



AGENDA

Board of Natural Resources
George T. Bagby State Park
330 Bagby Pkwy
Fort Gaines, GA 39851

Tuesday, April 28, 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 | Scott Curry |

II. Board Committee Meetings

Coastal Committee (Tab C)

Nancy Addison, Chair

Members: Harley Yancey (Vice Chair), Dellinger, DePriest, Hatfield, Hennessy, Hodge, Jones, Lambert, Layton, Peavy, Shailendra

- a) Action on a Proposed Amendment to the Rules of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Saltwater Fishing Regulations, Rule 391-2-4, (Doug Haymans, Director)

Land Committee (Tab D)

Mark Hennessy, Chair

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

- a) Approval to Acquire through donation the 129± acres Bo Ginn National Fish Hatchery from the National Park Service, Magnolia Springs State Park, Jenkins County.
- b) Approval of reversionary deed language of approximately 13,843.5+ acres conveyed by donation by the Georgia Department of Transportation (DOT), in Bleckley, Lee, Long, Jeff Davis, Madison, Montgomery, Murray, Putnam, Screven, Taylor, and Upson County.

Wildlife Resources Committee (Tab E)

Steve Hufstetler, Chair

Members: Hatfield (Vice Chair), Andrews, DePriest, Garcia, Hennessy, Hodge, Johnson, Layton, Peavy, Reynolds, Sinyard

- a) Action on Proposed Amendment to Subject 391-4-2, Hunting Regulations, Migratory Gamebirds (Tina Johannsen, Game Management Assistant Chief)
- b) Briefing on Proposed Amendments to Subject 391-4-2, Hunting Regulations, Wildlife Management Areas (Tina Johannsen, Game Management Assistant Chief)

III. Board Meeting

Approval of Minutes

- a) Minutes of the Board of Natural Resources meeting on March 24, 2026 (Tab A)

EPD Director's Report

- a) Remarks
- b) EPD Quarterly Report

DNR Commissioner's Report

- a) Commissioner's Report
- b) Division Updates
- c) DNR Capital Outlay Status Report (Tab B)
- d) DNR Weekly Updates sent via email

Report of the Coastal Committee

Nancy Addison, Chair

- a) Action on a Proposed Amendment to the Rules of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Saltwater Fishing Regulations, Rule 391-2-4, (Doug Haymans, Director)

Report of the Land Committee

Mark Hennessy, Chair

- a) Approval to Acquire through donation the 129± acres Bo Ginn National Fish Hatchery from the National Park Service, Magnolia Springs State Park, Jenkins County.
- b) Approval of reversionary deed language of approximately 13,843.5+ acres conveyed by donation by the Georgia Department of Transportation (DOT), in Bleckley, Lee, Long, Jeff Davis, Madison, Montgomery, Murray, Putnam, Screven, Taylor, and Upson County.

Report of the Wildlife Resources Committee

Steve Hufstetler, Chair

- a) Action on Proposed Amendment to Subject 391-4-2, Hunting Regulations, Migratory Gamebirds (Tina Johannsen, Game Management Assistant Chief)

Other Business

IV. Adjourn

The next Board of Natural Resources meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 19 at 9:00 in the DNR Board Room at 2 MLK Jr. Drive, SE, Suite 1252, Atlanta, GA 30334.

Live Stream Link:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82057025137?pwd=A92FF3iPW9ouO5a6W4UvWjKCrHRxyt.1>

Meeting ID: 820 5702 5137

Passcode: 386566

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

Tuesday, March 24, 2026
9:00 a.m.

