposed Resolution — Page A 12
- Table of Contents with Exact Copy of Proposed Rule — Pages A 13 - 27

I respectfully submit these items for your consideration. The Coastal Resources Division looks forward to presenting these at the October meeting.

DH/ja
Attachments

GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
COASTAL RESOURCES DIVISION
ONE CONSERVATION WAY · BRUNSWICK, GA 31520 · 912-264-7218

WALTER RABON
COMMISSIONER

DOUG HAYMANS
DIRECTOR

August 26, 2026

NOTICE OF PROPOSED REGULATION CHANGES

TO: All Interested Persons and Parties

FROM: Doug Haymans

SUBJECT: Notice of Proposed Rules for Private Docks in State Owned Tidal Waters

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to authority set forth below, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources proposes that the Board of Natural Resources adopt a new Subject 391-2-1 of the Rules of the Department of Natural Resources to establish rules for private docks located over state-owned tidal water bottoms. New Rules 391-2-1-.01 through 391-2-1-.09 are proposed. These new rules will replace the former Subject 391-2-1 and Rules 391-2-1-.01 through 391-2-1-.08, which were repealed on May 21, 2013. The Coastal Committee of the Board of Natural Resources was previously briefed on these proposed rules on June 23, 2026, and public comments were accepted. Based on feedback received, the rules noticed herein have been revised including changes to definitions, standards for new docks, maintenance of existing docks, variances, transfer procedures, compliance inspections and penalties, among others. The Board was briefed on these changes at its meeting on August 25, 2026.

The amended and new rules for private docks are being promulgated under the authority of O.C.G.A. § 50-16-61, which grants the Governor supervision and control over all property of the state that has not otherwise been provided for by the General Assembly. The Governor has delegated authority over all state-owned water bottoms covered by tidal waters whose custody and control have not been provided for by the General Assembly, to the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources.

Subject 391-2-1 and Rules 391-2-1-.01 through 391-2-1-.09 seek to establish an orderly process for issuing revocable licenses for the construction, reconstruction and modification, and some maintenance of private docks in state-owned tidal water bottoms which meet the exemptions in O.C.G.A. §12-5-295 (7) and O.C.G.A. § 12-5- 295 (7.1). Additionally, these Rules institute a process for inspecting and enforcing standards for private docks in tidal waters.

Written public comments must be postmarked by Wednesday, September 30, 2026, and emailed comments will be accepted through 4:30 PM on September 30, 2026. Comments should be legible, concise, and limited to the proposed rules. Following the comment period, the Board of Natural

Resources will consider the proposed rules on Tuesday, October 27, 2026, at 9:00 AM in the DNR Boardroom at 2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, SE Suite 1252 East, Atlanta, GA 30334.

Mail or email comments to: Coastal Resources Division
Attn: Jill Andrews
One Conservation Way, Brunswick, GA 31520
Email: crd.comments@dnr.ga.gov

Additional information is available at www.CoastalGaDNR.org. Click on the "Public Notices" tab.

BACKGROUND AND SYNOPSIS
GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
COASTAL RESOURCES DIVISION
RELATING TO
PRIVATE DOCKS, SUBJECT 391-2-1

Background

The Protection of Tidewaters Act, O.C.G.A. § 52-1-1-et seq., ("PTA") affirms that the State of Georgia holds title to the beds of all tidewaters within its jurisdiction, except, where title can be traced to a valid Crown or state grant expressly conveying those lands. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. §50-16-61, the Governor has custody and control over state-owned tidal water bottoms unless otherwise provided by the General Assembly. The Commissioner of Natural Resources was authorized to act on the Governor's behalf regarding requests to utilize these lands, including the granting, denial, modification, or revocation of revocable licenses for the use of tidal water bottoms.

Private recreational docks located over state-owned tidal water bottoms ("private docks") are structures constructed to provide waterfront property owners access to navigable waterways for private, water-dependent recreational use. Private docks are exempt from the Coastal Marshlands Protection Act O.C.G.A. § 12-5-280 et seq., ("CMPA") when they satisfy the conditions set forth in O.C.G.A. §12-5-295(7) and (7.1). Since the mid-1990s, the Department has administered a revocable licensing program for private docks in tidal waters.

The Department also issued private dock permits on behalf of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ("Corps") pursuant to a Programmatic General Permit ("PGP"). Under this joint permitting framework, revocable licenses and corresponding permits were issued when proposed docks met the standards and criteria established in the PGP. These standards governed dock size, placement, extension into waterways, and other factors intended to minimize impacts to natural resources, navigation, and public access.

The most recent PGP expired in July 2022 and was not renewed by the Corps. As a result, applicants seeking authorization for private docks are required to obtain both a separate Corps permit and a state revocable license, and the department no longer has the benefit of formalized standards previously provided through the PGP. In August 2022, the Department implemented a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) that mirrored the former PGP standards and served as the interim basis for issuing revocable licenses while formal rulemaking proceeds.

In January 2024, the Department briefed the Board of Natural Resources ("Board") on proposed rules intended to codify the 2022 SOP. In response to public input, the Department paused the rulemaking process and convened a stakeholder committee composed of citizens and representatives from the marine regulatory, consulting, and construction industries. The committee participated in facilitated discussions from July 2024 through May 2025, resulting in both a consensus document and a minority report. Following completion of the committee's work, the Department hosted a public town hall meeting to present findings and gather additional public input. In May 2026, the Department briefed the Board on the results of these efforts and received guidance to further align private dock standards with related statewide initiatives.

A revised rule was presented to the Board on June 23, 2026, after which public comments were accepted for a 30-day period. However, prior to requesting final action by the Board, the proposed rules were amended in response to stakeholder and legislative guidance, effectively restarting the rulemaking process. The Board was briefed on the new rule on August 25, 2026, at which time the Board's Coastal Committee voted to modify the rules as proposed. The modified rules were provided to the public and comments were accepted from August 26 through 4:30p.m. on September 30, 2026.

Visit https://coastalgadnr.org/dockrules to view all comments received within the public comment period.

Purpose

The proposed rules establish an orderly and equitable process for issuing revocable licenses for the construction, reconstruction, modification, and maintenance of private docks in state-owned tidal waters which meet the exemptions in O.C.G.A. § 12-5-295 (7) and (7.1). Additionally, these rules institute a process for inspecting and enforcing standards for private docks in tidal waters.

Main Features

The rules will establish the following:

1. Eligibility to apply for a revocable license for the construction, reconstruction, modification of a private dock and for major maintenance activities;

2. Standards and conditions upon which the department may issue a revocable license for the construction, reconstruction, modification and maintenance of a private dock; and

3. A process for inspecting and enforcing standards for private docks in tidal waters.

Date, Time, and Place of Board Action:

Board Action: Tuesday, October 27, 2026, 9:00AM, in the DNR Boardroom at 2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, SE Suite 1252 East, Atlanta, GA 30334.

Public Participation Plan

- July 2024 – May 2025 – Private Recreational Dock Stakeholder Committee convened.
- May 13, 2025 – Private Recreational Dock Town Hall meeting in Brunswick.
- May 18, 2026 – Board of Natural Resources briefing on status private dock rule development.
- June 23, 2026 –Board of Natural Resources briefed on proposed private dock rules.
- June 24 through July 24, 2026 – Written comment period.
- August 25, 2026 – Board of Natural Resources briefed on revised proposed private dock rules.
- August 26 through September 30, 2026 – Written comment period.
- October 27, 2026 – Board of Natural Resources Final Action on private dock rules.

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COASTAL RESOURCES DIVISION
ONE CONSERVATION WAY · BRUNSWICK, GA 31520 · 912-264-7218

WALTER RABON
COMMISSIONER

DOUG HAYMANS
DIRECTOR

October 15, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Natural Resources

FROM: Doug Haymans

SUBJECT: Public Comment Summary - Proposed Rules for the Regulation of Private Docks in State Owned Tidal Waters

On August 26, 2026, a public notice announcing a written comment period for proposed regulation changes for private docks in state owned tidal waters was posted on CRDs website under the Public Notice section and submitted through Coastal Resources Division's "GovDelivery" email service which includes print, television and radio outlets. In total, notices were delivered to 25,329 self-nominated subscribers of the Dock Building, Georgia Coastal Management Program, News Releases, Public Meetings and Public Notices categories with 10,629 subscribers opening the e-mail and 308 people clicking the link to review the public notice package. The written comment period was open through September 30, 2026. All emailed public comments which were received by 4:30pm and all mailed comments which were postmarked by this date can be viewed at https://coastalgadnr.org/dockrules.

There were a total of 362 emails and two written comments (364 total) received on time, of which seven were not related, and 15 were duplicate comments. Sixteen additional comments were received via email after the deadline. Among the on-time comments were four form letters; one representing 77 commentors, one with 83 commentors, another with 88 commentors, and one with five commentors. Many form letters were sent with individualized comments which were recorded.

While the majority of the comments generally supported CRDs rulemaking effort, the comments expressed disagreement with the proposed increase in size limits for private docks from previous versions, particularly the increase in walkway length from the current 1,000ft. to 1,500ft., plus a variance for an additional 150ft., and the proposed increase in overall walkway width to 6ft. The majority of these comments recommended limiting overall square footage of fixed walkways to either 3,000sq.ft., the current private dock and CMPA rule standard, or 4,000sq.ft. (e.g., 1,000ft. length x 4ft. width) believed by many to provide accessibility for mobility-challenged users, while others suggested the overall maximum not exceed one-tenth of an acre, or 4,356sq.ft.

In response to comments that oppose the increased sizes for private dock fixed walkways, CRD originally proposed fixed walkway limits that mirrored its current Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), which do not carry the authority of a rule, and existing CMPA rules for community and commercial docks and marinas. During the dock rulemaking process, CRD provided a briefing to the Board, at which time the Board recommended all walkways be up to six feet wide, regardless of length, to ensure accessibility by homeowners. For this reason, CRD no longer recommends a standard based on square footage. Regarding walkway length, CRD originally proposed a maximum length of 1,000ft. but offered a 10% variance for unique circumstances. Following CRD's initial briefing to the Board in June 2026, the agency received new guidance on walkway length which resulted in CRD restarting the rulemaking process with a revised proposal. The Board was briefed on the new proposal on August 25, 2026, that included a walkway limit of 1,500ft. with a variance option that was not limited. However, the Board's Coastal Committee voted to limit the walkway variance to 10% and that recommendation was included in the public notice. The walkway length is an important consideration as it is a primary determinate of whether a waterfront property is riparian and able to have a dock, or marsh front and, therefore, "undockable."

In response to comments that the proposed fixed walkway standards exceed what is allowed under the Coastal Marshland Protection Act rules for marinas, community and commercial docks, CRD acknowledges that the proposed rules for private docks may allow private structures significantly longer than community docks and marinas. However, private docks are specifically not regulated under the CMPA and, while the intention is to manage impacts to state-owned tidal water bottoms using many of the concepts provided in the Act, there are no matching requirements under O.C.G.A. 50-16-61 that projects must be minimized, must be in the public interest or must provide public notice of a proposed project. Nor is there a threshold of a "minor alteration," as there is under the CMPA, that defines projects with impacts under one-tenth of an acre. Similarly, existing law does not allow CRD to charge a fee for dock applications as was recommended by many commentors to support permitting and compliance staff, manage potential debris or restore marshlands.

Many comments concerned with the increase in walkway length noted the potential for fixed walkways to trap and accumulate marsh wrack which can smother or alter marsh vegetation, shade vegetation and reduce biomass within the footprint of the dock by up to 56%, and/or fragment habitat for marsh obligate bird species. CRD funded studies have found impacts of docks on shading and marsh wrack accumulation that were not solely affected by dock length. Stakeholders shared additional research, one of which found that docks longer than 30m (~100ft.) negatively affect marsh obligate bird species, several of which are listed as species of greatest conservation need in Georgia's State Wildlife Action Plan. CRD has previously summarized these research findings for the Board's consideration.

Many comments specifically called for increased oversight of electrical services installed on docks and more routine inspections of such service. These comments raised awareness of the potential

for serious risks to life and safety if electrical service to a dock is not properly installed and maintained. In response, CRD proposes that applicants both disclose if electrical service will be extended on a dock and provide proof they have applied for such electrical service to their local jurisdiction. CRD staff do not have expertise to either review plans for or inspect electrical services. However, during compliance inspections, if a dock subject to these rules is found to have electrical service, CRD staff will be able to verify if it was properly permitted in accordance with local requirements.

Several comments suggested changes to definitions within the proposed rule. At this time, CRD believes the definitions provide clear directions for staff and applicants. Specific public concern revolves around the footprint of existing docks being able to be enlarged during modification and reconstruction. It is CRDs recommendation that the standards proposed in the rule be applicable to all private docks subject to the rules.

Many commentors called for more specificity in the variance process regarding when and how a variance request will be approved. CRD's current practice is to approve requests for additional boat hoists upon receipt of multiple boat registrations or other proof that there is more than one vessel at the dock. Similarly, CRD requires justification for extensions into the waterway and limits any dock from occupying more than one-third of the waterway. The variance for walkway length is new, but CRD anticipates requiring surveys, aerial measurements and other proof that additional walkway length is needed to reach the first waterway by following the shortest route from the riparian property.

Many comments pointed to DNR's role as trustee and steward of the public's interest in coastal marshlands and contend the proposed rule benefits a few marsh front property owners more so than the public who have a right to access and enjoy the marsh. CRD's role as steward of state-owned tidal waters is to manage uses of public resources. The proposed rules seek to balance riparian homeowner access with preservation of the resource. Continued access to the marsh and navigation by the public has been considered. The rules require that spans, or bridges, across small tributaries be elevated to allow vessel passage underneath and docks may not block navigation. Larger creeks may not be spanned thereby preserving access to those waterways by the public.

Many comments suggest that DNR rely on research and data to develop rules that protect public interest and wildlife, including the development of an accurate inventory or database of existing and permitted docks and an assessment of cumulative impacts of docks. Existing research and data have been discussed with stakeholders and provided to the Board for consideration. CRD currently maintains a database of issued dock permits but it does not represent a complete inventory. Many docks existed prior to CRD's role in permitting, and many have been illegally built without a permit and are not known. CRD is currently examining the feasibility of inventorying all docks for future assessments of cumulative impacts.

A full summary of public comments and CRD's responses, in addition to the individual public comments received within the comment period may be viewed online at the following location: https://coastalgadnr.org/dockrules.

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COASTAL RESOURCES DIVISION
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WALTER RABON
COMMISSIONER

DOUG HAYMANS
DIRECTOR

October 15, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Natural Resources

FROM: Doug Haymans

SUBJECT: Economic Impact of Proposed Subject 391-2-1, Private docks on Small Businesses

The Administrative Procedure Act requires that during the formation and adoption of any rule attempts shall be made to reduce the economic impact of the rule on small businesses. This applies to businesses that are independently owned and operated, are not dominant in the field and employ 100 employees or less.

The Coastal Resources Division has determined that the proposed subject will have no negative economic impact on small businesses. This subject codifies standards and conditions that are consistent with what is currently required by the Department of Natural Resources regarding private docks located over state- owned tidal water bottoms.

DH/ja

A RESOLUTION

Adopting Rules for Regulation of Private Docks in State Owned Tidal Waters, Chapter 391-2-1

WHEREAS, Chapter 391-2 of the Rules of Georgia Department of Natural Resources regulates coastal resources; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 391-2-1 was adopted in 1992 and repealed in its entirety in 2013;

WHEREAS, The Official Code of Georgia Annotated, Section 50-16-61 provides the Governor of Georgia with general supervision over all property of the state and the power to make necessary regulations for the protection thereof, when not otherwise provided for and the Governor delegated such supervision of state-owned tidal water to Commissioner Rabon or his designee, including the authority to grant, deny, modify and revoke revocable licenses; and

WHEREAS, The Commissioner designated Coastal Resources Division to act upon requests for revocable licenses for private docks in state owned tidal waters; and

WHEREAS, Adoption of these Rules will establish an orderly and equitable process for issuing revocable licenses for the construction, reconstruction, modification and maintenance of private docks in state owned tidal waters; and

WHEREAS, The Coastal Resources Division issued a public notice on August 26, 2026, announcing a public comment period and received three-hundred sixty-four comments which have been considered; and

WHEREAS, It has been determined that adoption of these Rules will not have an adverse economic impact on the State's small businesses.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Georgia Board of Natural Resources hereby adopts Rules 391-2-1-.01 through .09, for the regulation of private docks in state owned tidal waters, as attached hereto, and incorporated herein by reference.
Adopted this ____ day of October 2026.

Respectfully submitted by:

_____

Patrick Denney, Chairman
Georgia Board of Natural Resources

ATTEST:

_____

Dan Garcia, Secretary
Georgia Board of Natural Resources

RULES
OF
GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

CHAPTER 391-2
COASTAL RESOURCES

SUBJECT 391-2-1
PRIVATE DOCKS

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Rule 391-2-1-.09 Inspections; Revocation, Suspension or Modification of Revocable License

391-2-1-.01 Purpose

These rules establish an orderly and equitable process for issuing revocable licenses for the construction, reconstruction, modification, and maintenance of private docks in state-owned tidal water bottoms which meet the exemptions in O.C.G.A. § 12-5-295 (7) and (7.1). Additionally, these rules institute a process for inspecting and enforcing standards for private docks in tidal water bottoms.

Authority: O.C.G.A. § 50-16-61.

391-2-1-.02 Definitions

For the purpose of Subject 391-2-1, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) "Applicant" means any person who is a riparian owner and who requests a revocable license for a private dock in state-owned tidal water bottoms.

(2) “Catwalk” means a pile supported platform used exclusively to access a boat hoist.

(3) “Channel” means the physical pathway where a waterway flows, as defined by beds and banks that direct the flow of water in a particular direction, has substantial water at high tides but may be shallow or muddy at low tide and is not stagnant.

(4) “Construction” means the physical building or installation of a new dock in, on or over tidal water bottoms.

(5) “The Department of Natural Resources” also “the department” means the Coastal Resources Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

(6) “Dock corridor" means the equitable apportionment of state-owned tidal water bottoms by the department to provide reasonable access to a waterway by riparian owners.

(7) “Extended property line” means the straight-line extension of an upland side lot line toward a waterway.

(8) “Fixed deck” means a platform constructed on pilings channelward of a fixed walkway.

(9) “Fixed walkway” means a pile supported platform leading from the upland toward a waterway and terminating at a pierhead, fixed deck, boat hoist or gangway.

(10) “Floating dock” means a floating platform that is used for

mooring vessels; usually supported by pilings.

(11) “Floating watercraft lift” means a free-floating structure, not supported by pilings, that is used for the on-top storage of watercraft (i.e., above waterline) and is not used for additional mooring space or any other purpose; also known as drive-on docks, run-up floats, modular floats, or boat lifts.

(12) “Licensee” means a person or persons who has received a revocable license from the department for a private dock.

(13) “Maintenance” means repairs within the physical footprint of an existing, serviceable private dock:

(a) Minor maintenance activities include in-kind replacement of non-structural dock components, such as deck board replacement, without requiring the operation of heavy equipment or cranes in the marsh or waterways.

(b) Major maintenance activities involve replacement of structural components, such as pilings, or that require the use of heavy equipment or barge and crane in the marsh or waterway

(14) “Mean high water” also “MHW” means the average of all the high-water heights observed over the National Tidal Datum Epoch.

(15) “Mean low water” also “MLW” means the average of all the low water heights observed over the National Tidal Datum Epoch.

(16) “Modification” means any addition or change to the footprint of, or reconfiguration of an existing or licensed private dock.

(17) "Person" means any individual, partnership, firm, corporation, association, or other entity.

(18) “Pierhead” means a fixed, pile supported platform.

(19) “Ponded area/mudflat” means generally unvegetated areas within tidal water bottoms that may be covered by tidewater but that

do not have channels; not a waterway.

(20) "Private dock" means a structure built onto or over state-owned tidal water bottoms which is used for recreational fishing and other recreational activities, is not available to the public, does not have enclosures, and does not create a navigation hazard; provided, however, that a private dock meets the single family dock exemption in O.C.G.A. § 12-5-295(7) or the multi-family dock exemption in O.C.G.A. § 12-5-295(7.1).

(21) "Reconstruction" means the rebuilding of all or part of a private dock in the original footprint.

(22) "Revocable license" means permission granted by the department to utilize state-owned tidal water bottoms for the construction, reconstruction, modification, or maintenance of a private dock located over state-owned tidal water bottoms which may be revoked by the department, is not coupled with an interest, may be subject to conditions, and is not transferrable.

(23) "Riparian" means upland property that abuts state-owned tidal water bottoms, inclusive of a waterway.

(24) "Scaled drawing" means a representation of a real object or space where all dimensions are proportionally reduced or enlarged by a specific ratio, called the scale, ensuring the drawing maintains the exact shape and relationships of the original.

(25) "Serviceable" means usable as is or with only maintenance, but not so degraded as to essentially require reconstruction, as determined by the department.

(26) "Upland" means lands that are neither tidal water bottoms nor wetlands.

(27) "Waterway" means a tributary, creek or river which has a defined channel.

(28) "Walkway extension" means a pile supported platform leading from an existing fixed walkway or fixed deck toward a waterway.

(29) "Variance" means an authorized exception to the standards in Subject 391-2-1 granted under certain circumstances.

Authority: O.C.G.A. § 50-16-61.

391-2-1-.03 Issuance of a Revocable License

(1) Applicants for a revocable license must submit to the department a complete application for the construction, reconstruction, modification, and certain maintenance of a private dock, on forms created by the department, which must include scaled drawings, all information as required by the department, and evidence that adjacent property owners were appropriately notified of the application. Scaled drawings prepared by a registered land surveyor, professional engineer, or licensed architect may be required only as specified in this part or when the department has determined that unique circumstances or site conditions warrant.

(2) The department will issue a revocable license for a private dock to authorize the construction, reconstruction, modification, and certain maintenance of a single-family or multi-family private dock located over state-owned tidal water bottoms provided:

(a) The applicant is riparian to the waterway to be accessed by the private dock, meaning the waterway is within extended property lines or a dock corridor determined and allocated by the department.

(b) A revocable license shall only be issued to the owner(s) of the riparian parcel(s) to be served by the private dock.

(c) New private docks are limited to one per riparian parcel or, in the case of a multi-family dock, along shared riparian property lines.

(d) Private docks shall access waterways with a defined channel and not ponded areas/mudflats.

(e) Private docks are for water dependent, recreational activities only.

(f) Private docks must not restrict the reasonable navigation or public use of state lands and waters.

(g) Private docks must be constructed in a manner that does not restrict water flow.

(h) Applicants for a multi-family dock have entered into a binding covenant that runs with the land, in favor of the state, which covenant prohibits the building of any future private docks on their lots unless the multi-family dock is removed or is approved by the department to be converted to a single-family private dock.

(i) Any citations, administrative orders, or other violations issued to the applicant have been resolved, or the applicant has entered into a compliance agreement which directs the applicant to apply for a revocable license.

(j) All provisions of Subject 391-2-1 have been met.

Authority: O.C.G.A. § 50-16-61.

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

A new private dock must be designed and constructed per the following standards:

(1) All components of a single-family dock must be 10 feet or more from extended property lines or dock corridor lines on both sides of the proposed structure and be at least 20 feet from any adjacent dock or structure. All components of a multi-family dock must be 10 feet or more from the extended property lines or dock corridor lines abutting property owned by a person not being served by the multi-family dock and be at least 20 feet from any adjacent

dock or structure. The department may require an alternative alignment or dock corridor if site characteristics warrant.

(2) One fixed walkway, up to 1,500 feet long and six feet wide, may provide access from the upland and must be built at a height to clear all vegetation but not more than six feet above MHW. Handrails and supports must be illustrated on scaled drawings.

(3) A private dock must terminate at the first waterway measuring 20 feet wide or greater at MHW. A waterway that is less than 20 feet wide at MHW may be spanned by a fixed walkway, provided no pilings are placed in the waterway and the bottom of the span is at least six feet above MHW, or higher as determined by the department to be necessary for safe navigation. The department may require additional information as necessary to evaluate a proposed span, including a bathymetric survey.

(4) No portion of the private dock may extend more than 40 feet into a waterway past MLW, or more than one-quarter of the waterway width at MLW, whichever is less, unless a variance is granted. If a waterway goes dry, vegetation lines within the subject waterway must be used.

(5) A private dock to a waterway measuring less than 20 feet wide at MHW may have a “L” or “T” shaped pierhead, up to six feet wide by 14 feet long, provided the pierhead does not extend into the channel at MLW. A pierhead may not be wholly or partially enclosed. However, it may be roofed per Rule 391-2-1-.04 (11) unless the pierhead is located over vegetation. Vessels may not be stored over the waterway or vegetation.

(6) A private dock to a waterway 20 feet wide or greater may have a fixed deck, no part of which may be located over vegetation. Fixed deck(s) may be roofed per Rule 391- 2-1-.04 (11) and partially enclosed where the lower three feet consists of a single layer of woven screen wire or wainscot and the upper section is open or finished in woven screen wire. Gangway landings and cantilevered

components must be indicated on the scaled drawing:

(a) Single family dock: the maximum area of a fixed deck is 400 square feet.

(b) Multi-family dock: the maximum area of a fixed deck is 600 square feet.

(7) One boat hoist per riparian lot served by the dock, up to 16 feet by 30 feet, measured piling to piling, with one adjacent catwalk measuring up to three feet by 30 feet, is permissible and may be roofed per Rule 391-2-1-.04 (11), unless a variance for larger or additional hoist(s) is granted. Davits are not considered boat hoists but must be indicated on the scaled drawing. Vessels may not be stored over vegetation.

(8) Floating docks should be pile supported, shall not rest on the water bottom at MLW or must be cradled and must not be located over vegetation. Gangways accessing a floating dock(s) do not count toward the maximum area but must be indicated on the scaled drawing.

(a) Single family dock: The maximum area of a floating dock(s) is 600 square feet.

(b) Multi-family dock: The maximum area of a floating dock(s) is 1,000 square feet.

(9) Floating watercraft lifts do not count toward the maximum allowed for floating docks area only if:

(a) the lift is not supported by piles;

(b) the lift is secured to cleats or existing pilings supporting the main private dock;

(c) the lift is not located channelward of a floating dock;

(d) the lift does not extend further into the waterway than any

other component of the private dock; or

(e) the lift does not encroach within 10 feet of an extended property or dock corridor line or within 20 feet of an adjacent dock or structure.

(10) Mooring piles/dolphins used exclusively for mooring vessels in association with a floating dock may be approved upon satisfactory justification of need from the applicant but must not be located further into the waterway than other dock components and must not encroach within 10 feet of an extended property line or dock corridor or within 20 feet of an adjacent dock or structure.

(11) Roofs over pierheads, fixed decks or boat hoists may not exceed 12 feet above the decking at the lowest deck height and overhangs (eaves) may not extend more than 18 inches. The use of a roof for storage or as a second story is prohibited and stairs accessing a roof are prohibited. Roofs do not count toward the total area of structures but must be indicated on the scaled drawing.

(12) Utilities to the private dock, including electrical and water, must be described in the application. Applicants must provide proof of application for a local electrical permit before a revocable license is issued.

(13) Lighting on the private dock must be described in the application and minimal in nature. All lighting shall be designed and oriented such that fixtures are fully shielded (full cutoff) by an opaque material blocking direct view of bulbs or diodes from adjacent docks and upland areas and project light in a downward direction only. Additional lighting conditions may be required on docks that can be viewed from sea turtle nesting beaches.

Authority: O.C.G.A. § 50-16-61.

391-2-1-.05 Reconstruction and Modification of Existing Private Docks

(1) Existing private docks may be modified or reconstructed upon issuance of a new revocable license, provided that one of the following criteria are met:

(a) The existing private dock, in its present configuration, has been confirmed by the department to have been constructed prior to the effective date of Subject 391-2-1 and no unauthorized additions or modifications have been made;

(b) The existing private dock is determined by the department to be compliant with previous state authorizations and/or licenses; or

(c) The owner of an existing non-compliant private dock has entered into a consent order/agreement with the department set forth in Rule 391-2-1-.09.

(2) Reconstruction of existing, serviceable dock components is permissible in the original footprint and configuration. Reconstruction of dock components deemed not serviceable by the department must adhere to the standards for new private docks set forth in Rule 391-2-1-.04.

(3) Modifications to existing or licensed private docks may not exceed the standards set forth in Rule 391-2-1-.04.

(4) A walkway extension leading from the channelward-most portion of an existing, serviceable fixed walkway or fixed deck, for the sole purpose of extending further into the same waterway due to demonstrable shifts in MLW since initial private dock construction, natural shoaling, or other reasonable factors as determined by the department, is allowed provided the walkway extension does not exceed six feet in width and is of minimal length. Handrails and supports must be illustrated on scaled drawings. The walkway extension must not be partially or wholly enclosed or covered.

Authority: O.C.G.A. § 50-16-61.

391-2-1-.06 Maintenance of Existing Private Docks

(1) Licensees must maintain private docks within their existing footprint.

(2) A new revocable license is not required for minor maintenance activities.

(3) Before beginning major maintenance activities, the licensee must notify the department which will determine the serviceability of the existing dock. If the department finds the private dock or parts are unserviceable, it cannot be maintained (except when the dock was rendered not serviceable due to forces of nature or other events described in 391-2-1-.06 (5), below); however, it may be reconstructed or modified according to Rule 391-2-1-.05.

(4) A new revocable license shall be required prior to conducting major maintenance activities when the department does not have a record of an existing revocable license or have one that is not accurate based on the current structure or riparian owner.

(5) Private docks rendered not serviceable by forces of nature, such as storms; or other events, like fire or boat strikes; may be maintained or rebuilt, without a new revocable license, in the original footprint, upon proof that the dock was serviceable prior to the damage and was in compliance with all previous authorizations or licenses.

Authority: O.C.G.A. § 50-16-61.

391-2-1-.07 Variances

New or modified private single family and multi-family docks must be constructed according to the standards described in Rule 391-2-1-.04. However, variances may be granted as described in this paragraph, provided the applicant or licensee provides justification of why the standard(s) cannot be met.

(1) The department may grant a variance allowing the length of the fixed walkway on a new private dock to exceed 1,500 feet for the sole purpose of accessing the waterway nearest to the upland. Such walkway exceedance shall not exceed ten percent of the standard allowable length (i.e., 150 feet) and must constitute the shortest route to the waterway, as determined by the department. The department may require additional information in support of a variance request, such as professionally engineered and stamped drawings, or waterway assessments.

(2) A variance for larger or additional boat hoists with catwalks may be approved upon proof of need, including boat registrations or bills of sale demonstrating the size or number of vessels owned by the applicant or licensees. Variances for larger or additional hoists based on proof of kayaks, canoes, paddleboards or other similar watercraft will not be approved, regardless of whether they are motorized or registered.

(3) A variance for further extension into the waterway may be granted up to one-third of the waterway measured at MLW, provided there is no additional impact on navigation within the waterway and there is no reasonable objection by adjacent property owners.

Authority: O.C.G.A. § 50-16-61.

391-2-1-.08 General Conditions of Revocable Licenses for Private Docks

(1) The revocable license is not transferable with the change of ownership interests in the riparian property(s) at which the private dock will be or has been constructed, reconstructed, modified or maintained. Transfer of riparian ownership or assignment of riparian rights requires issuance of a new revocable license upon review of proof of ownership, such as a deed and plat or other reasonable evidence of ownership of the property, submitted with a transfer request form provided by the department. The department should be

notified of changes in ownership interests within 90 days, and no construction, reconstruction, modification or major maintenance may occur until the department has been notified.

(2) The licensee must maintain the private dock in serviceable condition after construction, reconstruction, and modification.

(3) All equipment used within vegetated marshlands for the construction, reconstruction, modification, and maintenance of a private dock must be operated from a single row of construction mats, or other low impact equipment approved by the department, located on one side of and in immediate proximity to the private dock.

(4) The private dock must not be used at any time for business or commercial purposes.

(5) The private dock must not be used for human habitation. Toilets or fueling facilities are not allowed on the structures. There shall be no fuel or sewage discharged from the private dock.

(6) The licensee must take all proper steps to ensure the integrity of the structure and the safety of moored boats from damage.

(7) The State of Georgia shall not be responsible for any damage caused to the private dock or moored vessels.

(8) The licensee must not moor a vessel(s) at the private dock in such a manner as to cause an unreasonable encroachment into the waterway or to interfere with navigation.

(9) All information and supporting documents contained in an application for a revocable license shall be made a part of the revocable license, if granted, and conformance to such information and supporting documents shall be a condition of the revocable license. No change or deviation from any such information and supporting documents shall be permitted without prior notification and written approval by the department or issuance of a new

revocable license.

(10) The issuance of a revocable license does not resolve actual or potential disputes regarding ownership of rights in or over the property at which the private dock is or will be located and shall not be construed as recognizing or denying any such rights or interests.

(11) The issuance of a revocable license does not relieve a licensee from the responsibility to obtain any other federal, state, or local permits or authorizations which may be required for the private dock or any of its components, including without limitation, any required county or municipal building permit or permit for utilities, prior to beginning construction, reconstruction, modification, and maintenance.

(12) At least 10 days prior to construction, reconstruction, modification, or major maintenance, the licensee must submit a construction notification form to the department.

(13) A copy of the revocable license issued to a licensee must be prominently displayed on the upland site of the proposed or existing private dock during construction, reconstruction, modification, and maintenance.

(14) Compliance with best practices to include those for the protection of manatees and other protected species is required. Any unattended free flowing fresh water along the private dock is prohibited.

(15) Licensee may be required by the department to, at their own expense, relocate or remove any portion of an existing private dock that impedes navigation as a result of natural meanders to waterways.

(16) Licensee must promptly remove and properly dispose of all debris that originates from, or is generated by, the private dock.

(17) Licensee may be responsible for additional special conditions placed upon the revocable license, as determined by the department.

Authority: O.C.G.A. § 50-16-61.

391-2-1-.09 Inspections; Revocation, Suspension or Modification of Revocable License

(1) Private docks are subject to compliance inspections by the department. An as-built post-construction survey of the dock and its exact location may be required; such survey shall comply with the Georgia Plat Act, O.C.G.A. §15-6-67 et seq.

(2) The department may revoke, suspend, modify or deny any revocable license for failure or refusal to comply with any provision of Subject 391-2-1 or the specific conditions and requirements of the revocable license.

(3) Any person, including a property owner or private dock builder, who causes or permits violation of Subject 391-2-1 that results in construction, reconstruction, modification, and major maintenance of a private dock in a manner that is inconsistent with a current revocable license or without first obtaining a revocable license from the department as set forth in this rule is subject to enforcement action by the department which may include revocation, suspension, or modification of an existing revocable license; timely removal of the unauthorized structure; restoration of jurisdictional coastal marshlands; and implementation of a consent order/agreement.

Authority: O.C.G.A. § 50-16-61.

GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

Jeffrey W. Cown, Director

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October 15, 2026

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Board of Natural Resources

FROM: Jeffrey W. Cown, Director
Environmental Protection Division

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

The purpose of this briefing memo is to coordinate with the Environmental Protection Committee and seek input from all members of the Board on EPD's proposed amendments to the Rules for Safe Drinking Water, Chapter 391-3-5, pertaining to EPA's 2024 Consumer Confidence Report Rule Revisions.

Federal rules regarding Consumer Confidence Reports, a National Primary Drinking Water Regulation, became effective in 1998. The federal rules require community water systems to prepare and provide to their customers annual consumer confidence reports on the quality of the water delivered by the systems. On June 24, 2024, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized the Consumer Confidence Report Rule Revisions under 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 141. The federal rule revisions are focused on making the reports more understandable and accessible to the public, enhancing information about lead in drinking water, and encouraging electronic methods to streamline the delivery of the reports. The federal rule revisions will also require systems serving more than 10,000 customers to distribute reports twice a year. The federal rule revisions take effect with the consumer confidence reports due on April 1, 2027.

The proposed amendments to the Rules for Safe Drinking Water are responsive to the directive in the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act, 40 CFR Part 142, which requires States to adopt new or revised federal regulations in order to maintain primacy (primary enforcement authority) over public drinking water systems.

EPD proposes to amend provisions of three Rules in Chapter 391-3-5 to incorporate these federal rule revisions; specifically, Rules 391-3-5-.02, 391-3-5-.30, and 391-3-5-.41 are being amended to ensure consistency with the federal rule revisions.

In preparing the proposed amendments, EPD issued a public notice on August 17, 2026, conducted a public meeting on September 10, 2026, and accepted comments from the public through September 18, 2026. EPD received one public comment that did not object to the amendments but posed a question to gain understanding of the federal rule revisions. The comment did not result in any changes to the proposed amendments.

EPD will solicit public input and hold a public hearing, and expects to present the following amendments to the Board for action at the February 2027 meeting.

The following documents are enclosed for your review:

	Page No.
• Synopsis and Statement of Rationale for Proposed Amendments to the Rules for Safe Drinking Water, Chapter 391-3-5	A-3
• Proposed Amendments to the Rules for Safe Drinking Water, showing deletions with ~~strikeouts~~ and additions with underlines	A-5

Thank you for your attention to these proposed rule amendments.

JWC:vlc

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

The proposed amendments to the Rules for Safe Drinking Water would amend **Rules 391-3-5-.02, 391-3-5-.30**, and **391-3-5-.41** for consistency with the 2024 federal Consumer Confidence Report Rule Revisions at 40 CFR Part 141.

Purpose: EPD proposes to amend three Rules under Chapter 391-3-5 to incorporate revisions made by EPA in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) regarding consumer confidence reports. EPD is proposing to amend these rules to maintain consistency with the federal Consumer Confidence Report Rule Revisions that go into effect on April 1, 2027.

Main Features: The proposed amendments will incorporate additional references to the federal Consumer Confidence Report Rule Revisions, including new rule 40 CFR Part 141.156. The proposed amendments will also incorporate an update to the definition for "Consumer Confidence Report" and incorporate revised language and references in the state's Consumer Confidence Reports rule that will address the federal rule revisions.

RULES FOR SAFE DRINKING WATER, CHAPTER 391-3-5

391-3-5-.02, "Definitions" is being amended to remove the word "annual" in the "Consumer Confidence Report" definition of subparagraph (27) for consistency with the federal Consumer Confidence Report Rule Revisions.

391-3-5-.30, "**Reporting Requirements"** is being amended to reference additional applicable federal Consumer Confidence Report rules in paragraph (13).

Rule 391-3-5-.41, "Consumer Confidence Reports" is being amended to revise the title and contents of paragraph (2) and its subparagraphs for consistency with the revisions to federal rule 40 CFR Part 141.152; to revise the title of paragraph (5) for consistency with the revised title of federal rule 40 CFR Part 141.155; to add new paragraph (6) to incorporate new federal rule 40 CFR Part 141.156, and renumbering subsequent paragraphs; and to change a reference in renumbered subparagraph (8)(a)4. from "customer's" to "consumer's" for consistency with the revisions to federal rule 40 CFR Part 141.151.

STATEMENT OF RATIONALE
Proposed Amendments to the Rules for Safe Drinking Water, Chapter 391-3-5

The proposed amendments to the Rules for Safe Drinking Water, Chapter 391-3-5 will address the requirements of EPA's 2024 Consumer Confidence Report Rule Revisions. The Federal Safe

Drinking Water Act, 40 CFR Part 142, requires States to adopt new or revised federal regulations in order to maintain primacy (primary enforcement authority) over public drinking water systems. The proposed amendments are designed to incorporate the requirements of the Consumer Confidence Report Rule Revisions and will ensure that Georgia maintains its primacy over public drinking water systems.

The federal Consumer Confidence Report Rule Revisions were published in 2024 and go into effect on April 1, 2027. The federal rule revisions are focused on making the reports more understandable and accessible to the public, enhancing information about lead in drinking water, encouraging electronic methods to streamline the delivery of the reports, and requiring systems serving more than 10,000 customers to distribute reports twice a year. All public water systems and primacy agencies must comply with the Consumer Confidence Report Rule Revisions by April 1, 2027.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES
OF THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION
RELATING TO SAFE DRINKING WATER, CHAPTER 391-3-5

The Rules of the Department of Natural Resources, Chapter 391-3-5, are hereby amended and revised for specific Rules, or such subdivisions thereof as may be indicated.

[Note: Underlined text is proposed to be added. ~~Lined-through~~ text is proposed to be deleted.]

CHAPTER 391-3-5 SAFE DRINKING WATER

Rule 391-3-5-.02 Definitions

All terms used in these rules shall be interpreted in accordance with the definitions as set forth in the Georgia Safe Drinking Water Act of 1977 or as herein defined:
(1) "Act" means the Georgia Safe Drinking Water Act of 1977, as amended.
(2) "Action Level" means the concentration of a contaminant, which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
(3) "Aquifer" means any stratum or zone of rock beneath the surface of the earth capable of containing water or producing water from a well.
(4) "Aquifer Testing" means a controlled pumping test of a well lasting at least 24 continuous hours in which the water level and the pumping rate are monitored at closely spaced intervals and the water level is monitored for at least as long a time following the test as the duration of the test.
(5) "Backflow" means the reverse flow of contaminated water, other liquid, gas, or substance into the distribution system of a potable water supply.
(6) "Back pressure" means a condition in which the pressure in a non-potable system is greater than the pressure in the potable distribution system and can cause contaminants to backflow into the potable system.
(7) "Backsiphonage" means a form of backflow caused by a negative or below atmospheric pressure within the potable water system.
(8) "Bag filters" are pressure-driven separation devices that remove particulate matter larger than 1 micrometer using an engineered porous filtration media. They are typically constructed of a non-rigid, fabric filtration media housed in a pressure vessel in which the direction of flow is from the inside of the bag to outside.
(9) "Bank filtration" is a water treatment process that uses a well to recover surface water that has naturally infiltrated into ground water through a river bed or bank(s). Infiltration is typically enhanced by the hydraulic gradient imposed by a nearby pumping water supply or other well(s).
(10) "Business plan" means a written plan which is prepared to demonstrate a public water system's managerial and financial capacity to comply with all drinking water regulations in effect, or likely to be in effect. The business plan is to be prepared in conformance with Appendix A of the Division's "Minimum Standards for Public Water Systems", latest edition. The business plan shall be updated at intervals determined by the Director.
(11) "Best Available Technology" or "BAT" means the best technology, treatment techniques, or other means promulgated by EPA and adopted by the Division. In promulgating BAT the EPA

examines the efficacy under field conditions and not solely under laboratory conditions, and takes costs into consideration when determining what technology or treatment technique is available.
(12) "CFR" means the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 40. The Code of Federal Regulations is a codification of the general and permanent rules published in the Federal Register by the executive departments and agencies of the federal government.
(13) "Capacity" means the overall capability of a water system to reliably produce and deliver water meeting all national primary drinking water regulations in effect, or likely to be in effect. Capacity encompasses the technical, managerial, and financial capabilities, as described in the latest edition of EPD's "Minimum Standards for Public Water Systems" and will enable a water system to plan for, achieve, and maintain compliance with applicable drinking water standards.
(14) "Cartridge filters" are pressure-driven separation devices that remove particulate matter larger than 1 micrometer using an engineered porous filtration media. They are typically constructed as rigid or semi-rigid, self-supporting filter elements housed in pressure vessels in which flow is from the outside of the cartridge to the inside.
(15) "Casing" means the tubular material used to shut off or exclude a stratum or strata and to protect against entrance of contaminants during the expected life of the well.
(16) "Clean compliance history" is, for the purposes of the Revised Total Coliform Rule, 391-3-5-.55, a record of: no MCL violations under Rule 391-3-5-.18(4)(a)-(c) or Rule 391-3-5-.55; no monitoring violations under Rule 391-3-5-.23 or Rule 391-3-5-.55; and no coliform treatment technique trigger exceedances or treatment technique violations under Rule 391-3-5-.55.
(17) "Coagulation" means a process using coagulant chemicals and mixing by which colloidal and suspended materials are destabilized and agglomerated into flocs.
(18) "Combined distribution system" is the interconnected distribution system consisting of the distribution systems of wholesale systems and of the consecutive systems that receive finished water.
(19) "Community water system" or "CWS" means a public water system, which serves at least 15 service connections, used by year-round residents or regularly serves at least 25 year-round residents.
(20) "Compliance cycle" means the nine-year calendar year cycle during which public water systems must monitor. Each compliance cycle consists of three-year compliance periods. The first compliance cycle begins January 1, 1993.
(21) "Compliance period" means a three-year calendar year period within a compliance cycle. Each compliance cycle has three-year compliance periods.
(22) "Comprehensive performance evaluation" or "CPE" means a thorough review and analysis of a treatment plant's performance-based capabilities and associated administrative, operation and maintenance practices. It is conducted to identify factors that may be adversely impacting a plant's capability to achieve compliance and emphasizes approaches that can be implemented without significant capital improvements. For purpose of compliance with subparts P and T of 40 CFR Part 141, the CPE shall consist of at least the following components: Assessment of plant performance; evaluation of major unit processes; identification and prioritization of performance limiting factors; assessment of the applicability of comprehensive technical assistance; and preparation of a CPE report.
(23) "Confirmation Sample" means a sample analysis or analyses taken to verify the results of an original analysis. Each sample for the analysis shall be taken or measured at the same

location in the water system as the original sample. The results of the confirmation samples shall be averaged with the original sample to determine compliance.
(24) "Confined Aquifer" means an aquifer which is separated from the land surface by a significant zone of low permeability which prevents surface recharge or pollutants from readily reaching the aquifer.
(25) "Confluent growth" means a continuous bacterial growth covering the entire filtration area of a membrane filter, or a portion thereof, in which bacterial colonies are not discrete.
(26) "Consecutive system" is a public water system that receives some or all of its finished water from one or more wholesale systems. Delivery may be through a direct connection or through the distribution system of one or more consecutive systems.
(27) "Consumer Confidence Report" means ~~an annual~~ report that community water systems must deliver to their customers which, as a minimum, contains information on the quality of the water delivered by the system and characterizes the risks (if any) from exposure to contaminants detected in the drinking water in an accurate and understandable manner.
(28) "Contaminant" means any physical, chemical, biological, or radiological substance or matter in water.
(29) "Conventional filtration treatment" means a series of processes including coagulation flocculation, sedimentation, and filtration resulting in substantial particulate removal.
(30) "Corrosion Inhibitor" means a substance capable of reducing the corrosivity of water toward metal plumbing materials, especially lead and copper, by forming a protective film on the interior surface of those materials.
(31) "Cross-connection" means any physical arrangement whereby a public water supply is connected, directly or indirectly, with any other water supply system, sewer, drain, conduit, pool, storage reservoir, plumbing fixture, or other device which contains or may contain contaminated water, sewage or other waste, or liquid of unknown or unsafe quality which may be capable of imparting contamination to the public water supply as the result of backflow. By-pass arrangements, jumper connections, removable sections, swivel or changeable devices, and other temporary or permanent devices through which or because of which backflow could occur are considered to be cross-connections.
(32) "CT" is the product of "residual disinfectant concentration" (C) in milligrams per liter determined before or at the first customer tap where water is provided for human consumption and the corresponding "disinfectant contact time" (T) in minutes.
(33) "Department" means the Department of Natural Resources of the State of Georgia.
(34) "Diatomaceous earth filtration" means a process resulting in substantial particulate removal in which (1) a pre-coat cake of diatomaceous earth filter media is deposited on a support membrane (septum), and (2) while the water is filtered by passing through the cake on the septum, additional filter media known as the body feed is continuously added to feed water to maintain the permeability of the filter cake.
(35) "Direct filtration" means a series of processes including coagulation and filtration but excluding sedimentation resulting in substantial particulate removal.
(36) "Director" means the Director of the Environmental Protection Division, Department of Natural Resources of the State of Georgia, or his designee.
(37) "Disinfectant" means any oxidant, including but not limited to chlorine, chlorine dioxide, chloramines, and ozone added to water in any part of the treatment or distribution process, that is intended to kill or inactivate pathogenic microorganisms.

(38) "Disinfectant contact time" ("T" in CT calculations) means the time in minutes that it takes for water to move from the point of disinfectant application or the previous point where residual disinfectant concentration ("C") is measured.
(39) "Disinfection" means a process, which inactivates pathogenic organisms in water by chemical oxidants or equivalent agents.
(40) "Disinfection profile" means a summary of *Giardia lamblia* inactivation through the treatment plant. The procedure for developing a disinfection profile is contained in 40 CFR § 141.172. (Disinfection profiling and benchmarking) in subpart P and §§ 141.530- 141.536 (Disinfection profile) in subpart T of 40 CFR Part 141.
(41) "Division" means the Environmental Protection Division, Department of Natural Resources of the State of Georgia.
(42) "Domestic or other non-distribution system plumbing problem" means a coliform contamination problem in a public water system with more than one service connection that is limited to the specific service connection from which the coliform-positive sample was taken.
(43) "Dose equivalent" means the product of the absorbed dose from ionizing radiation and such factors as account for differences in biological effectiveness due to the type of radiation and its distribution in the body as specified by the International Commission on Radiological Units and Measurements (ICRU).
(44) "Drinking Water" means water supplied to the public for human consumption from a public water system.
(45) "Dual sample set" is a set of two samples collected at the same time and same location, with one sample analyzed for TTHM and the other sample analyzed for HAA5. Dual sample sets are collected for the purposes of conducting an IDSE under subpart U of 40 CFR, Part 141 and determining compliance with the TTHM and HAA5 MCLs under subpart V of 40 CFR, Part 141.
(46) "Effective corrosion inhibitor residual" for the purpose of compliance with Rule 395-3-5-.25, means a concentration sufficient to form a protective film on the interior walls of a pipe.
(47) "Enhanced coagulation" means the addition of sufficient coagulant for improved removal of disinfection byproduct precursors by conventional filtration treatment.
(48) "Enhanced softening" means the improved removal of disinfection byproduct precursors by precipitative softening.
(49) "Entry Point" means the sample point where after treatment drinking water enters the distribution system. For purposes of the Act and the Rules, "entry point" shall be defined as a sample location anywhere on the finished water line after treatment, up to and including the first service or customer tap.
(50) "EPA" means the United States Environmental Protection Agency.
(51) "Exemption" means approval from the Division affording a public water system, existing as of the effective date of these rules, an extended time for compliance with a maximum contaminant level or treatment technique contained in a drinking water standard. An exemption pertains to non-compliance with a maximum contaminant level for reasons other than that instance when application of a generally available treatment method fails to adequately treat the raw water source.
(52) "Federal Act" means the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act, 1974 P.L. 93-523, as amended.
(53) "Filter profile" means a graphical representation of individual filter performance, based on continuous turbidity measurements or total particle counts versus time for an entire filter run, from startup to backwash inclusively, that includes an assessment of filter performance while another filter is being backwashed.