Board Members

Patrick Denney, Chair
Randy Dellinger, Vice Chair
Dan Garcia, Secretary
Nancy Addison
Jeff Andrews
Charles DePriest
Joe Hatfield
Mark Hennessy
Penn Hodge
Steve Hufstetler
Duncan Johnson
Ray Lambert
Mike Peavy
Lesley Reynolds
Paul Shailendra
Bodine Sinyard (via conference call)
Harley Yancey (via conference call)

Guests

Bryan Tolar, Georgia Urban Agriculture Council
Lyndy Rogers, Georgia Natural Resources Foundation
Charles Burton, North Georgia Mountain Authority
Scott Hendricks, Georgia Power
Rosa Chi, Georgia Power
David Copeland
Lynn Smith, State Representative

Staff Members

Walter Rabon, Commissioner
Thomas Barnard
Trevor Santos
Kate Iannuzzi
Taylor Fisher
Haley Chafin
Jeff Cown
Anna Truscynski
Katie Bloomfield
Chris Harper
Allison Coulter
Angie Johnson
Andre McLendon
Dan Roach
Jim MacNamara
Matt Owens
Thom Litts
James McLaughlin
Bob Holley
Brent Womack
Doug Haymans
Jim Cooley
Jim Boylan
Deanna Oser
Chuck Mueller
Colt Martin
Chris Ivey
Brandon Hardeman
Kyle Smith
West Malenke

The March 24, 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 David Copeland to deliver a moment of inspiration.

Chairman Denney recognized Rep. Lynn Smith, Chairwoman of the House Natural Resources and Environment Committee, who had announced her plans to retire after thirty years of dedicated service. He further stated that in recognition of her leadership and lasting contributions to the natural resources and environmental protection, this Board felt it fitting to present her with a Resolution in her honor.

A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Ms. Addison and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution Honoring Representative Lynn Smith, Chairwoman of the House of Natural Resources and Environment Committee.

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

Chairman Denney called the March 24, 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 February 24, 2026.

A motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Hatfield and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the Board of Natural Resources meeting on February 24, 2026.

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

Director Jeff Cown provided an update on upcoming agency activities, noting that EPD and the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services will co-host the Environmental Council of States (ECOS) Spring Conference in Savannah, Georgia the following week. He stated that the conference will include commissioners and secretaries from all fifty states and six territories, along with a fireside chat featuring Governor Brian Kemp and Governor Henry McMaster.

Director Cown then provided a brief legislative update, stating that House Bill 956 and House Resolution 1008 have both passed the General Assembly and are awaiting the Governor's signature. He also noted that the Fiscal Year 2026 budget has been signed and highlighted provisions including

a \$2,000 employee supplement, adjustments to the State Health Benefit Plan contribution rate, and one-time funding support for air emissions programs. He added that the FY27 budget is still under consideration in the Senate and includes continued support for air programs, capital investments, and funding for the Coastal District Office.

Director Cown then provided a brief drought update, noting that conditions remain largely unchanged with exceptional drought persisting in south central Georgia. He stated that eleven drought swap permits have been issued since the last report and emphasized ongoing efforts to support drought response, while noting that rainfall is still needed for meaningful improvement.

Director Cown concluded with employee recognition, honoring Derek Williams for thirty-five years of service, Jim McNamara for thirty-five years, and Larry Petty for thirty years, highlighting their combined more than one hundred years of service to the State and EPD.

Chairman Denney thanked Director Cown for his report.

Chairman Denney then recognized Commissioner Walter Rabon for receiving the 2026 Conservation Trailblazer Award at the Dallas Safari Club Convention and congratulated him on the honor.

Chairman Denney called on Commissioner Rabon for his report.

The Commissioner then thanked the Board for recognizing Chairwoman Lynn Smith, noting her long-standing support of the Department of Natural Resources and her leadership over a 30-year career.

Commissioner Rabon next recognized four individuals—Colt Martin, Chris Ivey, Kyle Smith, and Brandon Hardeman—for their response to a recent emergency on March 6, when an 88-year-old man became trapped under a tree while operating a tractor near the Burton Fish Hatchery. He stated that Mr. Martin and Mr. Ivey immediately responded and worked to free the individual after approximately an hour of entrapment. He noted that Mr. Ivey provided first aid and controlled bleeding using Stop the Bleed training until additional assistance arrived, while Mr. Martin coordinated with Camp Evergreen staff. He added that Mr. Smith and Mr. Hardeman used chainsaw training to clear access for EMS. He reported that the individual was transported to Northeast Georgia Medical Center and was released later that evening, and he commended the team for their quick and effective response.