(54) "Filtration" means a process for removing particulate matter from water by passage through porous media.
(55) "Finished water" is water that is introduced into the distribution system of a public water system and is intended for distribution and consumption without further treatment, except as treatment necessary to maintain water quality in the distribution system (*e.g.*, booster disinfection, addition of corrosion control chemicals).
(56) "First draw sample" means a one-liter sample of tap water collected in accordance with Rule 391-3-5-.25, that has been standing in the plumbing pipes at least 6 hours and is collected without flushing the tap.
(57) "Flocculation" means a process to enhance agglomeration or collection of smaller floc particles into larger, more easily settleable particles by gentle stirring by hydraulic or mechanical means.
(58) "Flowing stream" is a course of running water flowing in a definite channel.
(59) "GAC10" means granular activated carbon filter beds with an empty-bed contact time of 10 minutes based on average daily flow and a carbon reactivation frequency of every 180 days, except that the reactivation frequency for GAC10 used as a best available technology for compliance with subpart V MCLs under 40 CFR § 141.64(b)(2) shall be 120 days.
(60) "GAC20" means granular activated carbon filter beds with an empty-bed contact time of 20 minutes based on average daily flow and a carbon reactivation frequency of every 240 days.
(61) "Gross alpha particle activity" means the total radioactivity due to alpha particle emission as inferred from measurements on a dry sample.
(62) "Gross beta particle activity" means the total radioactivity due to beta particle emission as inferred from measurement on a dry sample.
(63) "Ground water" means water obtained from wells and/or springs used as a source of water supply for a public water system.
(64) "Ground water under the direct influence of surface water" (GWUDI) means any water beneath the surface of the ground with:
(a) significant occurrence of insects or other microorganisms, algae, or large-diameter pathogens such as *Giardia lamblia*, or *Cryptosporidium*, or
(b) significant and relatively rapid shifts in water characteristics such as turbidity, temperature, conductivity, or pH which closely correlate to climatological or surface water conditions.
(65) "Haloacetic acids (five)" (HAA5) mean the sum of the concentrations in milligrams per liter of the haloacetic acid compounds (monochloroacetic acid, dichloroacetic acid, trichloroacetic acid, monobromoacetic acid, and dibromoacetic acid), rounded to two significant figures after addition.
(66) "Halogen" means one of the chemical elements chlorine, bromine or iodine.
(67) "Hazardous Material" means any chemical, substance or material that is classified as Hazardous by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (CFR 40, Part 261).
(68) "Health hazards" mean any conditions, devices, or practices in a water supply system or its operation, which create or may create an imminent and substantial danger to the health and well-being to the water consumer.
(69) "Heterotrophic plate count" formerly known as the standard plate count, is a procedure for estimating the number of live heterotrophic bacteria in water. Unless stated otherwise, heterotrophic plate count refers to Method 9215, the pour plate method, as set forth in *Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater*, American Public Health Association, 18th Edition, 1992, pp. 9-32 to 9-34, or subsequent edition.

(70) "Initial compliance period" means the first full three-year compliance period that begins January 1, 1993.
(71) "Inventory" for the purpose of Rule 391-3-5-.40 means a written or computer database listing of all potential sources of ground-water pollution located within a wellhead protection area.
(72) "Lake/reservoir" refers to a natural or man-made basin or hollow on the Earth's surface in which water collects or is stored that may or may not have a current or single direction of flow.
(73) "Large water system" for the purpose of Rule 391-3-5-.25 (Lead & Copper) means a water system that serves more than 50,000 persons.
(74) "Lead service line" means a line made of lead, which connects the discharge side of the water meter to the building inlet and any lead pigtail, gooseneck or other fitting, which is connected to such lead line.
(75) "*Legionella*" means a genus of bacteria, some species of which have caused a type of pneumonia called Legionnaires Disease.
(76) "Level 1 assessment" is an evaluation to identify the possible presence of sanitary defects, defects in distribution system coliform monitoring practices, and (when possible) the likely reason that the system triggered the assessment. It is conducted by the system operator or owner. Minimum elements include review and identification of atypical events that could affect distributed water quality or indicate that distributed water quality was impaired; changes in distribution system maintenance and operation that could affect distributed water quality (including water storage); source and treatment considerations that bear on distributed water quality, where appropriate (e.g., whether a ground water system is disinfected); existing water quality monitoring data; and inadequacies in sample sites, sampling protocol, and sample processing. The system must conduct the assessment consistent with any Division directives that tailor specific assessment elements with respect to the size and type of the system and the size, type, and characteristics of the distribution system.
(77) "Level 2 assessment" is an evaluation to identify the possible presence of sanitary defects, defects in distribution system coliform monitoring practices, and (when possible) the likely reason that the system triggered the assessment. A Level 2 assessment provides a more detailed examination of the system (including the system's monitoring and operational practices) than does a Level 1 assessment through the use of more comprehensive investigation and review of available information, additional internal and external resources, and other relevant practices. It is conducted by an individual approved by the Division, which may include the system operator. Minimum elements include review and identification of atypical events that could affect distributed water quality or indicate that distributed water quality was impaired; changes in distribution system maintenance and operation that could affect distributed water quality (including water storage); source and treatment considerations that bear on distributed water quality, where appropriate (e.g., whether a ground water system is disinfected); existing water quality monitoring data; and inadequacies in sample sites, sampling protocol, and sample processing. The system must conduct the assessment consistent with any Division directives that tailor specific assessment elements with respect to the size and type of the system and the size, type, and characteristics of the distribution system. The system must comply with any expedited actions or additional actions required by the Division in the case of an *E. coli* MCL violation.
(78) "Locational running annual average" (LRAA) is the average of sample analytical results for samples taken at a particular monitoring location during the previous four calendar quarters.

(79) "Man-made beta particle and photon emitters" means all radionuclides emitting beta particles and/or photons listed in Maximum Permissible Body Burdens and Maximum Permissible Concentration of Radionuclides in Air or Water for Occupational Exposure, NBS Handbook 69, except the daughter products of thorium-232, uranium-235 and uranium-238.
(80) "Maximum contaminant level" (MCL) means the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
(81) "Maximum contaminant level goal" (MCLG) means the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
(82) "Maximum residual disinfectant level" (MRDL) means a level of a disinfectant added for water treatment that may not be exceeded at the consumer's tap without an unacceptable possibility of adverse health effects.
(83) "Maximum residual disinfectant level goal" (MRDLG) means the maximum level of a disinfectant added for water treatment at which no known or anticipated adverse effect on the health of persons would occur, and which allows an adequate margin of safety. MRDLGs are non-enforceable health goals and do not reflect the benefit of the addition of the chemical for control of waterborne microbial contamination.
(84) "Medium-size water system" for the purpose of Rule 391-3-5-.25 (Lead & Copper), means a water system that serves greater than 3,300 and less than or equal to 50,000 persons.
(85) "Membrane filtration" is a pressure or vacuum driven separation process in which particulate matter larger than 1 micrometer is rejected by an engineered barrier, primarily through a size-exclusion mechanism, and which has a measurable removal efficiency of a target organism that can be verified through the application of a direct integrity test. This definition includes the common membrane technologies of microfiltration, ultrafiltration, nanofiltration, and reverse osmosis.
(86) "Minimum Community Population Determination" for the purpose of the Act and the Rules means the minimum residential population shall be determined by a mathematical calculation of the total number of active residential service connections, multiplied by Georgia's average population per household, as published in the most recent Federal Census Bureau Statistics. Multiple residential units served by a single connection (master meter) shall be included in the determination of population for a water system.
(87) "Near the first service connection" means at one of the 20 percent of all service connections in the entire system that are nearest the water supply treatment facility, as measured by water transport time within the distribution system.
(88) "Non-community water system" or "NCWS" means a public water system, which provides piped water for human consumption to at least 15 service connections or which serves at least 25 individuals at least 60 days out of the year but which is not a community water system. A non-community water system may be further classified as a "non-transient, non-community water system" or a "transient, non-community water system".
(89) "Non-transient, non-community water system" or "NTNCWS" means a public water system that is not a community water system and that regularly serves at least 25 of the same persons over 6 months per year.
(90) "Operator" means the person responsible for the maintenance and operation of the public water system. A certified operator is an operator registered as a Water Treatment Plant Operator in the State of Georgia in accordance with the provisions of the Certification of Water and

Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators and Laboratory Analysts Act (Georgia Laws 1969, pp. 272 et. seq., as amended). For purposes of this Act a certified operator also includes persons involved with only the storage and distribution of drinking water.
(91) "Optimal corrosion control treatment" as it applies to Rule 391-3-5.25 (Lead & Copper) of this Chapter, means the corrosion control treatment that minimizes the lead and copper concentrations at user's taps while insuring that the treatment does not cause the water to violate any national primary drinking water regulation.
(92) "Person" means any individual, corporation, company, association, partnership, county, municipality, State agency, State authority, Federal agency, agency, facility, or other entity.
(93) "Picocurie" (pCi) means that quantity of radioactive material producing 2.22 nuclear transformations per minute.
(94) "Plant intake" refers to the works or structures at the head of a conduit through which water is diverted from a source (e.g., river or lake) into the treatment plant.
(95) "Point of disinfection application" is the point where the disinfectant is applied and water downstream of that point is not subject to recontamination by surface water runoff.
(96) "Presedimentation" is a preliminary treatment process used to remove gravel, sand and other particulate material from the source water through settling before the water enters the primary clarification and filtration processes in a treatment plant.
(97) "Professional Engineer" means a person registered to practice professional engineering in the State of Georgia in accordance with the provisions of the Act governing the Practice of Professional Engineering in Georgia. (Ga. Laws 1945, p. 294 et. seq., as amended).
(98) "Professional Geologist" means a person registered to practice professional geology in the State of Georgia in accordance with the provisions of the Registration of Geologist Act of 1975, (Code 1933, §84-2101a, enacted by the Georgia Legislature 1975, p.163, 1).
(99) "Public water system" or "PWS" means a system that provides water to the public for human consumption through pipes or other constructed conveyances, if such system has at least fifteen (15) service connections or regularly serves an average of twenty-five (25) individuals daily at least 60 days out of the year. Such terms include: 1) any collection, treatment, storage, and distribution facilities under control of the operator of such system and used primarily in connection with such system; and 2) any collection or pretreatment storage facilities not under such control which are used primarily in connection with such system. Such term does not include any "special irrigation district." A public water system is a "community water system", a "non-transient non-community water system" or a "transient non-community water system".
(100) "Raw water" means water from a source of water supply or a proposed source of water supply, which has not received any type of treatment to change the physical, chemical, biological, or radiological quality of the water.
(101) "Rem" means the unit of dose equivalent from ionizing radiation to the total body or any internal organ or organ system. A "millirem (mrem)" is 1/1000 of a rem.
(102) "Repeat compliance period" means any subsequent compliance period after the initial compliance period.
(103) "Repeat sample" means a sample that is collected and analyzed in response to a previous coliform-positive sample.
(104) "Residual disinfectant concentration" ("C" in CT calculations) means the concentration of disinfectant measured in milligrams per liter in a representative sample of water.

(105) "Sanitary defect" is a defect that could provide a pathway of entry for microbial contamination into the distribution system or that is indicative of a failure or imminent failure in a barrier that is already in place.
(106) "Sanitary survey" means an on-site review of the water source, facilities, equipment, treatment, operation and maintenance of a public water system for the purpose of evaluating the adequacy of each for producing and distributing safe drinking water.
(107) "Seasonal system" is a non-community water system that is not operated as a public water system on a year-round basis and starts up and shuts down at the beginning and end of each operating season.
(108) "Sedimentation" means a process for removal of solids before filtration by gravity or separation.
(109) "Service connection" means the point at which the water distribution main and the water service pipe, metered or unmetered, are connected to serve water to a residence or water customer. As used in the definition of PWS, "service connection" does not include a connection to a system that delivers water by a constructed conveyance other than a pipe if:
(a) The water is used exclusively for purposes other than residential uses (consisting of drinking, bathing, and cooking, or other similar uses);
(b) The Division determines that alternative water to achieve the equivalent level of public health protection provided by the applicable national primary drinking water regulation is provided for residential or similar uses for drinking and cooking; or
(c) The Division determines that the water provided for residential or similar uses for drinking, cooking, and bathing is centrally treated or treated at the point of entry by the provider, a pass-through entity, or the user to achieve the equivalent level of protection provided by the applicable national primary drinking water regulations.
(110) "Service line sample" means a one-liter sample of water collected in accordance with Rule 391-3-5-.25 that has been standing for at least 6 hours in the service line.
(111) "Single family structure" for the purpose of compliance with Rule 391-3-5-.25 (Lead & Copper), means a building constructed as a single-family residence that is currently used as either a residence or place of business.
(112) "Slow sand filtration" means a process involving passage of raw water through a bed of sand at low velocity (generally less than 0.4 meters per hour) resulting in substantial particulate removal by physical and biological mechanisms.
(113) "Small water system" for the purpose of Rule 391-3-5-.25 (Lead & Copper), means a water system that serves 3,300 persons or fewer.
(114) "Source of water supply" means the waters of the State from which raw water is taken into a public water system to be treated and/or distributed.
(115) "Source Water Assessment Plan" (SWAP) means a public report which documents a public drinking water system's and other stakeholders' reasonable efforts to ascertain the potential impact of natural or man-made pollutants, within a wellhead protection or watershed area, on the raw water source for the drinking water supply well or surface water intake.
(116) "Spring" means a source of water supply which naturally issues forth for the first time from rock or soil onto the land or into a body of water.
(117) "Standard sample" means the aliquot of finished drinking water that is examined for the presence of coliform bacteria.

(118) "Storage tank" or "Tank" means any covered structure, such as clearwell, standpipe, reservoir, elevated tank, hydropneumatic tank or other storage facility or combination thereof used to store drinking water.
(119) "Subpart H systems" means public water systems using surface water or ground water under the direct influence of surface water as a source.
(120) "Supplier of water" or "Supplier" means any person who owns or operates a public water system.
(121) "Surface water" means and includes any and all rivers, streams, branches, creeks, ponds, tributary streams, drainage basins, natural lakes, artificial reservoirs and impoundments and ground water under the direct influence of surface water.
(122) "SUVA" means Specific Ultraviolet Absorption at 254 nanometers (nm), an indicator of the humic content of water. It is a calculated parameter obtained by dividing a sample's ultraviolet absorption at a wavelength of 254 nm by its concentration of dissolved organic carbon (DOC) (in mg/L).
(123) "System with a single service connection" means a system, which supplies drinking water to consumers via a single service line.
(124) "Total Organic Carbon" (TOC) means total organic carbon in mg/L measured using heat, oxygen, ultraviolet irradiation, chemical oxidants, or combinations of these oxidants that convert organic carbon to carbon dioxide, rounded to two significant figures.
(125) "Total trihalomethanes" (TTHM) means the sum of the concentration in milligrams per liter of the trihalomethane compounds: trichloromethane (chloroform), dibromochloromethane, bromodichloromethane and tribromomethane (bromoform), rounded to two significant figures.
(126) "Too numerous to count" means that the total number of bacterial colonies exceed 200 on a 47-mm diameter membrane filter used for coliform detection.
(127) "Transient non-community water system" or "TNCWS" means a public water system that is not a community water system or a non-transient non-community water system. A transient non-community water system provides piped water for human consumption to at least 15 service connections or which regularly serves at least 25 persons at least 60 days a year.
(128) "Treatment Technique" means a required process intended to reduce the level of contaminants in drinking water.
(129) "Treatment technique requirement" means a requirement, which specifies for a contaminant, a specific treatment technique(s), which leads to a reduction in the level of such contaminant sufficient to comply with the requirements of these Rules.
(130) "Trihalomethane" (THM) means one of the family of organic compounds, named as derivatives of methane, wherein three of the four hydrogen atoms in methane are each substituted by a halogen atom in the molecular structure.
(131) "Two-stage lime softening" is a process in which chemical addition and hardness precipitation occur in each of two distinct unit clarification processes in series prior to filtration.
(132) "Unconfined aquifer" means an aquifer which is not separated from the land surface by a significant zone of low permeability and, therefore, is more susceptible to pollution from the activities of mankind. Wellhead Protection Areas for unconfined aquifers are larger than such areas for confined aquifers.
(133) "Uncovered finished water storage facility" means a tank, reservoir or other facility used to store water that will undergo no further treatment except residual disinfection and is open to the atmosphere.

(134) "Variance" means approval from the Division affording a public water system an extended time for compliance with a maximum contaminant level or treatment technique contained in a drinking water standard. A variance pertains to non-compliance with a maximum contaminant level due to the inability to meet the maximum contaminant level even when a treatment method has been applied to a raw water source. The noncompliance is due to the quality of the raw water.
(135) "Virus" means a microorganism of fecal origin, which is infectious to humans by waterborne transmission.
(136) "Waterborne disease outbreak" means the significant occurrence of acute infectious illness, epidemiologically associated with the ingestion of water from a public water system which is deficient in treatment, as determined by the Division.
(137) "Waters" or "Waters of the State" means and includes any and all rivers, streams, creeks, branches, lakes, reservoirs, ponds, drainage systems, springs, wells, and all other bodies of surface or underground water, natural or artificial, of this State.
(138) "Watershed Area" means the entire drainage basin upstream of a water intake located on a stream or lake.
(139) "Well" means any excavation that is cored, bored, drilled, jetted, dug, or otherwise constructed for the purpose of locating, testing, or withdrawing ground water.
(140) "Wellhead protection area" means an area of potential ground water recharge around a well which should be protected from surface and subsurface sources of manmade pollution in order to protect the quality of drinking water supplies.
(141) "Wholesale system" is a public water system that treats source water as necessary to produce finished water and then delivers some or all of that finished water to another public water system. Delivery may be through a direct connection or through the distribution system of one or more consecutive systems.

Authority: O.C.G.A. Sec. 12-5-170 *et seq*.

Rule 391-3-5-.30 Reporting Requirements

(1) **Reporting Period**. Except where a shorter period is specified by the Director, the supplier of water shall report to the Division the results of any test measurement or analysis required by this Chapter within:
(a) the first ten days following the month in which the results are received; or
(b) the first ten days following the end of the required monitoring period as stipulated by the Division, whichever of these is shortest. Note: Test measurements and results should be reported on the Division's reporting forms. Copies of these forms can be found on the Division web page.
(2) **Violation**. Failure to comply with paragraphs (1)(a) and (b) of Rule 391-3-5-.30 will result in a monitoring/reporting violation.
(3) **Analysis by Division Laboratory**. The supplier of water is not required to report analytical results to the Division in cases where the Division's laboratory performs the analysis and reports the results to the Division's office which would normally receive such notification from the supplier.
(4) **Analysis by Non-Division Laboratory**. The supplier of water is not required to report analytical results to the Division in cases where the Division's laboratory performs the analysis and reports the results to the Division's office, which would normally receive such notification from the supplier. When the Division's laboratory does not perform the analysis, and the supplier

chooses to use a laboratory certified by the Division, analytical results shall be reported to the Division's office in a manner that is specified by the Division.
(5) **Records Maintained by Public Water System**. The water supply system shall submit to the Division within the time stated in the request copies of any records required to be maintained under Rule 391-3-5-.15 hereof or copies of any documents then in existence which the Division is entitled to inspect pursuant to the authority of the Act.
(6) **Failure to Comply with National Primary Drinking Water Regulation**. Each system, upon discovering that an exceedance of any National Primary Drinking Water Regulation has occurred, must report that occurrence to the Division by telephone within forty-eight (48) hours or before the end of the next business day, whichever is earlier, followed by a written report, except where a different reporting period is specified in federal regulations.
(7) **Lead and Copper Information**. All water systems shall report all lead and copper information in accordance with 40 CFR Part 141.90 when applicable. Separate reports are required for each of the following:
1. tap water monitoring for lead and copper, and other water quality monitoring;
2. source water monitoring;
3. corrosion control treatment;
4. source water treatment;
5. lead service line replacement;
6. public education programs.
(8) **Reserved**.
(9) **Disinfection Byproducts Information**. Systems monitoring for disinfection by products (TTHM, HAA5, chlorite, bromate) under the requirements of 40 CFR § 141.132(b) must report the information specified in section 40 CFR § 141.134(b).
(10) **Disinfectants Information**. Systems monitoring for disinfectants (chlorine, chloramines, chlorine dioxide) under the requirements of 40 CFR § 141.132(c) must report the information specified in Section 40 CFR § 141.134(c).
(11) **Disinfection Byproduct Precursors Information**. Systems monitoring for disinfection byproduct precursors (TOC) under the requirements of 40 CFR § 141.132(d) and required to meet the enhanced coagulation or enhanced softening requirements in 141.135(b)(2) or (3) or meeting one or more of the alternative compliance criteria in 141.135(a)(2) or (3) must report the information specified in section 40 CFR § 141.134(d).
(12) **Conventional or Direct Filtration Information for Systems Serving At Least 10,000 Persons**. Beginning January 1, 2002, in addition to the requirement in this Chapter, the Subpart H water systems serving at least 10,000 people and providing conventional filtration treatment or direct filtration must report monthly to the Division the information specified in 40 CFR § 141.175(a) and (b). Those systems using filtration technologies other than conventional filtration treatment, direct filtration, slow sand filtration, or diatomaceous earth filtration must report monthly to the Division the information in 40 CFR § 141.175(a) in lieu of reporting in (b)(1).
(13) **Content of Consumer Confidence Reports**. 40 CFR §§ 141.153 through 141.156 ~~is~~are hereby incorporated by reference.
(14) **Filtration Information for Systems Serving Less Than 10,000 Persons**. In addition to the requirements in this Chapter, the Subpart H water systems serving fewer than 10,000 people must report the required items at the frequency described in 40 CFR Subpart T § 141.570.
(15) **Filter Backwash Information**. All subpart H systems that employ conventional filtration or direct filtration treatment and that recycle spent filter backwash water, thickener supernatant, or liquids from dewatering processes must report the information specified in 40 CFR § 141.76(b)(1) and (2) to the Division no later than December 8, 2003.
(16) **Waterborne Disease Outbreak**. Each system, upon discovering that a waterborne disease outbreak potentially attributable to that water system has occurred, must report that occurrence to the Division by telephone within forty-eight (48) hours or before the end of the next business day, whichever is earlier, followed by a written report.

Authority: O.C.G.A. Sec. 12-5-170 *et seq*.

391-3-5-.41 Consumer Confidence Reports.

(1) **Purpose and Applicability.** 40 CFR Part 141, Subpart O § 141.151 is hereby incorporated by reference.
(2) **~~Effective~~Compliance Dates.**
(a) Each existing community water system must deliver ~~to all its customers its first~~ report<u>s</u> ~~by October 19, 1999, its second report by July 1, 2000, and subsequent reports~~<u>according to 40 CFR § 141.155</u> by July 1 <u>each year</u>~~annually thereafter~~. ~~The first report must contain data collected during, or prior to, calendar year 1998 as prescribed in 40 CFR Part 141, Subpart O § 141.153(d)(3).~~ Each report ~~thereafter~~ <u>delivered by July 1</u> must contain data collected during<u>~~, or prior to,~~</u> the previous calendar year<u>, or the most recent calendar year before the previous calendar year</u>.
(b) A new community water system must deliver to all its customers its first report by July 1 of the year after its first full calendar year in operation ~~and annually thereafter~~.
(c) A community water system that sells water to another community water system must deliver the applicable information required in 40 CFR Part 141, Subpart O § 141.153 to the buyer system:
1. ~~No later than April 19, 1999, by April 1, 2000, and b~~B<u>y April 1, 2027, and</u> annually thereafter<u>;</u> or
2. On a date mutually agreed upon by the seller and the purchaser, and specifically included in a contract between the parties.
<u>3. A community water system that sells water to another community water system that is required to provide reports biannually according to 40 CFR Part 141, Subpart O § 141.155(i) must provide the applicable information required in 40 CFR Part 141, Subpart O § 141.155(j) by October 1, 2027, to the buyer system, and annually thereafter, or a date mutually agreed upon by the seller and the purchaser, included in a contract between the parties.</u>

(3) **Content of the reports:** 40 CFR Part 141, Subpart O § 141.153 is hereby incorporated by reference.
(4) **Required additional health information:** 40 CFR Part 141, Subpart O § 141.154 is hereby incorporated by reference.
(5) **Report delivery<u>, reporting,</u> and recordkeeping:** 40 CFR Part 141, Subpart O § 141.155 is hereby incorporated by reference.
<u>(6) **Summary of report contents:** 40 CFR Part 141, Subpart O §141.156 is hereby incorporated by reference.</u>
(~~6~~7) Appendix A to Subpart O of 40 CFR Part 141 — Regulated Contaminants is hereby incorporated by reference.
(~~7~~8) **Electronic Delivery.**
(a) Community water systems may provide Consumer Confidence Reports electronically provided that:
1. The manner of the electronic delivery is a direct communication link, without use of an intermediary service;
2. There is an explanatory notice that accompanies the direct communication link;

3. The entire content of the Consumer Confidence Report is accessible;
4. The community water system shall provide the Consumer Confidence Report through another method should the community water system become aware of a ~~customer's~~consumer's inability to receive the Consumer Confidence Report by the chosen electronic delivery method.

Authority: O.C.G.A. Sec. 12-5-170 *et seq.*

GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WALTER RABON, COMMISSIONER

October 27, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Board of Natural Resources

FROM: Walter Rabon, Commissioner WR

SUBJECT: Acquisition (purchase) of 1,064± acres from the Conservation Fund, 2nd Phase of the Charlton County Project, Charlton County.

Comments
The Department is seeking approval to acquire 1,064± acres in Charlton County for conservation and recreational purposes.

Owner	Acres	Total
The Conservation Fund	1,064±	$3,019,684.00

For your review, we are enclosing:
(1) Summary
(2) Resolution

We have presented all available information pertaining to this purchase to the Chairman, Land Committee, and to the member of the Board within whose district this project is located.

Discussion and Conclusion
This 1,064± acre acquisition in Charlton County will protect land along Trail Ridge near the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge. The tract provides critical habitat adjacent to the Okefenokee swamp and will provide new outdoor recreational opportunities in Charlton County. The acquisition also offers the opportunity for longleaf pine restoration and wetland restoration, along with expansion of fire buffer areas next to the swamp. The recent wildfires in this area highlight the need for this management. Upon acquisition the property will be managed as the Alachua Trail Wildlife Management Area along with an additional 3,833 acres that is due to be sold to the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge. The Department will manage both tracts to provide public hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreation opportunities. At the time of conveyance, the Conservation Fund will place a deed restriction on the property that prohibits any future mining or mineral extraction activities.

With Board approval we intend to take this project to State Properties Commission (SPC) and if approved we will close March 2027. This tract represents the 2nd phase of a 3,964± acres project.

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The Department will acquire the property with Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Grant (GOSA) funds and a federal U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Pittman-Robertson (PR) grant. As a condition of receiving multiple funds, an affidavit will be recorded against the tract stating it may not be disposed of in any manner or used for purposes inconsistent with the programs it was acquired for without the prior approval of the USFWS and GOSA Board of Trustees.

Recommendation

We recommend adoption of the attached Resolution.

WR: bw

Enclosures (2)

SUMMARY STATEMENT

PROJECT:	TCF Charlton County	
TRACT:	The Conservation Fund. 2nd Phase Tract	
LOCATION:	Charlton County	
THIS ACQUISITION:	1,064± acres	
SOURCE OF FUNDING:	GOSA Grant	$1,864,436.00
	Federal GA DOT Funds	$618,936.00
	State GA DOT Finds	$206,312.00
	Wildlife Restoration Funds	$330,000.00
	Total Purchase Price	**$3,019,684.00**

As a condition of receiving federal and private funds, an affidavit will be recorded against this property stating it may not be disposed of in any manner or used for purposes inconsistent with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Pittman-Robertson Grant and Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Grant funds.

HISTORY OF NEGOTIATION: The Department entered a purchase option with the Conservation Fund on May 5, 2026.

NOMINATION: Wildlife Resources Division

KNOWN RIGHTS OUTSTANDING: None

VENDOR RESERVES: None

BENEFITS OF ACQUISITION: The acquisition opens the tract for public recreation such as hunting, wildlife viewing, hiking, observing nature.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS REPORT: A study was made and all conditions and guidelines under the Georgia Environmental Policy Act have been evaluated. It has been determined that this acquisition will have no significant adverse effect on the environment.

RELATIONSHIP TO DNR'S FIVE YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN: This property fits into our Strategic Plan, because it will encourage new audiences to enjoy the outdoors and increases opportunities for access to our natural resources.

FIVE YEAR OPERATIONAL: The following operating budget for the property represents the estimated cost for the proposed acquisition only.

FY 2026 - $63,100
FY 2027 - $12,050
FY 2028 – $12,050
FY 2029 – $12,050
FY 2030 – $12,050

Total 5-Year Operating Budget Estimate = $111,300

APPRAISAL SUMMARIES:

DATE	APPRAISALS	ACRES	TOTAL
4/22/2026	Odom Real Estate Appraisal, Inc.	3,964±	$11,300,000 ($2,850.66 per acre)
2/2/2026	Zac Ryan Appraisal Services, Inc.	3,984±	$9,960,000 ($2,500.00 per acre)
OPTION:	The Conservation Fund	3,964±	$11,250,000.00 ($2,838.04 per acre)
	2nd Phase	1,064±	$8,230,316.00 ($2,838.04 per acre)

2nd PHASE TERMINATION DATE: March 16, 2027

2nd PHASE LATEST CLOSING DATE: March 31, 2027

COORDINATION: Wildlife Resources Division

RESOLUTION

RECOMMENDING ACQUISITION BY NEGOTIATED PURCHASE OF THE FOLLOWING NAMED PROPERTY, MORE PARTICULARLY IDENTIFIED AS THE 1,064± ACRES 2nd PHASE TCF CHARLTON COUNTY TRACT ON THE ATTACHED "EXHIBIT A", FOR CONSERVATION AND RELATED PURPOSES.

CONSERVATION AND RELATED PURPOSES DEFINED

Conservation and related purposes as herein used include recreational, historical, archaeological, fish and wildlife, and other related uses of land and water resources.

Property To Be Acquired:

Project	**Property Owner**
TCF Charlton County 2nd Phase	the Conservation Fund

WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources is responsible for the conservation and wise utilization of the State's natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' staff has studied the subject property and found its conservation and related values are indeed of statewide significance and that the acquisition and appropriate development of this property would contribute greatly to meeting the conservation needs of Georgia's natural resources and thus recommends the preservation of the subject property through acquisition or other appropriate action; and

WHEREAS, At the time of conveyance, the Conservation Fund will place a deed restriction on the property that prohibits any future mining or mineral extraction activities; and

WHEREAS, As a condition of receiving multiple funds, an affidavit will be recorded against the tract stating it may not be disposed of in any manner or used for purposes inconsistent with the programs it was acquired for without the prior approval of the USFWS and GOSA Board of Trustees.; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Georgia Board of Natural Resources concurs in the findings of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources staff and recommends that the Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources seek the approval of the State Properties Commission to acquire by negotiated purchase and develop the subject property, for conservation and/or related purposes generally in accordance with applicable laws, policies, and procedures.

Adopted this 27th day of October 2026.

Respectfully submitted by:

_____
Patrick Denney, Chairman
Georgia Board of Natural Resources

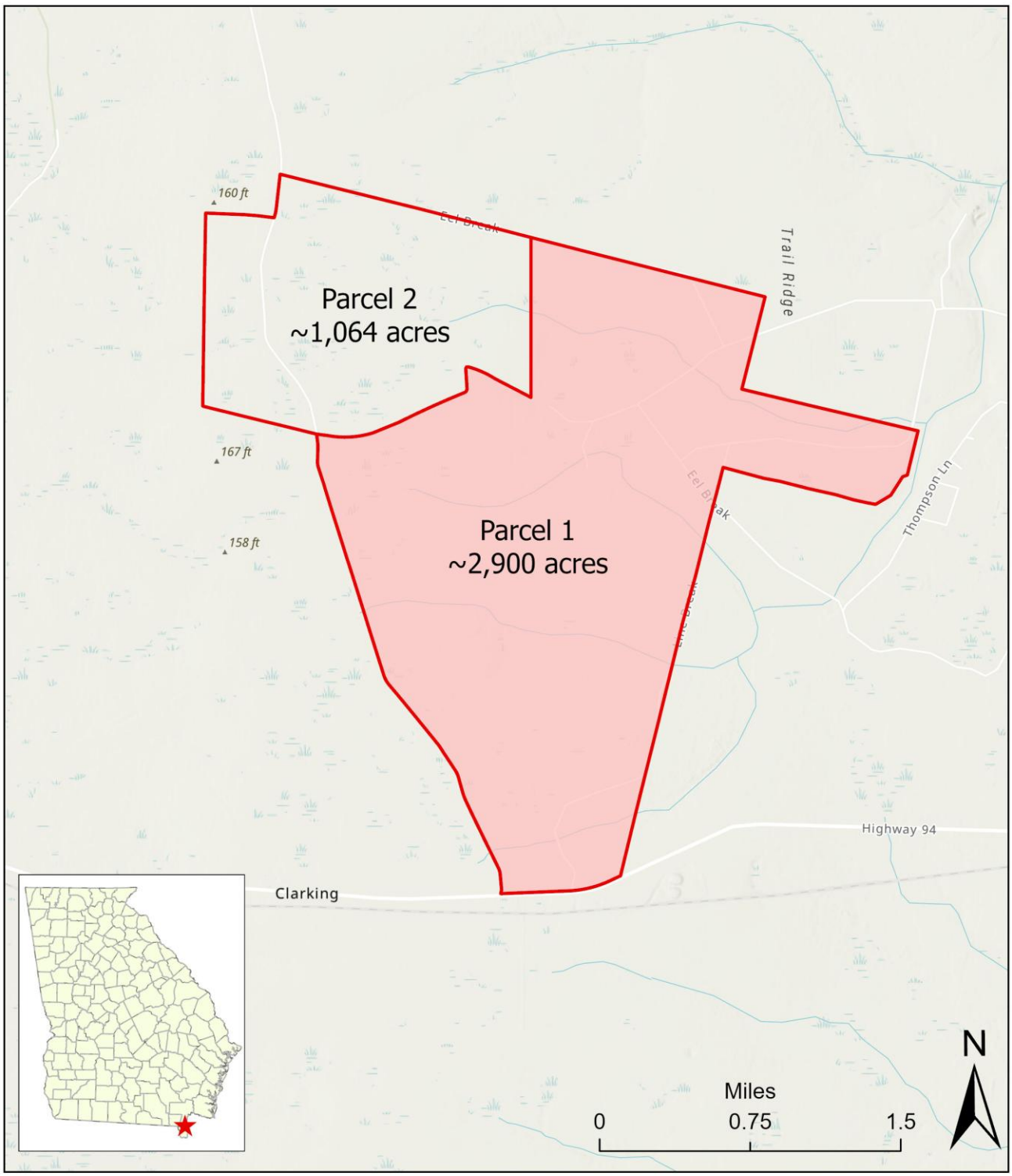
ATTEST:

_____
Dan Garcia, Secretary
Georgia Board of Natural Resources

TCF Charlton

Charlton County

GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WILDLIFE RESOURCES DIVISION



GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WALTER RABON, COMMISSIONER

October 27, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Board of Natural Resources

FROM: Walter Rabon, Commissioner WR

SUBJECT: Requesting approval via Executive Order to demolish the Unicoi State Park Squirrels Nest Camping Area in White County.

Comments
The Department seeks the Board's authorization to demolish the Squirrels Nest Camping Area (BLLIP #28599) at Unicoi State Park.

For your review, we are enclosing:
(1) Resolution
(2) Executive Order

We have presented all available information pertaining to this Agreement to the Chairman, Land Committee, and to the member of the Board within whose district this particular project is located.

Discussion and Conclusion
The 50+ year old camping area was constructed as part of the experimental recreation theme of Unicoi State Park in the 1960s-70s. The facility features elevated, roofed camping platforms and an associated bathhouse. The interconnected and elevated platforms are on telephone pole supports which are all structurally decayed. Based on follow-up inspections, it was recommended this structure be closed. The demolition of the structures will address and correct camper safety concerns. Structures of historical significance and/or 2,000 square feet and larger require an executive order authorizing their removal. The Office of the State Archaeologist determined the structure is eligible for historic listing, so demolition would have a negative impact on the Georgia/National Register of Historic Places. To commemorate Squirrels Nest Camping Area, The Office of the State Archeologist recommends rehabilitation of the camping platforms or, if unfeasible, a Permanent Archival Record. Subject to receiving the executive order, the Department will comply with OCGA 12-3-55 (e) to document the structure's historic characteristics prior to demolition.

Recommendation
We recommend adoption of the attached Resolution.
WR: bw
Enclosures (2)

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404.656.3500 | FAX 404.656.0770 | WWW.GADNR.ORG

RESOLUTION

RECOMMENDING APPROVAL TO REMOVE THE SQUIRRELS NEST CAMPING AREA AT UNICOI STATE PARK VIA EXECUTIVE ORDER FROM THE FOLLOWING NAMED PROPERTY, MORE PARTICULARLY IDENTIFIED ON THE ATTACHED "EXHIBIT A".

Project	**Location**
Unicoi State Park (Squirrels Nest Camping Area BLLIP #28599; 624 SQFT)	**White County**

WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources is responsible for the conservation and wise utilization of the State's natural resources and facilities used to manage them; and

WHEREAS, the Office of the State Archaeologist determined that removing the historic camping area structures would impact the Georgia/National Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, the Department will seek approval to remove said structures via EXECUTIVE ORDER detailed on "EXHIBIT B"; and

WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources recommends the removal of the buildings due to significant deficiencies that compromise safety, functionality, and compliance with current standards; and

WHEREAS, the Department will comply with OCGA 12-3-55 (e) to document the area's historic characteristics prior to demolition; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Georgia Board of Natural Resources concurs in the findings of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources staff and authorizes the Commissioner to request the Governor of the State of Georgia to execute the proposed Executive Order authorizing the demolition of the Squirrels Nest Camping Area and the appropriate disposal of the debris.

Adopted this 27th day of October 2026.

Respectfully submitted by:

_____
Patrick Denney, Chairman
Georgia Board of Natural Resources

ATTEST:

_____
Dan Garcia, Secretary
Georgia Board of Natural Resources

EXHIBIT A

Unicoi SP
Proposed Demolition
White County

GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WILDLIFE RESOURCES DIVISION

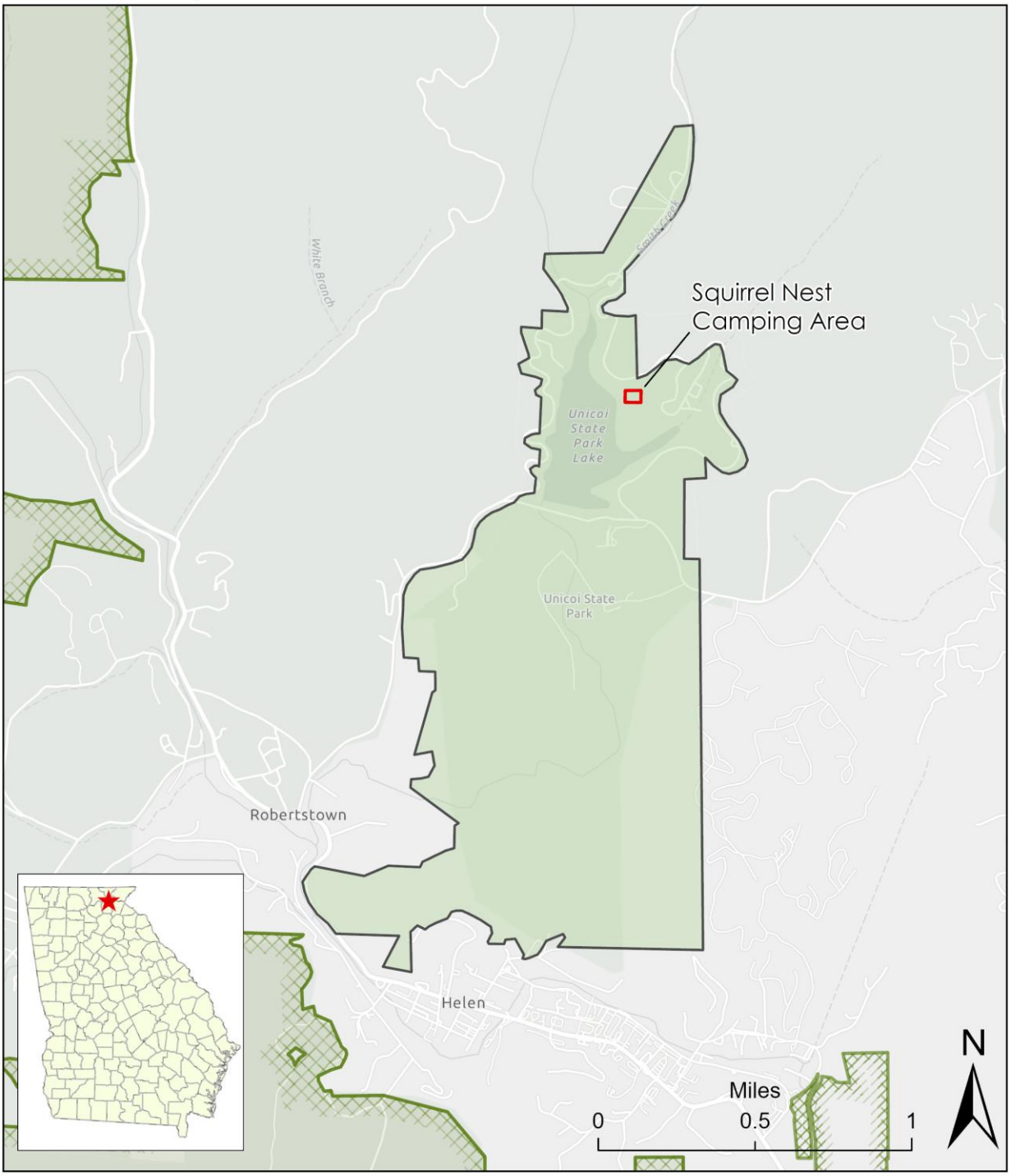


EXHIBIT B

EXECUTIVE ORDER

BY THE GOVERNOR:

WHEREAS: the Department of Natural Resources operates the facility in White County known as Unicoi State Park for recreation and conservation purposes; and

WHEREAS: said property contains structures known as Squirrel Nest Camping Area (BLLIP #28599) totaling 624 square feet; and

WHEREAS: the Office of the State Archaeologist determined the structures are eligible as historic and would impact the Georgia/National Register of Historic Places if removed; and

WHEREAS: the Department's staff agree that the structures are no longer needed for Department operations, in poor condition, and beyond reasonable repair; and

WHEREAS: the Board of Natural Resources approved the removal of the structures on October 27, 2026; and

WHEREAS: the structures have been declared to have no value to the Department.

NOW, THEREFORE, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME AS GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA BY VIRTUE OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE OFFICIAL CODE OF GEORGIA, ANNOTATED 50-16-61, IT IS HEREBY

ORDERED: The Department of Natural Resources is hereby authorized and directed to provide for the razing, demolition and disposal of said structures under the terms and conditions which are deemed to be in the best interests of the State of Georgia, in accordance with applicable laws, policies, and procedures, including any requirements under Code Section 12-3-55 regarding historic properties that may pertain to the structures.

This _____ day of _____ 2026.

_____
Brian Kemp
Governor

ATTEST:

_____
Executive Secretary

GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WALTER RABON, COMMISSIONER

October 27, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Board of Natural Resources

FROM: Walter Rabon, Commissioner WR

SUBJECT: Granting of a Revocable License Agreement and Permanent Easement of up to 1.77± acres by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to Pineland Telephone Cooperative and Excelsior Electric Membership Corporation (EMC) at George L. Smith State Park, Emanuel County.

Comments

The Department requests a revocable license agreement (RLA) and permanent easement (PE) be granted to Pineland Telephone Cooperative and Excelsior EMC.

For your review, we are enclosing:

(1) Resolution
(2) General Location Map

We have presented all available information pertaining to this easement request to the Chairman, Land Committee, and to the member of the Board within whose district this project is located.

Discussion and Conclusion

Pineland Telephone Cooperative and Excelsior EMC have requested an RLA and PE of up to 1.77± acres to relocate and maintain fiber optic and electric distribution facilities due to GDOT replacing a bridge on Highway 26 that provides access to George L. Smith State Park. This request requires that an RLA be issued by the State Properties Commission (SPC) and a PE be granted by the General Assembly (GA).

Since the RLA and PE will benefit the Department, the Department recommends they be granted at no cost. This area is Heritage Preserve dedicated. However, a change of use is not necessary because the facilities serve the park and its recreational features.

Recommendation

We recommend adoption of the attached Resolution.

WR:bw
Enclosures (1)

2 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DRIVE, S.E., SUITE 1252 EAST | ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334-9000
404.656.3500 | FAX 404.656.0770 | WWW.GADNR.ORG

RESOLUTION

GRANTING OF A REVOCABLE LICENSE AGREEMENT AND PERMANENT EASEMENT OF UP TO 1.77± ACRES BY THE STATE PROPERTIES COMMISSION AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO PINELAND TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE AND EXCELSIOR EMC AT GEORGE L. SMITH STATE PARK. SUBJECT PROPERTY MORE ACCURATELY DEFINED IN ATTACHED "EXHIBIT A".

Property To Be Licensed and Easement To Be Granted:

Project	**Licensee/Grantee**
George L. Smith State Park	**Pineland Telephone Cooperative & Excelsior Electric Membership Corporation (up to 1.77± acres, Emanuel County)**

WHEREAS, Pineland Telephone Cooperative and Excelsior EMC requested a revocable license and permanent easement to relocate and maintain fiber optic and electric distribution facilities due to GDOT replacing a bridge at George L. Smith State Park; and

WHEREAS, on the favorable action of the Board of Natural Resources, the State Properties Commission is empowered to issue a revocable license agreement and seek legislative approval to grant a permanent easement over up to 1.77± acres to Pineland Telephone Cooperative and Excelsior EMC; and

WHEREAS, the revocable license and permanent easement area is Heritage Preserve designated, but a change of use is not necessary because the facilities serve the park and its recreation features; and

WHEREAS, the revocable license and permanent easement benefit the Department, therefore, the Department recommends they be issued at no cost; and

WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' staff has examined the proposal and has no objection; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Georgia Board of Natural Resources concurs in the findings of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources staff and recommends that the Commissioner of Natural Resources seek the approval of the State Properties Commission and the General Assembly for the grant of a revocable license agreement and permanent easement generally in accordance with applicable laws, policies, and procedures.

Adopted this 27th day of October 2026.

Respectfully submitted by:

_____
Patrick Denney, Chairman
Georgia Board of Natural Resources

ATTEST:

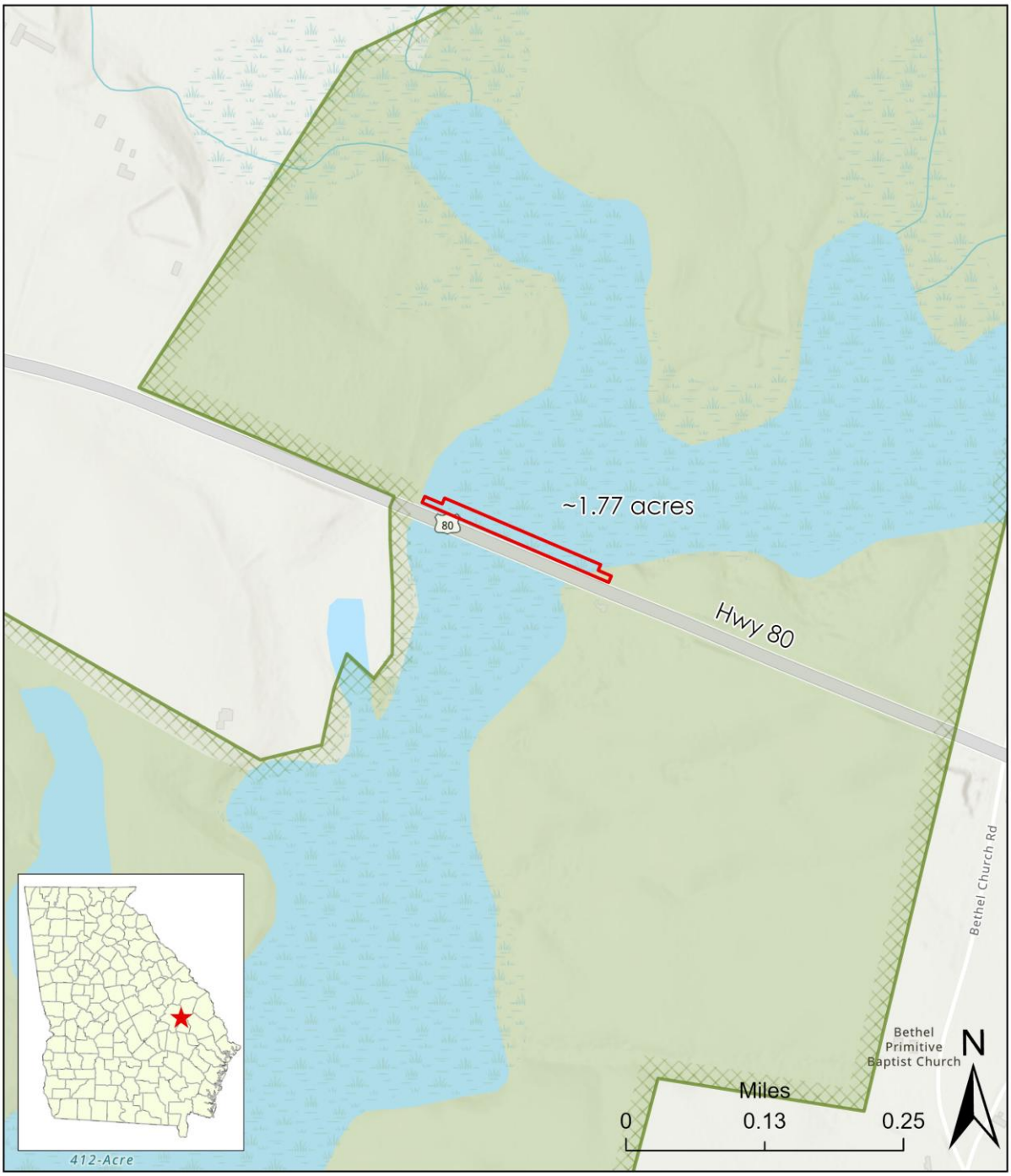
_____
Dan Garcia, Secretary
Georgia Board of Natural Resources

EXHIBIT A

George L. Smith SP

Emanuel County

GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WILDLIFE RESOURCES DIVISION



GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WALTER RABON, COMMISSIONER

October 27, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Board of Natural Resources

FROM: Walter Rabon, Commissioner WR

SUBJECT: Granting of a Revocable License Agreement and Permanent Easement of up to 2.607± acres by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) at Echeconnee Creek WMA, Bibb County.