Commissioner Rabon then provided a legislative update, stating that the Department is tracking approximately 280 bills affecting DNR operations and personnel.

He stated that Governor Kemp recently signed House Bill 973, the amended FY26 budget, and expressed appreciation to the Governor, OPB Director Rick Dunn, and the General Assembly for

continued support. He also stated that the FY27 budget includes additional positive provisions for the Department.

Commissioner Rabon then highlighted Senate Bill 420, which establishes a migratory fish endorsement for anglers targeting nine offshore species. He stated that the endorsement will support Coastal Resources Division efforts to improve participation tracking and catch data, with the goal of enhancing fisheries management and potentially shifting certain management responsibilities from federal to state oversight. He noted that the bill has passed the General Assembly and is awaiting the Governor's consideration.

He stated that April 2 is the final legislative day for gubernatorial action on bills.

Commissioner Rabon then highlighted recent outreach efforts, including a trout fishing event on the Chattahoochee River hosted by the Georgia Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus, WRD Fisheries, the Georgia Wildlife Federation, and Trout Unlimited. He noted that staff provided stocked trout, fishing instruction, and educational outreach to legislators regarding trout management and regulations.

He also reported on the 2026 Parks and Recreation Rangers Conference held at Lake Lanier Islands, noting presentations from leadership and partners and recognizing Park Ranger of the Year West Malenke for more than 20 years of service with the State Parks Division, particularly at Tallulah Gorge.

Commissioner Rabon then provided updates on the Game Warden Academy, noting that the 40th Academy is in its ninth week of training and will graduate on April 17. He stated that the 41st Academy applicant pool included 213 applicants, with 81 advancing to oral interviews following physical assessments.

He also noted increasing boating activity statewide and reported seven drowning incidents so far in 2026, including two in the current month, emphasizing ongoing boating safety outreach and upcoming "Belts and Buoys" safety campaigns.

Commissioner Rabon concluded by highlighting the Outdoor Beyond Barriers program's Adaptive Day and Open House event with Camp Lakeside, noting partnerships with YMCA Camp Lakeside and recognizing Board Member Duncan Johnson for his participation and support of the program.

Commissioner Rabon called on Doug Haymans, Director of the Coastal Resources Division, for his update.

Director Haymans provided a Coastal Resources Division update, noting that federal review of red snapper experimental fishing permits is ongoing with a May 1 target date, and that implementation of a related endorsement is planned for fall pending approval. He reported weather-

related delays for the Tug SAGA, nearing completion of the Champney boat ramp with a tentative May 1 ribbon cutting, and a successful CoastFest event. He also highlighted ongoing interdivisional work with WRD on oyster catcher nesting habitat.

Commissioner Rabon called on Chris Harper, Director of the Wildlife Resources Division, for his report.

Director Harper provided a Wildlife Resources Division update, highlighting training efforts through the WRD Training Academy and related safety courses, with more than 100 employees completing the academy and over 400 completing additional certifications such as CPR, first aid, and Stop the Bleed. He reported on the creation of a fisheries tournament committee to evaluate impacts of competitive bass fishing, with efforts underway to develop best practices, a centralized tournament information system, and tools such as a weigh-in trailer to reduce fish mortality. He also highlighted a “Ladies Only Learn and Burn” prescribed fire training event at Red Oak Plantation aimed at supporting female landowners and conservation partners and concluded with an update on a turkey restoration project on Sapelo Island, where 26 birds have been translocated and are being monitored as part of a multi-year effort to re-establish a sustainable population.

Commissioner Rabon stated that concluded his report.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Hennessy, seconded by Mr. Shailendra, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commissioner approval to grant an access easement to Timberlands II LLC by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly at Upatoi Ravines Wildlife Management Area, Talbot County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Chairman Denney called on Randy Dellinger for the Nominating Committee for the Rock Howard Conservation Achievement Award report.