Comments
The Department requests a revocable license agreement (RLA) and permanent easement (PE) be granted to GDOT.

For your review, we are enclosing:
(1) Resolution
(2) General Location Map

We have presented all available information pertaining to this easement request to the Chairman, Land Committee, and to the member of the Board within whose district this project is located.

Discussion and Conclusion
GDOT has requested a RLA and PE of up to 2.607± acres between parcel 5 and 6 to replace structurally deficient bridges along State Road 247. This area is not Heritage Preserve dedicated; therefore, a change of use is not necessary. Replacing bridges requires an RLA be issued by the State Properties Commission (SPC) and a PE be granted by the General Assembly (GA). Since the bridge has no benefit to the Department, SPC will determine the cost for this request.

Recommendation
We recommend adoption of the attached Resolution.

WR:bw
Enclosures (1)

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RESOLUTION

GRANTING OF A REVOCABLE LICENSE AGREEMENT AND PERMANENT EASEMENT OF UP TO 2.607± ACRES BY THE STATE PROPERTIES COMMISSION AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO GDOT AT ECHECONNEE CREEK WMA. SUBJECT PROPERTY MORE ACCURATELY DEFINED IN ATTACHED "EXHIBIT A".

Property To Be Licensed and Easement To Be Granted:

Project	**Licensee/Grantee**
ECHECONNEE CREEK WMA	**GDOT** **(up to 2.607± acres, Bibb County)**

WHEREAS, GDOT requested a revocable license and permanent easement to replace multiple bridges affecting Echecconnee Creek WMA; and

WHEREAS, on the favorable action of the Board of Natural Resources, the State Properties Commission is empowered to issue a revocable license agreement and seek legislative approval to grant a permanent easement over up to 2.607± acres to GDOT; and

WHEREAS, the revocable license and permanent easement area is not Heritage Preserve designated; and

WHEREAS, the revocable license and permanent easement is not to the benefit of the Department; therefore, the Department recommends that the amount of monetary consideration be set by the SPC; and

WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' staff has examined the proposal and has no objection

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Georgia Board of Natural Resources concurs in the findings of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources staff and recommends that the Commissioner of Natural Resources seek the approval of the State Properties Commission and the General Assembly for the grant of a revocable license agreement and permanent easement generally in accordance with applicable laws, policies, and procedures.

Adopted this 27th day of October 2026.

Respectfully submitted by:

_____
Patrick Denney, Chairman
Georgia Board of Natural Resources

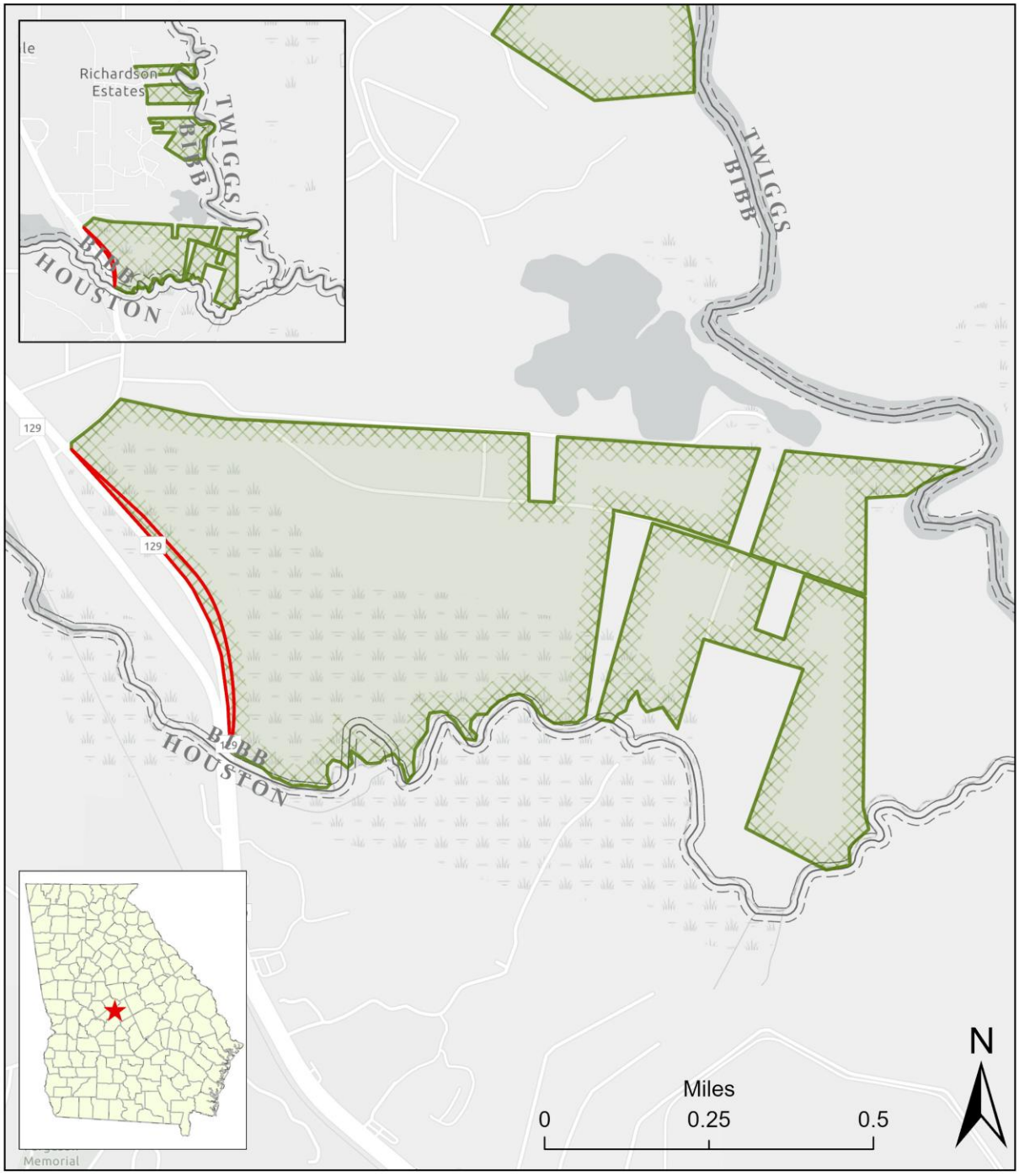
ATTEST:

_____
Dan Garcia, Secretary
Georgia Board of Natural Resources

EXHIBIT A

Echeconnee Creek WMA
Bridge Replacement
Bibb County

GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WILDLIFE RESOURCES DIVISION



GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WALTER RABON, COMMISSIONER

October 27, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Board of Natural Resources

FROM: Walter Rabon, Commissioner WR

SUBJECT: Granting of a Revocable License Agreement and Permanent Easement of up to 0.12± acres by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to Georgia Power Company at Fort Yargo State Park for Victor Lord Park, Barrow County.

Comments

The Department requests a revocable license agreement (RLA) and permanent easement (PE) be granted to Georgia Power.

For your review, we are enclosing:

(1) Resolution
(2) General Location Map

We have presented all available information pertaining to this easement request to the Chairman, Land Committee, and to the member of the Board within whose district this project is located.

Discussion and Conclusion

Between 1970 and 2016, the State has leased 103± acres of Fort Yargo State Park to Barrow County to construct and operate recreation fields, creating Victor Lord Park**.** In 2019, Georgia Power attained an RLA & PE for 0.75± acres to provide power to the park and its fields.

Georgia Power has now requested an RLA and PE of up to 0.12± acres to relocate UG primary and install a transformer to serve a new splash pad at Victor Lord Park. This request requires that an RLA be issued by the State Properties Commission (SPC) and a PE be granted by the General Assembly (GA).

Since the RLA and PE will benefit the Department, the Department recommends they be granted at no cost. This area is Heritage Preserve dedicated, however the use of the park for public recreation is an allowable use, therefore a change of use is not necessary.

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404.656.3500 | FAX 404.656.0770 | WWW.GADNR.ORG

Recommendation

We recommend adoption of the attached Resolution.

WR:bw
Enclosures (1)

RESOLUTION

GRANTING OF A REVOCABLE LICENSE AGREEMENT AND PERMANENT EASEMENT OF UP TO 0.12± ACRES BY THE STATE PROPERTIES COMMISSION AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO GEORGIA POWER AT FORT YARGO STATE PARK - VICTOR LORD PARK. SUBJECT PROPERTY MORE ACCURATELY DEFINED IN ATTACHED "EXHIBIT A".

Property To Be Licensed and Easement To Be Granted:

Project	**Licensee/Grantee**
Fort Yargo State Park	**Georgia Power Company (up to 0.12± acres, Barrow County)**

WHEREAS, Georgia Power requested a revocable license and permanent easement relocate UG primary and install a transformer to serve a new splash pad at Fort Yargo State Park for Victor Lord Park; and

WHEREAS, on the favorable action of the Board of Natural Resources, the State Properties Commission is empowered to issue a revocable license agreement and seek legislative approval to grant a permanent easement over up to 0.12± acres to Georgia Power; and

WHEREAS, the revocable license and permanent easement area is Heritage Preserve designated, however the use of the park for public recreation is an allowable use, therefore a change of use is not necessary; and

WHEREAS, the revocable license and permanent easement benefits the Department, therefore, the Department recommends they be issued at no cost; and

WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' staff has examined the proposal and has no objection; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Georgia Board of Natural Resources concurs in the findings of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources staff and recommends that the Commissioner of Natural Resources seek the approval of the State Properties Commission and the General Assembly for the grant of a revocable license agreement and permanent easement generally in accordance with applicable laws, policies, and procedures.

Adopted this 27th day of October 2026.

Respectfully submitted by:

_____
Patrick Denney, Chairman
Georgia Board of Natural Resources

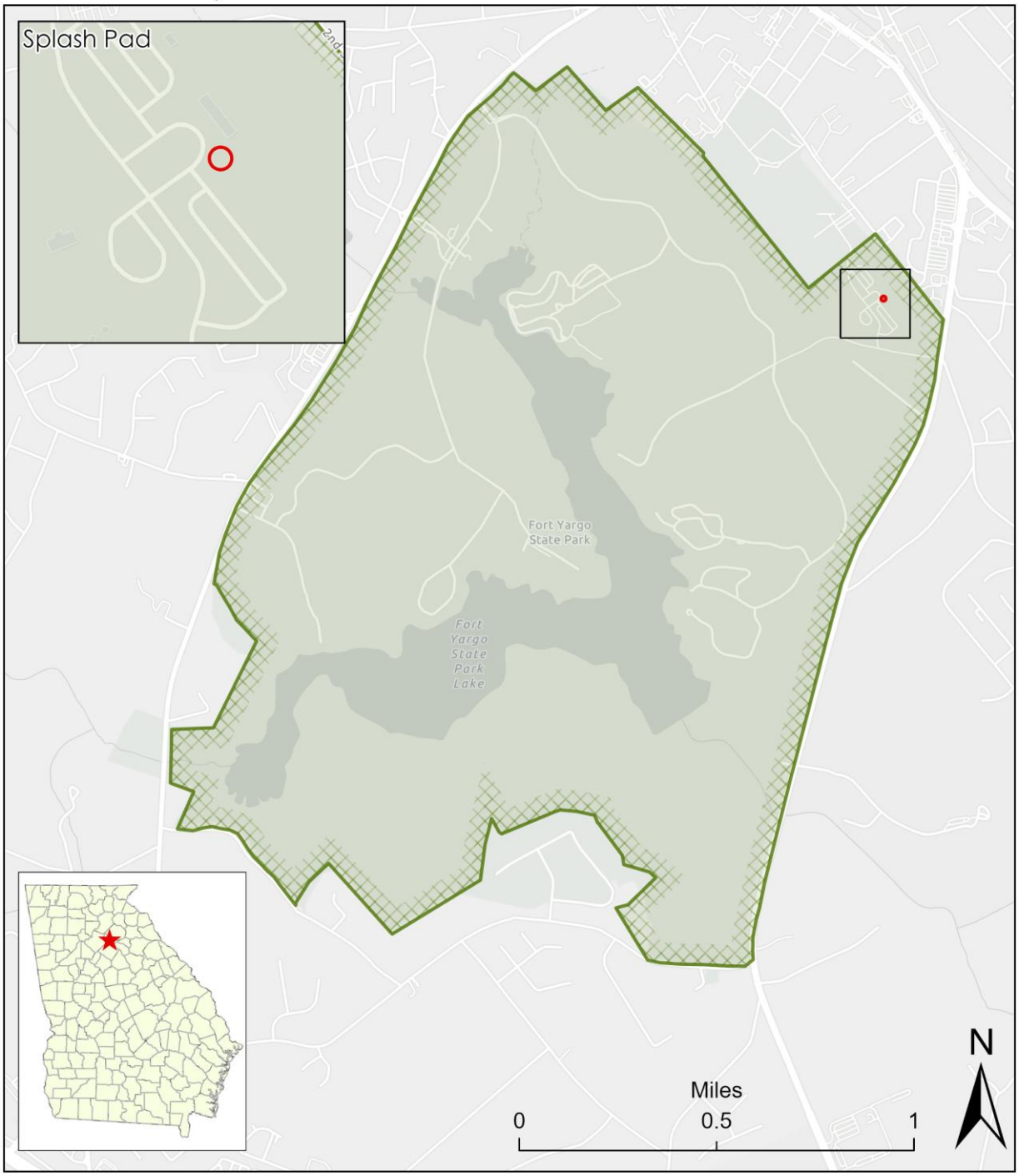
ATTEST:

_____
Dan Garcia, Secretary
Georgia Board of Natural Resources

EXHIBIT A

Fort Yargo SP
GA Power RLA
Barrow County

GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WILDLIFE RESOURCES DIVISION



GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WALTER RABON, COMMISSIONER

October 27, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Board of Natural Resources

FROM: Walter Rabon, Commissioner WR

SUBJECT: Granting of a Revocable License Agreement and Permanent Easement of up to 0.4242± acres by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to Washington Electrical Membership Corporation (EMC) at Balls Ferry Park, Wilkinson County.

Comments

The Department requests a revocable license agreement (RLA) and permanent easement (PE) be granted to Washington EMC.

For your review, we are enclosing:

(1) Resolution
(2) General Location Map

We have presented all available information pertaining to this easement request to the Chairman, Land Committee, and to the member of the Board within whose district this project is located.

Discussion and Conclusion

Washington EMC has requested a RLA and PE of up to 0.4242± acres to construct and reconstruct electrical services to provide electricity for a host site and future campground, located on Highway 57. This area is not Heritage Preserve dedicated; therefore, a change of use is not necessary. Construction of electrical services requires an RLA be issued by the State Properties Commission (SPC) and a PE be granted by the General Assembly (GA). Since the RLA and PE will benefit the Department, the Department recommends they be granted at no cost.

Recommendation

We recommend adoption of the attached Resolution.

WR:bw
Enclosures (1)

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RESOLUTION

GRANTING OF A REVOCABLE LICENSE AGREEMENT AND PERMANENT EASEMENT OF UP TO 0.4242± ACRES BY THE STATE PROPERTIES COMMISSION AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO WASHINGTON EMC AT BALLS FERRY PARK. SUBJECT PROPERTY MORE ACCURATELY DEFINED IN ATTACHED "EXHIBIT A".

Property To Be Licensed and Easement To Be Granted:

Project	**Licensee/Grantee**
Balls Ferry Park	**Washington EMC** **(up to 0.4242± acres, Wilkinson County)**

WHEREAS, Washington EMC requested a revocable license and permanent easement to construct and reconstruct electrical services affecting Balls Ferry Park; and

WHEREAS, on the favorable action of the Board of Natural Resources, the State Properties Commission is empowered to issue a revocable license agreement and seek legislative approval to grant a permanent easement over up to 0.4242± acres to Washington EMC; and

WHEREAS, the revocable license and permanent easement area is not Heritage Preserve designated; and

WHEREAS, the revocable license and permanent easement benefits the Department, therefore, the Department recommends they be issued at no cost; and

WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' staff has examined the proposal and has no objection

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Georgia Board of Natural Resources concurs in the findings of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources staff and recommends that the Commissioner of Natural Resources seek the approval of the State Properties Commission and the General Assembly for the grant of a revocable license agreement and permanent easement generally in accordance with applicable laws, policies, and procedures.

Adopted this 27th day of October 2026.

Respectfully submitted by:

_____
Patrick Denney, Chairman
Georgia Board of Natural Resources

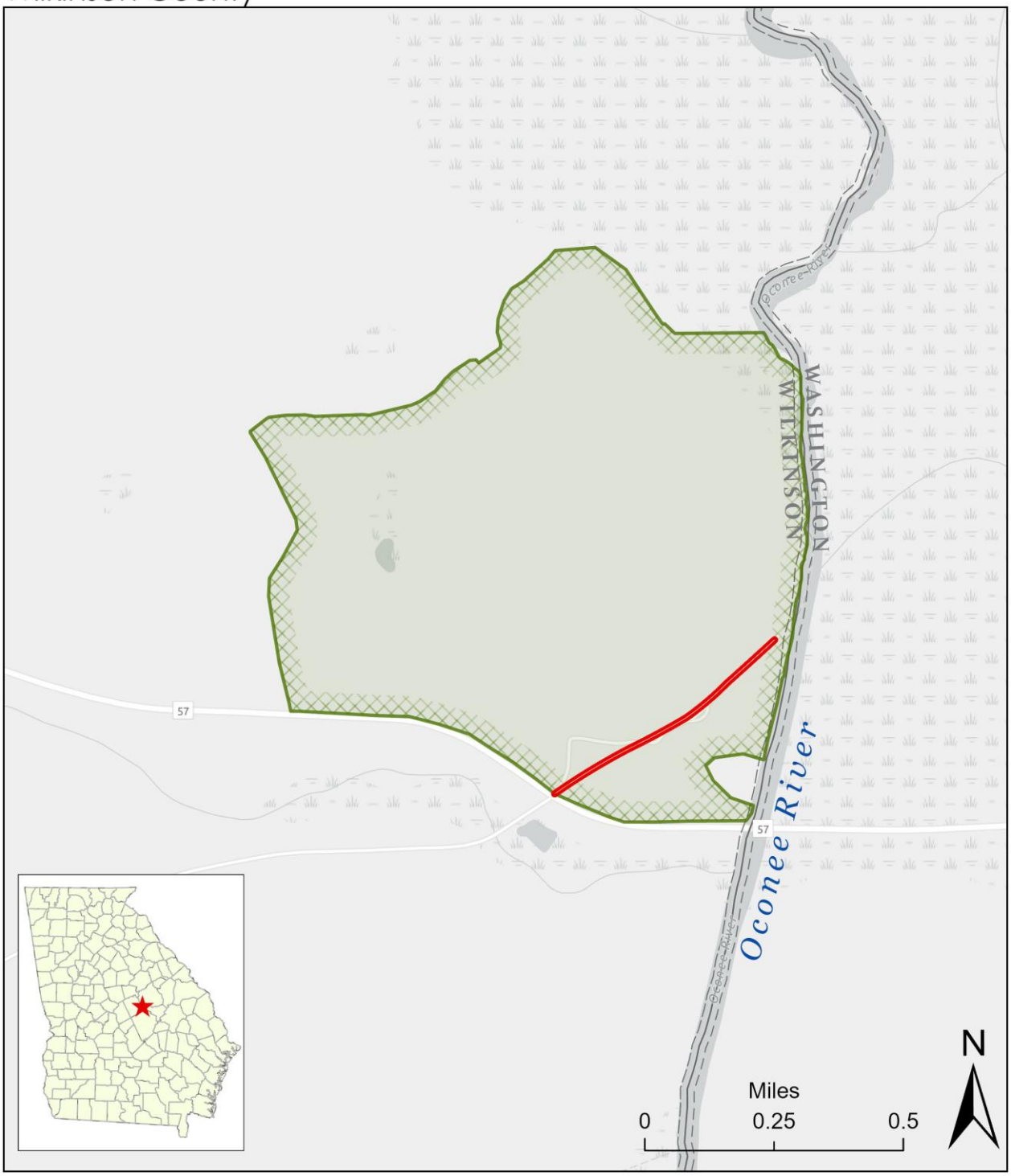
ATTEST:

_____
Dan Garcia, Secretary
Georgia Board of Natural Resources

EXHIBIT A

Balls Ferry SP
Washington EMC RLA
Wilkinson County

GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WILDLIFE RESOURCES DIVISION



GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WALTER RABON, COMMISSIONER

October 27, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Board of Natural Resources

FROM: Walter Rabon, Commissioner WR

SUBJECT: Approval to amend the IGA to allow a sublease to Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) for the staging of construction materials on the Premises for the removal of an old dock and installation of a new bulkhead in McIntosh County.

Comments

The Department is seeking approval from the Board to amend the IGA to allow a sublease to Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) for the staging of construction materials on the Premises for the removal of an old dock and installation of a new bulkhead in McIntosh County.

For your review, we are enclosing:

(1) Resolution

We have presented all available information pertaining to this project to the Chairman, Land Committee, and to the member of the Board within whose district this project is located.

Discussion and Conclusion

On January 29, 2018, the Department and County entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) concerning the provision of public access to waterways and improvements to State property located in McIntosh County. Currently GDOT is replacing Darien River bridge on U.S. 17. The County seeks to enter into a short-term sublease with a GDOT contractor for the Project, Scott Bridge Company. The County shall require the Company, at no cost to the Department, to remove the old dock and install a new bulkhead in the portion of the premises adjacent to Cathead Creek. To allow the sublease for staging construction materials, an amendment is needed.

Improving the Premises as per the proposed amendment is a benefit to the State as the new bulkhead will protect from erosion and is a necessary condition before further improvements by the County can proceed in accordance with the original IGA.

.

2 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DRIVE, S.E., SUITE 1252 EAST | ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334-9000
404.656.3500 | FAX 404.656.0770 | WWW.GADNR.ORG

Recommendation

We recommend adoption of the attached Resolution.

WR: bw

Enclosures (1)

RESOLUTION

RECOMMENDING APPROVAL TO AMEND AN AGREEMENT OF THE FOLLOWING NAMED PROPERTY, MORE PARTICULARLY IDENTIFIED ON THE ATTACHED EXHIBIT "A", FOR THE PURPOSE RECREATION AND RELATED PURPOSES.

RECREATION AND RELATED PURPOSES DEFINED

Property To Be Licensed:

Project	**Grantor**
Cathead Creek Boat Ramp	**McIntosh County (2.373 acres)**

WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources is responsible for the conservation and wise utilization of the State's natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the Department and County did enter into that certain Intergovernmental Agreement, effective as of January 29, 2018 (hereinafter referred to as "Agreement"), concerning the provision of public access to waterways and improvements to State property located in the City of Darien (referred to in the Agreement as "Premises"); and

WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Transportation is undertaking a replacement of the U.S. 17 Darien River bridge (hereinafter referred to as "Project"), and the Project will provide a substantial public benefit; and

WHEREAS, the County seeks to enter into a short term sublease with a Georgia Department of Transportation contractor for the Project, Scott Bridge Company, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as "Company"), to allow the staging of construction materials on the Premises by the Company for use in the Project; and

WHEREAS, County will require the Company, as a condition of the sublease, to remove the old dock on the Premises and install a new bulkhead on the Premises; and

WHEREAS, improving the Premises by removing the old dock and installing a new bulkhead is a substantial benefit to the State, as the new bulkhead will protect the Premises from erosion and is a necessary condition before further improvements by the County can proceed in accordance with the Agreement

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Natural Resources thus recommends the amendment of the Intergovernmental Agreement, at no cost, to allow McIntosh County to sublease for the staging of construction materials; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Georgia Board of Natural Resources concurs in the findings of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources staff and recommends that the Commissioner of Natural Resources enter into an amendment of the Intergovernmental Agreement with McIntosh County to allow the County to sublease for the staging of construction materials.

Adopted this 27th day of October 2026.

Respectfully submitted by:

_____
Patrick Denney, Chairman
Georgia Board of Natural Resources

ATTEST:

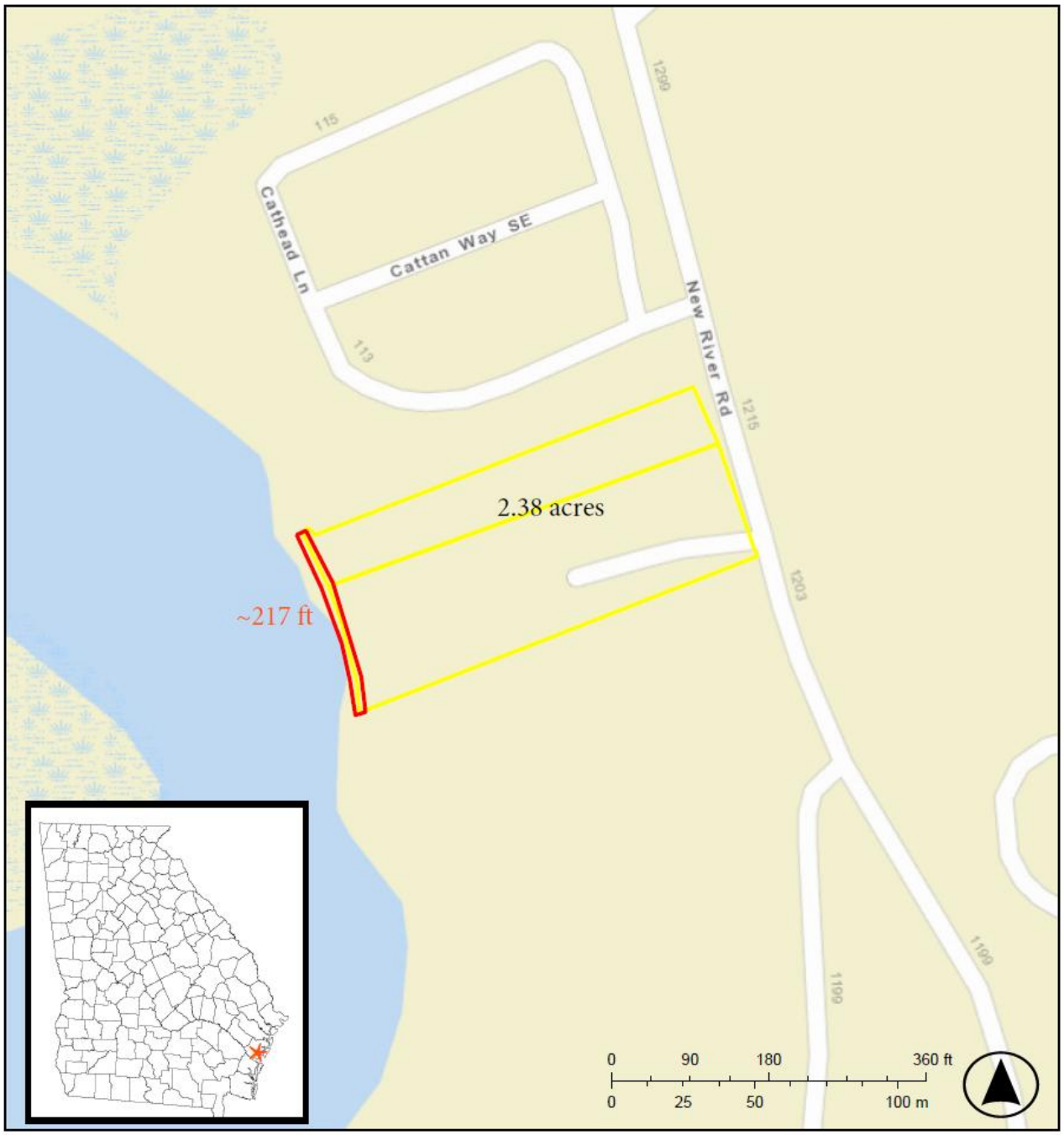
_____
Dan Garcia, Secretary
Georgia Board of Natural Resources

EXHIBIT

Cathead Creek Properties

GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
COASTAL RESOURCES DIVISION

McIntosh County



Minutes
Board of Natural Resources
Little Ocmulgee State Park and Lodge
80 Live Oak Trail, McRae, GA 31037

Tuesday, September 22, 2026
9:00 a.m.

Board Members
Patrick Denney, Chair
Randy Dellinger, Vice Chair
Dan Garcia, Secretary
Nancy Addison
Charles DePriest (via conference call)
Joe Hatfield
Mark Hennessy
Steve Hufstetler
Duncan Johnson
Ray Lambert
Brent Layton (via conference call)
Mike Peavy
Lesley Reynolds
Bodine Sinyard
Harley Yancey

Staff Members
Walter Rabon, Commissioner
Thomas Barnard
Trevor Santos
Taylor Fisher
Kyle Pearson
Haley Chafin
Jeff Cown
Anna Truszcynski
Katie Bloomfield
Doug Haymans
Julie Califf
Al Greer
Sarah Visser
Derek Jackson
Chris Harper
Blake Chafin
Bryan Gray
Jessica James Weems
Royce Johnson
Brent Womack

Guests
Charles Burton, North Georgia Mountains Authority
Lyndy Rogers, Georgia Natural Resources Foundation
Mark McDonald, speaker
Spud Woodward, Coastal Conservation Association
Rena Peck Stricker, Georgia Rivers

The September 22, 2026, meeting of the Board of Natural Resources was called to order by Patrick Denney, Chairman of the Board of Natural Resources.

Chairman Denney called on Mark McDonald for a moment of inspiration.

Chairman Denney adjourned the Board meeting to move into the Committee meetings.

Chairman Denney called the September 22, 2026, meeting of the Board of Natural Resources back to order.

Chairman Denney called for a motion to approve the minutes of the Board of Natural Resources meeting on August 25, 2026.

A motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Sinyard and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the Board of Natural Resources meeting on August 25, 2026.

Chairman Denney called on Jeff Cown, Director of the Environmental Protection Division, for his report.

Director Cown provided an update on statewide drought conditions, noting that Drought Response Level 1 remains in effect. He also discussed federal drought assistance available to eligible livestock producers.

Director Cown announced a memorial service for former Commissioner and EPD Director Leonard Ledbetter, scheduled for October 19 at Smoke Rise Country Club.

Director Cown concluded by sharing a new EPD video highlighting the division's work to protect Georgia's environment, which will be used for outreach and recruitment.

Director Cown concluded his report.

Chairman Denney called on Walter Rabon, Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources, for his report.

Commissioner Rabon provided an update on the Department's second annual Hunting and Fishing Night in partnership with the Atlanta Braves and Realtree. More than 46,000 fans attended the game, marking the largest department-wide public information and education outreach event of its kind that he was aware of. The Braves reported that it was their best turnout ever for a

giveaway and weekend event. He commended Department staff for their efforts in coordinating the event and noted that planning is already underway for next year's event.

Commissioner Rabon announced that DNR was recognized as the Okefenokee Champion at the Georgia Rivers Gala. He thanked Board member Bill Jones for accepting the award on behalf of the Department. The recognition highlighted the Department's work to protect and manage lands in and around the Okefenokee Swamp, including the recent acquisition of the Trail Ridge Wildlife Management Area. The acquisition will allow the Wildlife Resources Division to manage nearly 8,000 acres in southeast Georgia for wildlife conservation and public recreation.

Commissioner Rabon highlighted the launch of a new artificial intelligence feature on the Department's website to improve search capabilities and help users locate information more efficiently. He noted that staff are continuing to work through some initial technical issues.

Commissioner Rabon reported that approximately 1,200 Georgia Black Bass license plates have been purchased since becoming available. He also noted that the Fisheries Management Section has begun developing a Black Bass Management Plan to guide the use of license plate proceeds in supporting black bass management efforts throughout the state.

Commissioner Rabon announced that Governor Brian Kemp proclaimed September 26 as National Hunting and Fishing Day in Georgia. The Wildlife Resources Division scheduled 12 events statewide, including youth fishing opportunities and outdoor adventure activities featuring archery and other outdoor recreation. The date also served as a free fishing day, allowing Georgia residents to fish in public waters without a fishing license.

Commissioner Rabon concluded by reporting that the Wildlife Resources Division's Hunter Development Program had certified 48 new coaches for the Scholastic Clay Target Program over the previous two months. The Department continues to partner with the Georgia Independent School Association and the Georgia Association of Private and Professional Schools to support youth shooting sports. Approximately 1,500 students participated in the two state shoots last fall, with 76 teams participating in the programs. Commissioner Rabon noted continued growth in student participation and competition.

Commissioner Rabon called on Doug Haymans, Director of the Coastal Resources Division, to give a brief update on the Red Snapper Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP).

Director Haymans provided an update on the Red Snapper EFP, which was approved on October 17 and signed and returned to NOAA Fisheries the following morning. The Department had requested authorization to harvest 10,759 fish over approximately 30 days but was granted a quota of 4,859 fish, which federal estimates indicate could be harvested over 14 days. The season is scheduled for October 9 through October 22, with the possibility of an extension into December if

the quota is not reached. Director Haymans noted that additional legal challenges are anticipated but expressed hope that the permit would remain in effect.

Director Haymans also discussed a recent presidential executive order addressing limitations in recreational fisheries data collection. He noted that existing data collection methods were not designed to effectively assess certain recreational fisheries, particularly those with infrequent or concentrated periods of activity. The executive order directs NOAA Fisheries to identify improved approaches to recreational fisheries data collection. Director Haymans stated that the Department hopes to see progress toward improvements over the next two years.

Commissioner Rabon called on Angie Johnson, Director of the State Parks and Historic Sites Division, for her report.

Director Johnson highlighted recent division accomplishments, including statewide programs celebrating America's 250th anniversary, expanded water safety and accessibility initiatives, and major infrastructure improvements at Okefenokee State Park. She reported that Georgia received a national innovation award for implementing its electronic park pass payment system, which has returned nearly 3,000 staff hours to park operations.

Commissioner Rabon called on Major Al Greer for a report from the Law Enforcement Division.

Major Greer reported decreases in boating incidents, injuries, and fatalities during the 2026 Memorial Day through Labor Day period compared with the previous year. He highlighted a successful canine-assisted search that located a murder weapon and announced the selection of 17 candidates for the 41st Game Warden Academy, scheduled to begin in January.

Major Greer recognized Game Warden Wes Freeman for receiving the Valor Award for rescuing three victims and congratulated Corporal Blake Chafin on being named 2026 Game Warden of the Year.

Commissioner Rabon called on Lyndy Rogers, Executive Director of the Georgia Natural Resources Foundation, who gave an update on the 2027 Weekend for Wildlife event.

Commissioner Rabon concluded his report.

Chairman Denney called on Ray Lambert for the report of the Environmental Protection Committee.

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Ms. Addison, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the Proposed Amendments to the Rules for Solid Waste Management, Chapter 391-3-4. (Resolution attached hereto and a made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the Proposed Amendments to the Rules for Lead-Based Paint Hazard Management, Chapter 391-3-24. (Resolution attached hereto and a made a part thereof)

Chairman Denney called on Mark Hennessy for a report of the Land Committee.

A motion was made by Mr. Hennessy, seconded by Mr. Garcia, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval for the acquisition (purchase) of 124.32± acres from the Howell Family Lands, LLC, Sheffield WMA – Howell 115 Project, Paulding County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Hennessy, seconded by Mr. Sinyard, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval for the Proposed Amendment to Boring-Kirkman Conservation Easement. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Hennessy, seconded by Mr. Hatfield, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval for the granting of a Revocable License Agreement and Permanent Easement of up to 2.53± acres by the State Properties Commission and Friends of Northeast Georgia, Inc at Tallulah Gorge WMA, Habersham County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

A motion was made by Mr. Hennessy, seconded by Ms. Addison, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to request approval via Executive Order to demolish the Fort Yargo State Park Red, Yellow, and Blue Cabin Clusters (along with their associated pavilion/tipi structures) and the Green Cabin Cluster in Barrow County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Chairman Denney stated an Executive Session of the Land Committee would be held immediately following adjournment.

Chairman Denney announced that the next Board meeting will be held Tuesday, October 27 in the DNR Boardroom in Atlanta, GA.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Patrick Denney, Chairman

ATTEST:

Dan Garcia, Secretary

Minutes
Coastal Committee
Little Ocmulgee State Park and Lodge
80 Live Oak Trail, McRae, GA 31037

Tuesday, September 22, 2026
9:00 a.m.

Committee Members
Nancy Addison, Chair
Harley Yancey, Vice Chair
Randy Dellinger
Charles DePriest (via conference call)
Joe Hatfield
Mark Hennessy
Ray Lambert
Brent Layton (via conference call)
Mike Peavy
Patrick Denney, Board Chair, Ex-Officio

Board Members
Dan Garcia
Steve Hufstetler
Duncan Johnson
Bodine Sinyard
Lesley Reynolds

The September 22, 2026, meeting of the Coastal Committee was called to order by Patrick Denney, Chairman of the Board of Natural Resources.

Chairman Denney called on Nancy Addison, Chairwoman of the Coastal Committee.

Chairwoman Addison called on Julie Califf, Fisheries Dependent Statistics, to present proposed amendments to the saltwater fishing regulations concerning recreational reporting requirements and endorsements for certain species.

Ms. Califf explained that the proposed amendments would establish reporting requirements for recreational anglers harvesting certain species, with implementation of reporting requirements for 2028 and beyond. She stated that the implementation date was selected to avoid confusion and duplication with reporting requirements associated with the red snapper endorsement.

Ms. Califf reviewed the nine species covered by the proposal: amberjack, black sea bass, cobia, dolphin, gag grouper, king mackerel, red porgy, red snapper, and Spanish mackerel. She

explained that these species are included in state regulations but are primarily harvested in federal waters.

Ms. Califf reviewed the proposed changes to Rule 391-2-4-.16, including requiring endorsement holders to report their harvest at the conclusion of each trip. She explained that recreational reef fish endorsement holders would submit reports electronically at the end of each trip, saltwater pier operators would submit monthly reports, and fishing guides would submit weekly reports. She stated that staff would work to coordinate overlapping reporting requirements to avoid unnecessary duplication.

Ms. Califf also reviewed proposed amendments to Rule 391-2-4-.17, which governs commercial fishing endorsements. She explained that the proposal would remove the word "commercial" and incorporate the endorsement requirements for recreational and commercial permit holders harvesting the nine identified species.

Ms. Califf stated that the public comment period was scheduled to open following the meeting and close October 30, 2026. She explained that the Committee would consider final action on the proposed amendments at its December 1, 2026, meeting.

In response to a question regarding fishing guides operating under a blanket license, Ms. Califf clarified that an angler being taken fishing by a guide would be covered by the guide's endorsement when the appropriate license and endorsement were held.

Chairwoman Addison called on Spud Woodward for public comment.

Mr. Woodward, representing the Georgia affiliate of the Coastal Conservation Association, expressed support for the proposed amendments, emphasizing the importance of improved fisheries data to inform management decisions and balance conservation with fishing opportunities.

Following public comment, Chairwoman Addison invited questions and comments from Committee and Board members.

There being no further questions or comments, the discussion concluded.

Minutes
Environmental Protection Committee
Little Ocmulgee State Park and Lodge
80 Live Oak Trail, McRae, GA 31037

Tuesday, September 22, 2026
9:00 a.m.

Committee Members
Ray Lambert, Chair
Duncan Johnson, Vice Chair
Nancy Addison
Dan Garcia
Steve Hufstetler
Brent Layton (via conference call)
Lesley Reynolds
Bodine Sinyard
Patrick Denney, Board Chair, Ex-Officio

Board Members
Charles DePriest (via conference call)
Randy Dellinger
Joe Hatfield
Mark Hennessy
Mike Peavy
Harley Yancey

The September 22, 2026, meeting of the Environmental Protection Committee was called to order by Chairman Patrick Denney.

Chairman Denney called on Ray Lambert, Chairman of the Environmental Protection Committee, who called on Sarah Visser, Chief of the Land Protection Branch.

Ms. Visser presented proposed amendments to the Rules for Solid Waste Management, Chapter 391-3-4. She explained that the amendments align the Board's rules with statutory changes enacted during the previous legislative session.

Ms. Visser stated that the proposed amendments clarify local government verification requirements for zoning and solid waste management plan consistency, clarify that public participation requirements apply to major landfill modifications as well as new landfills, and revise provisions related to public meetings. She also explained that the amendments remove the restriction on regional landfills accepting waste generated outside their boundaries, consistent with a court decision regarding the Commerce Clause.

Ms. Visser stated that the public comment period began June 25 and that a public hearing was held July 23. Two written comments were received regarding zoning reaffirmation and verification of consistency with solid waste management plans. She explained that the comments were outside the scope of the current rulemaking but would be considered during a future rulemaking with stakeholder input. Staff recommended no changes to the proposed amendments.

Ms. Visser requested a favorable consideration.

A motion was made by Ms. Addison, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to the Rules for Solid Waste Management, Chapter 391-3-4.

Chairman Lambert called on Ms. Visser to present the proposed amendments to the Rules for Lead-Based Paint Hazard Management, Chapter 391-3-24.

Ms. Visser explained that the proposed amendments align Georgia's rules with updated federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requirements necessary to maintain the state's delegation. She stated that the amendments update definitions and terminology throughout the rules, lower dust lead action levels for floors, window sills, and window troughs to reflect current scientific understanding of lead exposure risks, and establish specific reporting requirements following lead abatement activities. The amendments also update administrative procedures by removing outdated paper-based requirements and correcting technical references.

Ms. Visser stated that the public comment period began June 25 and ended August 12. A public hearing was held July 29, and no written or oral comments were received. Staff recommended no changes to the proposed amendments.

Ms. Visser requested a favorable consideration.

A motion was made by Ms. Reynolds, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to the Rules for Lead-Based Paint Hazard Management, Chapter 391-3-24.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes
Land Committee
Little Ocmulgee State Park and Lodge
80 Live Oak Trail, McRae, GA 31037

Tuesday, September 22, 2026
9:00 a.m.

Committee Members	**Board Members**
Mark Hennessy, Chair	Charles DePriest (via conference call)
Nancy Addison	Ray Lambert
Randy Dellinger	Brent Layton (via conference call)
Dan Garcia	Mike Peavy
Joe Hatfield	Bodine Sinyard
Steve Hufstetler	
Duncan Johnson	
Lesley Reynolds	
Harley Yancey	
Patrick Denney, Board Chair, Ex-Officio	

The September 22, 2026, meeting of the Land Committee was called to order by Patrick Denney, Chairman of the Board of Natural Resources.

Chairman Denney called on Mark Hennessy, Chair of the Land Committee, who then called on Brent Womack, Chief of Real Estate, to present the items.

Mr. Womack presented a request for approval of the acquisition by purchase of the Howell 115 Project, consisting of approximately 124 acres in Paulding County adjacent to Sheffield Wildlife Management Area.

Mr. Womack stated that the acquisition will protect land along a creek, provide additional outdoor recreation opportunities, and offer opportunities for longleaf pine restoration and riparian buffer protection. Upon acquisition, the property will be incorporated into the wildlife management area and managed for hunting, fishing, and other outdoor recreation opportunities. Funding

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sources include the Knobloch Family Foundation, Stone Mountain Industrial, and a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Pittman-Robertson grant.

In response to a question from Mr. Hennessy regarding Stone Mountain Industrial, Mr. Womack explained that the company is a privately owned commercial development firm that has provided annual donations to support the Department's acquisition of conservation lands.

Mr. Womack requested favorable consideration.

A motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Yancey, and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend the Board adopt the Resolution authorizing the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval for the acquisition (purchase) of 124.32± acres from the Howell Family Lands, LLC, Sheffield WMA – Howell 115 Project, Paulding County.

Mr. Womack presented a request for approval to amend the Boring Kirkman Conservation Easement in Baker County.

Mr. Womack stated that Department staff had worked with the landowners to develop the proposed amendments and that the landowners were supportive of the changes. The amendment would allow construction of a combination residential structure and maintenance shed at a designated maintenance shed site rather than the previously identified residential building site. He explained that the proposed structure would remain within the existing conservation easement guidelines for building size and height. The changes would reduce the number of building envelopes, minimize the total building footprint, improve management of the property, and provide greater protection of its conservation values. The proposed amendments would not negatively impact the property's conservation values.

Mr. Womack requested favorable consideration.

A motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Yancey, and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend the Board adopt the Resolution authorizing the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval for the Proposed Amendment to Boring-Kirkman Conservation Easement.

Mr. Womack presented a request for approval of a revocable license agreement and permanent easement involving up to 2.53 acres of state property at Tallulah Gorge Wildlife Management Area in Rabun County for Friends of Northeast Georgia, Inc.

Mr. Womack stated that the proposed agreement would allow the construction and maintenance of a hiking trail along a portion of the abandoned Tallulah Falls Railroad. He explained

that the trail would provide additional public recreation opportunities, encourage visitation to the wildlife management area, and support the Department's mission of connecting people with the outdoors. Department staff had reviewed the proposal and had no objections. Mr. Womack noted that the property was not dedicated as a heritage preserve and that the proposed trail would require approval through the State Properties Commission and the General Assembly. Staff recommended that the revocable license be issued at no cost.

Mr. Womack requested favorable consideration.

A motion was made by Mr. Yancey, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend the Board adopt the Resolution authorizing the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval for the granting of a Revocable License Agreement and Permanent Easement of up to 2.53± acres by the State Properties Commission and Friends of Northeast Georgia, Inc at Tallulah Gorge WMA, Habersham County.

Mr. Womack presented a request for approval, through executive order, to demolish the green, red, yellow, and blue cabin clusters and pavilion and tipi structures at Fort Yargo State Park in Barrow County.

Mr. Womack explained that demolition of the structures would address current Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility requirements and camper safety concerns. He stated that, because the structures are considered historic, the Department would comply with O.C.G.A. § 12-3-10 by documenting their historic characteristics before demolition. Approval through an executive order signed by the Governor is required to proceed with the demolitions.

Mr. Womack requested favorable consideration.

A motion was made by Mr. Yancey, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend the Board adopt the Resolution authorizing the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to request approval via Executive Order to demolish the Fort Yargo State Park Red, Yellow, and Blue Cabin Clusters (along with their associated pavilion/tipi structures) and the Green Cabin Cluster in Barrow County.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes
Executive Session of the Land Committee
Little Ocmulgee State Park and Lodge
80 Live Oak Trail, McRae, GA 31037

Tuesday, September 22, 2026
9:00 a.m.

Committee Members
Mark Hennessy, Chair
Nancy Addison
Randy Dellinger
Dan Garcia
Joe Hatfield
Steve Hufstetler
Duncan Johnson
Lesley Reynolds
Harley Yancey
Patrick Denney, Board Chair, Ex-Officio

Board Members
Ray Lambert
Mike Peavy
Bodine Sinyard

The Land Committee was called to order by Mark Hennesy, Chairman of the Land Committee.

Chairman Hennessy called for a motion.

A motion was made by Mr. Hatfield, seconded by Mr. Yancey, and carried unanimously by Ms. Addison, Mr. Dellinger, Mr. Garcia, Mr. Hufstetler, Mr. Johnson, and Ms. Reynolds that the Land Committee go into Executive Session in accordance with O. C. G. A. §50-14-3(b)(1)(B), in order to discuss the authorization of negotiations to purchase property and to dispose of property. (Affidavit attached hereto and made a part hereof)

There was no action taken during the September 22, 2026, Executive Session of the Land Committee.

There being no further business, the Land Committee was adjourned.

GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

Air Protection Branch
Quarterly Report

State Fiscal Year 2027
First Quarter

July 1, 2026 – September 30, 2026



Sapelo Island

The Air Protection Branch's responsibilities include:

- Monitoring Air Quality
- Permitting Stationary Sources
- Licensing Users of Radioactive Materials
- Inspecting Sources Permitted and Licensed by the Branch
- Auditing and Reviewing Stack Tests
- Overseeing the Georgia Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program
- Providing Assistance to Small Businesses
- Developing State Air Quality Rules and State Implementation Plans (SIPs)
- Modeling and Emission Inventory Development
- Fee Collection and Financial Management
- Office of the State Climatologist

Notable APB Events:

- An exceedance of the 2006 24-hour $PM_{2.5}$ standard (35 $\mu g/m^3$) occurred at:
  - General Coffee (37.7 $\mu g/m^3$) on September 27.
- Exceedances of the 2015 8-hour ozone standard (70 ppb) occurred in Atlanta at:
  - United Avenue (71 ppb) and McDonough (71 ppb) on July 30;
  - United Avenue (86 ppb) and South DeKalb (77 ppb) on July 31;
  - United Avenue (75 ppb) on August 21;
  - McDonough (74 ppb) on August 25;
  - Kennesaw (71 ppb) on August 26;
  - United Avenue (72 ppb) on September 2;
  - Douglasville (76 ppb) on September 3;
  - United Avenue (78 ppb) and South DeKalb (72 ppb) on September 17;
  - United Avenue (74 ppb) and McDonough (74 ppb) on September 18; and
  - Douglasville (85 ppb) on September 29.
- On April 13, environmental groups and Democratic states sued EPA for not performing $PM_{2.5}$ designation by the two-year deadline required by the Clean Air Act. On July 17, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California ruled in favor of the petitioners and set a deadline of February 6, 2027.
- On September 17, EPA issued a final rule "Partial Repeal of the Carbon Pollution Standards for Fossil Fuel-Fired Electric Generating Units" and a supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking "Rescission of the Greenhouse Gas Findings for Fossil Fuel-Fired Power Plants and Repeal of Regulations for Power Plant Greenhouse Gas Emissions Under Clean Air Act Section 111".

Monitoring Air Quality

Air quality in the United States is regulated through the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). EPA sets NAAQS for six pollutants: particulate matter, ozone, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, lead, and carbon monoxide.