A motion was made by Mr. Dellinger, seconded by Mr. Shailendra, and carried unanimously that Mr. Harold F. Reheis be awarded the 2026 Board of Natural Resources Rock Howard Conservation Achievement Award.

Chairman Denney stated that Diane, Harold’s wife, could not attend this meeting but plans to accept the award on behalf of the Reheis family at the May meeting.

Chairman Denney announced that the next Board meeting will be held Tuesday, April 28, 2026 at George T. Bagby State Park.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Patrick Denney, Chairman

ATTEST:

Dan Garcia, Secretary

**Minutes
Coastal Committee
DNR Boardroom
2 MLK Jr. Drive, SE
Suite 1252, East Tower**

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

9:00 a.m.

Committee Members

Nancy Addison, Chair
Harley Yancey, Vice Chair ([via conference call](#))
Randy Dellinger
Charles DePriest
Joe Hatfield
Mark Hennessy
Penn Hodge
Ray Lambert
Mike Peavy
Paul Shailendra
Patrick Denney, Board Chair, Ex-Officio

Board Members

Jeff Andrews
Dan Garcia
Steve Hufstetler
Duncan Johnson
Bodine Sinyard (via conference call)
Lesley Reynolds

The March 24, 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, who called on Doug Haymans, Director of the Coastal Resources Division, to re-brief the Committee on the Proposed Amendments to the Rules for Saltwater Fishing Regulations, Rule 391-2-4-.19.

Director Doug Haymans provided an update regarding the proposed extension of oyster harvest hours. He further stated that the item did not receive the required public notice prior to being brought forward for final action. As a result, the Department is restarting the public notice process. He added that the item will now proceed through public notice and will be brought back to the Board for final action at the April meeting.

Director Haymans noted that the materials included in the current packet are identical to those previously provided in January due to the need to restart the process

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes
Environmental Protection Committee
DNR Boardroom
2 MLK Jr. Drive, SE
Suite 1252, East Tower

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

9:00 a.m.

Committee Members

Ray Lambert, Chair
Duncan Johnson, Vice Chair
Nancy Addison
Jeff Andrews
Dan Garcia
Penn Hodge
Steve Hufstetler
Lesley Reynolds
Paul Shailendra
Bodine Sinyard (via conference call)
Patrick Denney, Board Chair, Ex-Officio

Board Members

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

The March 24, 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. Chairman Lambert called on DeAnna Oser, Assistant Chief of the Air Protection Branch, to present brief the Committee on the Proposed Amendments to the Rules for Air Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-1.

Ms. Oser presented the Environmental Protection Division's miscellaneous rule package. She stated that the package includes routine updates to rules that incorporate federal standards, as well as minor revisions made throughout the year, consolidated into a single package.

Ms. Oser stated that Rule 391-3-1-.02(2)(dd) updates language to add a definition and correct typographical errors. She further stated that Rule 391-3-1-.02(4)(b) adds requirements for the 24-hour secondary standard for SO₂ under NAAQS, noting that these standards include both primary and secondary components. She added that Rule 391-3-1-.02(8) incorporates updated New Source Performance Standards into the State's rules, and Rule 391-3-1-.02(9) updates the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants.

Ms. Oser stated that Rule 391-3-1-.03(6)(b) includes updates to combustion equipment exemptions to provide clarity and correct errors. She further stated that the package also includes updates to permit fees to incorporate the next year's fee schedule into the code.

Ms. Oser stated that the package will proceed to public notice, and that the Board will be asked to consider adoption at a future meeting.

Ms. Oser concluded her presentation.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**Minutes
Land Committee
DNR Boardroom
2 MLK Jr. Drive, SE
Suite 1252, East Tower**

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

9:00 a.m.

Committee Members

Mark Hennessy, Chair
Penn Hodge, Vice Chair
Nancy Addison
Jeff Andrews
Randy Dellinger
Dan Garcia
Joe Hatfield
Steve Hufstetler
Duncan Johnson
Lesley Reynolds
Harley Yancey (via conference call)
Patrick Denney, Board Chair, Ex-Officio

Board Members

Charles DePriest
Ray Lambert
Mike Peavy
Paul Shailendra
Bodine Sinyard (via conference call)

The March 24, 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 item.

Mr. Womack requested approval to grant an access easement to Timberlands II, LLC for a landlocked parcel located within the Upatoi Ravines Wildlife Management Area in Talbot County, subject to State Properties Commission and General Assembly approval. He stated that the easement would provide access via existing woods roads to the parcel, as reflected on the map presented.

Mr. Womack stated that the request is part of the Department's ongoing partnership with Timberlands II, LLC to preserve property at Upatoi Ravine. He explained that, during Phase II acquisition preparations, the parcel was identified as having unresolved title issues that prevented

its inclusion in the purchase. He further stated that Timberlands II, LLC agreed to proceed with the Phase II transaction based on the Department's commitment to seek authorization for a formal access easement to the parcel.

Mr. Womack stated that the Department is continuing to work with Timberlands II, LLC to resolve the title issues and anticipates pursuing acquisition of the parcel in the future. He added that granting the easement will ensure continuity of the Phase II acquisition and support the State's long-term interest in consolidating ownership within the Wildlife Management Area.

Mr. Womack further stated that, in recognition of the partnership and ongoing efforts to resolve the title issues, the Department recommends issuing the easement at no cost.

Mr. Womack requested favorable consideration.

A motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Shailendra, and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend the Board adopt the Resolution authorizing the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to grant an access easement to Timberlands II LLC by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly at Upatoi Ravines Wildlife Management Area, Talbot County.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes
Rock Howard Conservation Achievement Award Nomination Committee
DNR Boardroom
2 MLK Jr. Drive, SE
Suite 1252, East Tower

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

9:00 a.m.

Committee Members

Randy Dellinger, Chair
Nancy Addison
Joe Hatfield
Duncan Johnson
Ray Lambert
Bodine Sinyard (via conference call)
Patrick Denney, Board Chair, Ex-Officio

Board Members

Dan Garcia
Jeff Andrews
Charles DePriest
Mark Hennessy
Penn Hodge
Steve Hufstetler
Mike Peavy
Paul Shailendra
Lesley Reynolds
Harley Yancey (via conference call)

The March 24, 2026, meeting of the Rock Howard Conservation Achieve Award Nominating Committee was called to order by Patrick Denney, Chairman of the Board of Natural Resources.

Chairman Denney called on Randy Dellinger, Chairman of the Nominating Committee. Mr. Dellinger provided background on the award, noting that the Georgia Board of Natural Resources annually recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the Department's mission of managing, guiding, and promoting the wise use of Georgia's natural, historical, and recreational resources for the benefit of current and future generations.

Mr. Dellinger stated that the award is named in honor of the late R.S. "Rock" Howard, the first Director of the Environmental Protection Division, which was established under Governor Jimmy Carter in 1972. He described Mr. Howard as a pioneer in environmental protection who built the agency during a time when environmental laws and protections were limited or nonexistent, and credited him with establishing a strong foundation for environmental stewardship in the State.

Mr. Dellinger then opened the floor for nominations for the Rock Howard Conservation Achievement Award.

Mr. Hatfield made a nomination for Mr. Harold F. Reheis, former Director of the Environmental Protection Division, who dedicated his professional life to protecting Georgia's natural resources.

Mr. Hatfield stated that Mr. Reheis had a distinguished career spanning more than 60 years, including service with the U.S. Geological Survey, Georgia Jones and Gold, service as Director of the Environmental Protection Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, and work with Tanner and Associates. He further stated that, as Director of EPD, Mr. Reheis oversaw programs protecting Georgia's air, water, land, public drinking water systems, dams, and waste management, contributing to significant environmental improvements across the State.

A motion was made by Mr. Hatfield, seconded by Ms. Addison, and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend the Board approve the nomination of Mr. Harold F. Reheis to receive the 2026 Rock Howard Conservation Achievement Award.

Chairman Denney thanked the Nominating Committee and stated that there was no further business.