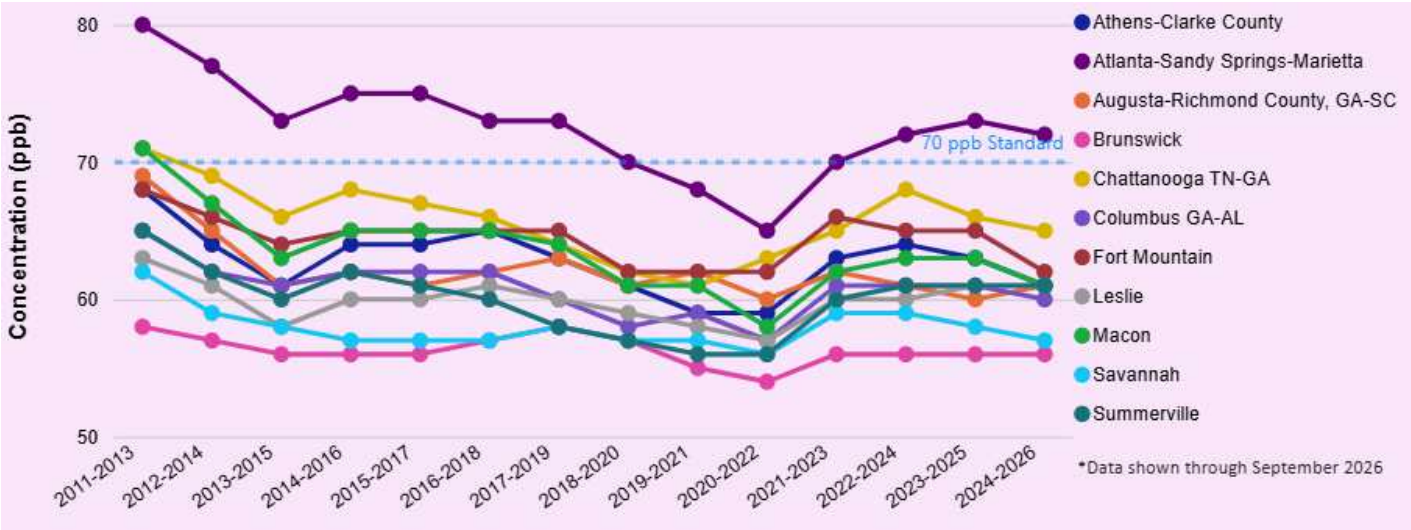
Ozone (O_3)

Ground-level ozone is formed when volatile organic compounds (VOCs) such as fumes from fuels, paints, solvents and vegetation combine with oxides of nitrogen (NO_X) from fuel combustion in the presence of heat and sunlight. Ozone pollution can cause inflammation of the lungs. Ozone season in Georgia is March 1 – October 31. Hot, dry summer days are very conducive to ozone formation.

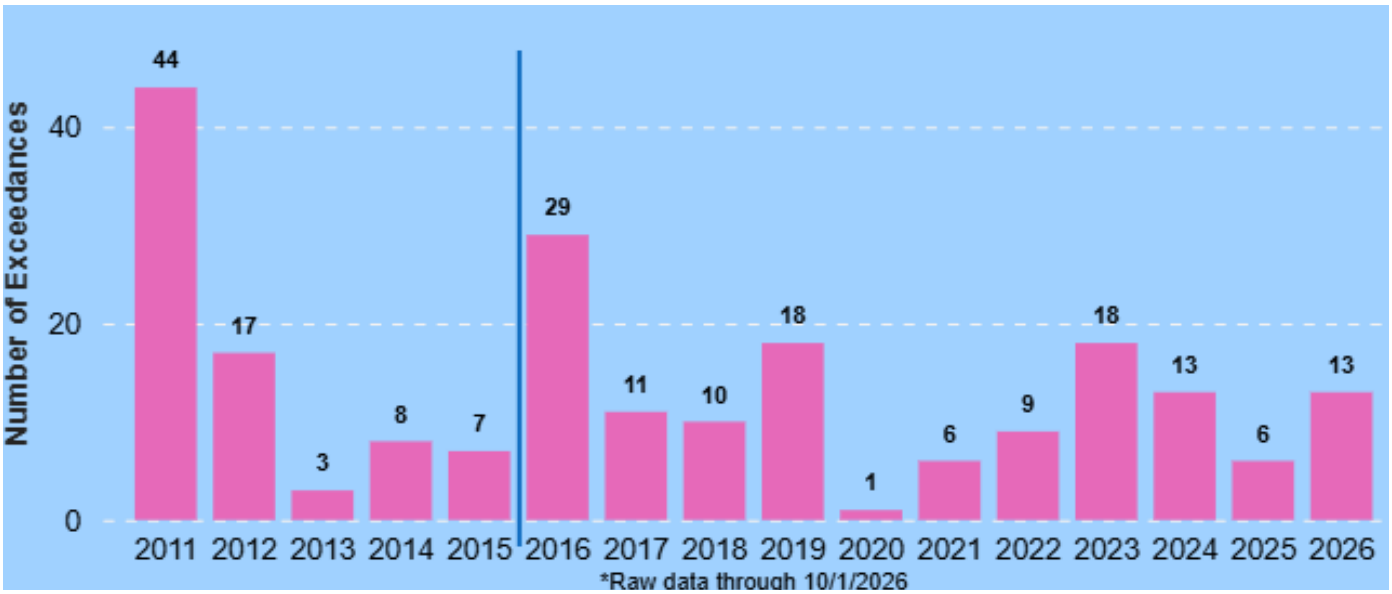
The current ozone standard or NAAQS is 70 ppb. An exceedance of the ozone standard occurs when the measured daily maximum 8-hour average ozone concentration is above the ozone NAAQS. If the exceedances occur frequently enough, the design value (i.e., 3-year average of 4th highest ozone concentrations recorded each year) may exceed the ozone NAAQS and the area may be designated as nonattainment for ozone.

Seven counties in the Atlanta metro area were designated by EPA as nonattainment for the 2015 ozone standard in 2018 (Bartow, Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Fulton, Gwinnett, and Henry). In 2020, the Atlanta metro area attained the 2015 ozone standard. The Air Protection Branch submitted a formal redesignation request to EPA on February 25, 2022. EPA approved the request on October 17, 2022. Currently, there are no ozone nonattainment areas in Georgia. However, the 2002-2024 and 2023-2025 ozone design values in Atlanta exceeded the 70 ppb standard; therefore, the APB is evaluating and may implement contingency measures to help the area meet the standard.

8-Hr Ozone, 3-Yr Averages of 4th Max. Value for each Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)



Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta MSA Ozone Exceedance Days

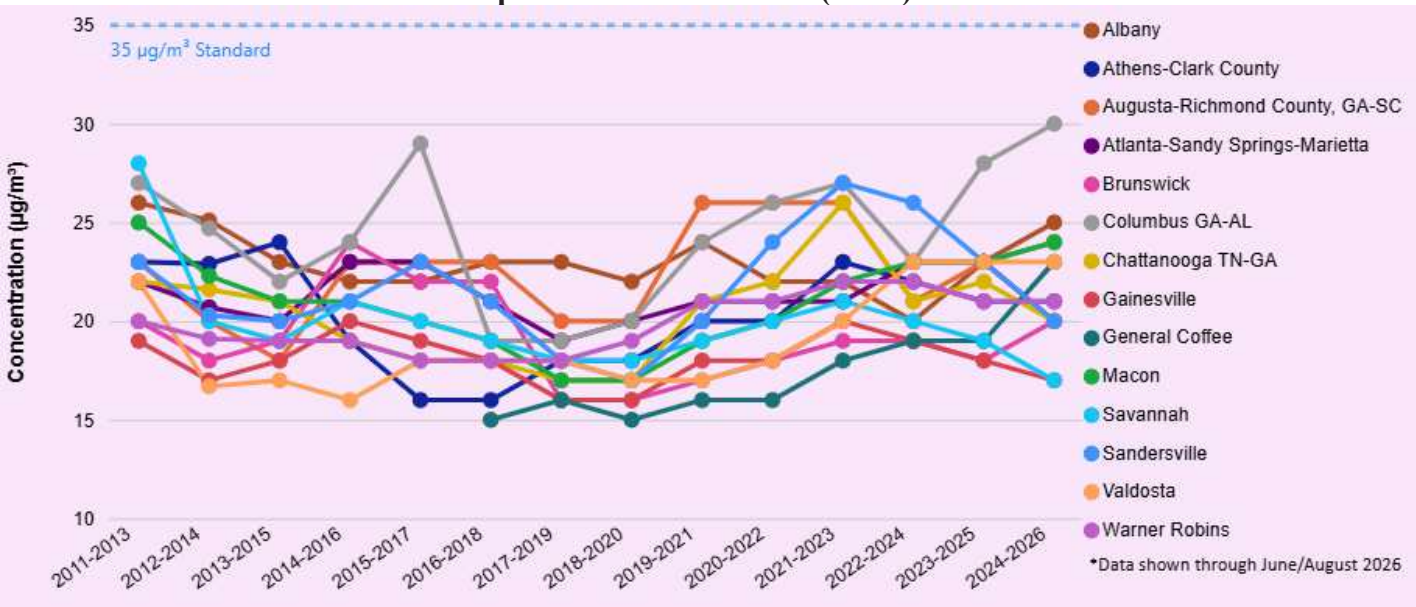


Fine Particulate Matter ($PM_{2.5}$)

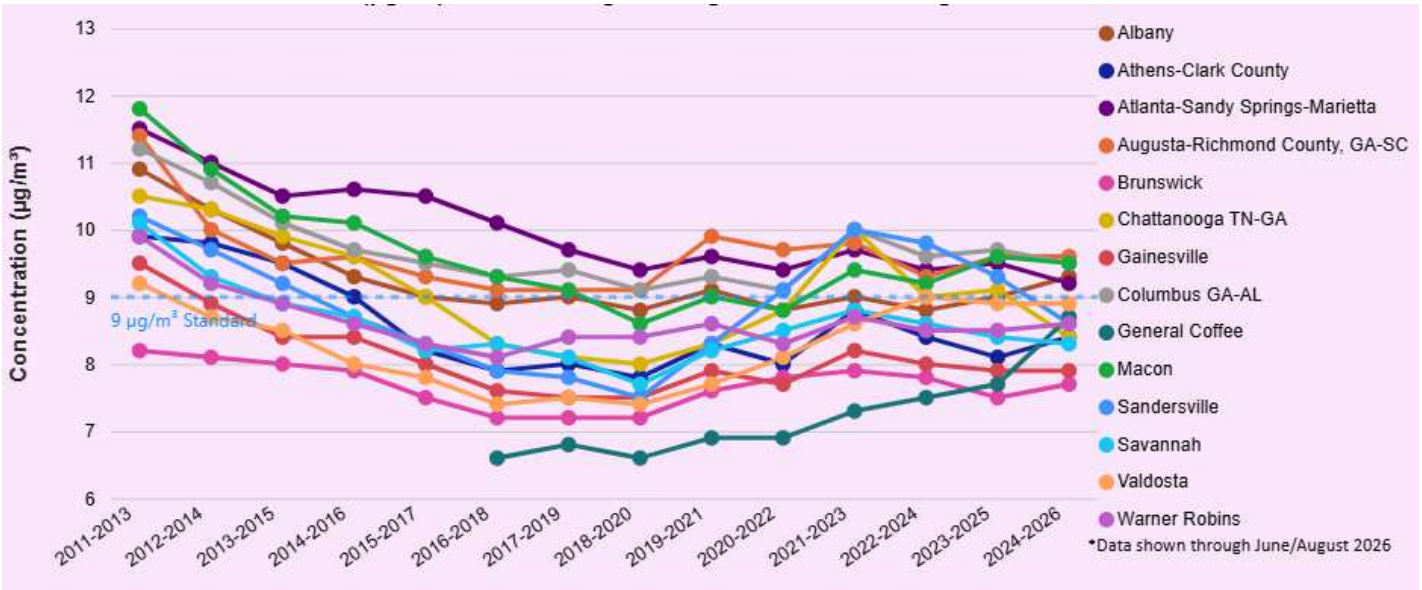
$PM_{2.5}$ are very small inhalable particles. $PM_{2.5}$ can be emitted directly from a source or formed in the atmosphere as a result of complex reactions of chemicals such as sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides. EPA has set both a 24-hour standard and an annual standard for $PM_{2.5}$. $PM_{2.5}$ can get deep into your lungs, aggravating asthma and decreasing lung function. In May 2024, EPA lowered the annual $PM_{2.5}$ standard from 12.0 $\mu g/m^3$ to 9.0 $\mu g/m^3$.

Georgia, like most states, is transitioning to continuous monitoring of $PM_{2.5}$ in order to provide real-time data to citizens. An emerging concern with the continuous monitors is that they tend to measure higher concentrations of $PM_{2.5}$ than filter-based monitors. This difference appears to be greater during prescribed fire or wildfire events. This move to continuous monitoring is one of the reasons for the uptick in measured $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations in 2021-2023. Georgia and other states are working with EPA to address this discrepancy.

$PM_{2.5}$ ($\mu g/m^3$) 3-Year Averages of 98th Percentile of 24-Hour Averages for Each Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)

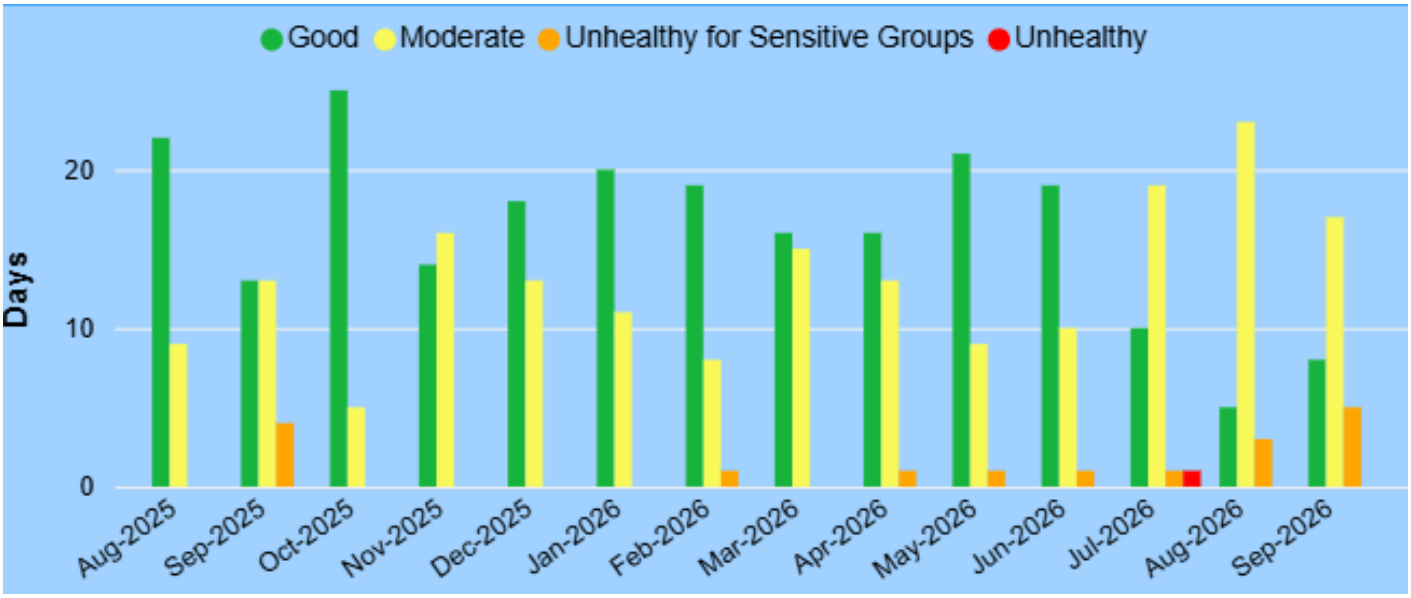


$PM_{2.5}$ ($\mu g/m^3$), 3-Year Averages of Highest Annual Averages for each Metropolitan Statistical Area



Atlanta Air Quality Index (AQI) Distribution

AQI is calculated using all criteria pollutants. Particulate matter and ozone are the major contributors in Georgia.





Good	Air quality is considered satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk
Moderate	Air quality is acceptable; however, for some pollutants there may be a moderate health concern for a very small number of people who are unusually sensitive to air pollution.
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	Members of sensitive groups may experience health effects. The general public is not likely to be affected.
Unhealthy	Everyone may begin to experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.
Very Unhealthy	Health warnings of emergency conditions. The entire population is more likely to be affected.
Hazardous	Health alert: everyone may experience more serious health effects

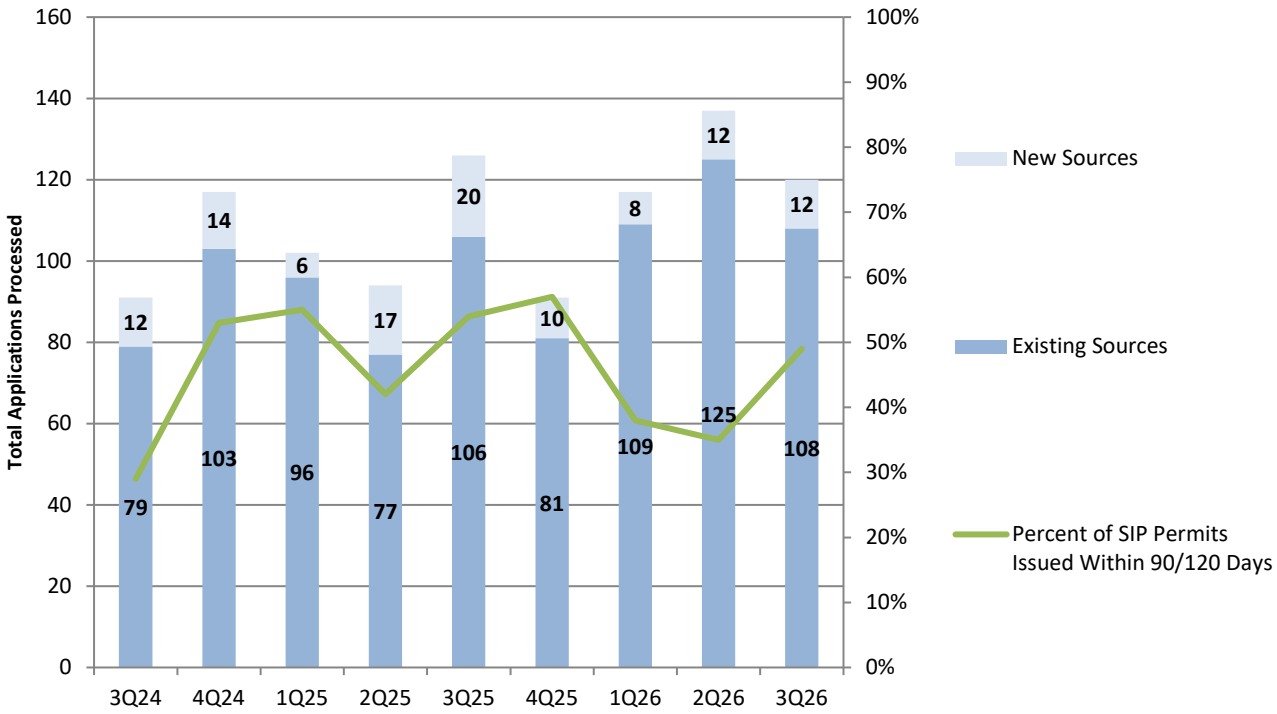
Permitting and Licensing

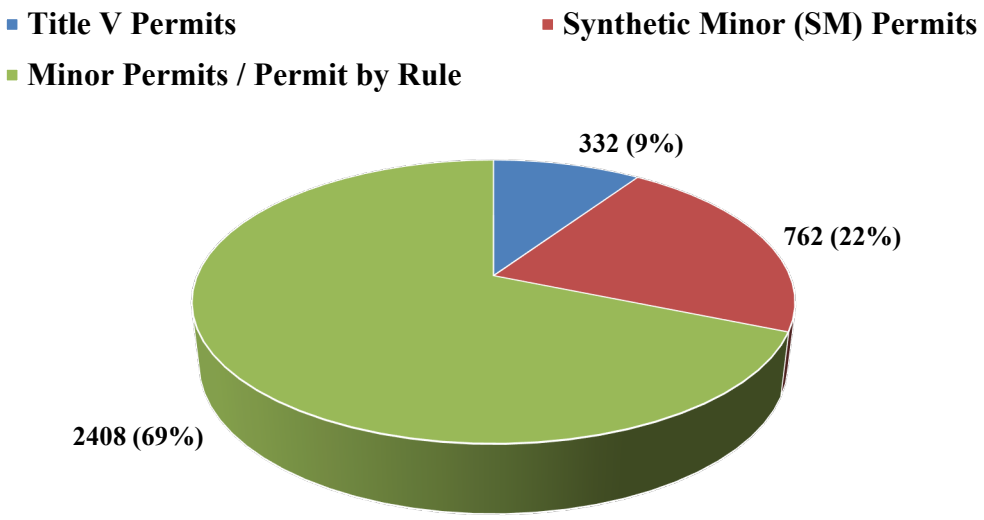
The Stationary Source Permitting Program (SSPP) issues air quality construction and operating permits to factories and power plants collectively referred to as stationary sources. The air quality permits contain all applicable state and federal rules. The Georgia Rules for Air Quality Control prohibit beginning construction until a permit is issued; therefore, permits are a major priority for the regulated community, especially SIP construction permits.

The SSPP processes about 500 permit applications a year for over 3,500 active permitted sites in Georgia. There are two broad categories of air permits, Title V operating permits for major sources (subject to greater federal oversight by EPA) and SIP operating and construction permits.

On March 31, 2022, the Air Protection Branch expanded the public's opportunity to comment on draft operating permits in response to a change in EPA requirements. This may increase the processing times for some permit applications.

Stationary Source Permit Applications





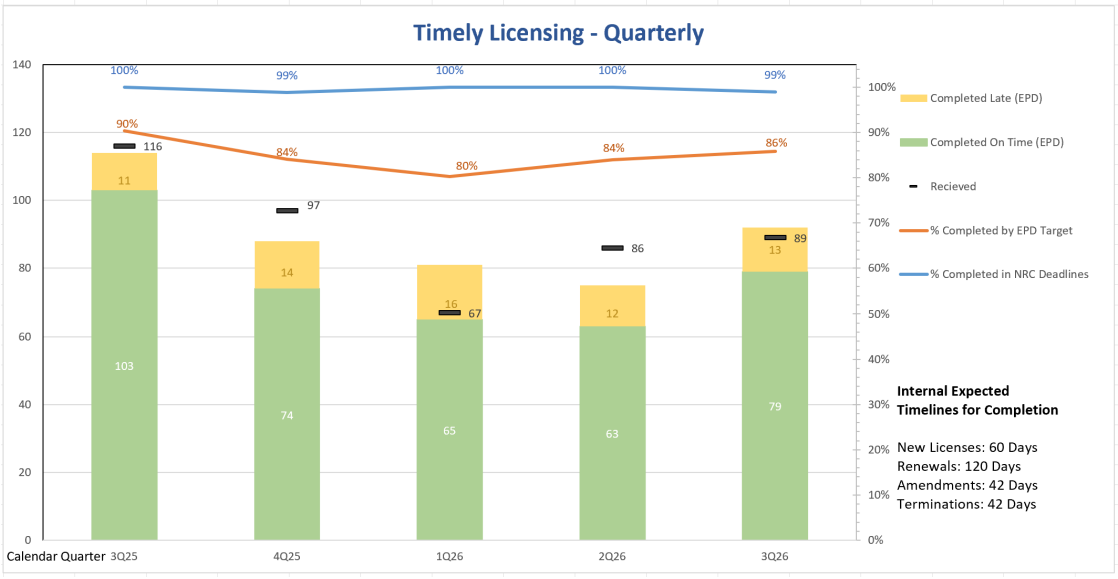
Expedited Permit Program - APB offers an expedited permit application processing program to companies that want permits delivered quickly. Fees are assessed for program participation.

SFY 2026 total-to-date:

- 19 applications accepted
- $212,500 in expedited fees collected
- Open applications: 25

Radioactive Materials Licensing Actions

The APB issues licenses to users of radioactive materials such as hospitals, doctor's offices, radiopharmacies, industrial radiography, colleges, universities, environmental laboratories, consultants and industrial plants with gauging devices. Average length of time to complete a license application review varies based on the complexity of the application.

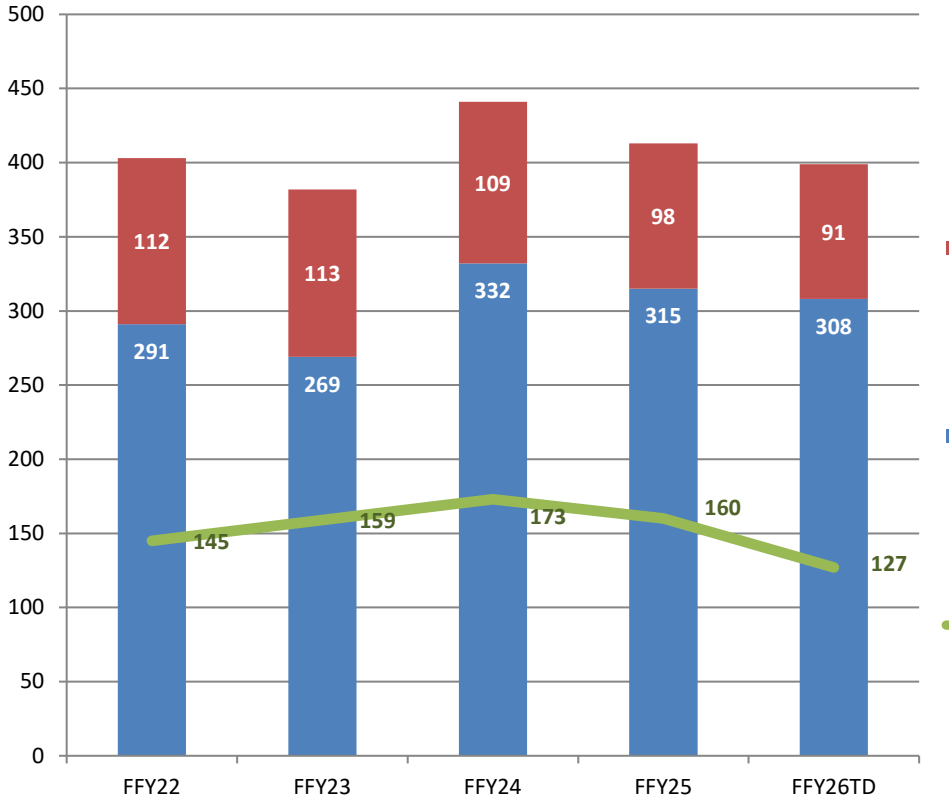


Compliance Assurance and Assistance

Compliance activities in the APB ensure that facilities across Georgia are in compliance with state and federal regulations. Compliance activities include on-site inspections, report reviews, and performance test reviews. A performance test is a procedure for sampling a gas stream from a single sampling location such as a "smokestack" at a facility, unit, or pollution control equipment.

Stationary Source Compliance Inspection Summary

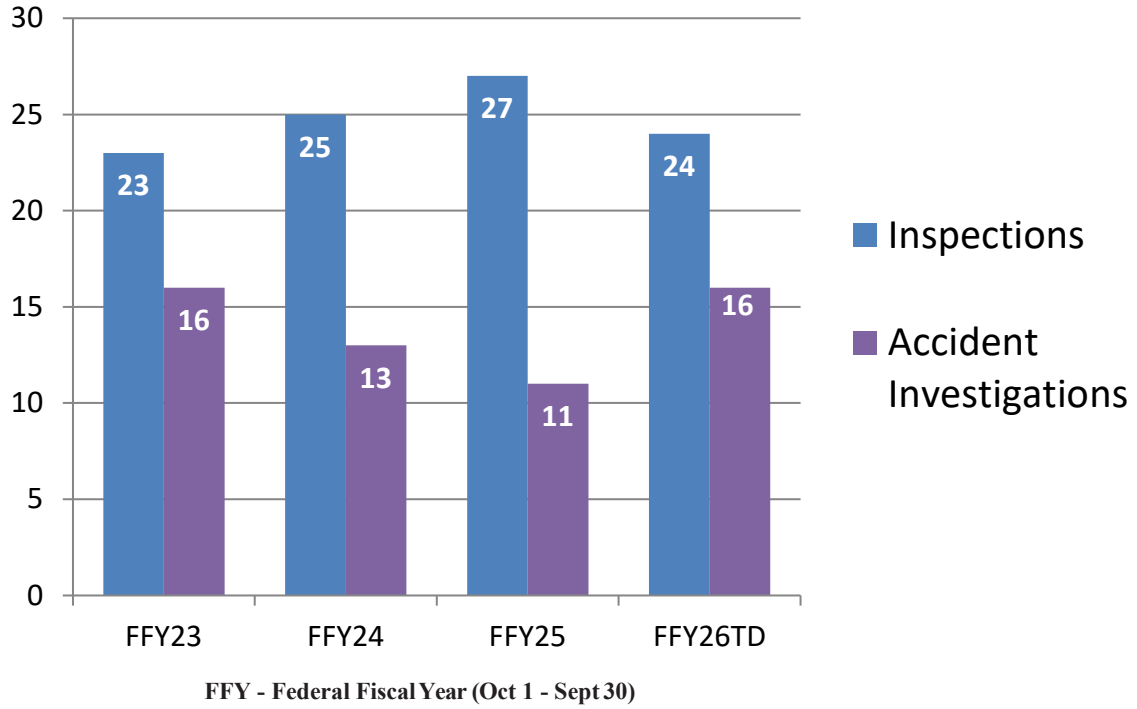
Over 1,000 permitted sites in Georgia are subject to periodic compliance monitoring and evaluation. EPA requires major sources of emissions to be inspected at least once every two years. Synthetic minor sources of emissions (those sources that have the potential to emit major source levels of air pollutants but have taken limits to reduce actual emissions below the major source emissions thresholds) are required to be inspected at least once every five years. The required inspections noted in the chart below indicate those sources that are at their 2- or 5-year deadline.



Federal Fiscal Year 2026 (FFY26) started on October 1, 2025, and ends on September 30, 2026.

Risk Management Activities

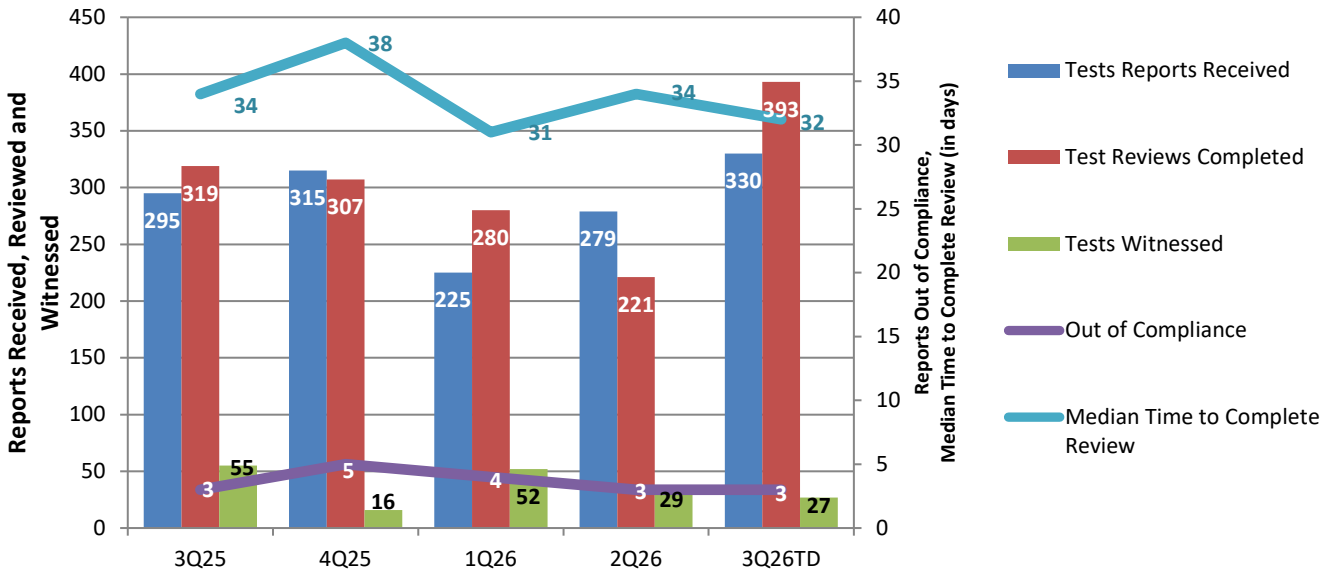
About 270 sources in Georgia are subject to the Federal Chemical Accident Prevention Provisions (Risk Management). Most sources are subject to Risk Management requirements due to large inventories of anhydrous ammonia or chlorine.



FFY - Federal Fiscal Year (Oct 1 - Sept 30)

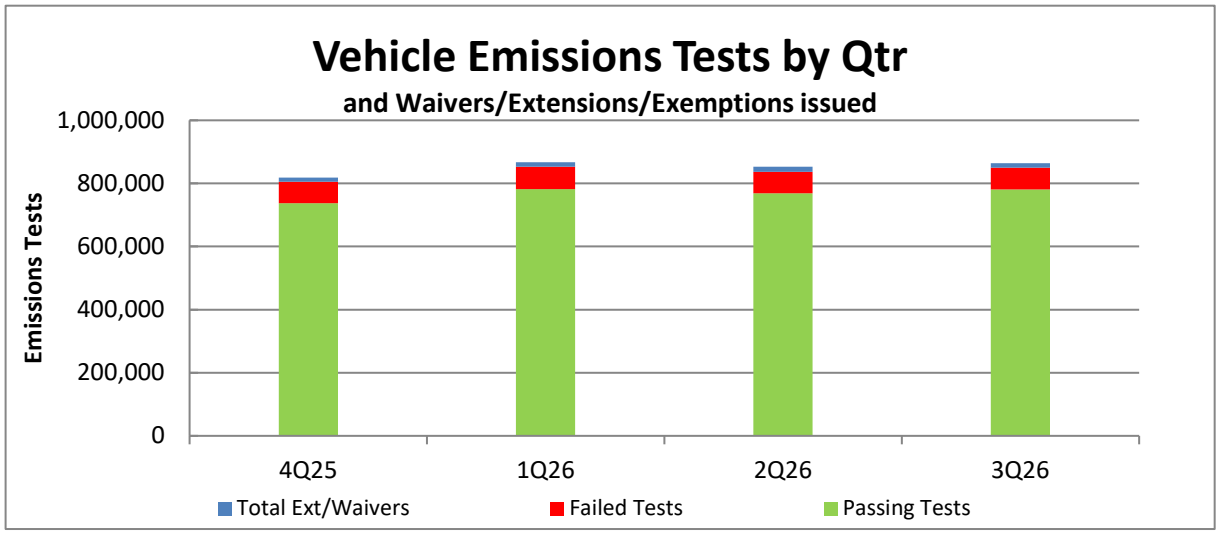
Industrial Source Monitoring

Some sources are required to conduct performance tests either one-time or on a periodic basis. Tests are conducted by a company, or a testing firm, contracted by the company and the test reports are reviewed by the Industrial Source Monitoring Unit (ISMU). ISMU also conducts on-site audits of some performance tests.



Vehicle Emissions Tests

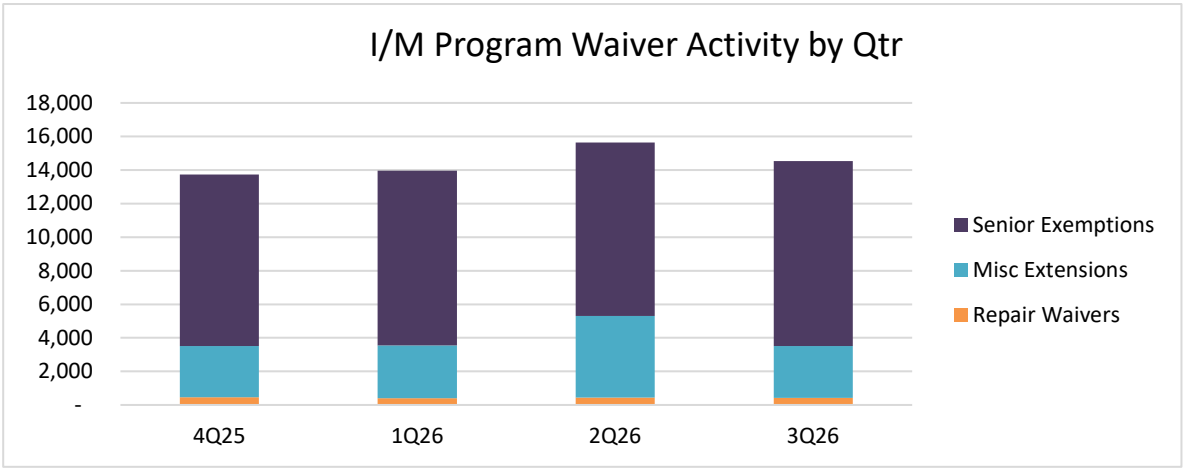
The APB manages the Vehicle Emissions Inspection and Maintenance (I/M) Program and processes new station and inspector licenses. The program is designed to identify gasoline-powered cars and light-duty trucks that pollute the air and ultimately encourage their repair and maintenance. For calendar year 2025, the program covers all 2001-2022 model year gasoline-powered cars or light-duty trucks with a gross vehicle weight rating of 8,500 pounds or less if they are registered in the following 13 metro Atlanta counties: Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, Paulding or Rockdale. Vehicle owners in these counties must have a passing vehicle emissions test in order to obtain an annual vehicle registration tag. Vehicles that fail must seek repairs. Some emissions testing stations are located outside the metro area to serve college students.



Types of Vehicle Emissions Waivers and Extensions Issued

Waivers and extensions are available to motorists if certain criteria are met:

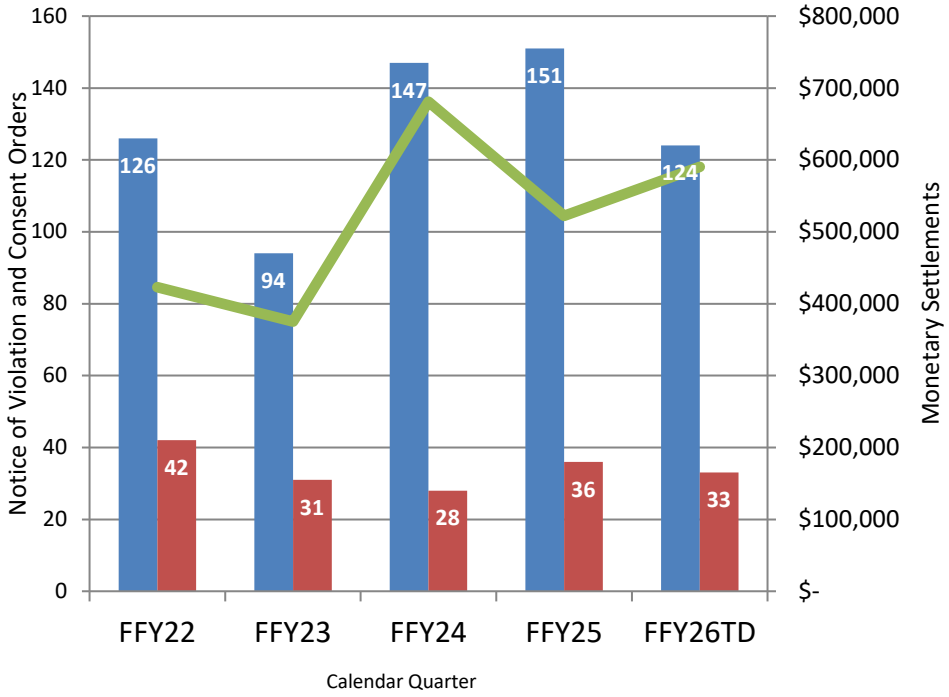
- A repair waiver can be issued if the cost of emissions-related repairs meets or exceeds $1,176 and the vehicle shows improvement in all areas it failed on the first test and still passes all the areas it passed on the first test.
- A senior exemption can be issued if the motorist is 65 years old or older, drives the vehicle less than 5,000 miles and the vehicle is 10 model years or older.
- Miscellaneous extensions include various out-of-area scenarios such as student, business, and military. The vehicle must be tested once it returns to the area.



Stationary Source Enforcement Summary

Stationary Source enforcement action is utilized to resolve alleged violations, provide deterrence for future violations and promote a level playing field in the industry in which the violations occurred.

- Notice of Violation - alleging violations and giving the company an opportunity to respond to the allegation.
- Consent Order - a negotiated agreement that typically involves a monetary settlement.
- Monetary Settlements - APB uses *Settlement Calculation Procedures* to determine the proposed monetary settlement.



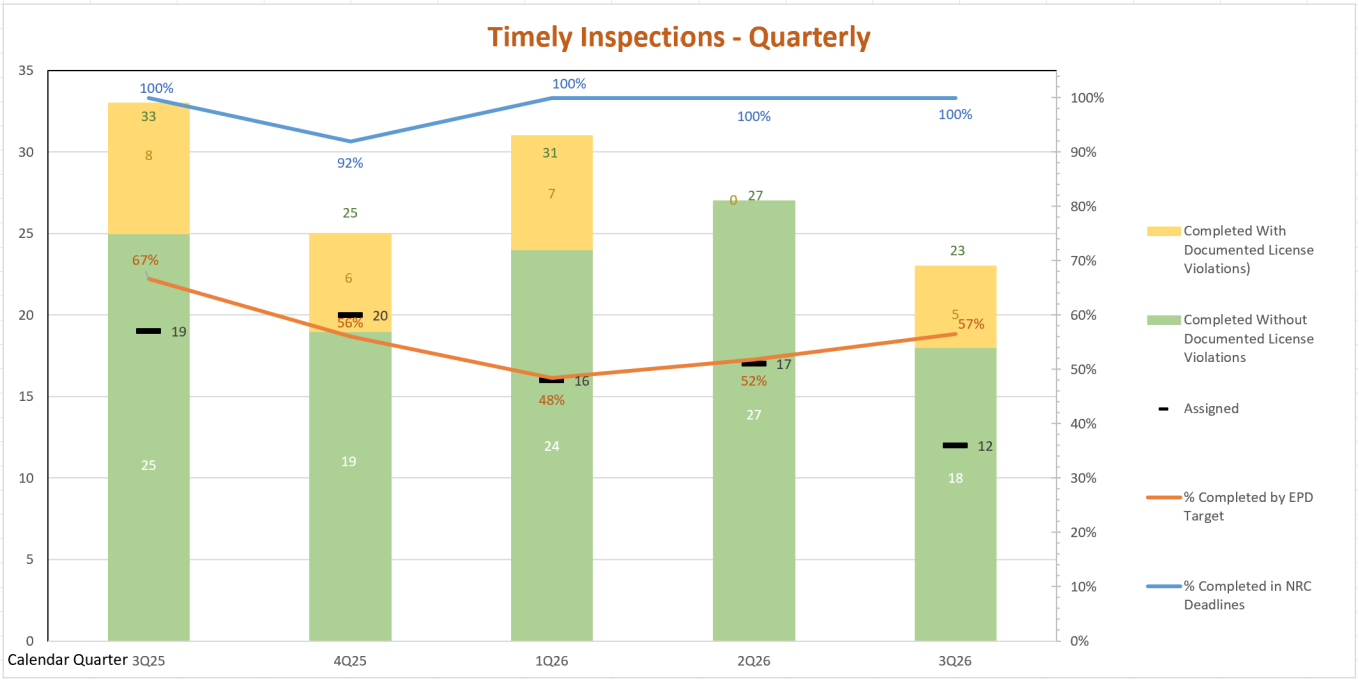
Federal Fiscal Year 2026 (FFY26) started on October 1, 2025, and ends on September 30, 2026.

Vehicle Emissions Program Enforcement Summary

Vehicle emissions civil enforcement action is utilized to ensure that station owners and inspectors are correctly conducting vehicle emissions tests. APB works with the station owners and inspectors to achieve compliance by means of station audits. Deficiencies are addressed through information letters and meetings. However, if these measures fail to address non-compliance, APB may seek enforcement through Notices of Violation, Consent Orders, and station owner or inspector license suspensions or revocations (Administrative Orders). Currently, there are approximately 730 stations and 2,200 inspectors in the program.

Status of Radioactive Materials Inspections

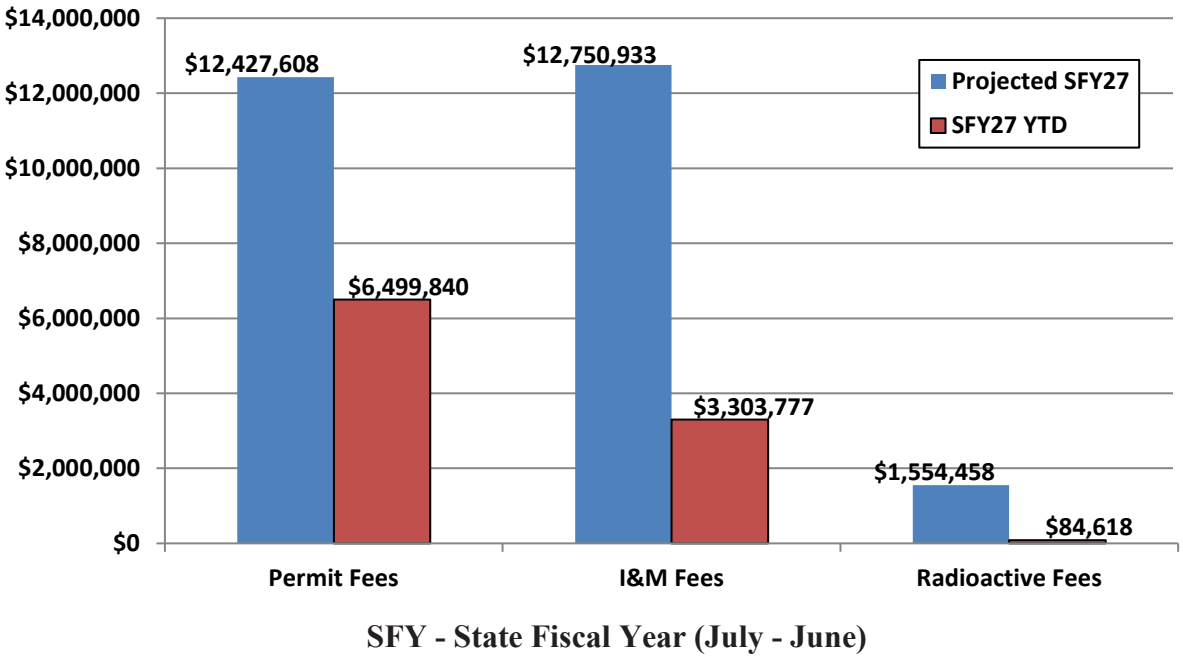
The federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) defines the inspection frequency based on the level of hazard posed by the radioactive materials used. Violations tend to be administrative in nature (such as missing paperwork) or instances when licensees use inappropriate techniques and procedures while using radioactive materials.



Fee Collection Activities

Much of the Air Protection Branch is funded through fees collected from regulated entities. Air permit fees are collected from permitted factories and power plants collectively referred to as stationary sources. Permit fees fund most of the permitting, compliance, source monitoring, planning, and support activities of the Branch. Air permit fees include annual fees and permit application fees for certain types of permit applications. The Branch receives $1.28 per motor vehicle emissions test from the fees collected at emissions testing stations. These are vehicle Inspection and Maintenance or "I&M" fees that support the implementation of the vehicle emission testing program. The counties receive $1.00 per test. Radioactive Material Program fees are collected from entities that are licensed to use radioactive materials and are used to implement licensing and compliance activities associated with radioactive materials.

Total Fees Collected



- Title V Fees are mostly collected in September. (Some large emitters pay quarterly.)
- I/M Fees are evenly distributed throughout the year.
- Radiation Fees are generally collected in October.

GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

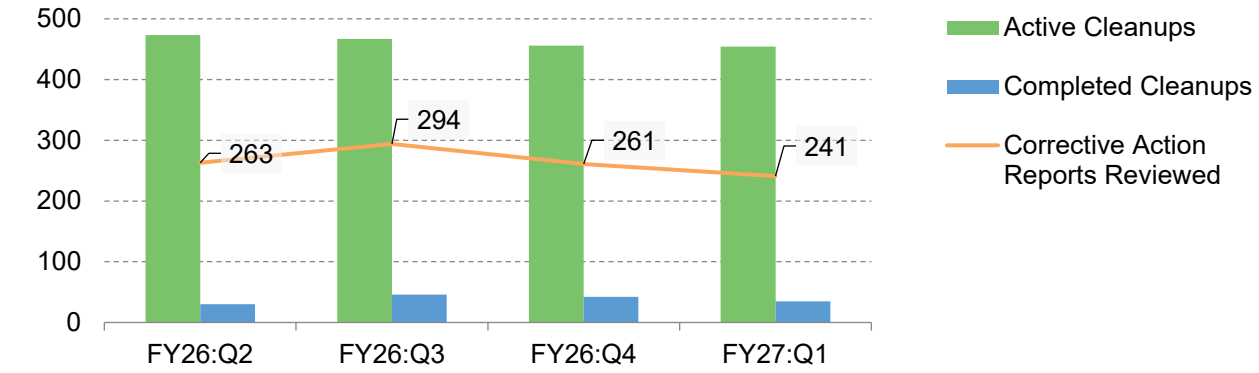
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

Land Protection Branch
Permitting and Compliance
Quarterly Report

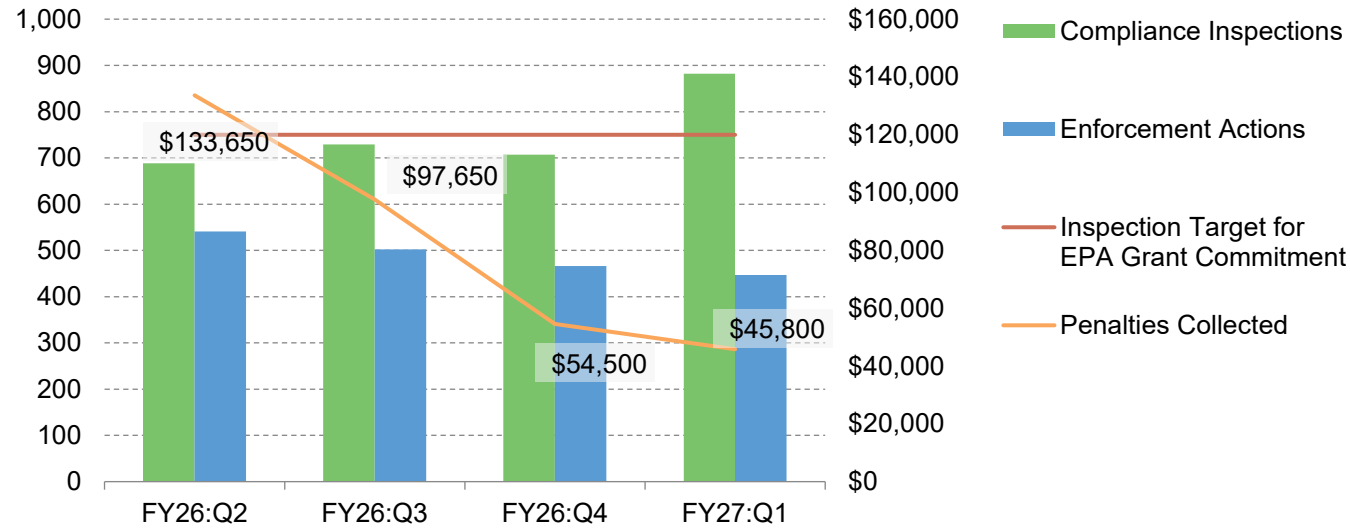
State Fiscal Year 2027
First Quarter
July 1, 2026 – September 30, 2026



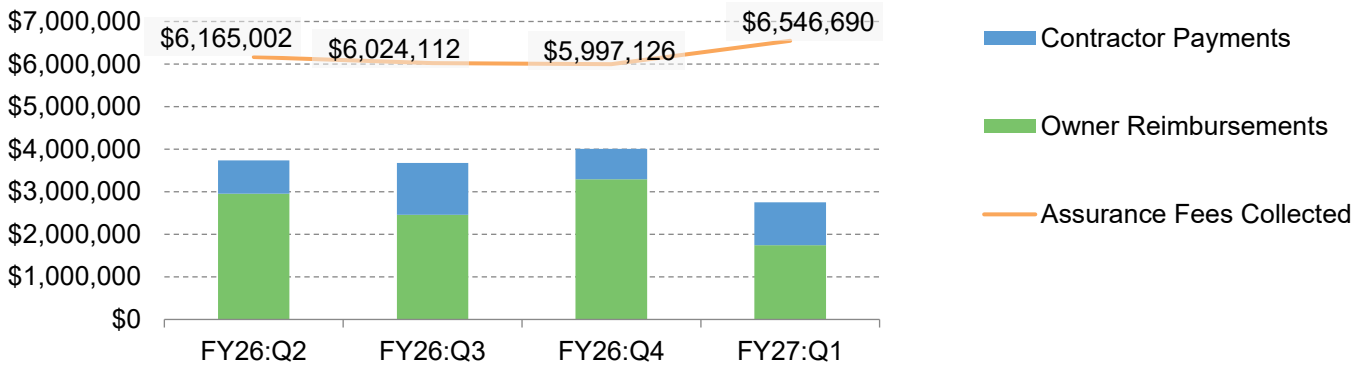
Underground Storage Tank (UST) Corrective Action



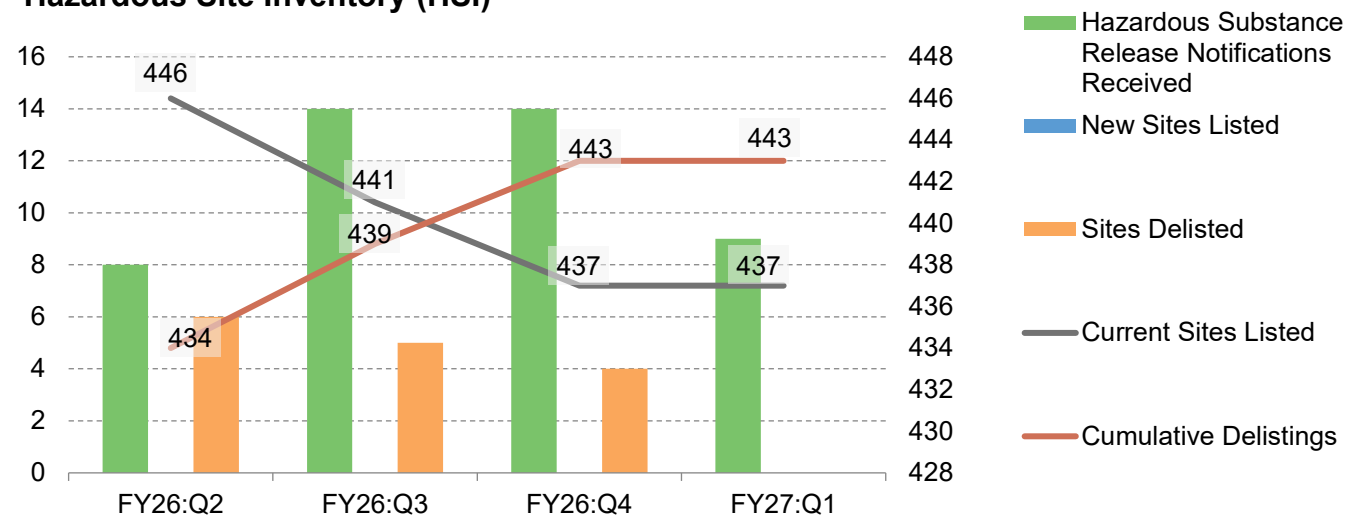
UST Compliance



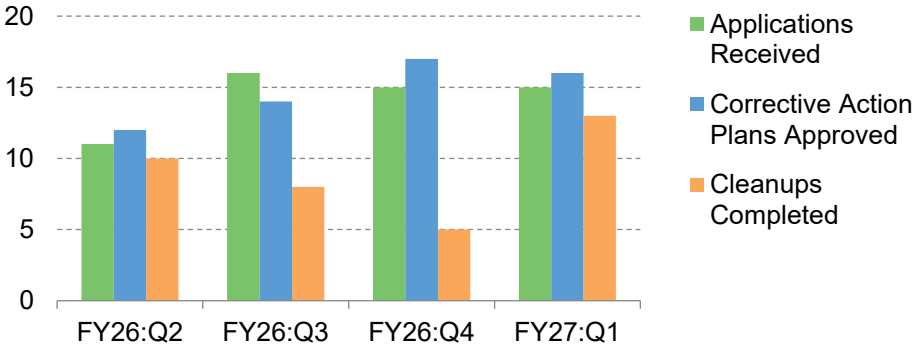
UST Fees and Payments



Hazardous Site Inventory (HSI)

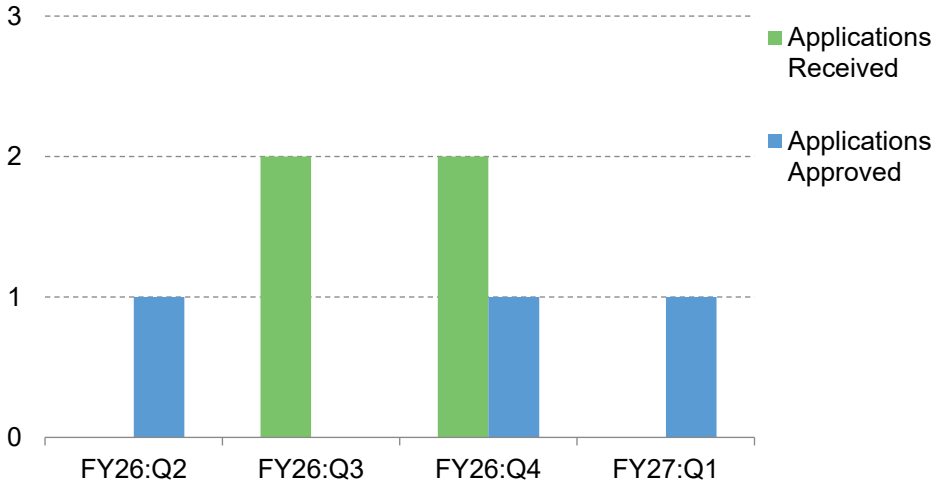


Brownfields



By the end of the first quarter of state fiscal year 2027, the Brownfields Program received **1,569** applications and **827** properties had certified compliance with reduction standards and received a final limitation of liability.

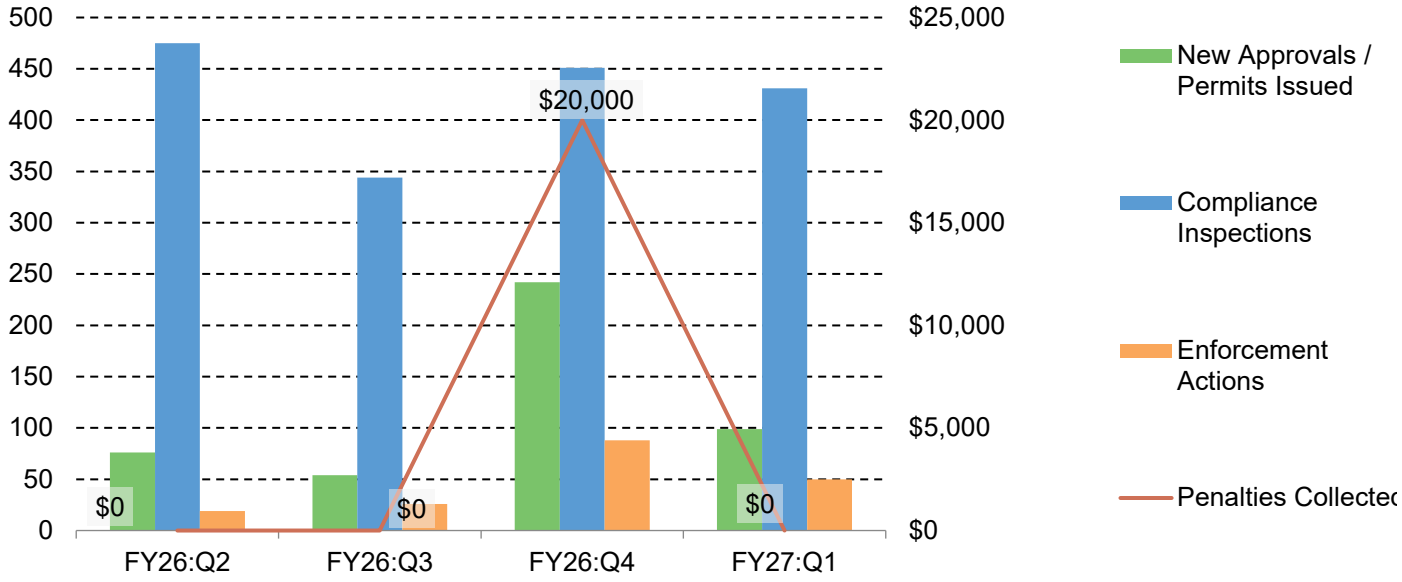
Voluntary Remediation



By the end of the first quarter of state fiscal year 2027, the Voluntary Remediation Program received **195** applications and approved **189**. **Three** applications were under review, **one** was incomplete, and **11** were withdrawn (this figure includes applications withdrawn after approval). **Zero sites were** remediated and removed from the HSI.

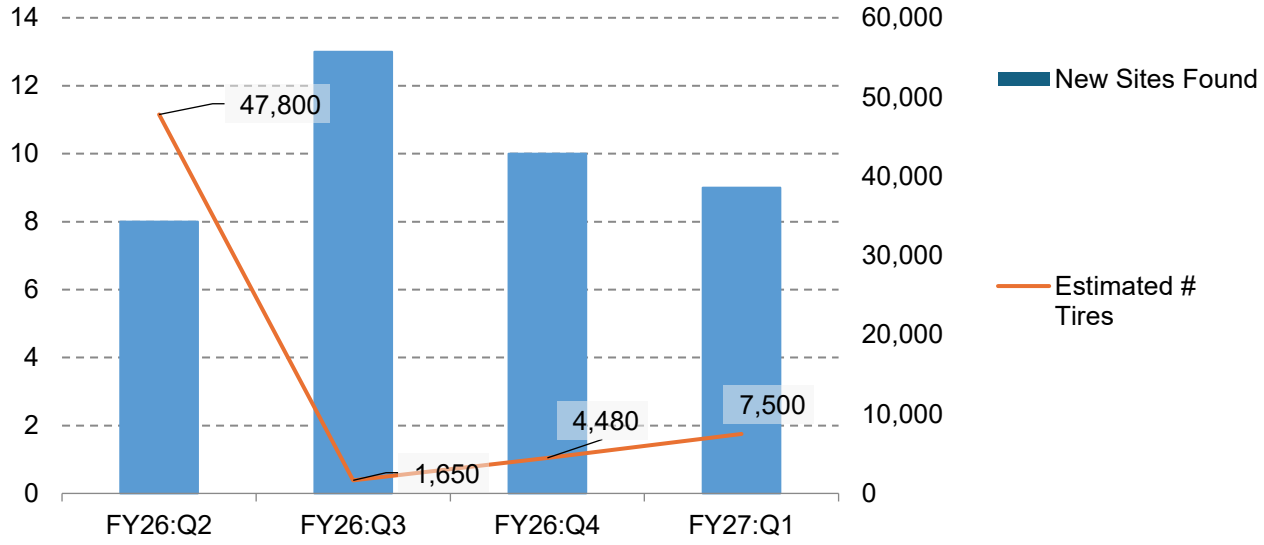
Note: Numbers for these three programs may differ from previous reports due to receipt of updated data.

Tire Permitting and Compliance

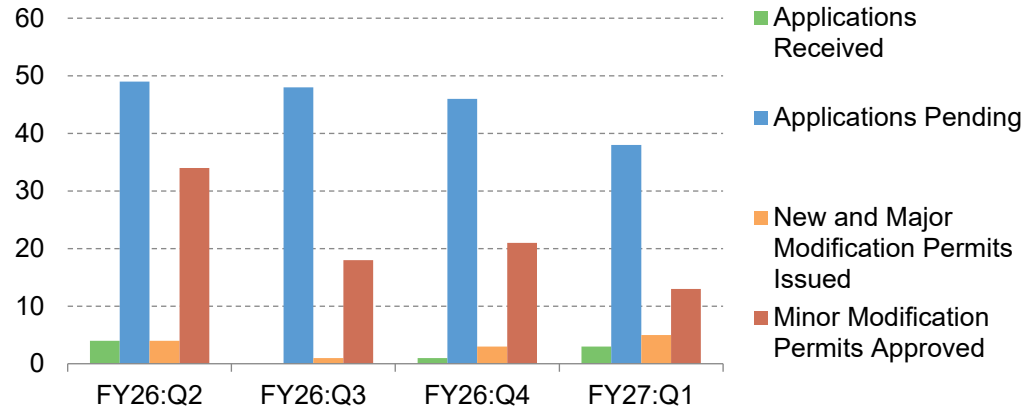


By the end of the first quarter of state fiscal year 2027, there were **6,676** registered scrap tire generators, **746** registered used tire dealers, **211** permitted tire carriers, **54** approved or permitted tire sorting operations, and **12** permitted scrap tire processors in Georgia. There were also **nine** sorters, **47** carriers, and **32** processors outside of Georgia approved by the program to accept scrap tires generated in Georgia.

Tire Dumps

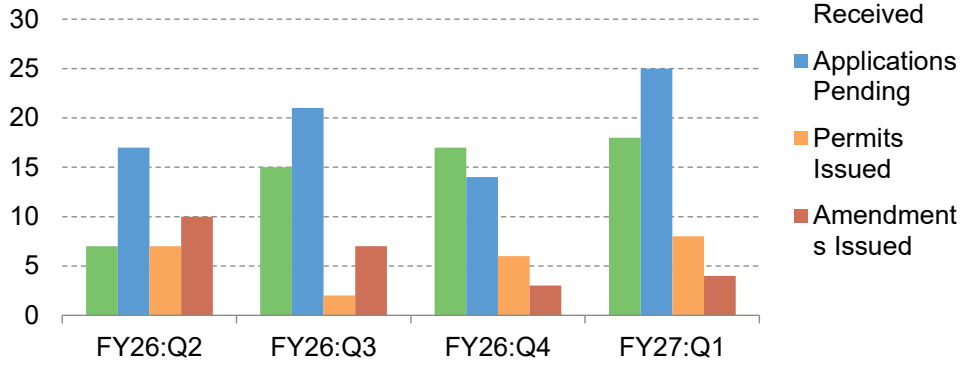


Solid Waste Permitting



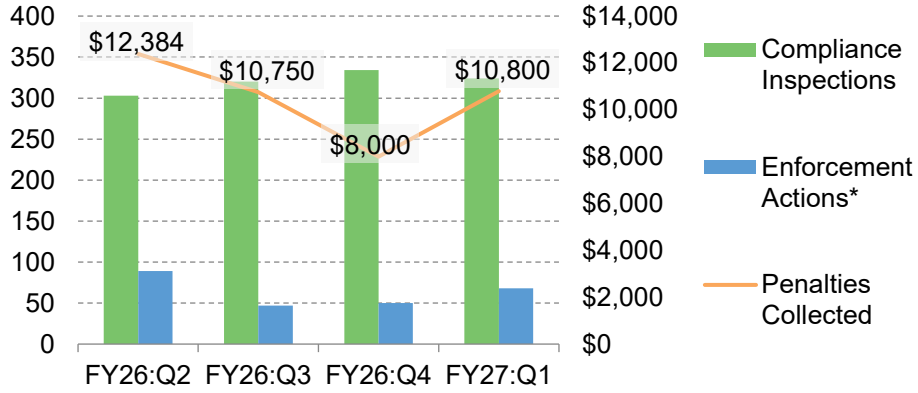
By the end of the first quarter of state fiscal year 2027, there were **195** permitted solid waste facilities in operation, **29** solid waste facilities in the closure process, and **318** closed landfills in Georgia.

Surface Mining Permitting



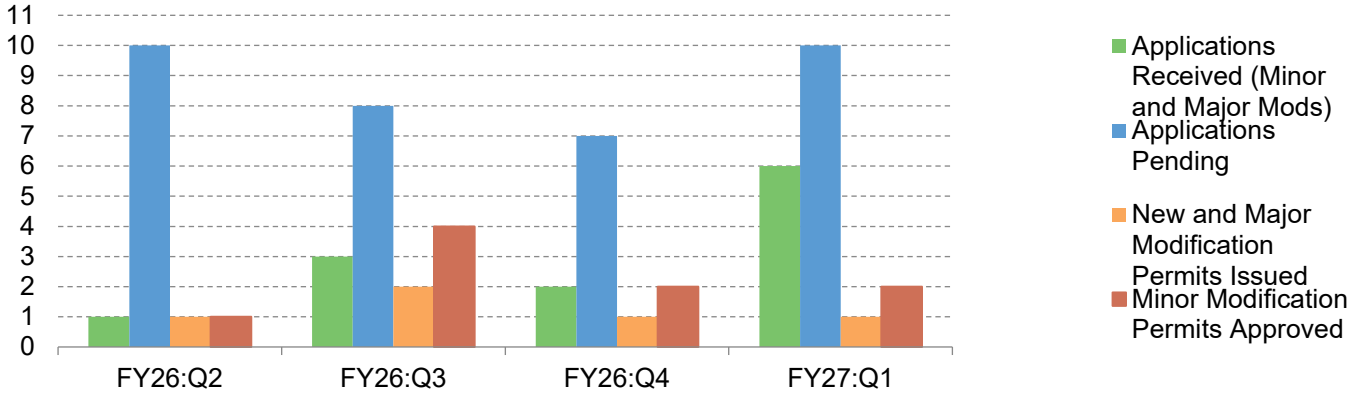
By the end of the first quarter of state fiscal year 2027, there were **773** permitted surface mines in Georgia.

Solid Waste and Surface Mining Compliance



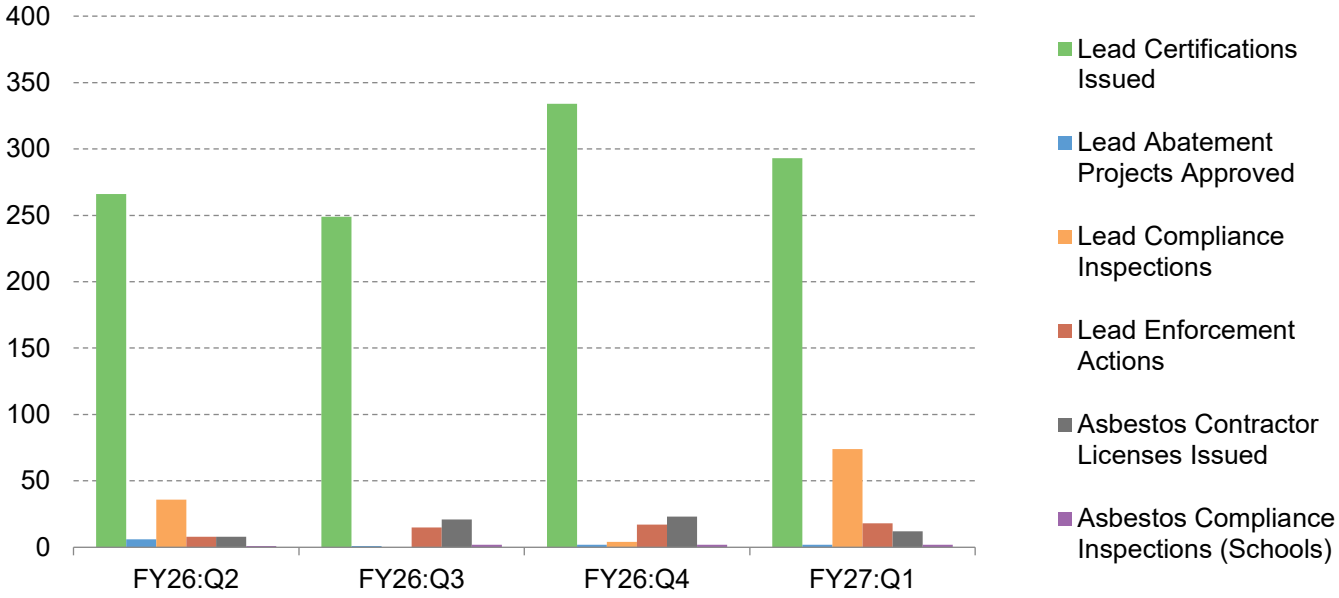
*Includes noncompliance letters, violation notices, and consent orders.

Recovered Materials Permitting*



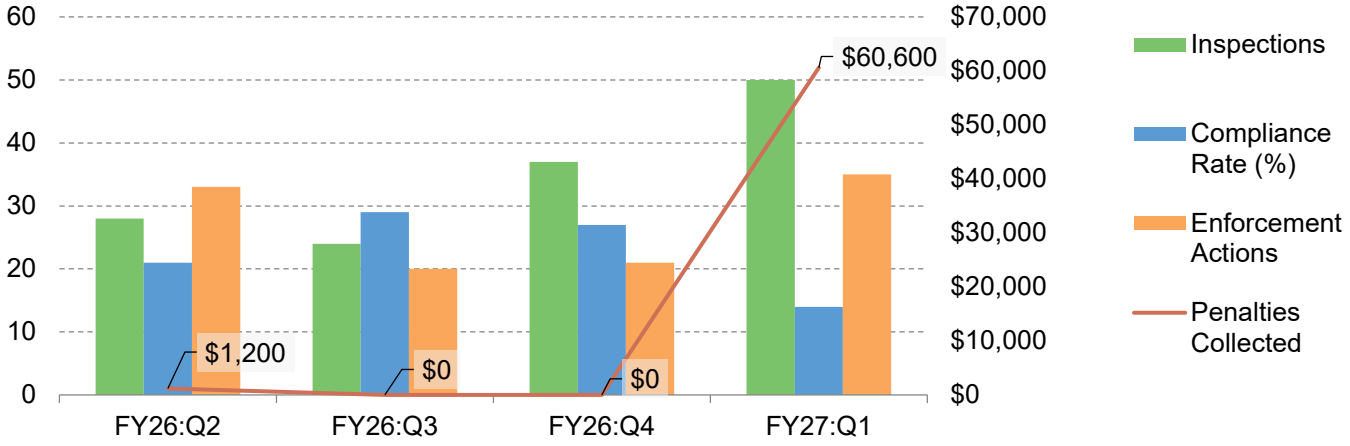
*Includes permit-by-rule facilities.

Lead-Based Paint and Asbestos

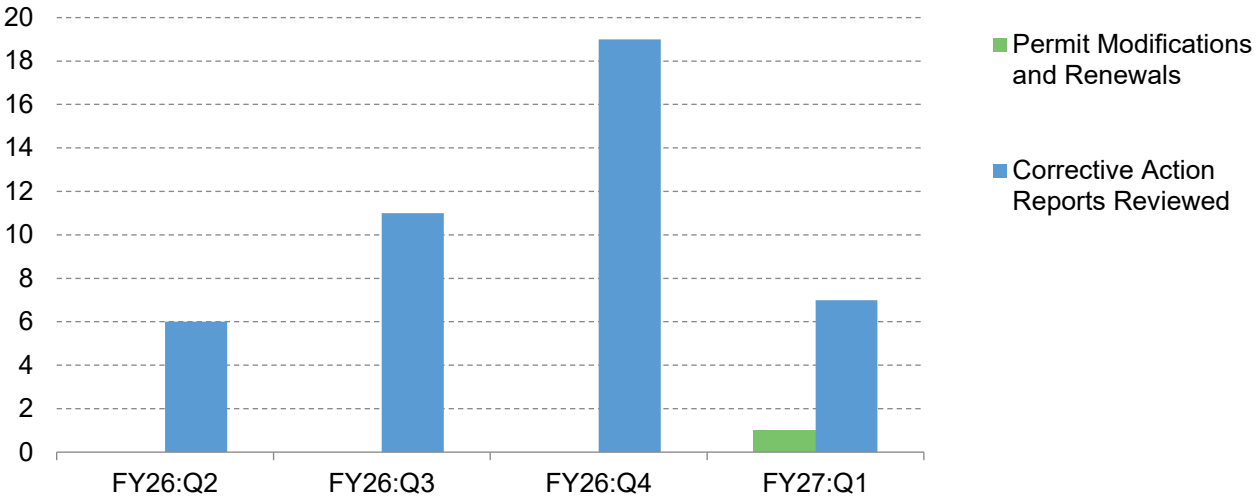


EPD receives approximately 500 asbestos project notifications per quarter. However, due to reductions in funding, EPD only performs asbestos inspections at schools. U.S. EPA handles all other inspections and enforcement.

Hazardous Waste Compliance and Enforcement



Hazardous Waste Permitting and Corrective Action



GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

Watershed Protection Branch
Permitting and Compliance
Quarterly Report

State Fiscal Year 2027
First Quarter
July - September 2027



The Watershed Protection Branch administers the following:

- Water withdrawal permits
- Permits to operate a public water system
- Wastewater permits
- Stormwater permits
- Stream buffer variances
- 401 water quality certifications
- Safe Dams program
- Nonpoint source grants and outreach

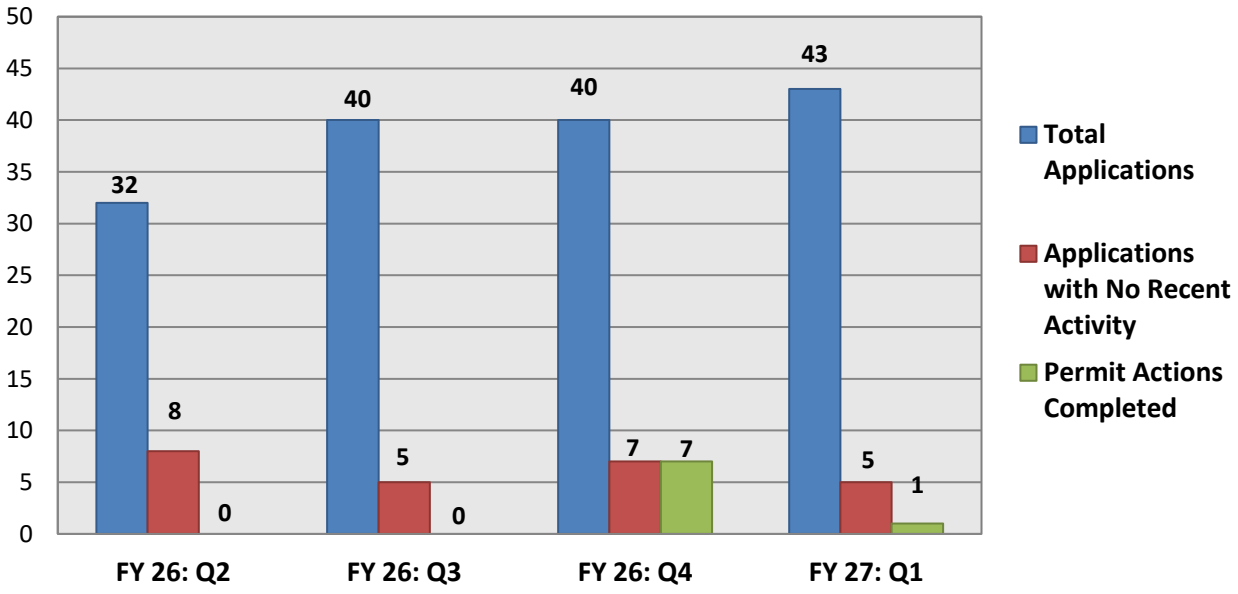
This report summarizes the Watershed Protection Branch's programmatic activities for the First Quarter of State Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27), which covers the period of July 1 - September 30, 2027.

Surface Water Withdrawal Permitting Activities

During the First Quarter of FY27, one (1) surface water withdrawal permit was issued.

Application Type	# of Applications Processed
New Permits	0
Renewal Permits	1
Amended (Modified) Permits	0
Temporary Permits	0

The following graph provides information about surface water withdrawal permit applications and permitting actions completed within the prior 12-month period.



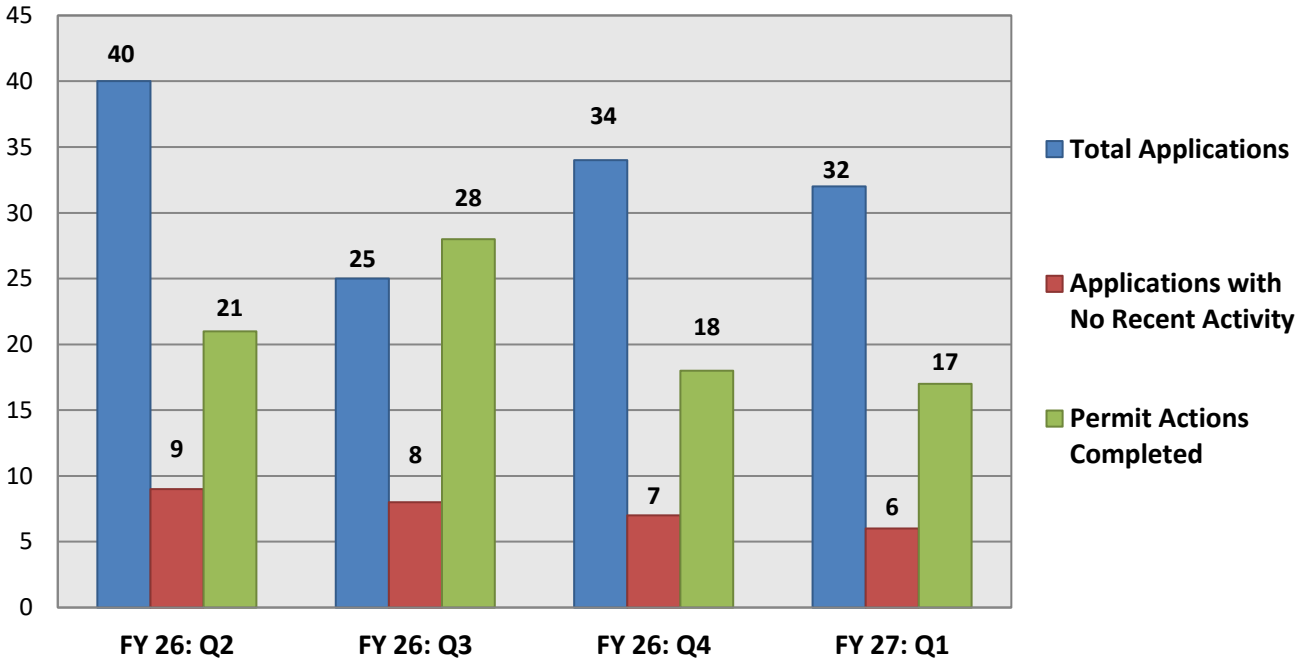
Note: The total number of permit actions completed during each quarter includes permits issued, permits revoked, permits rescinded, and applications that have been retracted.

Groundwater Withdrawal Permitting Activities

During the First Quarter of FY27, seventeen (17) groundwater withdrawal permits were issued.

Application Type	# of Applications Processed
New Permits	0
Renewal Permits	12
Amended (Modified) Permits	5

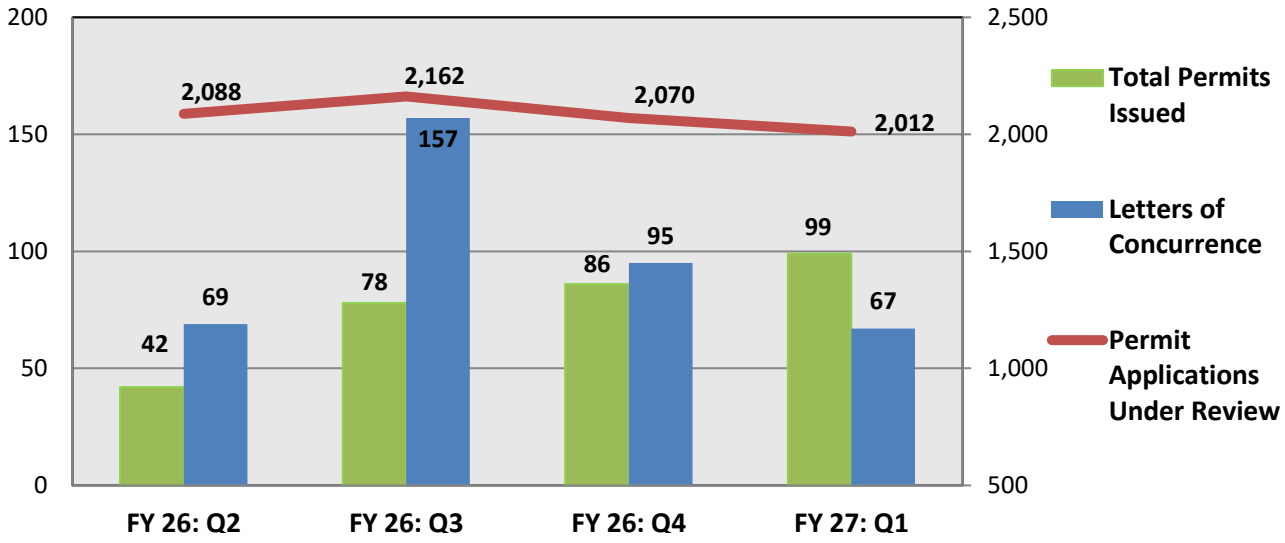
The following graph provides information about groundwater withdrawal permit applications and permitting actions completed within the prior 12-month period.



Note: The total number of permit actions completed during each quarter includes permits issued, permits revoked, permits rescinded, and applications that have been retracted.

Farm Water Withdrawal Permitting Activities

As of September 30, 2026, there are approximately 27,070 farm water withdrawal permits. During the First Quarter of FY27, 64 new and 35 revised farm water withdrawal permits were issued, 1 farm water withdrawal permit was revoked, and 67 new Letters of Concurrence were issued. The following graph provides information about the number of farm water withdrawal permit applications under review, total new Letters of Concurrence issued, and total new and revised farm water withdrawal permits issued within the prior 12-month period.



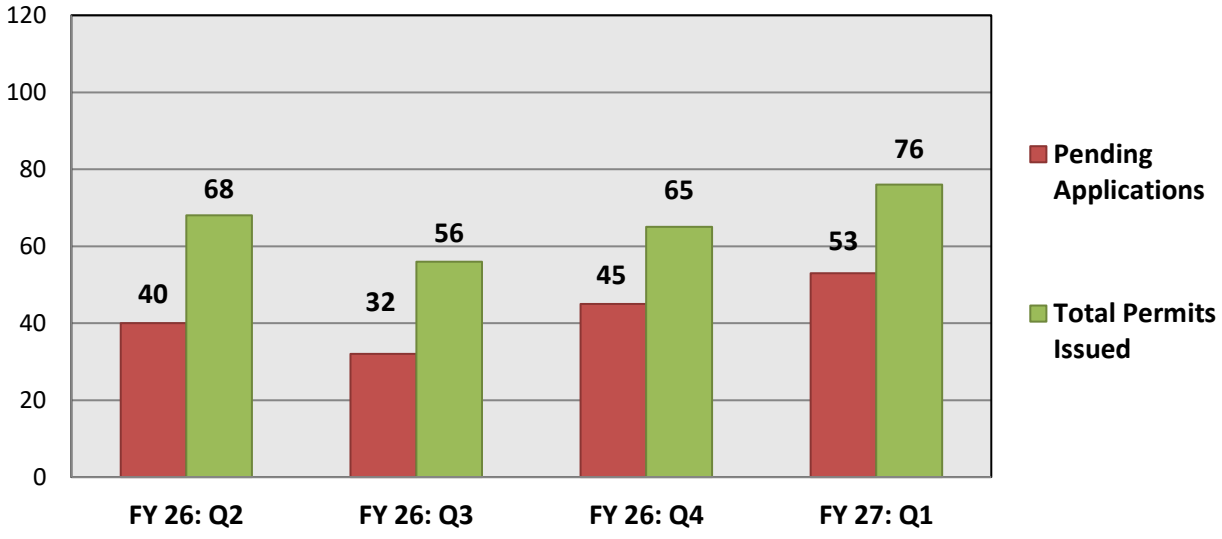
Note: A Letter of Concurrence gives an applicant permission to install a proposed water withdrawal system for agricultural water use.

Public Water System Permitting Activities

During the First Quarter of FY27, seventy-six (76) drinking water permits were issued.

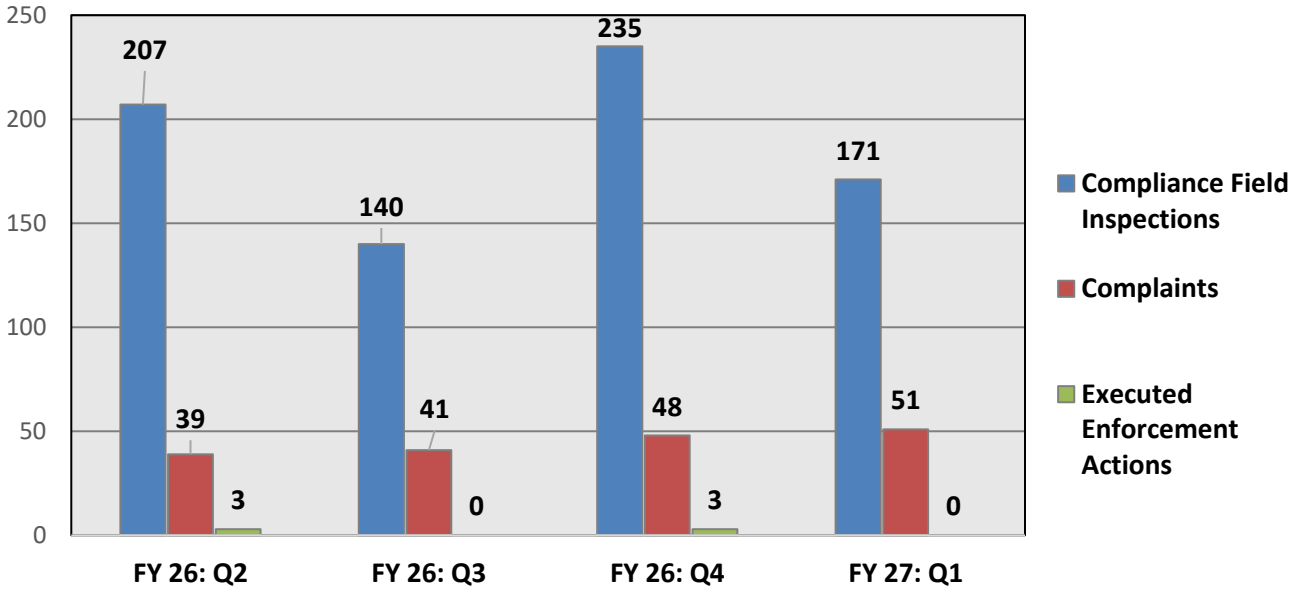
Application Type	# of Applications Processed
New Permits	8
Renewal Permits	52
Amended (Modified) Permits	16

The following graph provides information about drinking water system permit applications and permits issued within the prior 12-month period.



Safe Drinking Water Compliance Activities

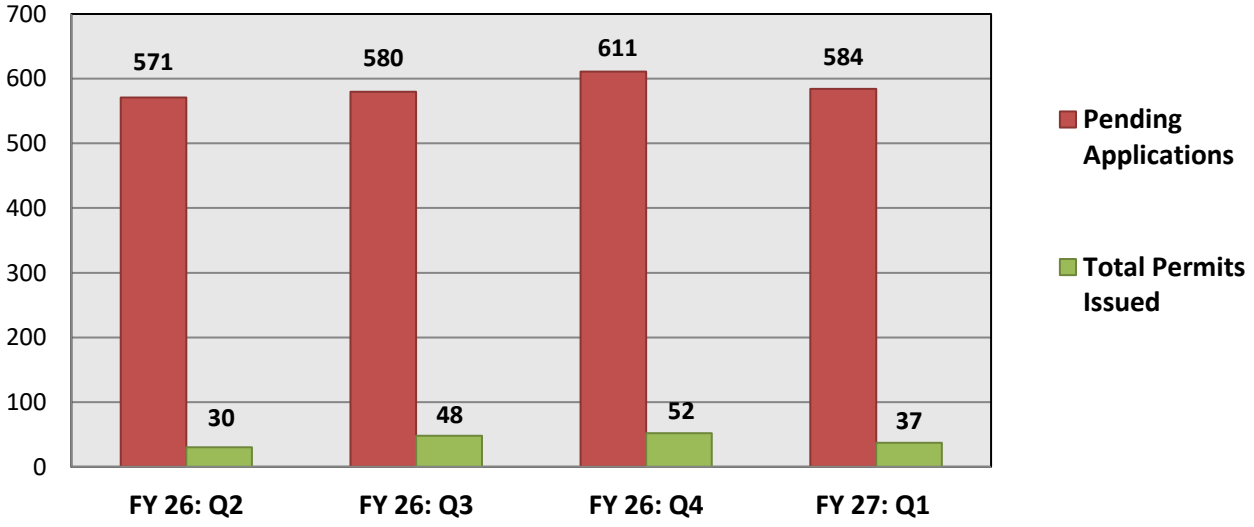
The following graph identifies the number and types of safe drinking water compliance activities conducted by the Branch and District Offices during the prior 12-month period.



Note: Numbers of Compliance Field Inspections in previous quarters have been updated to include inspection activities that were conducted in that quarter but entered in the tracking system at a later date.

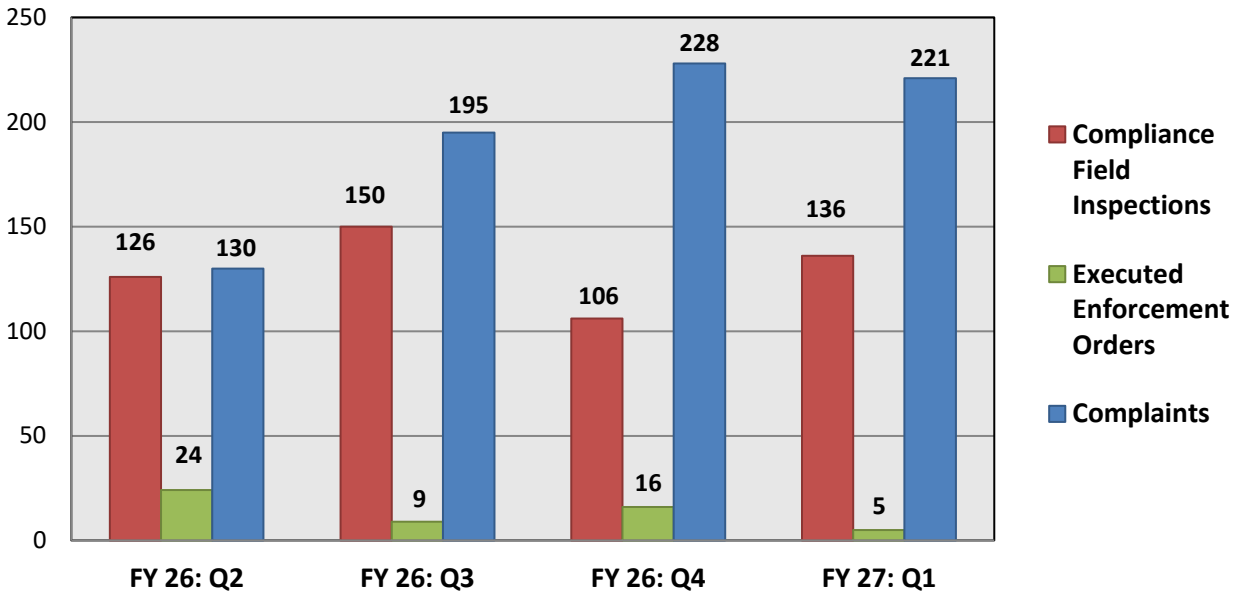
Wastewater Regulatory Program Activities

During the First Quarter of FY27, the Wastewater Regulatory Program issued 37 permits. They included 11 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits, 2 general permits (with 48 Notices of Coverage), 2 Land Application System (LAS) permits, 6 pretreatment permits, and 16 Underground Injection Control (UIC) permits. The following graph provides information about the number of pending permit applications and permits issued within the prior 12-month period.



Wastewater Compliance Activities

The following graph identifies the number and types of wastewater compliance activities conducted by the Watershed Protection Branch and EPD District Offices during the prior 12-month period.



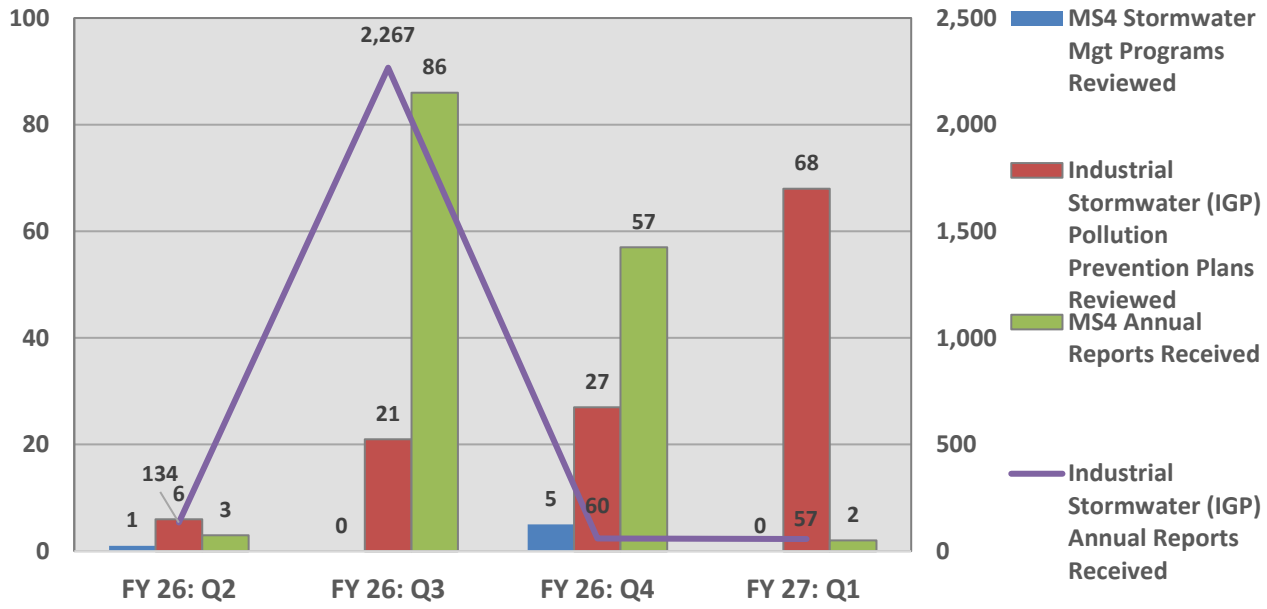
Note: Numbers of Compliance Field Inspections in previous quarters have been updated to include inspection activities that were conducted in that quarter but entered in the tracking system at a later date.

Stormwater Permitting Activities

The Nonpoint Source Program administers 3 general construction permits, a general industrial stormwater permit, as well as the Phase I and Phase II Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) permits. The following table identifies the number of stormwater permits, and the number of Notices of Intent (NOIs) received under those permits during the First Quarter of FY27.

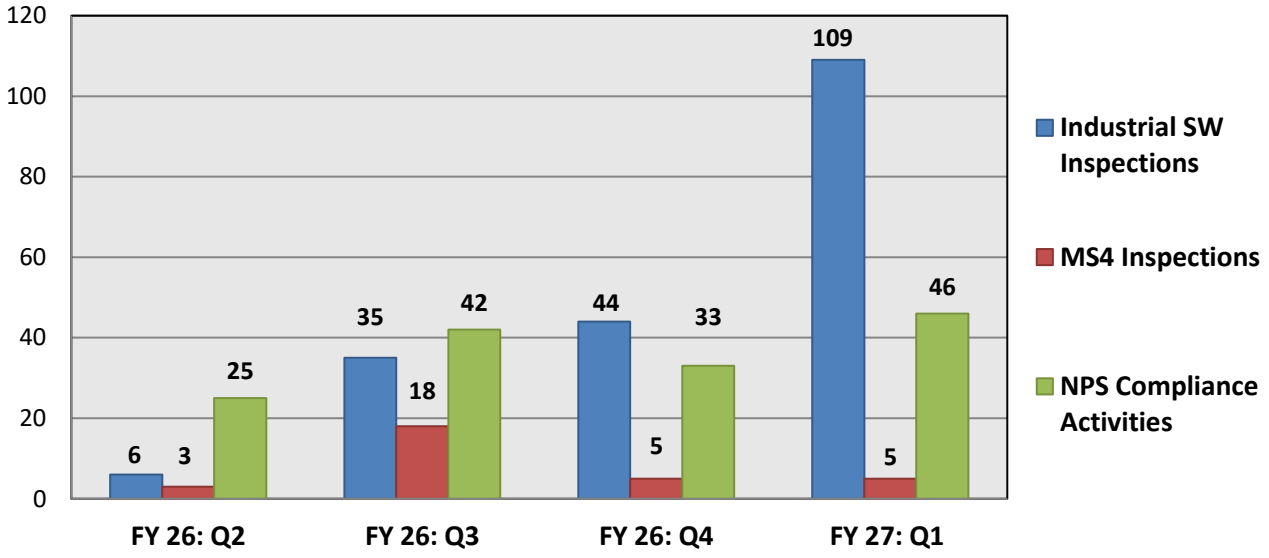
Category	# of Permits	# of NOIs Submitted
Construction	3	909
Industrial	1	176
Municipal	60	0

The following graph provides information about the programs, plans, and reports received or under review by the Watershed Protection Branch during the prior 12-month period.



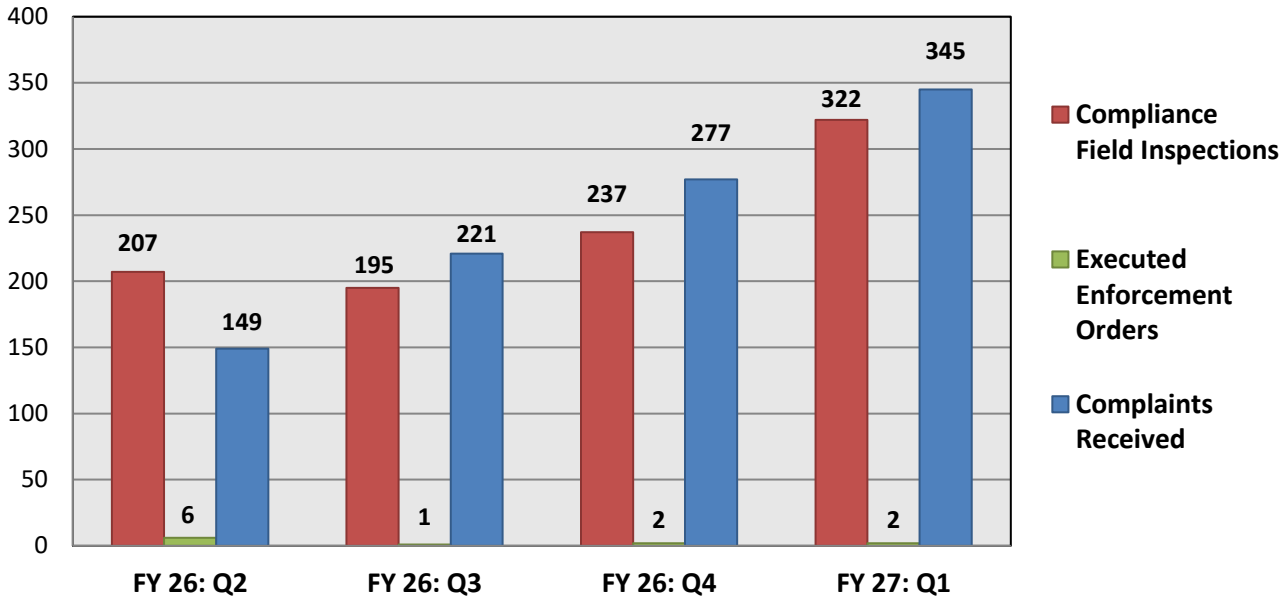
Stormwater Inspection and Compliance Activities

The following graph provides information about stormwater inspection and compliance activities conducted by the Branch's Nonpoint Source Program during the prior 12-month period.



Note: Nonpoint Source Program compliance activities include issuance of Noncompliance Documentation Letters (NDLs) and Notices of Violation (NOVs).

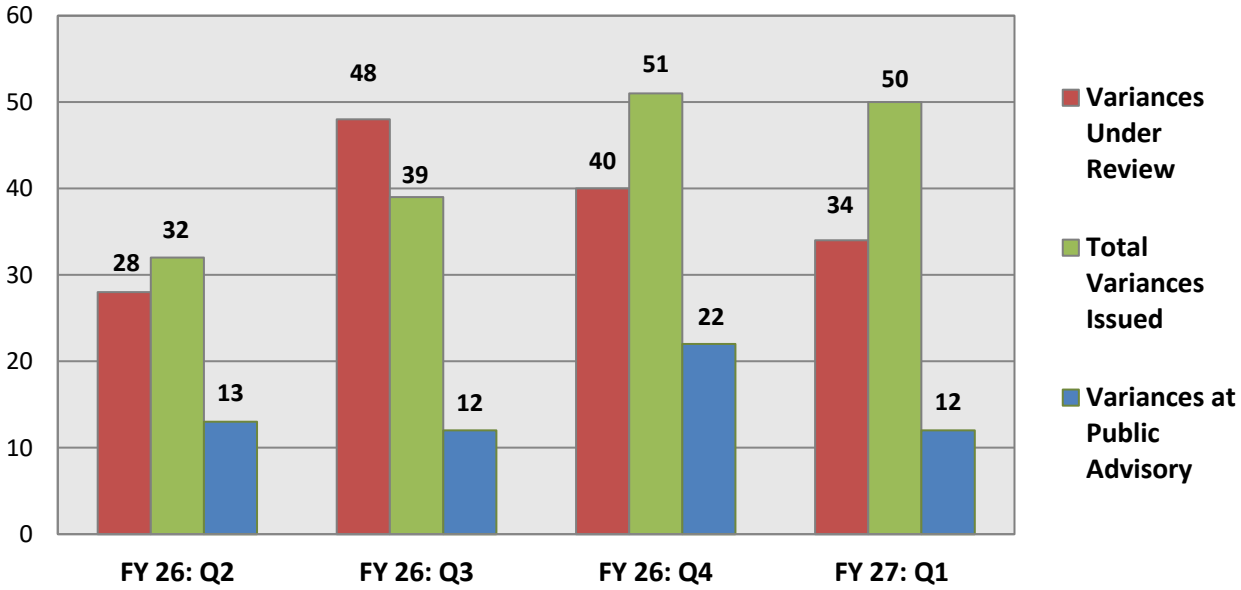
The following graph provides information about the stormwater and erosion and sedimentation control compliance activities conducted by the Branch and EPD District Offices during the prior 12-month period.



Note: Numbers of Complaints received in previous quarters have been updated to include those that were received in that quarter but entered in the tracking system at a later date.

Stream Buffer Variance Activities

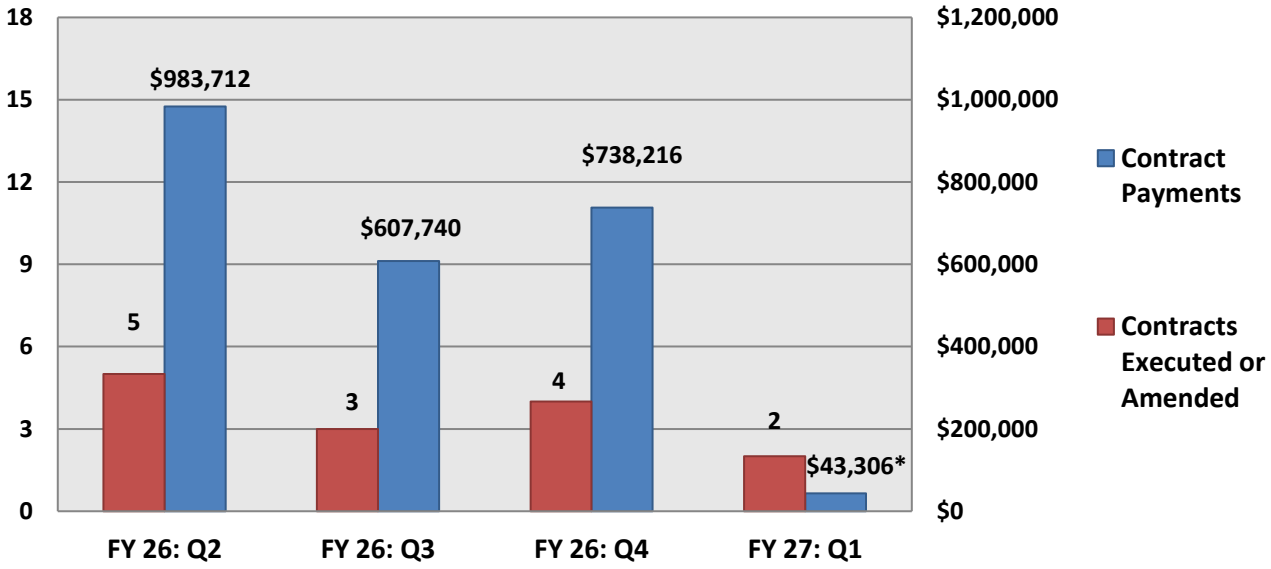
The following graph provides information about buffer variance applications reviewed or processed during the prior 12-month period.



As of September 30, 2027, forty-six (46) buffer variance applications are pending.

Nonpoint Source Grants Contracting Activities

The following graph provides information about the contracting activities of Nonpoint Source Program during the prior 12-month period.

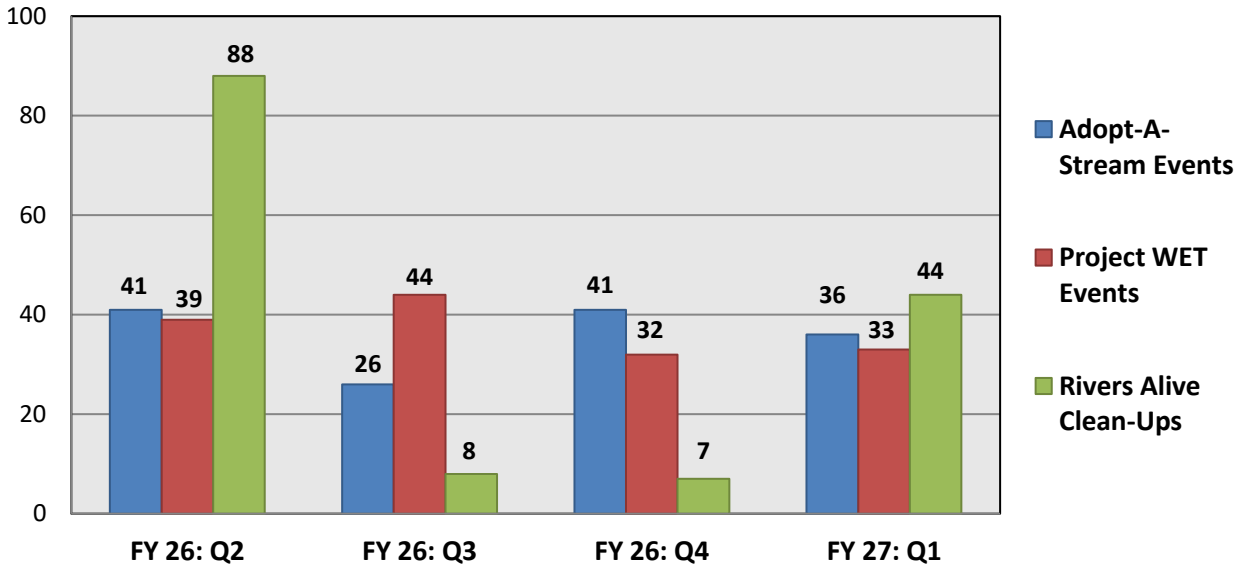


*value represents July and August 2026 payments only

As of September 30, 2027, there are thirty-eight (38) active nonpoint source grant projects state-wide.

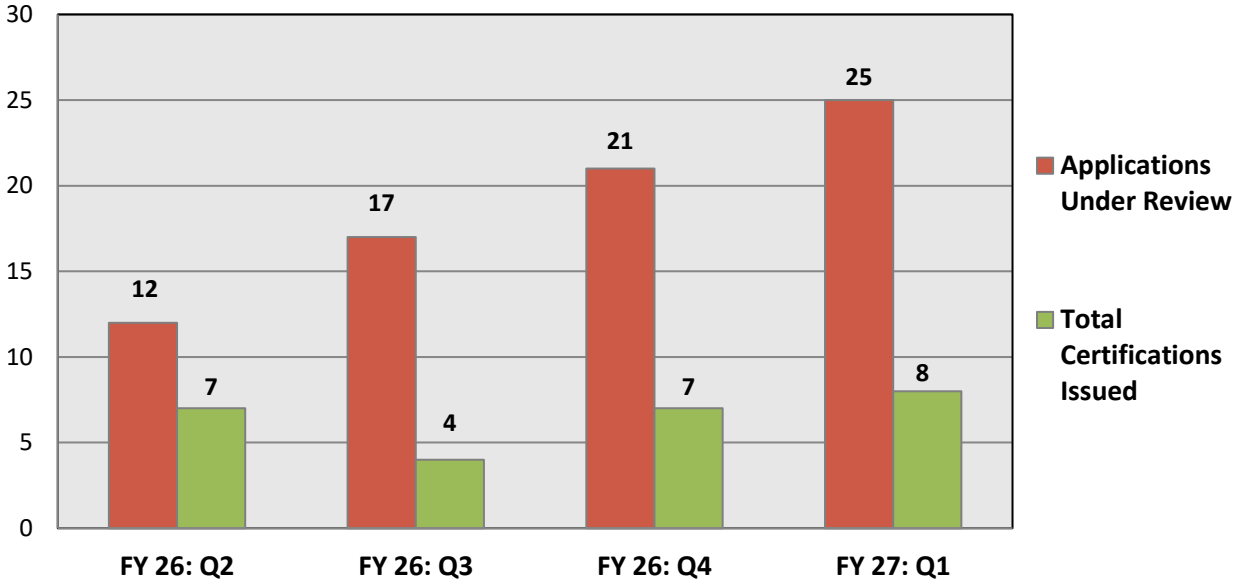
Nonpoint Source Outreach Activities

The following graph provides information about the number of outreach and education events conducted by the Nonpoint Source Program during the prior 12-month period.



401 Water Quality Certification Activities

The following graph provides information about Clean Water Act Section 401 water quality certifications reviewed or issued during the prior 12-month period.

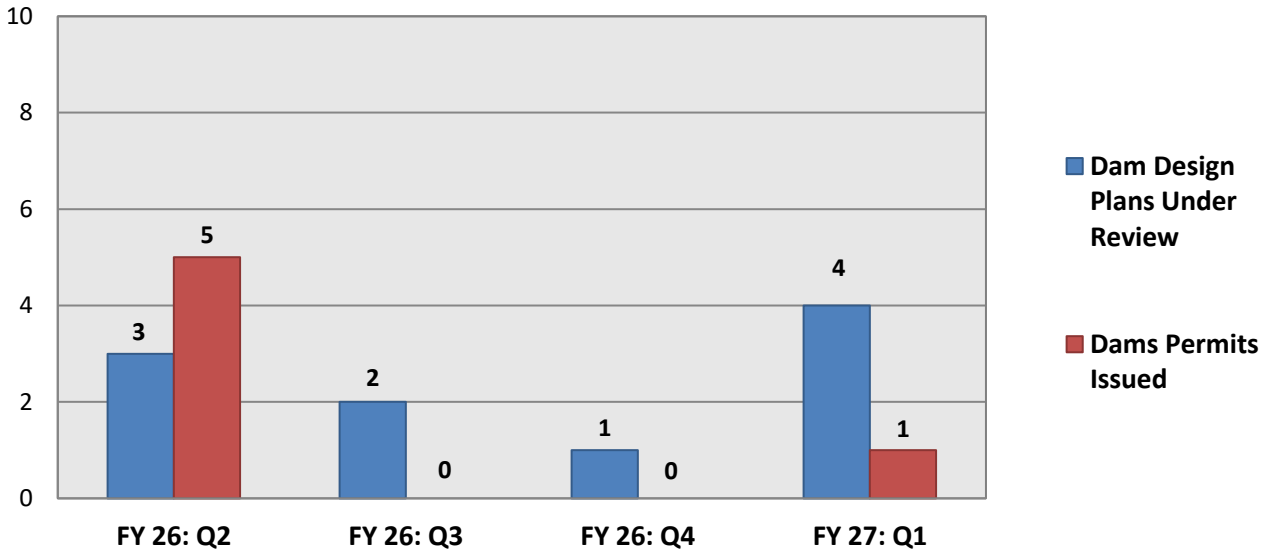


Safe Dams Program Activities

There are currently 503 Category I Dams in Georgia (305 are permitted). During the First Quarter of FY27, one (1) safe dams permit application was approved.

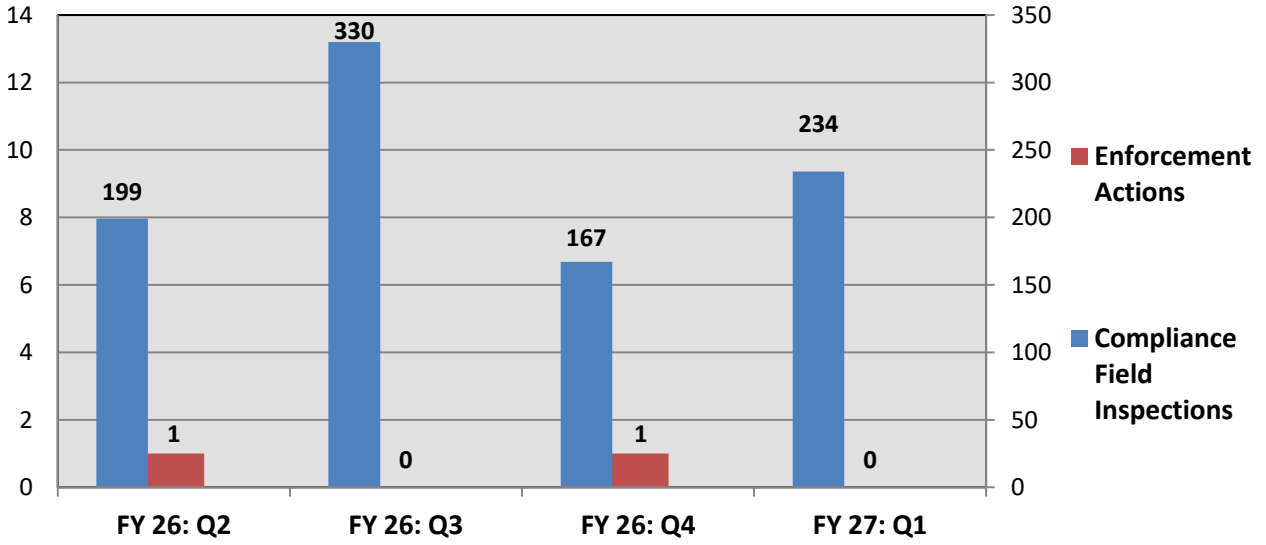
Category	Total
Dams To Be Studied	301
Dams To Be Studied (State Owned)	32
Category I Classification Letters Issued This Quarter	0
Category I Dams Total	503
Category I Dams Permitted	305
Category I Dams Not Permitted	198
Category I Dams Not Permitted (State Owned)	136
Applications Under Review (for New Permits)	4
Applications Approved This Quarter	1

The following graph provides information about the safe dams program's permitting activities during the prior 12-month period.



Safe Dams Program Activities

The following graph provides information about safe dams program's compliance activities during the prior 12-month period.



GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

WALTER RABON
COMMISSIONER

TREVOR W. SANTOS
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

October 9, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Board of Natural Resources

FROM: Trevor W. Santos

SUBJECT: Action on Proposed Amendments to Rule 391-5-13-.03 Recreational Trails Program

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The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) is a federal grant program administered by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), authorized by 23 U.S.C. § 206 and administered in Georgia by the Department of Natural Resources pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 12-2-6.

RTP provides federal funding to support the construction, maintenance, and rehabilitation of recreational trails; development of trailhead and trailside facilities; acquisition of trail corridors; and eligible trail safety and environmental education activities.

The Department's Grants Unit has developed proposed amendments to Rule 391-5-13-.03, Recreational Trails Program, to update applicant eligibility provisions, and improve program administration.

The proposed amendments include:

- Replacing the obsolete Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) requirement with the Unique Entity ID (UEI) requirement, while retaining System for Award Management (SAM.gov) registration requirements.

2 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DRIVE, S.E., SUITE 1252 EAST | ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334-9000
404.656.3500 | FAX 404.656.0770 | WWW.GADNR.ORG

- Expanding eligible applicants to include Tribal Governments and certain nonprofit organizations whose missions include recreational trail development, trail stewardship, outdoor recreation, conservation of natural resources, or providing public access to recreational trail opportunities. Under the current rule, nonprofit organizations are generally eligible only for trail-related educational grants.
- Establishing an annual application cycle for projects primarily serving motorized recreational trail uses, subject to the availability of eligible federal funds.
- Establishing an annual application cycle for recreational trail education projects, subject to the availability of eligible federal funds.
- Replacing fixed biennial dates with Department-established deadlines, published through the applicable funding announcement.
- Removing duplicative timeline provisions and other administrative requirements that are more appropriately addressed through funding announcements and program guidance.

The proposed amendments to applicant eligibility and funding cycles reflect administrative and policy changes and are not presented as new federal mandates. The amendments retain the existing reimbursement, match, and project completion requirements, along with Board notification and applicable FHWA review and funding approval safeguards.

The following attachments are included in this package:

- Strikethrough copy of proposed amendments to Rule 391-5-13-.03 Page A-3 – A-11
- Clean copy of proposed amended Rule 391-5-13-.03 Page A-12 – A-19

These items are respectfully submitted for the Board's consideration and approval at the October meeting.

TWS

Attachments

Strikethrough Version: Additions are underlined and deletions are struck through.

RULES OF GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

CHAPTER 391-5 HISTORIC PRESERVATION

SUBJECT 391-5-13 STATE AND FEDERAL GRANTS PROGRAMS

391-5-13-.03 Recreational Trails Program (RTP)

(1) Purpose and Name. The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GA DNR) coordinates and administers federal pass through grants for recreational trails. The U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) provides federal funding to states for grants for both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail projects to construct new recreational trails, improve/maintain existing trails, develop/improve trailhead or trailside facilities, and acquire trail corridors. Funding for this federal grant program is derived from that portion of the federal gasoline tax paid on the gasoline purchased for non-highway recreational vehicles-off-highway motorcycles, ATV's, snowmobiles, and off-highway trucks. The Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, or his designee, is designated as the principal official for coordinating with the FHWA. O.C.G.A. 12-2-6 provides the statutory basis for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources to administer this federal pass through grant program.

(2) Eligible Grant Recipients. All applicants must be currently registered in the System for Award Management, SAM.gov ~~with~~ and have a ~~unique Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number.~~ Unique Entity ID (UEI). Applications from project sponsors not meeting this criterion will be deemed ineligible and will not be reviewed.

Eligible grant recipients include:

- Georgia Qualified Local Governments (counties and municipalities approved by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs), including legally constituted recreation boards, commissions, or authorities with legislative sanction
- State Agencies
- Federal Agencies
- Tribal Governments. For purposes of this rule, "Tribal Government" means any tribe, band, group, or community recognized by the State of Georgia as a legitimate American Indian tribe pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 44-12-300.

- Nonprofit organizations with IRS 501(c)(3) tax exempt status, ~~if applying for eligible educational program grants that promote~~ whose mission includes recreational trail ~~safety and environmental protection~~ development, trail stewardship, outdoor recreation, conservation of natural resources, or providing public access to recreational trail opportunities, as evidenced by organizational documents.

Prospective applicants may be deemed not eligible to apply if they have active or previously awarded grants through GA DNR which are not in full compliance with federal and state requirements. Successful completion of projects in a timely and efficient manner is a key goal of the RTP grant program. RTP staff will review each application for eligibility to determine:

- Whether the applicant is on schedule with all active GA DNR grant projects, and
- Whether the applicant is in compliance with all applicable guidelines for current and past projects

Serious instances of non-compliance may result in application denial. Past non-compliance may also be cause for GA DNR to place additional requirements or special conditions on the grant, if selected, and as allowed by 2 CFR 200.207.

(3) RTP Grants General Scope, Terms and Conditions. FHWA funds allocated to States for RTP grants must be distributed as follows: 30 percent for motorized trail uses, 30 percent for non-motorized trail uses, and 40 percent for diverse trail uses. Funds allocated to the States also include a portion available for educational programs that promote safety and environmental protection as those objectives relate to the use of recreational trails.

The RTP grant program is a reimbursement program. Grant recipients pay for 100 percent of the costs and then submit required documentation for reimbursement for 80 percent of eligible costs, up to the grant award amount. Match requirements can be met by private donations of funds, materials, right-of-way, and services at fair market value. Applicants must document the availability of the required minimum twenty percent (20%) match for each application.

RTP grant recipients will have 24 months to complete the project from the date of the signed project agreement.

Project costs are eligible for 80% reimbursement only if incurred after the project has been approved for funding by the FHWA, and a project agreement has been signed. Project sponsors cannot be reimbursed for work done prior to the project agreement date.

Due to the competitive process for these grants, upon execution of a project agreement with a grant recipient, any requests for additional funding or significant changes in the scope must be approved by GA DNR staff and the FHWA.

Grant recipients will be required to attend a fiscal briefing before execution of the ~~signed~~ project agreement.

Permitted uses of RTP Grant funds include:

• Construction of new recreational trails open to the public on state, county, municipal or private lands where a recreational need for such construction is shown.

• Development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities and trail linkages for recreational trails. Trailside and trailhead facilities includes trail components or associated facilities which serve the purpose and safe use of the recreational trail, and may include, but are not limited to, the following: drainage, crossings, stabilization, parking, signage, controls, shelters, hitching rails, water trail vessel launch facilities, bike racks, fencing, motorized access barriers, underpasses, and water, sanitary, and access facilities.

• Acquisition of easements or fee simple title from a willing seller to property for recreational trails or recreational trail corridors.

• Maintenance and restoration of existing recreational trails.

• Lease of recreational trail construction and maintenance heavy equipment, and purchase of hand tools.

• Provide access and use of recreational trails by persons with disabilities.

• Redesign, reconstruction, non-routine maintenance or relocation of recreational trails to benefit the natural environment or to mitigate and minimize the impact to the natural environment.

• Construction of new recreation trails crossing federal land if the project is consistent with resources management plans. Approval will be contingent upon compliance with all applicable laws, including the National Environmental Policy Act and the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act.

• Educational programs that promote safety and environmental protection as those objectives relate to the use of recreational trails.

Uses not permitted with RTP Grant funds include:

• Condemnation of any kind of interest in property.

• Construction of new recreation trails for motorized use on National Forest or Bureau of Land Management lands that have been recommended for Wilderness designation.

• Upgrading, expanding, or otherwise facilitating motorized use or access to recreational trails predominantly used by non-motorized recreational trail users and on which, as of May 1, 1991, motorized use was prohibited or had not occurred.

• Road construction or sidewalks.

• Purchase of recreational trail construction and maintenance heavy equipment. (Does not include hand tools.)

- Administrative staff time, overhead or indirect charges are not allowable charges.
- Feasibility studies.
- Playground equipment or campground development.

Minimum grantee compliance requirements include:

- Equal Opportunity: The grantee must comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, The Age Discrimination Act of 1975, The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and all other state and federal laws of non-discrimination. The applicant must certify that no person shall be discriminated against on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, or physical or mental handicap for any program, activity, or facility sponsored, operated, or constructed under the sub-grant project.
- State and Federal Laws / Regulations: Grantee shall comply with all federal, state and local laws, regulations, executive orders and ordinances applicable to the grant agreement or to usage of the grant funds. Key regulations applicable to RTP include but are not limited to:
- 2 CFR 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards
- 2 CFR 1201
- FHWA Recreational Trails Program Interim Guidance
- 23 U.S.C. 206 Recreational Trails Program
- 23 U.S.C. 104(h), Recreational Trails Program Apportionments
- 23 U.S.C. 106, Project Approval and Oversight
- 23 CFR 1.36, Compliance with other Federal Laws and Regulations
- 23 CFR 771, Environmental Requirements
- 23 CFR 635.410 Buy America
- 49 CFR 29, Suspension and Debarment
- Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970
- 23 U.S.C. 114, Convict Labor
- 23 U.S.C. Prevailing Wage Rate (Davis Bacon Act)
- Grantees have statutory responsibilities to provide opportunities for the participation of people with disabilities in recreational trails activities funded under the RTP. Federal laws that affect the design, construction, alteration, and operation of trail facilities include the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (ABA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). The ADA prohibits discrimination and ensures equal opportunity and access for persons with disabilities. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act states that no otherwise qualified individual with a disability in the United States, as defined in section 7(20), shall, solely by reason of her or his disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal

financial assistance. The ABA requires that facilities designed, built, altered, or leased with funds supplied by the United States Federal Government be accessible to the public. Current regulations implementing these statutes contain requirements that apply to existing trail construction and program operations and adopt technical standards to guide new trail construction and alterations of existing networks.

• Buildings and facilities newly-constructed or altered with Federal funds are subject to the accessibility requirements contained in the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS), the standard currently referenced in the ABA.

• Accessibility in Federally-assisted programs is governed by the requirements of the United States Department of Transportation regulations (49 CFR Part 27) implementing Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 794).

• The United States Department of Justice's (DOJ) Title II implementing regulations (28 CFR Part 35) describe the obligations of State and local governments for existing facilities and program operations, and require Title II entities (public entities) to comply with either UFAS or the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) developed by the United States Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board when constructing or altering facilities.

(4) RTP Application Process. RTP will begin each funding cycle ~~in September of odd number calendar years~~ during the fall with a public announcement soliciting eligible grant projects from eligible project sponsors, and posting of the specific grant cycle applications and instructions on the GA DNR website. Each funding cycle application announcement will include the following:

• Estimated total dollar amount of grant funding available for that cycle

• Minimum and Maximum grant award amounts available

• Deadlines, application forms, specific requirements, and procedures for submission of the pre and second-level grant applications and required supporting documents

RTP ~~biennial~~ grant opportunities will involve a competitive pre-application process followed by an invitation only second-level application process. The detailed RTP pre-application and second-level application forms, instructions, due dates, format, required forms/documents, required drawings/maps, and project scoring criteria are available on the DNR website at: https://gadnr.org/grants.

Annual Motorized Trails Cycle. The Department shall conduct an annual application cycle for projects primarily serving motorized recreational trail uses. The cycle will generally open during the fall. For each cycle, the Department shall publish the official dates, available funding, submission requirements, and method of application.

Pre-Application Process: The Department shall establish and publish the application deadlines and submission requirements for each motorized, non-motorized, diverse-use, and education funding cycle. Pre-applications are due ~~in November of odd numbered years.~~ on the deadline established by the Department for the applicable funding cycle. The exact due date is included in the grant cycle announcement posting to the DNR website at: https://gadnr.org/grants. All aspects of the pre-application must be completed electronically. Pre-applications must be submitted by the deadline stated on the grant cycle announcement or the application will not be eligible for review.

The pre-application should include the following:

- Cover letter on official letterhead signed by the chief elected official/executive director/president
- A signed Pre-application Form to include a response to each of the evaluation criterion
- A resolution adopted by the governing entity of the applicant authorizing the application and committing all matching funds required to complete the proposed project
- A narrative description of the proposed project
- Estimate of cost
- Preliminary site plan
- Plat and/or legal description of the property proposed for purchase and/or development
- Location map
- Letters of commitment from partners providing grant match of any type

All pre-applications are reviewed by the RTP staff to verify applicant eligibility, and priority rank the eligible applications based on project evaluation criteria. The pre-applications, and assigned scores and rankings are also reviewed by the Georgia Recreational Trails Advisory Committee. The highest ranking proposed projects will be invited to submit a second-level application. All applicants will be notified according to the schedule stated in ~~April in even numbered years~~ the applicable funding announcement whether they ~~have or have not been~~ are selected to submit ~~the~~ a second-level application.

Second-level Application: Applicants with selected pre-applications will be invited to submit a second-level application. Second-level applications are due by the deadline established in ~~May in even numbered years,~~ the applicable funding announcement, and shall contain the following:

- A cover letter on entity letterhead
- A signed application cover sheet
- Detailed project budget
- Environmental assessment:

__Concurrence from the Army Corps of Engineers

__Concurrence from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

__Concurrence from the Historic Preservation Division of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs

If real property is to be acquired with grant funds, land must be surveyed for hazardous materials to avoid acquiring property that is a source of liability.

- Environmental Screening Form and Environmental Checklist
- Copy of Deed to Property

NOTE: If real property is to be acquired with grant funds, the acquisition must comply with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (The Uniform Act). Implementation regulations for the Act are found in 49 CFR Part 24. Do not acquire property until after the grant agreement has been executed and consultation with GA DNR has occurred.

- Signed statement from landowner expressing support (This is applicable if the applicant and landowner are not the same. A recorded easement allowing trail construction will be required from the landowner before construction begins.)
- Approvals to cross a public highway or a public utility right-of-way (if applicable)
- Maps: Property Boundary Area Map

Preliminary Site Map, clearly depicting project components

Site Location Map

- Detailed Project Development Budget
- Local Program Implementation Schedule

~~Second-level applicants who are unable to meet all requirements for a complete application by the May deadline may be granted an extension by the GA DNR RTP staff, up to August 31 of the same year.~~ Detailed instructions, guidance, specific due dates, applications and required forms are available at: https://gadnr.org/grants.

Education Projects - Education projects must have a direct relationship with ~~a~~ recreational ~~trail or~~ trails and can include safety education and environmental protection programs, and the production of trail-related educational materials such as information displays, printed materials, video, audio, and interactive computer displays. Parties interested in applying for an education project grant must consult with the Georgia Recreational Trails Program staff prior to submitting an application.

Annual Education Grant Cycle. Subject to the availability of eligible federal funds, the Department may conduct annual application cycles for recreational trail education projects. The Department shall publish the application opportunity and applicable submission requirements, evaluation criteria, deadline, and available funding for each cycle.

(5) Application Review Process ~~and Timeline.~~

~~• May, odd number calendar years - Georgia DNR announces biennial funding cycle via public announcement and website posting of information~~

~~• September, odd number calendar years - Pre-application period opens~~

~~• November, odd number calendar years- Deadline for Pre-application~~

~~• Pre-applications are reviewed for eligibility, scored and ranked by the GA DNR RTP staff. The Georgia RTP Advisory Committee also reviews application rankings, and the Georgia DNR Board is informed of the applicant rankings. Copies of the selected pre-applicants are forwarded to the Federal Highway Administration.~~

~~• April, even number calendar years- All pre-applicants are notified, and selected pre-applicants are invited to submit second-level applications. The second-level application process certifies completion of all environmental assessments and required environmental permits, land ownership or easements, and verifies the applicant's financial ability to complete the project as proposed.~~

~~• May, even number years- Deadline for second-level applications~~

~~• Second-level applicants who successfully complete all requirements and submit all necessary documents by the deadline will be recommended for grant approval to FHWA. Second-level applicants who are unable to complete all requirements by the May deadline may be allowed an extension of time until August 31, with approval by the GA DNR RTP staff.~~

~~• Grant funds will be available to successful applicants upon approval by FHWA, a fiscal meeting with the GA DNR RTP staff, and execution of a Project Agreement between GA DNR and the applicant.~~

• The Georgia DNR Board shall be informed of the applicant rankings, and copies of the selected pre-applications shall be forwarded to FHWA.

• The second-level application process certifies completion of all environmental assessments and required environmental permits, land ownership or easements, and verifies the applicant's financial ability to complete the project as proposed.

• Second-level applicants who successfully complete all requirements and submit all necessary documents by the deadline will be recommended for grant approval to FHWA.

• Grant funds will be available to successful applicants upon approval by FHWA, a fiscal meeting with the GA DNR RTP staff, and execution of a Project Agreement between GA DNR and the applicant.

(6) Criteria for RTP Grant Awards. The public announcement for each RTP funding cycle, available on the DNR website, https://gadnr.org/grants, will contain the specific criteria used in rating the applications.

The criteria used to rank applications shall include:

- Degree to which the proposed project meets the project area's recreational trail needs
- The population demographics served by the project
- Trail connectivity to other trails, parks, or greenspaces
- Project enhancement of economic development opportunities
- Public support and financial partners for the proposed trail project
- Long-term management, operations, and maintenance plans and commitments
- Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility
- Applicant's history in administering and completing grant funded projects
- Mitigation of environmental impacts
- Ability to fully complete all aspects and requirements of the pre-application and second-level application

(7) Application Submittal, Program Information. All applications should be submitted electronically.

Complete information on the Georgia Recreational Trails Grant Program, including links to Federal guidelines and complete application instructions, guidance, and required forms are available at: https://gadnr.org/grants.

Exact Copy

RULES OF GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

CHAPTER 391-5 HISTORIC PRESERVATION

SUBJECT 391-5-13 STATE AND FEDERAL GRANTS PROGRAMS

391-5-13-.03 Recreational Trails Program (RTP)

(1) Purpose and Name. The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GA DNR) coordinates and administers federal pass through grants for recreational trails. The U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) provides federal funding to states for grants for both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail projects to construct new recreational trails, improve/maintain existing trails, develop/improve trailhead or trailside facilities, and acquire trail corridors. Funding for this federal grant program is derived from that portion of the federal gasoline tax paid on the gasoline purchased for non-highway recreational vehicles-off-highway motorcycles, ATV's, snowmobiles, and off-highway trucks. The Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, or his designee, is designated as the principal official for coordinating with the FHWA. O.C.G.A. 12-2-6 provides the statutory basis for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources to administer this federal pass through grant program.

(2) Eligible Grant Recipients. All applicants must be currently registered in the System for Award Management, SAM.gov and have a Unique Entity ID (UEI). Applications from project sponsors not meeting this criterion will be deemed ineligible and will not be reviewed.

Eligible grant recipients include:

- Georgia Qualified Local Governments (counties and municipalities approved by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs), including legally constituted recreation boards, commissions, or authorities with legislative sanction
- State Agencies
- Federal Agencies
- Tribal Governments. For purposes of this rule, “Tribal Government” means any tribe, band, group, or community recognized by the State of Georgia as a legitimate American Indian tribe pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 44-12-300.
- Nonprofit organizations with IRS 501(c)(3) tax exempt status, whose mission includes recreational trail development, trail stewardship, outdoor recreation, conservation of natural resources, or providing public access to recreational trail opportunities, as evidenced by organizational documents.

Prospective applicants may be deemed not eligible to apply if they have active or previously awarded grants through GA DNR which are not in full compliance with federal and state requirements. Successful completion of projects in a timely and efficient manner is a key goal of the RTP grant program. RTP staff will review each application for eligibility to determine:

- Whether the applicant is on schedule with all active GA DNR grant projects, and
- Whether the applicant is in compliance with all applicable guidelines for current and past projects

Serious instances of non-compliance may result in application denial. Past non-compliance may also be cause for GA DNR to place additional requirements or special conditions on the grant, if selected, and as allowed by 2 CFR 200.207.

(3) RTP Grants General Scope, Terms and Conditions. FHWA funds allocated to States for RTP grants must be distributed as follows: 30 percent for motorized trail uses, 30 percent for non-motorized trail uses, and 40 percent for diverse trail uses. Funds allocated to the States also include a portion available for educational programs that promote safety and environmental protection as those objectives relate to the use of recreational trails.

The RTP grant program is a reimbursement program. Grant recipients pay for 100 percent of the costs and then submit required documentation for reimbursement for 80 percent of eligible costs, up to the grant award amount. Match requirements can be met by private donations of funds, materials, right-of-way, and services at fair market value. Applicants must document the availability of the required minimum twenty percent (20%) match for each application.

RTP grant recipients will have 24 months to complete the project from the date of the signed project agreement.

Project costs are eligible for 80% reimbursement only if incurred after the project has been approved for funding by the FHWA, and a project agreement has been signed. Project sponsors cannot be reimbursed for work done prior to the project agreement date.

Due to the competitive process for these grants, upon execution of a project agreement with a grant recipient, any requests for additional funding or significant changes in the scope must be approved by GA DNR staff and the FHWA.

Grant recipients will be required to attend a fiscal briefing before execution of the project agreement.

Permitted uses of RTP Grant funds include:

• Construction of new recreational trails open to the public on state, county, municipal or private lands where a recreational need for such construction is shown.

• Development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities and trail linkages for recreational trails. Trailside and trailhead facilities includes trail components or associated facilities which serve the purpose and safe use of the recreational trail, and may include, but are not limited to, the following: drainage, crossings, stabilization, parking, signage, controls, shelters, hitching rails, water trail vessel launch facilities, bike racks, fencing, motorized access barriers, underpasses, and water, sanitary, and access facilities.

• Acquisition of easements or fee simple title from a willing seller to property for recreational trails or recreational trail corridors.

• Maintenance and restoration of existing recreational trails.

• Lease of recreational trail construction and maintenance heavy equipment, and purchase of hand tools.

• Provide access and use of recreational trails by persons with disabilities.

• Redesign, reconstruction, non-routine maintenance or relocation of recreational trails to benefit the natural environment or to mitigate and minimize the impact to the natural environment.

• Construction of new recreation trails crossing federal land if the project is consistent with resources management plans. Approval will be contingent upon compliance with all applicable laws, including the National Environmental Policy Act and the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act.

• Educational programs that promote safety and environmental protection as those objectives relate to the use of recreational trails.

Uses not permitted with RTP Grant funds include:

• Condemnation of any kind of interest in property.

• Construction of new recreation trails for motorized use on National Forest or Bureau of Land Management lands that have been recommended for Wilderness designation.

• Upgrading, expanding, or otherwise facilitating motorized use or access to recreational trails predominantly used by non-motorized recreational trail users and on which, as of May 1, 1991, motorized use was prohibited or had not occurred.

• Road construction or sidewalks.

• Purchase of recreational trail construction and maintenance heavy equipment. (Does not include hand tools.)

• Administrative staff time, overhead or indirect charges are not allowable charges.

• Feasibility studies.

• Playground equipment or campground development.

Minimum grantee compliance requirements include:

• Equal Opportunity: The grantee must comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, The Age Discrimination Act of 1975, The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and all other state and federal laws of non-discrimination. The applicant must certify that no person shall be discriminated against on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, or physical or mental handicap for any program, activity, or facility sponsored, operated, or constructed under the sub-grant project.

• State and Federal Laws / Regulations: Grantee shall comply with all federal, state and local laws, regulations, executive orders and ordinances applicable to the grant agreement or to usage of the grant funds. Key regulations applicable to RTP include but are not limited to:

• 2 CFR 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards

• 2 CFR 1201

• FHWA Recreational Trails Program Interim Guidance

• 23 U.S.C. 206 Recreational Trails Program

• 23 U.S.C. 104(h), Recreational Trails Program Apportionments

• 23 U.S.C. 106, Project Approval and Oversight

• 23 CFR 1.36, Compliance with other Federal Laws and Regulations

• 23 CFR 771, Environmental Requirements

• 23 CFR 635.410 Buy America

• 49 CFR 29, Suspension and Debarment

• Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970

• 23 U.S.C. 114, Convict Labor

• 23 U.S.C. Prevailing Wage Rate (Davis Bacon Act)

• Grantees have statutory responsibilities to provide opportunities for the participation of people with disabilities in recreational trails activities funded under the RTP. Federal laws that affect the design, construction, alteration, and operation of trail facilities include the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (ABA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). The ADA prohibits discrimination and ensures equal opportunity and access for persons with disabilities. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act states that no otherwise qualified individual with a disability in the United States, as defined in section 7(20), shall, solely by reason of her or his disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance. The ABA requires that facilities designed, built, altered, or leased with funds supplied by the United States Federal Government be accessible to the public. Current regulations implementing these statutes contain requirements that apply to existing trail construction and program operations and adopt technical standards to guide new trail construction and alterations of existing networks.

• Buildings and facilities newly-constructed or altered with Federal funds are subject to the accessibility requirements contained in the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS), the standard currently referenced in the ABA.

• Accessibility in Federally-assisted programs is governed by the requirements of the United States Department of Transportation regulations (49 CFR Part 27) implementing Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 794).

• The United States Department of Justice's (DOJ) Title II implementing regulations (28 CFR Part 35) describe the obligations of State and local governments for existing facilities and program operations, and require Title II entities (public entities) to comply with either UFAS or the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) developed by the United States Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board when constructing or altering facilities.

(4) RTP Application Process. RTP will begin each funding cycle during the fall with a public announcement soliciting eligible grant projects from eligible project sponsors, and posting of the specific grant cycle applications and instructions on the GA DNR website. Each funding cycle application announcement will include the following:

• Estimated total dollar amount of grant funding available for that cycle

• Minimum and Maximum grant award amounts available

• Deadlines, application forms, specific requirements, and procedures for submission of the pre and second-level grant applications and required supporting documents

RTP grant opportunities will involve a competitive pre-application process followed by an invitation only second-level application process. The detailed RTP pre-application and second-level application forms, instructions, due dates, format, required forms/documents, required drawings/maps, and project scoring criteria are available on the DNR website at: https://gadnr.org/grants.

Annual Motorized Trails Cycle. The Department shall conduct an annual application cycle for projects primarily serving motorized recreational trail uses. The cycle will generally open during the fall. For each cycle, the Department shall publish the official dates, available funding, submission requirements, and method of application.

Pre-Application Process: The Department shall establish and publish the application deadlines and submission requirements for each motorized, non-motorized, diverse-use, and education funding cycle. Pre-applications are due on the deadline established by the Department for the applicable funding cycle. The exact due date is included in the grant cycle announcement posting to the DNR website at: https://gadnr.org/grants. All aspects of the pre-application must be completed electronically. Pre-applications must be submitted by the deadline stated on the grant cycle

announcement or the application will not be eligible for review. The pre-application should include the following:

- Cover letter on official letterhead signed by the chief elected official/executive director/president
- A signed Pre-application Form to include a response to each of the evaluation criterion
- A resolution adopted by the governing entity of the applicant authorizing the application and committing all matching funds required to complete the proposed project
- A narrative description of the proposed project
- Estimate of cost
- Preliminary site plan
- Plat and/or legal description of the property proposed for purchase and/or development
- Location map
- Letters of commitment from partners providing grant match of any type

All pre-applications are reviewed by the RTP staff to verify applicant eligibility, and priority rank the eligible applications based on project evaluation criteria. The pre-applications, and assigned scores and rankings are also reviewed by the Georgia Recreational Trails Advisory Committee. The highest ranking proposed projects will be invited to submit a second-level application. All applicants will be notified according to the schedule stated in the applicable funding announcement whether they are selected to submit a second-level application.

Second-level Application: Applicants with selected pre-applications will be invited to submit a second-level application. Second-level applications are due by the deadline established in the applicable funding announcement, and shall contain the following:

- A cover letter on entity letterhead
- A signed application cover sheet
- Detailed project budget
- Environmental assessment:

__Concurrence from the Army Corps of Engineers

__Concurrence from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

__Concurrence from the Historic Preservation Division of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs

If real property is to be acquired with grant funds, land must be surveyed for hazardous materials to avoid acquiring property that is a source of liability.

- Environmental Screening Form and Environmental Checklist
- Copy of Deed to Property

NOTE: If real property is to be acquired with grant funds, the acquisition must comply with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (The Uniform

Act). Implementation regulations for the Act are found in 49 CFR Part 24. Do not acquire property until after the grant agreement has been executed and consultation with GA DNR has occurred.

• Signed statement from landowner expressing support (This is applicable if the applicant and landowner are not the same. A recorded easement allowing trail construction will be required from the landowner before construction begins.)

• Approvals to cross a public highway or a public utility right-of-way (if applicable)

• Maps: Property Boundary Area Map

Preliminary Site Map, clearly depicting project components

Site Location Map

• Detailed Project Development Budget

• Local Program Implementation Schedule

Detailed instructions, guidance, specific due dates, applications and required forms are available at: https://gadnr.org/grants.

Education Projects - Education projects must have a direct relationship with a recreational trail or trails and can include safety education and environmental protection programs, and the production of trail-related educational materials such as information displays, printed materials, video, audio, and interactive computer displays. Parties interested in applying for an education project grant must consult with the Georgia Recreational Trails Program staff prior to submitting an application.

Annual Education Grant Cycle. Subject to the availability of eligible federal funds, the Department may conduct annual application cycles for recreational trail education projects. The Department shall publish the application opportunity and applicable submission requirements, evaluation criteria, deadline, and available funding for each cycle.

(5) Application Review Process.

- The Georgia DNR Board shall be informed of the applicant rankings, and copies of the selected pre-applications shall be forwarded to FHWA.
- The second-level application process certifies completion of all environmental assessments and required environmental permits, land ownership or easements, and verifies the applicant's financial ability to complete the project as proposed.
- Second-level applicants who successfully complete all requirements and submit all necessary documents by the deadline will be recommended for grant approval to FHWA.
- Grant funds will be available to successful applicants upon approval by FHWA, a fiscal meeting with the GA DNR RTP staff, and execution of a Project Agreement between GA DNR and the applicant.

(6) Criteria for RTP Grant Awards. The public announcement for each RTP funding cycle, available at the DNR website, https://gadnr.org/grants, will contain the specific criteria used in rating the applications. The criteria used to rank applications shall include:

- Degree to which the proposed project meets the project area's recreational trail needs
- The population demographics served by the project
- Trail connectivity to other trails, parks, or greenspaces
- Project enhancement of economic development opportunities
- Public support and financial partners for the proposed trail project
- Long-term management, operations, and maintenance plans and commitments
- Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility
- Applicant's history in administering and completing grant funded projects
- Mitigation of environmental impacts
- Ability to fully complete all aspects and requirements of the pre-application and second-level application

(7) Application Submittal, Program Information. All applications should be submitted electronically.

Complete information on the Georgia Recreational Trails Grant Program, including links to Federal guidelines and complete application instructions, guidance, and required forms are available at: https://gadnr.org/grants.

DNR CAPITAL OUTLAY STATUS REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2026

Date Updated: 9/15/2025

SITE	DIVISION	PROJECT	FUND SOURCE	BUDGET	EXPENSES TO DATE	DESIGN STATUS	PHYSICAL COMPLETION	COMMENTS
Fort McAllister	PHS	Campground Dock Repairs / Red Bird Creek	State Funds FY-26 Park Pass	$ 406,978	$ 16,740	100%	0%	Scheduling for November 2026
Florence Marina State Park	PHS	Replace roofing on multiple boat docks	FY-26 Park Pass	$ 266,377		N/A	0%	Scheduling
Franklin D. Roosevelt State Park	PHS	Dowdell's Knob Gate	FY-25 Park Pass	$ 63,939	$ 51,300	N/A	90%	Under Construction
Franklin D. Roosevelt State Park	PHS	Little White House Historic Bldg. Improvements (Design & Construction)	BONDS FY-24 (DNR-164)	$ 808,700	$ 231,260	P1 100% P2 70%	P1 100% P2 0%	Phase 2 100% CDs anticipated 9/25
Franklin D. Roosevelt State Park	PHS	Liberty Bell Pool Upgrades	Fy-25 Park Pass FY-26 GOSP Grant	$ 786,118	$ 75,562	100%	0%	Scheduling
George L Smith State Park	PHS	Yurt Village	FY-25 State Appropriations BONDS FY-24 (DNR-167)	$ 1,474,078	$ 1,365,751	100%	80%	Under construction
George L Smith State Park	PHS	Day Use Improvements	FY-26 CASH BONDS (DNR-178) FY-26 GOSP Grant	$ 1,367,618	$ 11,600	0%	30%	Day use bathroom 85%
George T. Bagby State Park	PHS	Meadow Links Golf Course Improvements	FY-27 Park Pass	$ 105,492	$ -	N/A	0%	Scheduling
George T. Bagby State Park	PHS	Kitchen Renovation & Site Improvements	FY25 Amended Funds	$ 300,000	$ 27,564	100%	95%	Additional funding needed for Kitchen
Hofwyl-Broadfield State Park	PHS	ADA Trail Access and Museum Renovation	FY-26 GOSP Grant	$ 3,800,000		2%	0%	Design Underway
Hofwyl-Broadfield State Park	PHS	Repair subfloor damage to residences	FY-26 PARK PASS DOAS INSURANCE	$ 508,146	$ 263,939	N/A	50%	Under construction - Manager's house complete
Kolomoki Mounds State Park	PHS	Campsites E & P upgrades design	BONDS FY-24 (DNR-169)	$ 9,000	$ 7,500	100%	0%	Design completed, to be funded at later date
Laura Walker State Park	PHS	Replace Day-Use Restroom	FY-26 Park Receipts	$ 300,000		N/A	0%	Starting 12/1/26
Magnolia Springs State Park	PHS	Conceptual Planning	FY-26 PARK PASS	$ 24,324	$ 24,324	95%	0%	Underway
Providence Canyon State Park	PHS	Day-Use area observation tower and erosion mitigation	FY-26 GOSP Grant DOT Grant	$ 3,447,880	$ 52,170	45%	0%	Design underway
Reed Bingham State Park	PHS	Trail Improvements	RTP Grant / Parks	$ 876,526	$ -	0%	0%	Awaiting grant to be approved
SAM Shortline	PHS	Site Improvements	DOT Grant	$ 234,500	$ 140,219	95%	0%	Design complete / permitting
Sapelo Island	PHS	Airstrip Field Trail	FY-26 PARK PASS	$ 24,000		10%	0%	Design underway
Sapelo Island	PHS	Reynolds Mansion Improvements (MEP) / Bike Rack	FY-23 PARK RECEIPTS FY-26 CASH BONDS (DNR-179)	$ 3,303,000	$ 1,667,013	100%	75%	October Start
Skidaway State Park	PHS	Campground Improvements/Reno	BONDS FY-24 (DNR-169) BONDS FY-24 (DNR-167)	$ 3,909,891	$ 2,488,361	100%	75%	Under construction
Skidaway State Park	PHS	Structural repairs to manager's residence	FY-26 Park Receipts	$ 47,826		N/A	0%	Nov Start
Skidaway State Park	PHS	Observation Tower	FY-26 Park Receipts	$ 119,705		N/A	20%	Under construction
Okefenokee State Park	PHS	Cabin Replacement	FY-27 State Appropriations FY-26 State Appropriations	$ 6,367,096	$ 2,501,244	100%	35%	Under construction
Okefenokee State Park	PHS	New Visitor Center	BONDS FY-27 (TBD) FY-26 Park Pass	$ 5,067,350	$ 5,541	15%	0%	Design Underway
Sylvania Welcome Center	PHS	New Campground (Design)	BONDS FY-24 (DNR-169)	$ 107,500	$ 21,500	30%	0%	Design canecelled due to bad soils
Wormsloe Historic Site	PHS	Improvements to Manager's Residence	FY-26 Park Receipts	$ 57,546		N/A	90%	Repairs underway
Wormsloe Historic Site	PHS	Septic system replacement	FY-26 Park Pass	$ 150,000		45%	0%	Design underway, awaiting OSA Clearance
Blackrock Mountain State Park	PHS	Campground Renovations	BONDS FY-27 (DNR-194)	$ 2,688,500		5%	0%	Design Underway
Cloudland Canyon	PHS	Cottage Renovations 6-15	FY-25 Park Pass BONDS FY-27 (TBD)	$ 5,335,947	$ 264,001	95%	0%	RaLin pricing IFC docs
Cloudland Canyon	PHS	Visitor Center Construction	FY-25 State Appropriations FY-24 State Funds	$ 6,599,679	$ 4,767,838	100%	80%	Under construction
Dams	PHS	Dam Repairs - Vogel	BOND FY-23 (DNR-163)	$ 3,161,415	$ 2,082,325	100%	100%	Gate work complete-Lake filling
Elijah Clark State Park	PHS	Campsite Upgrades	BOND FY-26 (DNR-178)	$ 18,500	$ -	100%	N/A	Design Complete, funding TBD
Fort Mountain State Park	PHS	VC Master Plan Study	FY-26 PARK PASS	$ 45,700	$ 7,975	10%	0%	Concept Complete
Fort Yargo State Park	PHS	Dock Replacement	FY-26 Amended Funds	$ 80,000	$ 70,825	N/A	100%	Dock Installed-Float modifications pending
Fort Yargo State Park	PHS	Trail Improvements	RTP Grant / Parks	$ 598,778	$ -	5%	0%	Awaiting grant to be approved
Hamburg State Park	PHS	Ground Water Well	BONDS FY-24 (DNR-169)	$ 27,500	$ 17,250	40%	95%	Under Construction
Hard Labor Creek State Park	PHS	The Creek Golf Course - Tee Box replacement	FY26 - Park Pass	$ 250,000		5%	0%	October Start
Moccasin Creek State Park	PHS	Replace Steps	BOND FY-26 (DNR-178)	$ 24,995	$ -	100%	0%	October Start
Sloppy Floyd State Park	PHS	Bridge Repair	FY-26 AMENDED FUNDS	$ 400,000	$ -	N/A	5%	Under Construction
Smithgall Woods	PHS	Roof Replacement	FY-26 Park Pass	$ 83,343	$ -	N/A	100%	Complete
Tallulah Gorge State Park	PHS	Lake Access Improvements	FY-24 Park Receipts FY-26 PARK PASS	$ 1,140,759	$ 1,222,142	100%	95%	Under Construction
Tallulah Gorge State Park	PHS	Accessible Path and Overlook	BONDS FY-24 (DNR-167) FY-26 PARK PASS	$ 159,500	$ 63,972	30%	0%	Design underway
Tallulah Gorge State Park	PHS	HVAC System Replacement	FY-26 Park Pass GA Power Donation	$ 775,000	$ -	5%	35%	Underway
Tugaloo State Park	PHS	Comfort Station #4 Wastewater System	FY26 PARK PASS FUNDS	$ 86,500		100%	100%	Complete
Various State Park Locations	PHS	Various Park Projects (Supplemental) FY25	BOND FY-24 (DNR-169)	$ 3,846,223	$ 1,245,822	N/A	N/A	Scoping/Tracking
Various State Park Locations	PHS	Various Park Projects (Supplemental) FY26	BOND FY-26 (DNR-178)	$ 4,113,455		N/A	N/A	Scoping/Tracking
Vogel State Park	PHS	Repair Concrete near new Visitors Center	BOND FY-26 (DNR-178)	$ 21,802	$ -	100%	100%	Complete
Watson Mill State Park	PHS	Comfort Station Replacement	BONDS FY-27 (TBD)	$ 750,000		0%	0%	Awaiting Septic Design
Watson Mill State Park	PHS	New Kayak Launch	BONDS FY-26 (DNR-178)	$ 24,500	$ -	10%	0%	Design underway
Alapaha WMA	WRD	Mobile Home	WRD GRANT FUNDING	$ 303,715		0%	5%	Mobile Home on order
Altamaha WMA	WRD	Butler Island (Huston House) (DOAS Cash-Out)	DOAS Insurance	$ 874,200	$ 213,506	0%	0%	Scoping (OSA/WRD)
Ceylon WMA	WRD	Maintenance Shop and Mobile Home	WRD GRANT FUNDING	$ 299,942		100%	5%	Mobile Home on order
Dawson - Steve Cocke Fish Hatchery	WRD	Repair pond leaks	FY-26 WRD FUNDS	$ 929,588	$ 665,741	N/A	100%	Complete
Flat Creek PFA	WRD	Flat Creek Public Fishing Area MRR Funds	FY-26 CASH BONDS (DNR-183)	$ 500,000	$ 47,124	N/A	20%	Working on price for Maint. Shop
Mayhaw WMA	WRD	Environmental Assessment	FY-26 WRD Funding	$ 10,671		40%	N/A	Underway, awaiting agency docs
River Bend WMA	WRD	Retriever Training Facility	FY-26 AMENDED FUNDS BOND DNR-189	$ 2,500,000	$ 6,000	35%	0%	Feasibility study underway
Sapelo Island	WRD	Boathouse & Hoist Improvements	WRD Funds FY-25 State Appropriations	$ 1,232,000	$ 486,276	100%	20%	After Cabretta Completes
Sapelo Island	WRD	Paving Improvements	FY-26 Amended Funds (BOND DNR-188)	$ 5,120,065	$ 13,565.00	N/A	0%	Scheduling pre-con

DNR CAPITAL OUTLAY STATUS REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2026

Date Updated: **9/15/2025**

Sapelo Island	WRD	Cabretta Bridge Repair	FY-25 Parks / WRD FY26 AMENDED	$ 798,500	$ 635,430	N/A	95%	Under construction
Sapelo Island	WRD	Dean's Creek Nature Trail	FY-25 WRD Funds	$ 635,598	$ 555,610	100%	100%	Complete
Sapelo Island	WRD	Sapelo Nanny Goat Pavilion	FY-25 State Appropriations	$ 1,242,261	$ 31,175	100%	0%	Fall 2026 Start
Sapelo Island	WRD	Long Tabby Shoreline Design	FY-26 WRD FUNDING	$ 24,160	$ 6,280	90%	0%	WRD Managed
Sapelo Island	WRD	UGAMI Campus Shoreline Design	FY-26 WRD FUNDING	$ 39,760	$ 21,400	90%	0%	WRD Managed
Sapelo Island	WRD	Hog Hammock Water System Improvements	FY26 WRD FUNDS	$ 83,000	$ 9,500	100%	0%	Complete - Report Submitted to USDA
Sapelo Island	WRD	Visitor Center Expansion & Exhibits (Design)	WRD Grant Funding BONDS FY-26 (DNR-172) WRD Funds	$ 197,500	$ 122,417	80%	0%	Design underway
Sapelo Island	WRD	Well Repair	FY-27 WRD Funds	$ 33,000	$ -	100%	0%	PO issued, scheduling
Tuckahoe Wildlife Management Area	WRD	Campground	BONDS FY-25 (DNR-171) WRD GRANT	$ 1,823,737	$ 271,766	100%	5%	On hold due to archeology survey
Wildlife Resources Division	WRD	Coastal Housing/Infrastructure	FY-26 CASH BONDS (DNR-178)	$ 1,000,000	$ 54,140	N/A	75%	Awaiting WRD Guidance
Charlie Elliott Wildlife Education Center	WRD	Cabin Development Concept Planning	WRD Funds	$ 41,875	$ 6,500	90%	0%	Complete
Summerville Trout Hatchery	WRD	Hatchery Improvements	BONDS FY-26 (DNR-186)	$ 3,000,000	$ 16,500	10%	0%	Design underway
Various Sites Statewide	WRD	Boat Ramp Repairs & Maintenance	BONDS FY-27 (DNR-194)	$ 500,000		0%	0%	Scoping
Various Sites Statewide	WRD	Facility & Infrastructure Improvements (McDuffie, Ocmulgee, Bowens Mil	BONDS FY-27 (DNR-194)	$ 752,500		0%	0%	Scoping
Various Sites Statewide	WRD	Hatchery Residence Replacement	BONDS FY-27 (DNR-194)	$ 650,000		0%	0%	Scoping
Wildlife Resources Division	WRD	Facilities MRR Funds	BONDS FY-24 (DNR-169)	$ 105,157	$ -	0%	0%	Scoping/Tracking
Wildlife Resources Division	WRD	FY25 - WRD Surplus Funds	FY-25 WRD Funds	$ 500,000	$ -	0%	N/A	Tracking
Wildlife Resources Division	WRD	Various Boat Docks	FY-26 Fisheries Funds	$ 994,294	$ 486,860	100%	85%	Underway (Evans remaining)
Wildlife Resources Division	WRD	Elevated Structures (Region 5)	FY-27 WRD Funds	$ 59,850	$ -	100%	0%	Underway
Georgia Veterans	NGMA	Lake Blackshear Conference Center Renovations	BONDS FY-24 (DNR-170) AFY 24	$ 4,950,658	$ 823,811	100%	50%	Under Construction
Little Ocmulgee SP	NGMA	Little Ocmulgee State Park Dam Evaluation & Repair	BOND FY-22 (DNR-160) BOND FY-23 (DNR-163) BOND FY-23 (DNR-164)	$ 853,314	$ 678,586	100%	100%	Complete
Little Ocmulgee SP	NGMA	Little Ocmulgee State Park & Lodge (CCC Annex Reno/Site Improvement	AFY-23 Funds AFY-24 Funds	$ 5,292,144	$ 368,547	100%	10%	Underway
Amicalola Falls SP	NGMA	Amicalola Day Use Improvements	NGMA Funds E&C Funds GOSP Grant	$ 3,580,200	$ 93,200	95%	0%	Starting 11/15/26
Amicalola Falls SP	NGMA	Amicalola East Ridge Trail Renovation	RTP Grant / NGMA BOND FY-24 (DNR-167)	$ 1,357,069	$ 880,995	100%	90%	Under Construction
Amicalola Falls SP	NGMA	Amicalola Falls Lodge Interior Improvements	BONDS FY-26 (DNR-176)	$ 1,705,688	$ 410,164	100%	45%	Under Construction
Brasstown Valley Resort	NGMA	Brasstown Resort Interior Improvements	BONDS FY-26 (DNR-176) FY-26 NGMA FUNDS	$ 9,727,893	$ 5,523,647	100%	70%	Under Construction
Unicoi State Park	NGMA	Renovations at Unicoi State Park & Lodge	AFY-24 Funds	$ 1,217,630	$ 1,088,913	0%	0%	Tracking
Unicoi State Park	NGMA	Unicoi State Park & Lodge - LAS Improvements	BONDS FY-26 (NGMA1)	$ 270,250		100%	20%	Underway
Unicoi State Park	NGMA	Infrastructure at Unicoi State Park & Lodge (Roads, Dam Gate)	BONDS FY-26 (NGMA1)	$ 1,479,750		5%	0%	Developing Assessment Fee
Law Enforcement Division	LED	Metter LED Office Maintenance Bldg	FY-26 LED Funds	$ 165,051	$ -	N/A	10%	Underway
LED Sinclair	LED	LED Boat House (Sinclair)	FY-26 CASH BONDS (DNR-178)	$ 595,608	$ -	100%	100%	Complete
EPD - Brunswick District Office	EPD	Office Expansion and renovations	BONDS FY-27 (TBD) FY26 EPD FUNDS	$ 1,300,000		2%	0%	Design Underway
EPD - Macon Office	EPD	Macon Office Renovations	FY-26 CASH BONDS (DNR-178)	$ 1,200,000	$ 715,792	100%	85%	Under construction
Various DNR Locations	DNR	ADA Transition Plan Development and Consultation	PP Rev 2016	$ 463,846	$ 409,126	90%	NA	In progress
DNR Region 2 HQ	DNR	HQ2	FY-26 CASH BONDS (DNR-179) FY-25 CASH BONDS (DNR-171)	$ 14,425,780	$ 1,173,836	100%	10%	Initial grubbing continues-7 day letter issued
Various Sites Statewide	DNR	Replacement of gangways	BONDS FY-26 (DNR-187)	$ 1,500,000	$ -	0%	0%	Additional funding needed
CRD HQ	CRD	MRR Funds (Bulkhead)	FY-26 CASH BONDS (DNR-178)	$ 250,000	$ 6,700	5%	0%	CRD managed, design underway

GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
COASTAL RESOURCES DIVISION
ONE CONSERVATION WAY · BRUNSWICK, GA 31520 · 912-264-7218

WALTER RABON
COMMISSIONER

DOUG HAYMANS
DIRECTOR

October 15, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Board of Natural Resources

FROM: Doug Haymans

SUBJECT: Action on Proposed Rules for the Regulation of Private Docks in State Owned Tidal Waters

In August, you were briefed on the proposed adoption of Subject 391-2-1 of the Rules of the Department of Natural Resources to establish Rules for private docks located over state owned tidal water bottoms. In this new subject, new Rules 391-2-1-.01 through 391-2-1-.09 are proposed. These new Rules will replace the former Subject 391-2-1 and Rules 391-2-1-.01 through 391-2-1-.08, which were repealed on May 21, 2013. The proposed Rules will establish a process for issuing revocable licenses for the construction, reconstruction, modification and maintenance of private docks in state-owned tidal water bottoms which meet the exemptions in O.C.G.A. §12-5-295 (7) and (7.1). Additionally, these Rules institute a process for inspecting and enforcing standards for private docks in tidal waters.

A public notice, background, and synopsis statement of the rule were presented to the public for comment. The public comments received via email and mail have been considered. Included in this packet are the following:

- Public Notice — Page A 2 - 3
- Background and Synopsis — Pages A 4 - 5
- Date, Time and Place of Board Action — Page A 6
- Explanation of the Public Participation Plan — Page A 6
- Summary of Public Comments — Pages A 7 - 10
- Analysis of Small Business Impacts — Page A 11
- Proposed Resolution — Page A 12
- Table of Contents with Exact Copy of Proposed Rule — Pages A 13 - 27

I respectfully submit these items for your consideration. The Coastal Resources Division looks forward to presenting these at the October meeting.

DH/ja
Attachments

GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
COASTAL RESOURCES DIVISION
ONE CONSERVATION WAY · BRUNSWICK, GA 31520 · 912-264-7218

WALTER RABON
COMMISSIONER

DOUG HAYMANS
DIRECTOR

August 26, 2026

NOTICE OF PROPOSED REGULATION CHANGES

TO: All Interested Persons and Parties

FROM: Doug Haymans

SUBJECT: Notice of Proposed Rules for Private Docks in State Owned Tidal Waters

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to authority set forth below, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources proposes that the Board of Natural Resources adopt a new Subject 391-2-1 of the Rules of the Department of Natural Resources to establish rules for private docks located over state-owned tidal water bottoms. New Rules 391-2-1-.01 through 391-2-1-.09 are proposed. These new rules will replace the former Subject 391-2-1 and Rules 391-2-1-.01 through 391-2-1-.08, which were repealed on May 21, 2013. The Coastal Committee of the Board of Natural Resources was previously briefed on these proposed rules on June 23, 2026, and public comments were accepted. Based on feedback received, the rules noticed herein have been revised including changes to definitions, standards for new docks, maintenance of existing docks, variances, transfer procedures, compliance inspections and penalties, among others. The Board was briefed on these changes at its meeting on August 25, 2026.

The amended and new rules for private docks are being promulgated under the authority of O.C.G.A. § 50-16-61, which grants the Governor supervision and control over all property of the state that has not otherwise been provided for by the General Assembly. The Governor has delegated authority over all state-owned water bottoms covered by tidal waters whose custody and control have not been provided for by the General Assembly, to the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources.

Subject 391-2-1 and Rules 391-2-1-.01 through 391-2-1-.09 seek to establish an orderly process for issuing revocable licenses for the construction, reconstruction and modification, and some maintenance of private docks in state-owned tidal water bottoms which meet the exemptions in O.C.G.A. §12-5-295 (7) and O.C.G.A. § 12-5- 295 (7.1). Additionally, these Rules institute a process for inspecting and enforcing standards for private docks in tidal waters.

Written public comments must be postmarked by Wednesday, September 30, 2026, and emailed comments will be accepted through 4:30 PM on September 30, 2026. Comments should be legible, concise, and limited to the proposed rules. Following the comment period, the Board of Natural

Resources will consider the proposed rules on Tuesday, October 27, 2026, at 9:00 AM in the DNR Boardroom at 2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, SE Suite 1252 East, Atlanta, GA 30334.

Mail or email comments to: Coastal Resources Division
Attn: Jill Andrews
One Conservation Way, Brunswick, GA 31520
Email: crd.comments@dnr.ga.gov

Additional information is available at www.CoastalGaDNR.org. Click on the "Public Notices" tab.

BACKGROUND AND SYNOPSIS
GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
COASTAL RESOURCES DIVISION
RELATING TO
PRIVATE DOCKS, SUBJECT 391-2-1

Background

The Protection of Tidewaters Act, O.C.G.A. § 52-1-1-et seq., ("PTA") affirms that the State of Georgia holds title to the beds of all tidewaters within its jurisdiction, except, where title can be traced to a valid Crown or state grant expressly conveying those lands. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. §50-16-61, the Governor has custody and control over state-owned tidal water bottoms unless otherwise provided by the General Assembly. The Commissioner of Natural Resources was authorized to act on the Governor's behalf regarding requests to utilize these lands, including the granting, denial, modification, or revocation of revocable licenses for the use of tidal water bottoms.

Private recreational docks located over state-owned tidal water bottoms ("private docks") are structures constructed to provide waterfront property owners access to navigable waterways for private, water-dependent recreational use. Private docks are exempt from the Coastal Marshlands Protection Act O.C.G.A. § 12-5-280 et seq., ("CMPA") when they satisfy the conditions set forth in O.C.G.A. §12-5-295(7) and (7.1). Since the mid-1990s, the Department has administered a revocable licensing program for private docks in tidal waters.

The Department also issued private dock permits on behalf of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ("Corps") pursuant to a Programmatic General Permit ("PGP"). Under this joint permitting framework, revocable licenses and corresponding permits were issued when proposed docks met the standards and criteria established in the PGP. These standards governed dock size, placement, extension into waterways, and other factors intended to minimize impacts to natural resources, navigation, and public access.

The most recent PGP expired in July 2022 and was not renewed by the Corps. As a result, applicants seeking authorization for private docks are required to obtain both a separate Corps permit and a state revocable license, and the department no longer has the benefit of formalized standards previously provided through the PGP. In August 2022, the Department implemented a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) that mirrored the former PGP standards and served as the interim basis for issuing revocable licenses while formal rulemaking proceeds.

In January 2024, the Department briefed the Board of Natural Resources ("Board") on proposed rules intended to codify the 2022 SOP. In response to public input, the Department paused the rulemaking process and convened a stakeholder committee composed of citizens and representatives from the marine regulatory, consulting, and construction industries. The committee participated in facilitated discussions from July 2024 through May 2025, resulting in both a consensus document and a minority report. Following completion of the committee's work, the Department hosted a public town hall meeting to present findings and gather additional public input. In May 2026, the Department briefed the Board on the results of these efforts and received guidance to further align private dock standards with related statewide initiatives.

A revised rule was presented to the Board on June 23, 2026, after which public comments were accepted for a 30-day period. However, prior to requesting final action by the Board, the proposed rules were amended in response to stakeholder and legislative guidance, effectively restarting the rulemaking process. The Board was briefed on the new rule on August 25, 2026, at which time the Board's Coastal Committee voted to modify the rules as proposed. The modified rules were provided to the public and comments were accepted from August 26 through 4:30p.m. on September 30, 2026.

Visit https://coastalgadnr.org/dockrules to view all comments received within the public comment period.

Purpose

The proposed rules establish an orderly and equitable process for issuing revocable licenses for the construction, reconstruction, modification, and maintenance of private docks in state-owned tidal waters which meet the exemptions in O.C.G.A. § 12-5-295 (7) and (7.1). Additionally, these rules institute a process for inspecting and enforcing standards for private docks in tidal waters.

Main Features

The rules will establish the following:

1. Eligibility to apply for a revocable license for the construction, reconstruction, modification of a private dock and for major maintenance activities;

2. Standards and conditions upon which the department may issue a revocable license for the construction, reconstruction, modification and maintenance of a private dock; and

3. A process for inspecting and enforcing standards for private docks in tidal waters.

Date, Time, and Place of Board Action:

Board Action: Tuesday, October 27, 2026, 9:00AM, in the DNR Boardroom at 2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, SE Suite 1252 East, Atlanta, GA 30334.

Public Participation Plan

- July 2024 – May 2025 – Private Recreational Dock Stakeholder Committee convened.
- May 13, 2025 – Private Recreational Dock Town Hall meeting in Brunswick.
- May 18, 2026 – Board of Natural Resources briefing on status private dock rule development.
- June 23, 2026 –Board of Natural Resources briefed on proposed private dock rules.
- June 24 through July 24, 2026 – Written comment period.
- August 25, 2026 – Board of Natural Resources briefed on revised proposed private dock rules.
- August 26 through September 30, 2026 – Written comment period.
- October 27, 2026 – Board of Natural Resources Final Action on private dock rules.

GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
COASTAL RESOURCES DIVISION
ONE CONSERVATION WAY · BRUNSWICK, GA 31520 · 912-264-7218

WALTER RABON
COMMISSIONER

DOUG HAYMANS
DIRECTOR

October 15, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Natural Resources

FROM: Doug Haymans

SUBJECT: Public Comment Summary - Proposed Rules for the Regulation of Private Docks in State Owned Tidal Waters

On August 26, 2026, a public notice announcing a written comment period for proposed regulation changes for private docks in state owned tidal waters was posted on CRDs website under the Public Notice section and submitted through Coastal Resources Division's "GovDelivery" email service which includes print, television and radio outlets. In total, notices were delivered to 25,329 self-nominated subscribers of the Dock Building, Georgia Coastal Management Program, News Releases, Public Meetings and Public Notices categories with 10,629 subscribers opening the e-mail and 308 people clicking the link to review the public notice package. The written comment period was open through September 30, 2026. All emailed public comments which were received by 4:30pm and all mailed comments which were postmarked by this date can be viewed at https://coastalgadnr.org/dockrules.

There were a total of 362 emails and two written comments (364 total) received on time, of which seven were not related, and 15 were duplicate comments. Sixteen additional comments were received via email after the deadline. Among the on-time comments were four form letters; one representing 77 commentors, one with 83 commentors, another with 88 commentors, and one with five commentors. Many form letters were sent with individualized comments which were recorded.

While the majority of the comments generally supported CRDs rulemaking effort, the comments expressed disagreement with the proposed increase in size limits for private docks from previous versions, particularly the increase in walkway length from the current 1,000ft. to 1,500ft., plus a variance for an additional 150ft., and the proposed increase in overall walkway width to 6ft. The majority of these comments recommended limiting overall square footage of fixed walkways to either 3,000sq.ft., the current private dock and CMPA rule standard, or 4,000sq.ft. (e.g., 1,000ft. length x 4ft. width) believed by many to provide accessibility for mobility-challenged users, while others suggested the overall maximum not exceed one-tenth of an acre, or 4,356sq.ft.

In response to comments that oppose the increased sizes for private dock fixed walkways, CRD originally proposed fixed walkway limits that mirrored its current Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), which do not carry the authority of a rule, and existing CMPA rules for community and commercial docks and marinas. During the dock rulemaking process, CRD provided a briefing to the Board, at which time the Board recommended all walkways be up to six feet wide, regardless of length, to ensure accessibility by homeowners. For this reason, CRD no longer recommends a standard based on square footage. Regarding walkway length, CRD originally proposed a maximum length of 1,000ft. but offered a 10% variance for unique circumstances. Following CRD's initial briefing to the Board in June 2026, the agency received new guidance on walkway length which resulted in CRD restarting the rulemaking process with a revised proposal. The Board was briefed on the new proposal on August 25, 2026, that included a walkway limit of 1,500ft. with a variance option that was not limited. However, the Board's Coastal Committee voted to limit the walkway variance to 10% and that recommendation was included in the public notice. The walkway length is an important consideration as it is a primary determinate of whether a waterfront property is riparian and able to have a dock, or marsh front and, therefore, "undockable."

In response to comments that the proposed fixed walkway standards exceed what is allowed under the Coastal Marshland Protection Act rules for marinas, community and commercial docks, CRD acknowledges that the proposed rules for private docks may allow private structures significantly longer than community docks and marinas. However, private docks are specifically not regulated under the CMPA and, while the intention is to manage impacts to state-owned tidal water bottoms using many of the concepts provided in the Act, there are no matching requirements under O.C.G.A. 50-16-61 that projects must be minimized, must be in the public interest or must provide public notice of a proposed project. Nor is there a threshold of a "minor alteration," as there is under the CMPA, that defines projects with impacts under one-tenth of an acre. Similarly, existing law does not allow CRD to charge a fee for dock applications as was recommended by many commentors to support permitting and compliance staff, manage potential debris or restore marshlands.

Many comments concerned with the increase in walkway length noted the potential for fixed walkways to trap and accumulate marsh wrack which can smother or alter marsh vegetation, shade vegetation and reduce biomass within the footprint of the dock by up to 56%, and/or fragment habitat for marsh obligate bird species. CRD funded studies have found impacts of docks on shading and marsh wrack accumulation that were not solely affected by dock length. Stakeholders shared additional research, one of which found that docks longer than 30m (~100ft.) negatively affect marsh obligate bird species, several of which are listed as species of greatest conservation need in Georgia's State Wildlife Action Plan. CRD has previously summarized these research findings for the Board's consideration.

Many comments specifically called for increased oversight of electrical services installed on docks and more routine inspections of such service. These comments raised awareness of the potential

for serious risks to life and safety if electrical service to a dock is not properly installed and maintained. In response, CRD proposes that applicants both disclose if electrical service will be extended on a dock and provide proof they have applied for such electrical service to their local jurisdiction. CRD staff do not have expertise to either review plans for or inspect electrical services. However, during compliance inspections, if a dock subject to these rules is found to have electrical service, CRD staff will be able to verify if it was properly permitted in accordance with local requirements.

Several comments suggested changes to definitions within the proposed rule. At this time, CRD believes the definitions provide clear directions for staff and applicants. Specific public concern revolves around the footprint of existing docks being able to be enlarged during modification and reconstruction. It is CRDs recommendation that the standards proposed in the rule be applicable to all private docks subject to the rules.

Many commentors called for more specificity in the variance process regarding when and how a variance request will be approved. CRD's current practice is to approve requests for additional boat hoists upon receipt of multiple boat registrations or other proof that there is more than one vessel at the dock. Similarly, CRD requires justification for extensions into the waterway and limits any dock from occupying more than one-third of the waterway. The variance for walkway length is new, but CRD anticipates requiring surveys, aerial measurements and other proof that additional walkway length is needed to reach the first waterway by following the shortest route from the riparian property.

Many comments pointed to DNR's role as trustee and steward of the public's interest in coastal marshlands and contend the proposed rule benefits a few marsh front property owners more so than the public who have a right to access and enjoy the marsh. CRD's role as steward of state-owned tidal waters is to manage uses of public resources. The proposed rules seek to balance riparian homeowner access with preservation of the resource. Continued access to the marsh and navigation by the public has been considered. The rules require that spans, or bridges, across small tributaries be elevated to allow vessel passage underneath and docks may not block navigation. Larger creeks may not be spanned thereby preserving access to those waterways by the public.

Many comments suggest that DNR rely on research and data to develop rules that protect public interest and wildlife, including the development of an accurate inventory or database of existing and permitted docks and an assessment of cumulative impacts of docks. Existing research and data have been discussed with stakeholders and provided to the Board for consideration. CRD currently maintains a database of issued dock permits but it does not represent a complete inventory. Many docks existed prior to CRD's role in permitting, and many have been illegally built without a permit and are not known. CRD is currently examining the feasibility of inventorying all docks for future assessments of cumulative impacts.

A full summary of public comments and CRD's responses, in addition to the individual public comments received within the comment period may be viewed online at the following location: https://coastalgadnr.org/dockrules.

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COASTAL RESOURCES DIVISION
ONE CONSERVATION WAY · BRUNSWICK, GA 31520 · 912-264-7218

WALTER RABON
COMMISSIONER

DOUG HAYMANS
DIRECTOR

October 15, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Natural Resources

FROM: Doug Haymans

SUBJECT: Economic Impact of Proposed Subject 391-2-1, Private docks on Small Businesses

The Administrative Procedure Act requires that during the formation and adoption of any rule attempts shall be made to reduce the economic impact of the rule on small businesses. This applies to businesses that are independently owned and operated, are not dominant in the field and employ 100 employees or less.

The Coastal Resources Division has determined that the proposed subject will have no negative economic impact on small businesses. This subject codifies standards and conditions that are consistent with what is currently required by the Department of Natural Resources regarding private docks located over state- owned tidal water bottoms.

DH/ja

A RESOLUTION

Adopting Rules for Regulation of Private Docks in State Owned Tidal Waters, Chapter 391-2-1

WHEREAS, Chapter 391-2 of the Rules of Georgia Department of Natural Resources regulates coastal resources; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 391-2-1 was adopted in 1992 and repealed in its entirety in 2013;

WHEREAS, The Official Code of Georgia Annotated, Section 50-16-61 provides the Governor of Georgia with general supervision over all property of the state and the power to make necessary regulations for the protection thereof, when not otherwise provided for and the Governor delegated such supervision of state-owned tidal water to Commissioner Rabon or his designee, including the authority to grant, deny, modify and revoke revocable licenses; and

WHEREAS, The Commissioner designated Coastal Resources Division to act upon requests for revocable licenses for private docks in state owned tidal waters; and

WHEREAS, Adoption of these Rules will establish an orderly and equitable process for issuing revocable licenses for the construction, reconstruction, modification and maintenance of private docks in state owned tidal waters; and

WHEREAS, The Coastal Resources Division issued a public notice on August 26, 2026, announcing a public comment period and received three-hundred sixty-four comments which have been considered; and

WHEREAS, It has been determined that adoption of these Rules will not have an adverse economic impact on the State's small businesses.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Georgia Board of Natural Resources hereby adopts Rules 391-2-1-.01 through .09, for the regulation of private docks in state owned tidal waters, as attached hereto, and incorporated herein by reference.
Adopted this ____ day of October 2026.

Respectfully submitted by:

_____

Patrick Denney, Chairman
Georgia Board of Natural Resources

ATTEST:

_____

Dan Garcia, Secretary
Georgia Board of Natural Resources

RULES
OF
GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

CHAPTER 391-2
COASTAL RESOURCES

SUBJECT 391-2-1
PRIVATE DOCKS

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Rule 391-2-1-.09 Inspections; Revocation, Suspension or Modification of Revocable License

391-2-1-.01 Purpose

These rules establish an orderly and equitable process for issuing revocable licenses for the construction, reconstruction, modification, and maintenance of private docks in state-owned tidal water bottoms which meet the exemptions in O.C.G.A. § 12-5-295 (7) and (7.1). Additionally, these rules institute a process for inspecting and enforcing standards for private docks in tidal water bottoms.

Authority: O.C.G.A. § 50-16-61.

391-2-1-.02 Definitions

For the purpose of Subject 391-2-1, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) "Applicant" means any person who is a riparian owner and who requests a revocable license for a private dock in state-owned tidal water bottoms.

(2) “Catwalk” means a pile supported platform used exclusively to access a boat hoist.

(3) “Channel” means the physical pathway where a waterway flows, as defined by beds and banks that direct the flow of water in a particular direction, has substantial water at high tides but may be shallow or muddy at low tide and is not stagnant.

(4) “Construction” means the physical building or installation of a new dock in, on or over tidal water bottoms.

(5) “The Department of Natural Resources” also “the department” means the Coastal Resources Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

(6) “Dock corridor" means the equitable apportionment of state-owned tidal water bottoms by the department to provide reasonable access to a waterway by riparian owners.

(7) “Extended property line” means the straight-line extension of an upland side lot line toward a waterway.

(8) “Fixed deck” means a platform constructed on pilings channelward of a fixed walkway.

(9) “Fixed walkway” means a pile supported platform leading from the upland toward a waterway and terminating at a pierhead, fixed deck, boat hoist or gangway.

(10) “Floating dock” means a floating platform that is used for

mooring vessels; usually supported by pilings.

(11) “Floating watercraft lift” means a free-floating structure, not supported by pilings, that is used for the on-top storage of watercraft (i.e., above waterline) and is not used for additional mooring space or any other purpose; also known as drive-on docks, run-up floats, modular floats, or boat lifts.

(12) “Licensee” means a person or persons who has received a revocable license from the department for a private dock.

(13) “Maintenance” means repairs within the physical footprint of an existing, serviceable private dock:

(a) Minor maintenance activities include in-kind replacement of non-structural dock components, such as deck board replacement, without requiring the operation of heavy equipment or cranes in the marsh or waterways.

(b) Major maintenance activities involve replacement of structural components, such as pilings, or that require the use of heavy equipment or barge and crane in the marsh or waterway

(14) “Mean high water” also “MHW” means the average of all the high-water heights observed over the National Tidal Datum Epoch.

(15) “Mean low water” also “MLW” means the average of all the low water heights observed over the National Tidal Datum Epoch.

(16) “Modification” means any addition or change to the footprint of, or reconfiguration of an existing or licensed private dock.

(17) "Person" means any individual, partnership, firm, corporation, association, or other entity.

(18) “Pierhead” means a fixed, pile supported platform.

(19) “Ponded area/mudflat” means generally unvegetated areas within tidal water bottoms that may be covered by tidewater but that

do not have channels; not a waterway.

(20) "Private dock" means a structure built onto or over state-owned tidal water bottoms which is used for recreational fishing and other recreational activities, is not available to the public, does not have enclosures, and does not create a navigation hazard; provided, however, that a private dock meets the single family dock exemption in O.C.G.A. § 12-5-295(7) or the multi-family dock exemption in O.C.G.A. § 12-5-295(7.1).

(21) "Reconstruction" means the rebuilding of all or part of a private dock in the original footprint.

(22) "Revocable license" means permission granted by the department to utilize state-owned tidal water bottoms for the construction, reconstruction, modification, or maintenance of a private dock located over state-owned tidal water bottoms which may be revoked by the department, is not coupled with an interest, may be subject to conditions, and is not transferrable.

(23) "Riparian" means upland property that abuts state-owned tidal water bottoms, inclusive of a waterway.

(24) "Scaled drawing" means a representation of a real object or space where all dimensions are proportionally reduced or enlarged by a specific ratio, called the scale, ensuring the drawing maintains the exact shape and relationships of the original.

(25) "Serviceable" means usable as is or with only maintenance, but not so degraded as to essentially require reconstruction, as determined by the department.

(26) "Upland" means lands that are neither tidal water bottoms nor wetlands.

(27) "Waterway" means a tributary, creek or river which has a defined channel.

(28) "Walkway extension" means a pile supported platform leading from an existing fixed walkway or fixed deck toward a waterway.

(29) "Variance" means an authorized exception to the standards in Subject 391-2-1 granted under certain circumstances.

Authority: O.C.G.A. § 50-16-61.

391-2-1-.03 Issuance of a Revocable License

(1) Applicants for a revocable license must submit to the department a complete application for the construction, reconstruction, modification, and certain maintenance of a private dock, on forms created by the department, which must include scaled drawings, all information as required by the department, and evidence that adjacent property owners were appropriately notified of the application. Scaled drawings prepared by a registered land surveyor, professional engineer, or licensed architect may be required only as specified in this part or when the department has determined that unique circumstances or site conditions warrant.

(2) The department will issue a revocable license for a private dock to authorize the construction, reconstruction, modification, and certain maintenance of a single-family or multi-family private dock located over state-owned tidal water bottoms provided:

(a) The applicant is riparian to the waterway to be accessed by the private dock, meaning the waterway is within extended property lines or a dock corridor determined and allocated by the department.

(b) A revocable license shall only be issued to the owner(s) of the riparian parcel(s) to be served by the private dock.

(c) New private docks are limited to one per riparian parcel or, in the case of a multi-family dock, along shared riparian property lines.

(d) Private docks shall access waterways with a defined channel and not ponded areas/mudflats.

(e) Private docks are for water dependent, recreational activities only.

(f) Private docks must not restrict the reasonable navigation or public use of state lands and waters.

(g) Private docks must be constructed in a manner that does not restrict water flow.

(h) Applicants for a multi-family dock have entered into a binding covenant that runs with the land, in favor of the state, which covenant prohibits the building of any future private docks on their lots unless the multi-family dock is removed or is approved by the department to be converted to a single-family private dock.

(i) Any citations, administrative orders, or other violations issued to the applicant have been resolved, or the applicant has entered into a compliance agreement which directs the applicant to apply for a revocable license.

(j) All provisions of Subject 391-2-1 have been met.

Authority: O.C.G.A. § 50-16-61.

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

A new private dock must be designed and constructed per the following standards:

(1) All components of a single-family dock must be 10 feet or more from extended property lines or dock corridor lines on both sides of the proposed structure and be at least 20 feet from any adjacent dock or structure. All components of a multi-family dock must be 10 feet or more from the extended property lines or dock corridor lines abutting property owned by a person not being served by the multi-family dock and be at least 20 feet from any adjacent

dock or structure. The department may require an alternative alignment or dock corridor if site characteristics warrant.

(2) One fixed walkway, up to 1,500 feet long and six feet wide, may provide access from the upland and must be built at a height to clear all vegetation but not more than six feet above MHW. Handrails and supports must be illustrated on scaled drawings.

(3) A private dock must terminate at the first waterway measuring 20 feet wide or greater at MHW. A waterway that is less than 20 feet wide at MHW may be spanned by a fixed walkway, provided no pilings are placed in the waterway and the bottom of the span is at least six feet above MHW, or higher as determined by the department to be necessary for safe navigation. The department may require additional information as necessary to evaluate a proposed span, including a bathymetric survey.

(4) No portion of the private dock may extend more than 40 feet into a waterway past MLW, or more than one-quarter of the waterway width at MLW, whichever is less, unless a variance is granted. If a waterway goes dry, vegetation lines within the subject waterway must be used.

(5) A private dock to a waterway measuring less than 20 feet wide at MHW may have a “L” or “T” shaped pierhead, up to six feet wide by 14 feet long, provided the pierhead does not extend into the channel at MLW. A pierhead may not be wholly or partially enclosed. However, it may be roofed per Rule 391-2-1-.04 (11) unless the pierhead is located over vegetation. Vessels may not be stored over the waterway or vegetation.

(6) A private dock to a waterway 20 feet wide or greater may have a fixed deck, no part of which may be located over vegetation. Fixed deck(s) may be roofed per Rule 391- 2-1-.04 (11) and partially enclosed where the lower three feet consists of a single layer of woven screen wire or wainscot and the upper section is open or finished in woven screen wire. Gangway landings and cantilevered

components must be indicated on the scaled drawing:

(a) Single family dock: the maximum area of a fixed deck is 400 square feet.

(b) Multi-family dock: the maximum area of a fixed deck is 600 square feet.

(7) One boat hoist per riparian lot served by the dock, up to 16 feet by 30 feet, measured piling to piling, with one adjacent catwalk measuring up to three feet by 30 feet, is permissible and may be roofed per Rule 391-2-1-.04 (11), unless a variance for larger or additional hoist(s) is granted. Davits are not considered boat hoists but must be indicated on the scaled drawing. Vessels may not be stored over vegetation.

(8) Floating docks should be pile supported, shall not rest on the water bottom at MLW or must be cradled and must not be located over vegetation. Gangways accessing a floating dock(s) do not count toward the maximum area but must be indicated on the scaled drawing.

(a) Single family dock: The maximum area of a floating dock(s) is 600 square feet.

(b) Multi-family dock: The maximum area of a floating dock(s) is 1,000 square feet.

(9) Floating watercraft lifts do not count toward the maximum allowed for floating docks area only if:

(a) the lift is not supported by piles;

(b) the lift is secured to cleats or existing pilings supporting the main private dock;

(c) the lift is not located channelward of a floating dock;

(d) the lift does not extend further into the waterway than any

other component of the private dock; or

(e) the lift does not encroach within 10 feet of an extended property or dock corridor line or within 20 feet of an adjacent dock or structure.

(10) Mooring piles/dolphins used exclusively for mooring vessels in association with a floating dock may be approved upon satisfactory justification of need from the applicant but must not be located further into the waterway than other dock components and must not encroach within 10 feet of an extended property line or dock corridor or within 20 feet of an adjacent dock or structure.

(11) Roofs over pierheads, fixed decks or boat hoists may not exceed 12 feet above the decking at the lowest deck height and overhangs (eaves) may not extend more than 18 inches. The use of a roof for storage or as a second story is prohibited and stairs accessing a roof are prohibited. Roofs do not count toward the total area of structures but must be indicated on the scaled drawing.

(12) Utilities to the private dock, including electrical and water, must be described in the application. Applicants must provide proof of application for a local electrical permit before a revocable license is issued.

(13) Lighting on the private dock must be described in the application and minimal in nature. All lighting shall be designed and oriented such that fixtures are fully shielded (full cutoff) by an opaque material blocking direct view of bulbs or diodes from adjacent docks and upland areas and project light in a downward direction only. Additional lighting conditions may be required on docks that can be viewed from sea turtle nesting beaches.

Authority: O.C.G.A. § 50-16-61.

391-2-1-.05 Reconstruction and Modification of Existing Private Docks

(1) Existing private docks may be modified or reconstructed upon issuance of a new revocable license, provided that one of the following criteria are met:

(a) The existing private dock, in its present configuration, has been confirmed by the department to have been constructed prior to the effective date of Subject 391-2-1 and no unauthorized additions or modifications have been made;

(b) The existing private dock is determined by the department to be compliant with previous state authorizations and/or licenses; or

(c) The owner of an existing non-compliant private dock has entered into a consent order/agreement with the department set forth in Rule 391-2-1-.09.

(2) Reconstruction of existing, serviceable dock components is permissible in the original footprint and configuration. Reconstruction of dock components deemed not serviceable by the department must adhere to the standards for new private docks set forth in Rule 391-2-1-.04.

(3) Modifications to existing or licensed private docks may not exceed the standards set forth in Rule 391-2-1-.04.

(4) A walkway extension leading from the channelward-most portion of an existing, serviceable fixed walkway or fixed deck, for the sole purpose of extending further into the same waterway due to demonstrable shifts in MLW since initial private dock construction, natural shoaling, or other reasonable factors as determined by the department, is allowed provided the walkway extension does not exceed six feet in width and is of minimal length. Handrails and supports must be illustrated on scaled drawings. The walkway extension must not be partially or wholly enclosed or covered.

Authority: O.C.G.A. § 50-16-61.

391-2-1-.06 Maintenance of Existing Private Docks

(1) Licensees must maintain private docks within their existing footprint.

(2) A new revocable license is not required for minor maintenance activities.

(3) Before beginning major maintenance activities, the licensee must notify the department which will determine the serviceability of the existing dock. If the department finds the private dock or parts are unserviceable, it cannot be maintained (except when the dock was rendered not serviceable due to forces of nature or other events described in 391-2-1-.06 (5), below); however, it may be reconstructed or modified according to Rule 391-2-1-.05.

(4) A new revocable license shall be required prior to conducting major maintenance activities when the department does not have a record of an existing revocable license or have one that is not accurate based on the current structure or riparian owner.

(5) Private docks rendered not serviceable by forces of nature, such as storms; or other events, like fire or boat strikes; may be maintained or rebuilt, without a new revocable license, in the original footprint, upon proof that the dock was serviceable prior to the damage and was in compliance with all previous authorizations or licenses.

Authority: O.C.G.A. § 50-16-61.

391-2-1-.07 Variances

New or modified private single family and multi-family docks must be constructed according to the standards described in Rule 391-2-1-.04. However, variances may be granted as described in this paragraph, provided the applicant or licensee provides justification of why the standard(s) cannot be met.

(1) The department may grant a variance allowing the length of the fixed walkway on a new private dock to exceed 1,500 feet for the sole purpose of accessing the waterway nearest to the upland. Such walkway exceedance shall not exceed ten percent of the standard allowable length (i.e., 150 feet) and must constitute the shortest route to the waterway, as determined by the department. The department may require additional information in support of a variance request, such as professionally engineered and stamped drawings, or waterway assessments.

(2) A variance for larger or additional boat hoists with catwalks may be approved upon proof of need, including boat registrations or bills of sale demonstrating the size or number of vessels owned by the applicant or licensees. Variances for larger or additional hoists based on proof of kayaks, canoes, paddleboards or other similar watercraft will not be approved, regardless of whether they are motorized or registered.

(3) A variance for further extension into the waterway may be granted up to one-third of the waterway measured at MLW, provided there is no additional impact on navigation within the waterway and there is no reasonable objection by adjacent property owners.

Authority: O.C.G.A. § 50-16-61.

391-2-1-.08 General Conditions of Revocable Licenses for Private Docks

(1) The revocable license is not transferable with the change of ownership interests in the riparian property(s) at which the private dock will be or has been constructed, reconstructed, modified or maintained. Transfer of riparian ownership or assignment of riparian rights requires issuance of a new revocable license upon review of proof of ownership, such as a deed and plat or other reasonable evidence of ownership of the property, submitted with a transfer request form provided by the department. The department should be

notified of changes in ownership interests within 90 days, and no construction, reconstruction, modification or major maintenance may occur until the department has been notified.

(2) The licensee must maintain the private dock in serviceable condition after construction, reconstruction, and modification.

(3) All equipment used within vegetated marshlands for the construction, reconstruction, modification, and maintenance of a private dock must be operated from a single row of construction mats, or other low impact equipment approved by the department, located on one side of and in immediate proximity to the private dock.

(4) The private dock must not be used at any time for business or commercial purposes.

(5) The private dock must not be used for human habitation. Toilets or fueling facilities are not allowed on the structures. There shall be no fuel or sewage discharged from the private dock.

(6) The licensee must take all proper steps to ensure the integrity of the structure and the safety of moored boats from damage.

(7) The State of Georgia shall not be responsible for any damage caused to the private dock or moored vessels.

(8) The licensee must not moor a vessel(s) at the private dock in such a manner as to cause an unreasonable encroachment into the waterway or to interfere with navigation.

(9) All information and supporting documents contained in an application for a revocable license shall be made a part of the revocable license, if granted, and conformance to such information and supporting documents shall be a condition of the revocable license. No change or deviation from any such information and supporting documents shall be permitted without prior notification and written approval by the department or issuance of a new

revocable license.

(10) The issuance of a revocable license does not resolve actual or potential disputes regarding ownership of rights in or over the property at which the private dock is or will be located and shall not be construed as recognizing or denying any such rights or interests.

(11) The issuance of a revocable license does not relieve a licensee from the responsibility to obtain any other federal, state, or local permits or authorizations which may be required for the private dock or any of its components, including without limitation, any required county or municipal building permit or permit for utilities, prior to beginning construction, reconstruction, modification, and maintenance.

(12) At least 10 days prior to construction, reconstruction, modification, or major maintenance, the licensee must submit a construction notification form to the department.

(13) A copy of the revocable license issued to a licensee must be prominently displayed on the upland site of the proposed or existing private dock during construction, reconstruction, modification, and maintenance.

(14) Compliance with best practices to include those for the protection of manatees and other protected species is required. Any unattended free flowing fresh water along the private dock is prohibited.

(15) Licensee may be required by the department to, at their own expense, relocate or remove any portion of an existing private dock that impedes navigation as a result of natural meanders to waterways.

(16) Licensee must promptly remove and properly dispose of all debris that originates from, or is generated by, the private dock.

(17) Licensee may be responsible for additional special conditions placed upon the revocable license, as determined by the department.

Authority: O.C.G.A. § 50-16-61.

391-2-1-.09 Inspections; Revocation, Suspension or Modification of Revocable License

(1) Private docks are subject to compliance inspections by the department. An as-built post-construction survey of the dock and its exact location may be required; such survey shall comply with the Georgia Plat Act, O.C.G.A. §15-6-67 et seq.

(2) The department may revoke, suspend, modify or deny any revocable license for failure or refusal to comply with any provision of Subject 391-2-1 or the specific conditions and requirements of the revocable license.

(3) Any person, including a property owner or private dock builder, who causes or permits violation of Subject 391-2-1 that results in construction, reconstruction, modification, and major maintenance of a private dock in a manner that is inconsistent with a current revocable license or without first obtaining a revocable license from the department as set forth in this rule is subject to enforcement action by the department which may include revocation, suspension, or modification of an existing revocable license; timely removal of the unauthorized structure; restoration of jurisdictional coastal marshlands; and implementation of a consent order/agreement.

Authority: O.C.G.A. § 50-16-61.

GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WALTER RABON, COMMISSIONER

October 27, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Board of Natural Resources

FROM: Walter Rabon, Commissioner WR

SUBJECT: Acquisition (purchase) of 1,064± acres from the Conservation Fund, 2nd Phase of the Charlton County Project, Charlton County.

Comments
The Department is seeking approval to acquire 1,064± acres in Charlton County for conservation and recreational purposes.

Owner	Acres	Total
The Conservation Fund	1,064±	$3,019,684.00

For your review, we are enclosing:
(1) Summary
(2) Resolution

We have presented all available information pertaining to this purchase to the Chairman, Land Committee, and to the member of the Board within whose district this project is located.

Discussion and Conclusion
This 1,064± acre acquisition in Charlton County will protect land along Trail Ridge near the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge. The tract provides critical habitat adjacent to the Okefenokee swamp and will provide new outdoor recreational opportunities in Charlton County. The acquisition also offers the opportunity for longleaf pine restoration and wetland restoration, along with expansion of fire buffer areas next to the swamp. The recent wildfires in this area highlight the need for this management. Upon acquisition the property will be managed as the Alachua Trail Wildlife Management Area along with an additional 3,833 acres that is due to be sold to the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge. The Department will manage both tracts to provide public hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreation opportunities. At the time of conveyance, the Conservation Fund will place a deed restriction on the property that prohibits any future mining or mineral extraction activities.

With Board approval we intend to take this project to State Properties Commission (SPC) and if approved we will close March 2027. This tract represents the 2nd phase of a 3,964± acres project.

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404.656.3500 | FAX 404.656.0770 | WWW.GADNR.ORG

The Department will acquire the property with Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Grant (GOSA) funds and a federal U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Pittman-Robertson (PR) grant. As a condition of receiving multiple funds, an affidavit will be recorded against the tract stating it may not be disposed of in any manner or used for purposes inconsistent with the programs it was acquired for without the prior approval of the USFWS and GOSA Board of Trustees.

Recommendation

We recommend adoption of the attached Resolution.

WR: bw

Enclosures (2)

SUMMARY STATEMENT

PROJECT:	TCF Charlton County	
TRACT:	The Conservation Fund. 2nd Phase Tract	
LOCATION:	Charlton County	
THIS ACQUISITION:	1,064± acres	
SOURCE OF FUNDING:	GOSA Grant	$1,864,436.00
	Federal GA DOT Funds	$618,936.00
	State GA DOT Finds	$206,312.00
	Wildlife Restoration Funds	$330,000.00
	Total Purchase Price	**$3,019,684.00**

As a condition of receiving federal and private funds, an affidavit will be recorded against this property stating it may not be disposed of in any manner or used for purposes inconsistent with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Pittman-Robertson Grant and Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Grant funds.

HISTORY OF NEGOTIATION: The Department entered a purchase option with the Conservation Fund on May 5, 2026.

NOMINATION: Wildlife Resources Division

KNOWN RIGHTS OUTSTANDING: None

VENDOR RESERVES: None

BENEFITS OF ACQUISITION: The acquisition opens the tract for public recreation such as hunting, wildlife viewing, hiking, observing nature.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS REPORT: A study was made and all conditions and guidelines under the Georgia Environmental Policy Act have been evaluated. It has been determined that this acquisition will have no significant adverse effect on the environment.

RELATIONSHIP TO DNR'S FIVE YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN: This property fits into our Strategic Plan, because it will encourage new audiences to enjoy the outdoors and increases opportunities for access to our natural resources.

FIVE YEAR OPERATIONAL: The following operating budget for the property represents the estimated cost for the proposed acquisition only.

FY 2026 - $63,100
FY 2027 - $12,050
FY 2028 – $12,050
FY 2029 – $12,050
FY 2030 – $12,050

Total 5-Year Operating Budget Estimate = $111,300

APPRAISAL SUMMARIES:

DATE	APPRAISALS	ACRES	TOTAL
4/22/2026	Odom Real Estate Appraisal, Inc.	3,964±	$11,300,000 ($2,850.66 per acre)
2/2/2026	Zac Ryan Appraisal Services, Inc.	3,984±	$9,960,000 ($2,500.00 per acre)
OPTION:	The Conservation Fund	3,964±	$11,250,000.00 ($2,838.04 per acre)
	2nd Phase	1,064±	$8,230,316.00 ($2,838.04 per acre)

2nd PHASE TERMINATION DATE: March 16, 2027

2nd PHASE LATEST CLOSING DATE: March 31, 2027

COORDINATION: Wildlife Resources Division

RESOLUTION

RECOMMENDING ACQUISITION BY NEGOTIATED PURCHASE OF THE FOLLOWING NAMED PROPERTY, MORE PARTICULARLY IDENTIFIED AS THE 1,064± ACRES 2nd PHASE TCF CHARLTON COUNTY TRACT ON THE ATTACHED "EXHIBIT A", FOR CONSERVATION AND RELATED PURPOSES.

CONSERVATION AND RELATED PURPOSES DEFINED

Conservation and related purposes as herein used include recreational, historical, archaeological, fish and wildlife, and other related uses of land and water resources.

Property To Be Acquired:

Project	**Property Owner**
TCF Charlton County 2nd Phase	the Conservation Fund

WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources is responsible for the conservation and wise utilization of the State's natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' staff has studied the subject property and found its conservation and related values are indeed of statewide significance and that the acquisition and appropriate development of this property would contribute greatly to meeting the conservation needs of Georgia's natural resources and thus recommends the preservation of the subject property through acquisition or other appropriate action; and

WHEREAS, At the time of conveyance, the Conservation Fund will place a deed restriction on the property that prohibits any future mining or mineral extraction activities; and

WHEREAS, As a condition of receiving multiple funds, an affidavit will be recorded against the tract stating it may not be disposed of in any manner or used for purposes inconsistent with the programs it was acquired for without the prior approval of the USFWS and GOSA Board of Trustees.; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Georgia Board of Natural Resources concurs in the findings of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources staff and recommends that the Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources seek the approval of the State Properties Commission to acquire by negotiated purchase and develop the subject property, for conservation and/or related purposes generally in accordance with applicable laws, policies, and procedures.

Adopted this 27th day of October 2026.

Respectfully submitted by:

_____
Patrick Denney, Chairman
Georgia Board of Natural Resources

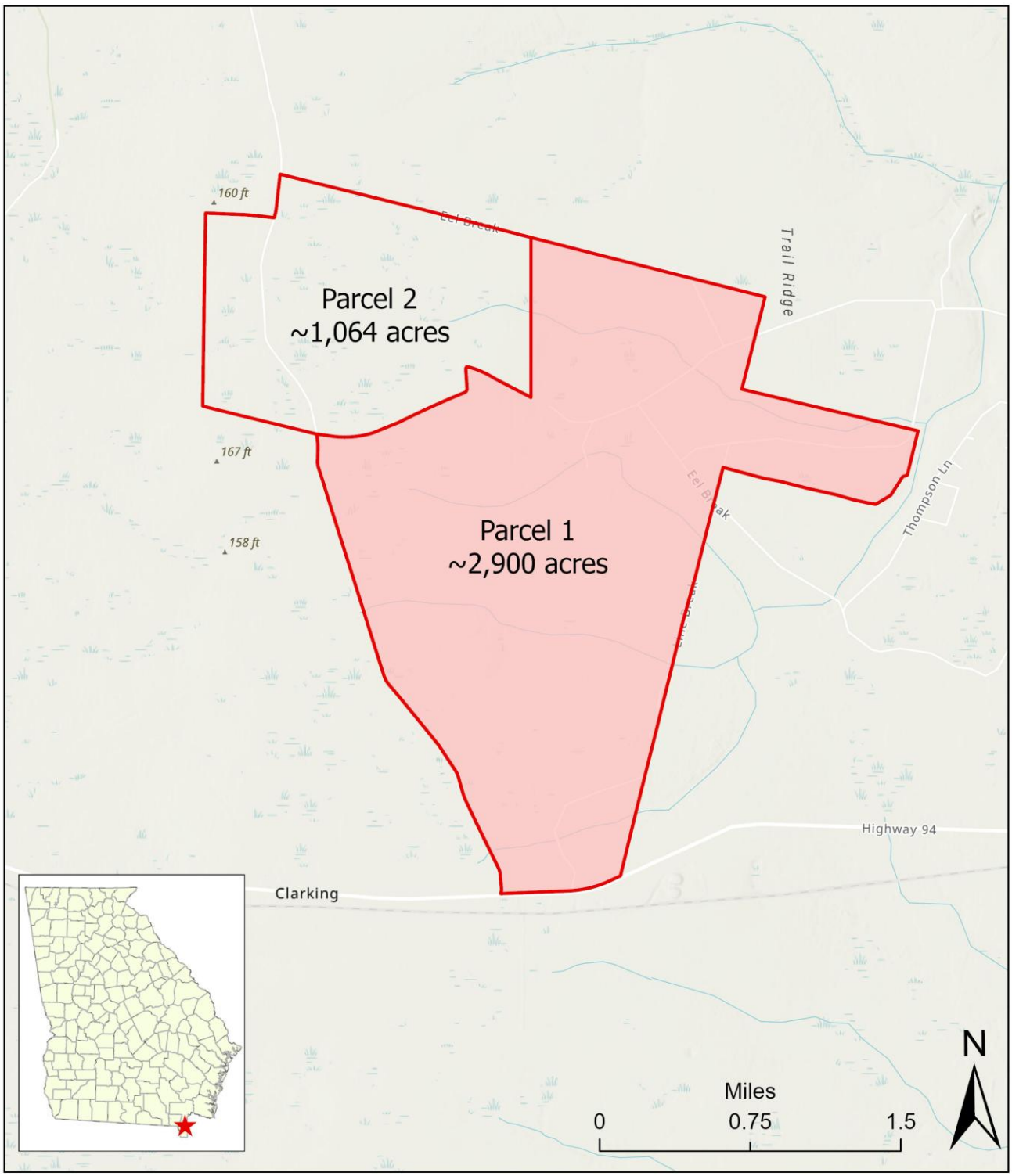
ATTEST:

_____
Dan Garcia, Secretary
Georgia Board of Natural Resources

TCF Charlton

Charlton County

GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WILDLIFE RESOURCES DIVISION



GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WALTER RABON, COMMISSIONER

October 27, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Board of Natural Resources

FROM: Walter Rabon, Commissioner WR

SUBJECT: Requesting approval via Executive Order to demolish the Unicoi State Park Squirrels Nest Camping Area in White County.

Comments
The Department seeks the Board's authorization to demolish the Squirrels Nest Camping Area (BLLIP #28599) at Unicoi State Park.

For your review, we are enclosing:
(1) Resolution
(2) Executive Order

We have presented all available information pertaining to this Agreement to the Chairman, Land Committee, and to the member of the Board within whose district this particular project is located.

Discussion and Conclusion
The 50+ year old camping area was constructed as part of the experimental recreation theme of Unicoi State Park in the 1960s-70s. The facility features elevated, roofed camping platforms and an associated bathhouse. The interconnected and elevated platforms are on telephone pole supports which are all structurally decayed. Based on follow-up inspections, it was recommended this structure be closed. The demolition of the structures will address and correct camper safety concerns. Structures of historical significance and/or 2,000 square feet and larger require an executive order authorizing their removal. The Office of the State Archaeologist determined the structure is eligible for historic listing, so demolition would have a negative impact on the Georgia/National Register of Historic Places. To commemorate Squirrels Nest Camping Area, The Office of the State Archeologist recommends rehabilitation of the camping platforms or, if unfeasible, a Permanent Archival Record. Subject to receiving the executive order, the Department will comply with OCGA 12-3-55 (e) to document the structure's historic characteristics prior to demolition.

Recommendation
We recommend adoption of the attached Resolution.
WR: bw
Enclosures (2)

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RESOLUTION

RECOMMENDING APPROVAL TO REMOVE THE SQUIRRELS NEST CAMPING AREA AT UNICOI STATE PARK VIA EXECUTIVE ORDER FROM THE FOLLOWING NAMED PROPERTY, MORE PARTICULARLY IDENTIFIED ON THE ATTACHED "EXHIBIT A".

Project	**Location**
Unicoi State Park (Squirrels Nest Camping Area BLLIP #28599; 624 SQFT)	**White County**

WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources is responsible for the conservation and wise utilization of the State's natural resources and facilities used to manage them; and

WHEREAS, the Office of the State Archaeologist determined that removing the historic camping area structures would impact the Georgia/National Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, the Department will seek approval to remove said structures via EXECUTIVE ORDER detailed on "EXHIBIT B"; and

WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources recommends the removal of the buildings due to significant deficiencies that compromise safety, functionality, and compliance with current standards; and

WHEREAS, the Department will comply with OCGA 12-3-55 (e) to document the area's historic characteristics prior to demolition; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Georgia Board of Natural Resources concurs in the findings of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources staff and authorizes the Commissioner to request the Governor of the State of Georgia to execute the proposed Executive Order authorizing the demolition of the Squirrels Nest Camping Area and the appropriate disposal of the debris.

Adopted this 27th day of October 2026.

Respectfully submitted by:

_____
Patrick Denney, Chairman
Georgia Board of Natural Resources

ATTEST:

_____
Dan Garcia, Secretary
Georgia Board of Natural Resources

EXHIBIT A

Unicoi SP
Proposed Demolition
White County

GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WILDLIFE RESOURCES DIVISION

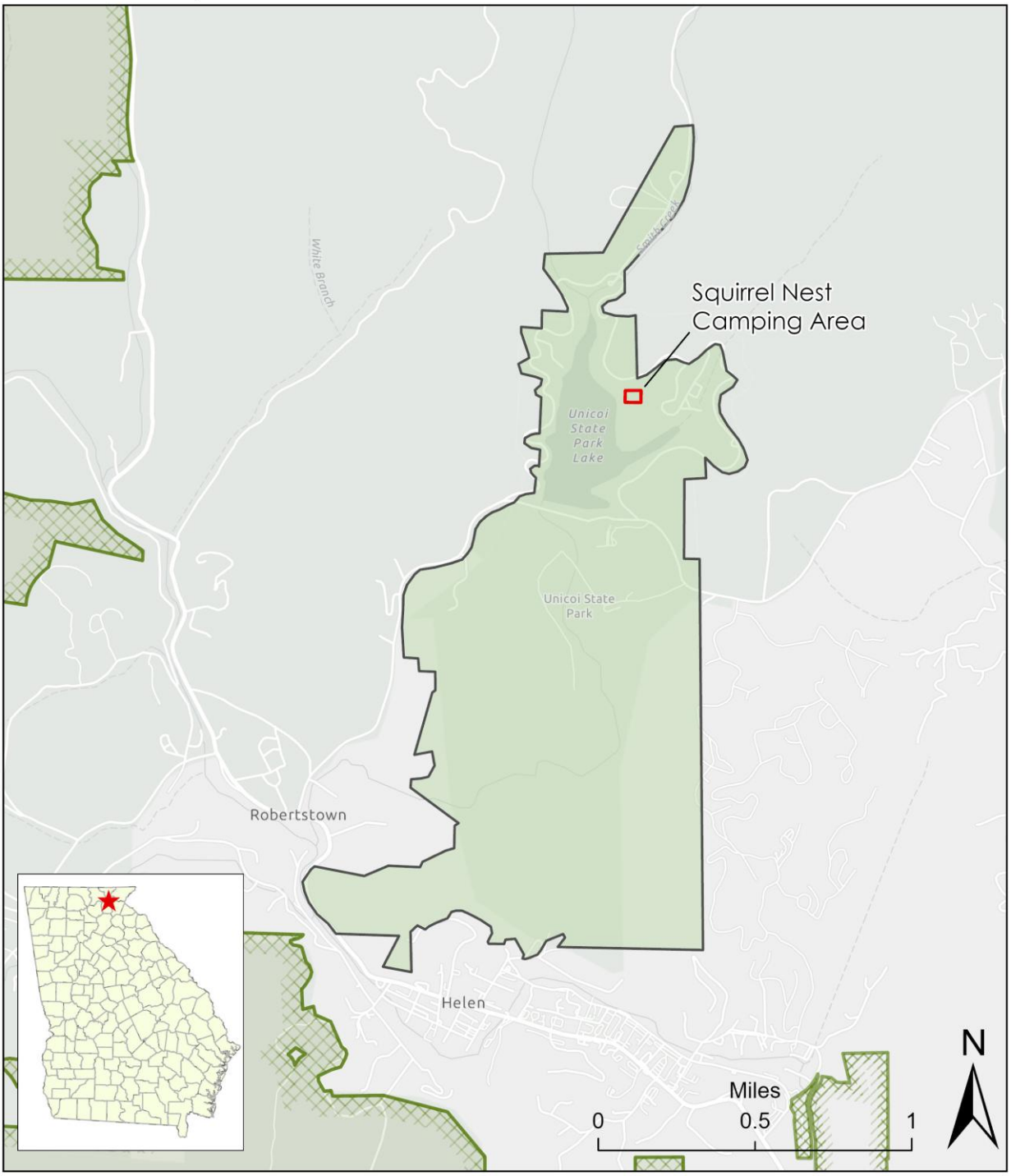


EXHIBIT B

EXECUTIVE ORDER

BY THE GOVERNOR:

WHEREAS: the Department of Natural Resources operates the facility in White County known as Unicoi State Park for recreation and conservation purposes; and

WHEREAS: said property contains structures known as Squirrel Nest Camping Area (BLLIP #28599) totaling 624 square feet; and

WHEREAS: the Office of the State Archaeologist determined the structures are eligible as historic and would impact the Georgia/National Register of Historic Places if removed; and

WHEREAS: the Department's staff agree that the structures are no longer needed for Department operations, in poor condition, and beyond reasonable repair; and

WHEREAS: the Board of Natural Resources approved the removal of the structures on October 27, 2026; and

WHEREAS: the structures have been declared to have no value to the Department.

NOW, THEREFORE, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME AS GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA BY VIRTUE OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE OFFICIAL CODE OF GEORGIA, ANNOTATED 50-16-61, IT IS HEREBY

ORDERED: The Department of Natural Resources is hereby authorized and directed to provide for the razing, demolition and disposal of said structures under the terms and conditions which are deemed to be in the best interests of the State of Georgia, in accordance with applicable laws, policies, and procedures, including any requirements under Code Section 12-3-55 regarding historic properties that may pertain to the structures.

This _____ day of _____ 2026.

_____
Brian Kemp
Governor

ATTEST:

_____
Executive Secretary

GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WALTER RABON, COMMISSIONER

October 27, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Board of Natural Resources

FROM: Walter Rabon, Commissioner WR

SUBJECT: Granting of a Revocable License Agreement and Permanent Easement of up to 1.77± acres by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to Pineland Telephone Cooperative and Excelsior Electric Membership Corporation (EMC) at George L. Smith State Park, Emanuel County.

Comments

The Department requests a revocable license agreement (RLA) and permanent easement (PE) be granted to Pineland Telephone Cooperative and Excelsior EMC.

For your review, we are enclosing:

(1) Resolution
(2) General Location Map

We have presented all available information pertaining to this easement request to the Chairman, Land Committee, and to the member of the Board within whose district this project is located.

Discussion and Conclusion

Pineland Telephone Cooperative and Excelsior EMC have requested an RLA and PE of up to 1.77± acres to relocate and maintain fiber optic and electric distribution facilities due to GDOT replacing a bridge on Highway 26 that provides access to George L. Smith State Park. This request requires that an RLA be issued by the State Properties Commission (SPC) and a PE be granted by the General Assembly (GA).

Since the RLA and PE will benefit the Department, the Department recommends they be granted at no cost. This area is Heritage Preserve dedicated. However, a change of use is not necessary because the facilities serve the park and its recreational features.

Recommendation

We recommend adoption of the attached Resolution.

WR:bw
Enclosures (1)

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RESOLUTION

GRANTING OF A REVOCABLE LICENSE AGREEMENT AND PERMANENT EASEMENT OF UP TO 1.77± ACRES BY THE STATE PROPERTIES COMMISSION AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO PINELAND TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE AND EXCELSIOR EMC AT GEORGE L. SMITH STATE PARK. SUBJECT PROPERTY MORE ACCURATELY DEFINED IN ATTACHED "EXHIBIT A".

Property To Be Licensed and Easement To Be Granted:

Project	**Licensee/Grantee**
George L. Smith State Park	**Pineland Telephone Cooperative & Excelsior Electric Membership Corporation (up to 1.77± acres, Emanuel County)**

WHEREAS, Pineland Telephone Cooperative and Excelsior EMC requested a revocable license and permanent easement to relocate and maintain fiber optic and electric distribution facilities due to GDOT replacing a bridge at George L. Smith State Park; and

WHEREAS, on the favorable action of the Board of Natural Resources, the State Properties Commission is empowered to issue a revocable license agreement and seek legislative approval to grant a permanent easement over up to 1.77± acres to Pineland Telephone Cooperative and Excelsior EMC; and

WHEREAS, the revocable license and permanent easement area is Heritage Preserve designated, but a change of use is not necessary because the facilities serve the park and its recreation features; and

WHEREAS, the revocable license and permanent easement benefit the Department, therefore, the Department recommends they be issued at no cost; and

WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' staff has examined the proposal and has no objection; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Georgia Board of Natural Resources concurs in the findings of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources staff and recommends that the Commissioner of Natural Resources seek the approval of the State Properties Commission and the General Assembly for the grant of a revocable license agreement and permanent easement generally in accordance with applicable laws, policies, and procedures.

Adopted this 27th day of October 2026.

Respectfully submitted by:

_____
Patrick Denney, Chairman
Georgia Board of Natural Resources

ATTEST:

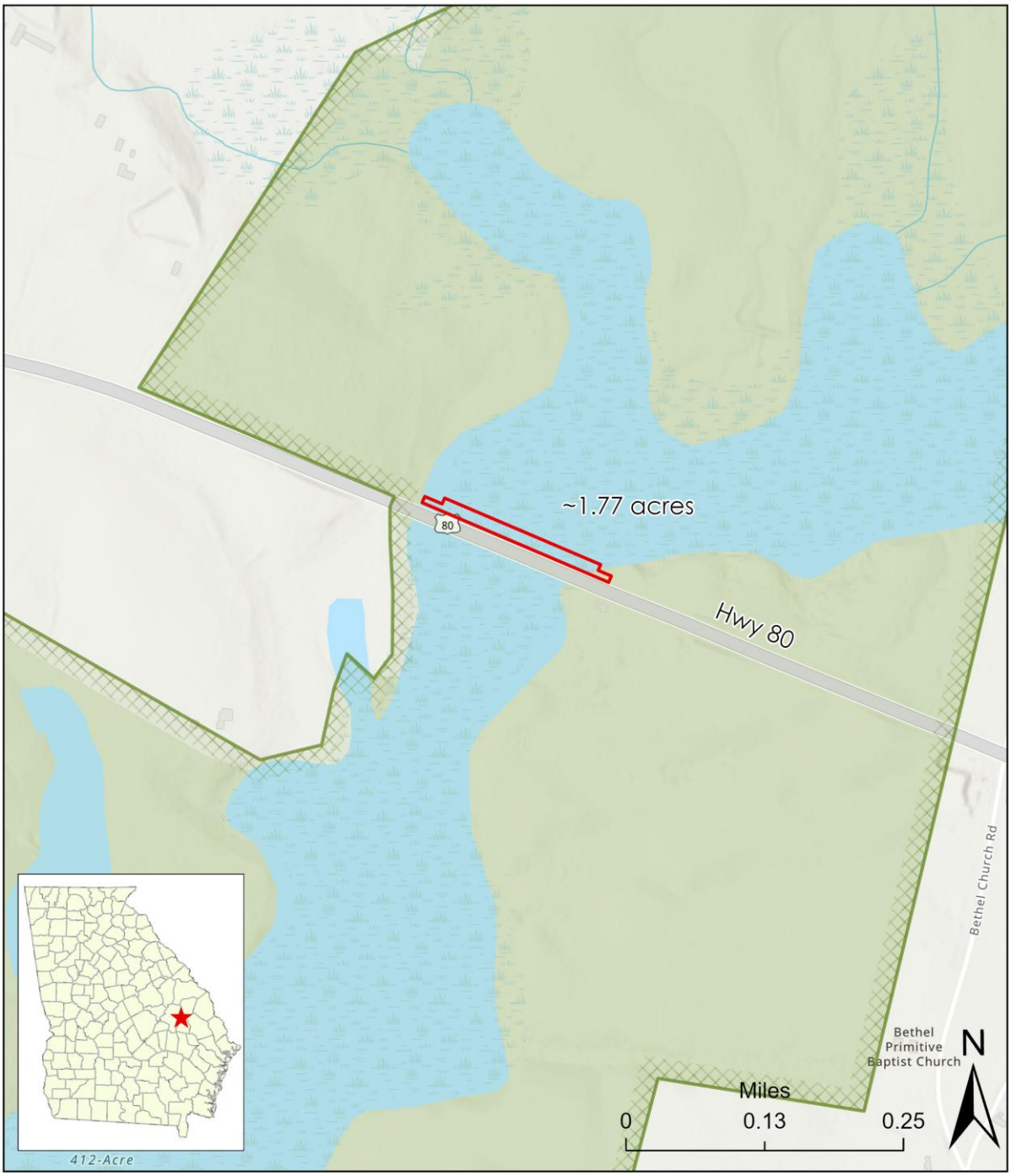
_____
Dan Garcia, Secretary
Georgia Board of Natural Resources

EXHIBIT A

George L. Smith SP

Emanuel County

GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WILDLIFE RESOURCES DIVISION



GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WALTER RABON, COMMISSIONER

October 27, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Board of Natural Resources

FROM: Walter Rabon, Commissioner WR

SUBJECT: Granting of a Revocable License Agreement and Permanent Easement of up to 2.607± acres by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) at Echeconnee Creek WMA, Bibb County.

Comments
The Department requests a revocable license agreement (RLA) and permanent easement (PE) be granted to GDOT.

For your review, we are enclosing:
(1) Resolution
(2) General Location Map

We have presented all available information pertaining to this easement request to the Chairman, Land Committee, and to the member of the Board within whose district this project is located.

Discussion and Conclusion
GDOT has requested a RLA and PE of up to 2.607± acres between parcel 5 and 6 to replace structurally deficient bridges along State Road 247. This area is not Heritage Preserve dedicated; therefore, a change of use is not necessary. Replacing bridges requires an RLA be issued by the State Properties Commission (SPC) and a PE be granted by the General Assembly (GA). Since the bridge has no benefit to the Department, SPC will determine the cost for this request.

Recommendation
We recommend adoption of the attached Resolution.

WR:bw
Enclosures (1)

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RESOLUTION

GRANTING OF A REVOCABLE LICENSE AGREEMENT AND PERMANENT EASEMENT OF UP TO 2.607± ACRES BY THE STATE PROPERTIES COMMISSION AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO GDOT AT ECHECONNEE CREEK WMA. SUBJECT PROPERTY MORE ACCURATELY DEFINED IN ATTACHED "EXHIBIT A".

Property To Be Licensed and Easement To Be Granted:

Project	**Licensee/Grantee**
ECHECONNEE CREEK WMA	**GDOT** **(up to 2.607± acres, Bibb County)**

WHEREAS, GDOT requested a revocable license and permanent easement to replace multiple bridges affecting Echecconnee Creek WMA; and

WHEREAS, on the favorable action of the Board of Natural Resources, the State Properties Commission is empowered to issue a revocable license agreement and seek legislative approval to grant a permanent easement over up to 2.607± acres to GDOT; and

WHEREAS, the revocable license and permanent easement area is not Heritage Preserve designated; and

WHEREAS, the revocable license and permanent easement is not to the benefit of the Department; therefore, the Department recommends that the amount of monetary consideration be set by the SPC; and

WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' staff has examined the proposal and has no objection

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Georgia Board of Natural Resources concurs in the findings of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources staff and recommends that the Commissioner of Natural Resources seek the approval of the State Properties Commission and the General Assembly for the grant of a revocable license agreement and permanent easement generally in accordance with applicable laws, policies, and procedures.

Adopted this 27th day of October 2026.

Respectfully submitted by:

_____
Patrick Denney, Chairman
Georgia Board of Natural Resources

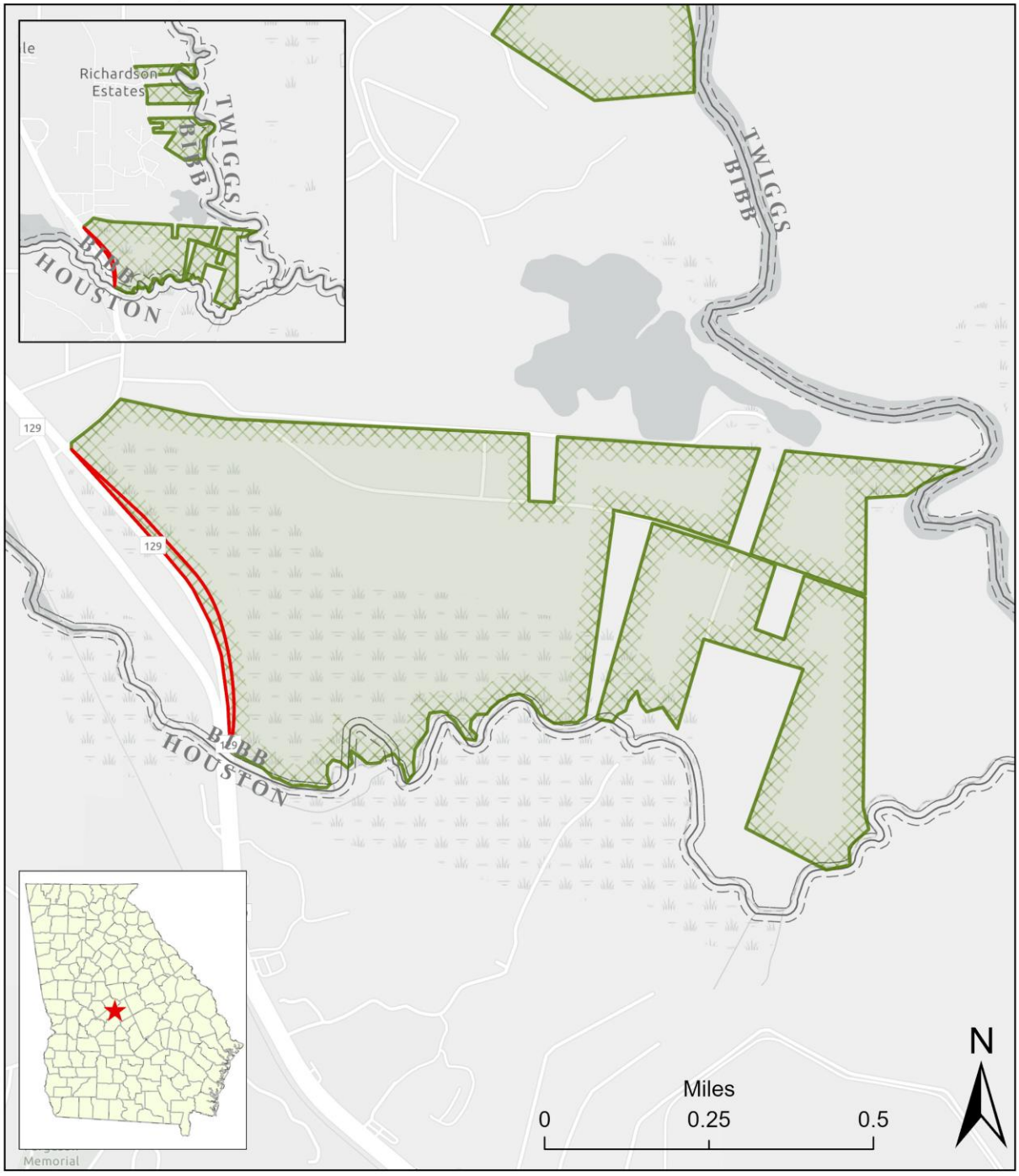
ATTEST:

_____
Dan Garcia, Secretary
Georgia Board of Natural Resources

EXHIBIT A

Echeconnee Creek WMA
Bridge Replacement
Bibb County

GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WILDLIFE RESOURCES DIVISION



GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WALTER RABON, COMMISSIONER

October 27, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Board of Natural Resources

FROM: Walter Rabon, Commissioner WR

SUBJECT: Granting of a Revocable License Agreement and Permanent Easement of up to 0.12± acres by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to Georgia Power Company at Fort Yargo State Park for Victor Lord Park, Barrow County.

Comments

The Department requests a revocable license agreement (RLA) and permanent easement (PE) be granted to Georgia Power.

For your review, we are enclosing:

(1) Resolution
(2) General Location Map

We have presented all available information pertaining to this easement request to the Chairman, Land Committee, and to the member of the Board within whose district this project is located.

Discussion and Conclusion

Between 1970 and 2016, the State has leased 103± acres of Fort Yargo State Park to Barrow County to construct and operate recreation fields, creating Victor Lord Park**.** In 2019, Georgia Power attained an RLA & PE for 0.75± acres to provide power to the park and its fields.

Georgia Power has now requested an RLA and PE of up to 0.12± acres to relocate UG primary and install a transformer to serve a new splash pad at Victor Lord Park. This request requires that an RLA be issued by the State Properties Commission (SPC) and a PE be granted by the General Assembly (GA).

Since the RLA and PE will benefit the Department, the Department recommends they be granted at no cost. This area is Heritage Preserve dedicated, however the use of the park for public recreation is an allowable use, therefore a change of use is not necessary.

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Recommendation

We recommend adoption of the attached Resolution.

WR:bw
Enclosures (1)

RESOLUTION

GRANTING OF A REVOCABLE LICENSE AGREEMENT AND PERMANENT EASEMENT OF UP TO 0.12± ACRES BY THE STATE PROPERTIES COMMISSION AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO GEORGIA POWER AT FORT YARGO STATE PARK - VICTOR LORD PARK. SUBJECT PROPERTY MORE ACCURATELY DEFINED IN ATTACHED "EXHIBIT A".

Property To Be Licensed and Easement To Be Granted:

Project	**Licensee/Grantee**
Fort Yargo State Park	**Georgia Power Company (up to 0.12± acres, Barrow County)**

WHEREAS, Georgia Power requested a revocable license and permanent easement relocate UG primary and install a transformer to serve a new splash pad at Fort Yargo State Park for Victor Lord Park; and

WHEREAS, on the favorable action of the Board of Natural Resources, the State Properties Commission is empowered to issue a revocable license agreement and seek legislative approval to grant a permanent easement over up to 0.12± acres to Georgia Power; and

WHEREAS, the revocable license and permanent easement area is Heritage Preserve designated, however the use of the park for public recreation is an allowable use, therefore a change of use is not necessary; and

WHEREAS, the revocable license and permanent easement benefits the Department, therefore, the Department recommends they be issued at no cost; and

WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' staff has examined the proposal and has no objection; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Georgia Board of Natural Resources concurs in the findings of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources staff and recommends that the Commissioner of Natural Resources seek the approval of the State Properties Commission and the General Assembly for the grant of a revocable license agreement and permanent easement generally in accordance with applicable laws, policies, and procedures.

Adopted this 27th day of October 2026.

Respectfully submitted by:

_____
Patrick Denney, Chairman
Georgia Board of Natural Resources

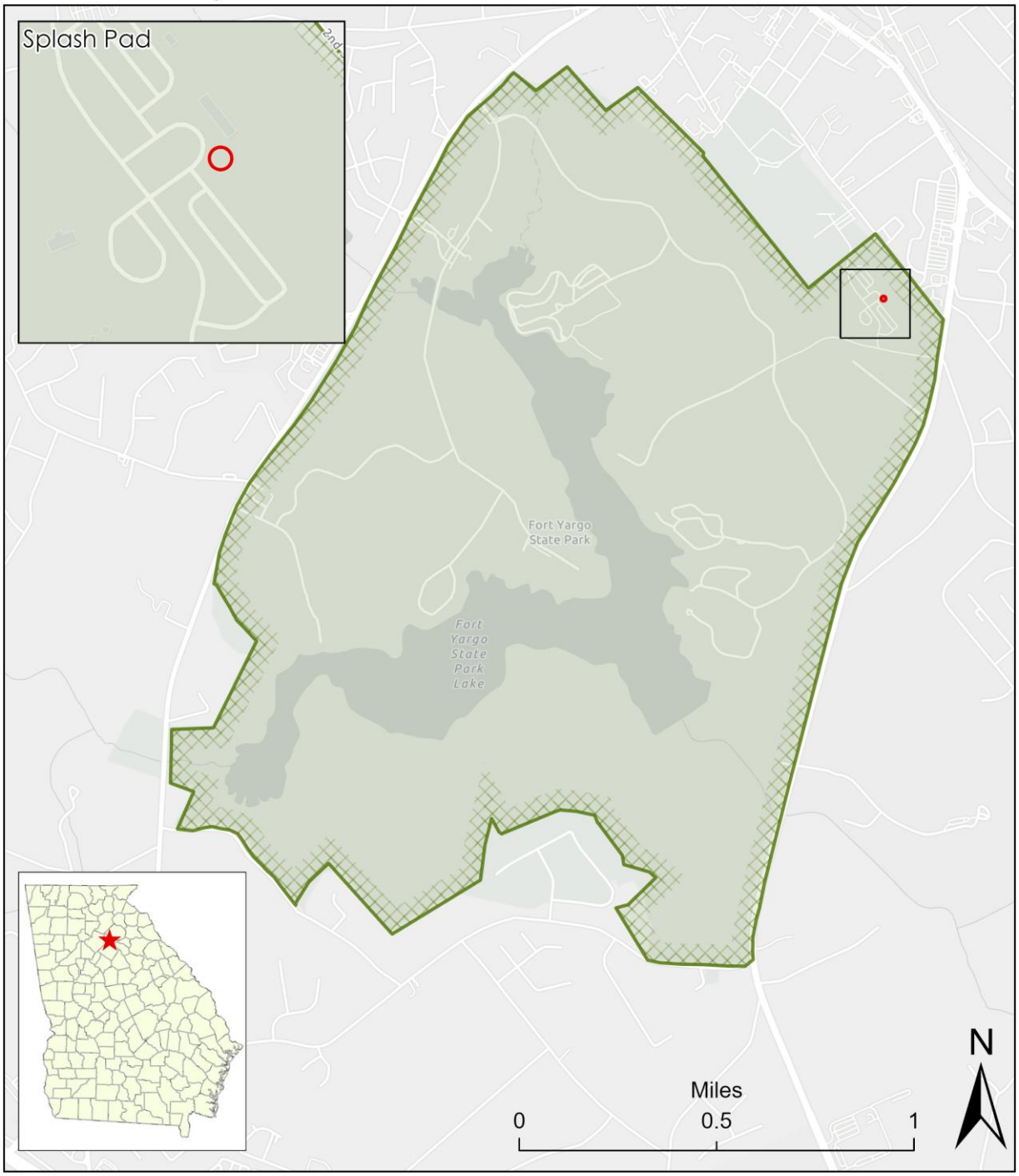
ATTEST:

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Dan Garcia, Secretary
Georgia Board of Natural Resources

EXHIBIT A

Fort Yargo SP
GA Power RLA
Barrow County

GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WILDLIFE RESOURCES DIVISION



GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WALTER RABON, COMMISSIONER

October 27, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Board of Natural Resources

FROM: Walter Rabon, Commissioner WR

SUBJECT: Granting of a Revocable License Agreement and Permanent Easement of up to 0.4242± acres by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to Washington Electrical Membership Corporation (EMC) at Balls Ferry Park, Wilkinson County.

Comments

The Department requests a revocable license agreement (RLA) and permanent easement (PE) be granted to Washington EMC.

For your review, we are enclosing:

(1) Resolution
(2) General Location Map

We have presented all available information pertaining to this easement request to the Chairman, Land Committee, and to the member of the Board within whose district this project is located.

Discussion and Conclusion

Washington EMC has requested a RLA and PE of up to 0.4242± acres to construct and reconstruct electrical services to provide electricity for a host site and future campground, located on Highway 57. This area is not Heritage Preserve dedicated; therefore, a change of use is not necessary. Construction of electrical services requires an RLA be issued by the State Properties Commission (SPC) and a PE be granted by the General Assembly (GA). Since the RLA and PE will benefit the Department, the Department recommends they be granted at no cost.

Recommendation

We recommend adoption of the attached Resolution.

WR:bw
Enclosures (1)

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RESOLUTION

GRANTING OF A REVOCABLE LICENSE AGREEMENT AND PERMANENT EASEMENT OF UP TO 0.4242± ACRES BY THE STATE PROPERTIES COMMISSION AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO WASHINGTON EMC AT BALLS FERRY PARK. SUBJECT PROPERTY MORE ACCURATELY DEFINED IN ATTACHED "EXHIBIT A".

Property To Be Licensed and Easement To Be Granted:

Project	**Licensee/Grantee**
Balls Ferry Park	**Washington EMC** **(up to 0.4242± acres, Wilkinson County)**

WHEREAS, Washington EMC requested a revocable license and permanent easement to construct and reconstruct electrical services affecting Balls Ferry Park; and

WHEREAS, on the favorable action of the Board of Natural Resources, the State Properties Commission is empowered to issue a revocable license agreement and seek legislative approval to grant a permanent easement over up to 0.4242± acres to Washington EMC; and

WHEREAS, the revocable license and permanent easement area is not Heritage Preserve designated; and

WHEREAS, the revocable license and permanent easement benefits the Department, therefore, the Department recommends they be issued at no cost; and

WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' staff has examined the proposal and has no objection

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Georgia Board of Natural Resources concurs in the findings of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources staff and recommends that the Commissioner of Natural Resources seek the approval of the State Properties Commission and the General Assembly for the grant of a revocable license agreement and permanent easement generally in accordance with applicable laws, policies, and procedures.

Adopted this 27th day of October 2026.

Respectfully submitted by:

_____
Patrick Denney, Chairman
Georgia Board of Natural Resources

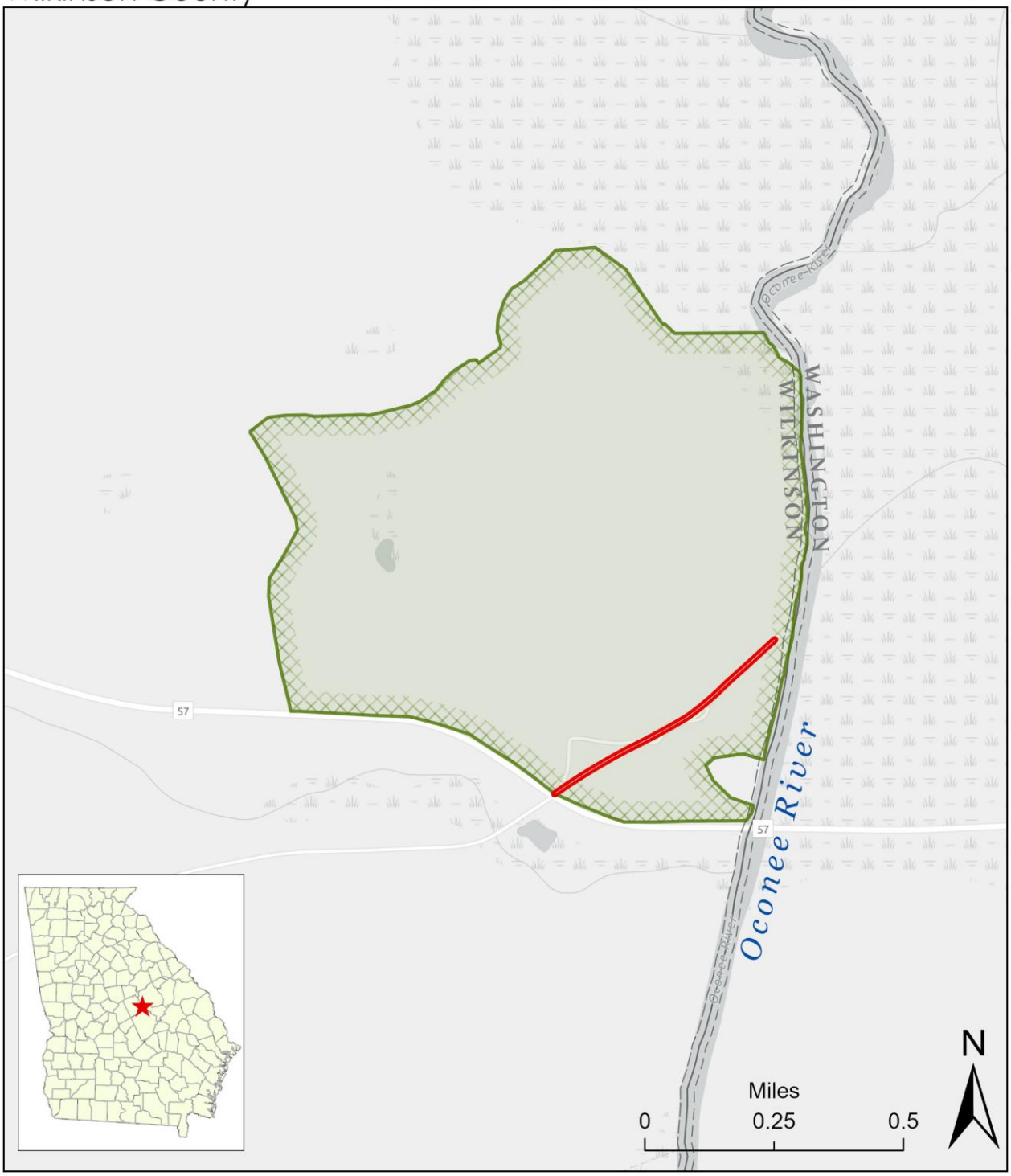
ATTEST:

_____
Dan Garcia, Secretary
Georgia Board of Natural Resources

EXHIBIT A

Balls Ferry SP
Washington EMC RLA
Wilkinson County

GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WILDLIFE RESOURCES DIVISION



GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WALTER RABON, COMMISSIONER

October 27, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Board of Natural Resources

FROM: Walter Rabon, Commissioner WR

SUBJECT: Approval to amend the IGA to allow a sublease to Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) for the staging of construction materials on the Premises for the removal of an old dock and installation of a new bulkhead in McIntosh County.

Comments

The Department is seeking approval from the Board to amend the IGA to allow a sublease to Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) for the staging of construction materials on the Premises for the removal of an old dock and installation of a new bulkhead in McIntosh County.

For your review, we are enclosing:

(1) Resolution

We have presented all available information pertaining to this project to the Chairman, Land Committee, and to the member of the Board within whose district this project is located.

Discussion and Conclusion

On January 29, 2018, the Department and County entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) concerning the provision of public access to waterways and improvements to State property located in McIntosh County. Currently GDOT is replacing Darien River bridge on U.S. 17. The County seeks to enter into a short-term sublease with a GDOT contractor for the Project, Scott Bridge Company. The County shall require the Company, at no cost to the Department, to remove the old dock and install a new bulkhead in the portion of the premises adjacent to Cathead Creek. To allow the sublease for staging construction materials, an amendment is needed.

Improving the Premises as per the proposed amendment is a benefit to the State as the new bulkhead will protect from erosion and is a necessary condition before further improvements by the County can proceed in accordance with the original IGA.

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404.656.3500 | FAX 404.656.0770 | WWW.GADNR.ORG

Recommendation

We recommend adoption of the attached Resolution.

WR: bw

Enclosures (1)

RESOLUTION

RECOMMENDING APPROVAL TO AMEND AN AGREEMENT OF THE FOLLOWING NAMED PROPERTY, MORE PARTICULARLY IDENTIFIED ON THE ATTACHED EXHIBIT "A", FOR THE PURPOSE RECREATION AND RELATED PURPOSES.

RECREATION AND RELATED PURPOSES DEFINED

Property To Be Licensed:

Project	**Grantor**
Cathead Creek Boat Ramp	**McIntosh County (2.373 acres)**

WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources is responsible for the conservation and wise utilization of the State's natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the Department and County did enter into that certain Intergovernmental Agreement, effective as of January 29, 2018 (hereinafter referred to as "Agreement"), concerning the provision of public access to waterways and improvements to State property located in the City of Darien (referred to in the Agreement as "Premises"); and

WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Transportation is undertaking a replacement of the U.S. 17 Darien River bridge (hereinafter referred to as "Project"), and the Project will provide a substantial public benefit; and

WHEREAS, the County seeks to enter into a short term sublease with a Georgia Department of Transportation contractor for the Project, Scott Bridge Company, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as "Company"), to allow the staging of construction materials on the Premises by the Company for use in the Project; and

WHEREAS, County will require the Company, as a condition of the sublease, to remove the old dock on the Premises and install a new bulkhead on the Premises; and

WHEREAS, improving the Premises by removing the old dock and installing a new bulkhead is a substantial benefit to the State, as the new bulkhead will protect the Premises from erosion and is a necessary condition before further improvements by the County can proceed in accordance with the Agreement

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Natural Resources thus recommends the amendment of the Intergovernmental Agreement, at no cost, to allow McIntosh County to sublease for the staging of construction materials; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Georgia Board of Natural Resources concurs in the findings of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources staff and recommends that the Commissioner of Natural Resources enter into an amendment of the Intergovernmental Agreement with McIntosh County to allow the County to sublease for the staging of construction materials.

Adopted this 27th day of October 2026.

Respectfully submitted by:

_____
Patrick Denney, Chairman
Georgia Board of Natural Resources

ATTEST:

_____
Dan Garcia, Secretary
Georgia Board of Natural Resources

EXHIBIT

Cathead Creek Properties

GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
COASTAL RESOURCES DIVISION

McIntosh County