DNR CAPITAL OUTLAY STATUS REPORT - MARCH 2026

Date Updated: 3/15/2025

SITE	DIVISION	PROJECT	FUND SOURCE	BUDGET	EXPENSES TO DATE	DESIGN STATUS	PHYSICAL COMPLETION	COMMENTS
Fort McAllister	PHS	Campground Dock Repairs	State Funds	\$ 23,800	\$ 7,400	100%	0%	Awaiting Funding
Fort McAllister	PHS	Repair of ground waterwell and day-use well	FY-24 Parks	\$ 87,250		100%	100%	Complete
Franklin D. Roosevelt State Park	PHS	Dowdell's Knob Gate	FY-25 Park Pass	\$ 63,939	\$ 20,520	N/A	0%	Equipment ordered / starts mid April
Franklin D. Roosevelt State Park	PHS	Little White House Assessment	FY-25 Park Pass	\$ 56,100	\$ 56,100	100%	0%	Assessment complete
Franklin D. Roosevelt State Park	PHS	Little White House Historic Bldg Improvements (Design)	BONDS FY-24 (DNR-164)	\$ 183,700	\$ 11,005	35%	0%	Design Underway, prioritizing electrical, tracking for April
Franklin D. Roosevelt State Park	PHS	Liberty Bell Pool Upgrades	Fy-25 Park Pass	\$ 111,600	\$ 70,800	100%	0%	Awaiting GOSP Funds, Starting after Labor Day
George L Smith State Park	PHS	Campground Renovations	BONDS FY-23 (DNR-164)	\$ 4,712,441	\$ 2,954,655	100%	90%	Under construction
George L Smith State Park	PHS	Mill House Repairs	BONDS FY-26 (DNR-178)	\$ 21,582	\$ 21,582		75%	Under Construction / scheduling additional repairs
George L Smith State Park	PHS	Yurt Village	FY-25 State Appropriations BONDS FY-24 (DNR-167)	\$ 1,388,578	\$ 48,082	100%	15%	Under construction
George L Smith State Park	PHS	Day Use Improvements	FY-25 AMENDED FUNDS (DNR-178) FY-26 CASH BONDS (DNR-179)	\$ 678,418	\$ 11,600	0%	0%	Underway
George T. Bagby State Park	PHS	Kitchen Renovation & Site Improvements	FY25 Amended Funds	\$ 300,000	\$ 27,564	100%	0%	Ordering material / Working on CO
George T Bagby State Park	PHS	Ranger House	BONDS FY-24 (DNR-169)	\$ 61,218	\$ -	N/A	100%	Complete
Hamburg State Park	PHS	Ground Water Well	BONDS FY-24 (DNR-169)	\$ 27,500	\$ -	30%	0%	Engineering Underway
Hofwyl-Broadfield State Park	PHS	Repair subfloor damage to residences	FY-26 PARK PASS	\$ 441,226	\$ -	N/A	0%	Waiting on insurance adjuster site visit
Indian Springs State Park	PHS	Yurt Village	FY-24 E&C Funds FY-24 Amended Funds	\$ 2,975,992	\$ 1,735,808	100%	85%	Under construction
Jack Hill State Park	PHS	Fishing Pier/ADA Improvements	FY-25 State Appropriations BONDS FY-24 (DNR-164)	\$ 322,880	\$ 184,761	100%	95%	Underconstruction
Laura S. Walker State Park	PHS	Exterior Renovations for Group Shelter 3 & 4	FY-26 PARK PASS	\$ 217,289		N/A	0%	Scheduling
Sylvania Welcome Center	PHS	New Campground	BONDS FY-24 (DNR-169)	\$ 107,500	\$ 13,000	10%	10%	Design Underway
SAM Shortline	PHS	Site Improvements	DOT Grant	\$ 234,500	\$ 119,135	85%	0%	Design to be complete by mid-March.
Sapelo Island	PHS	Reynolds Mansion Improvements (MEP)	FY-23 PARK RECEIPTS FY-26 CASH BONDS (DNR-179)	\$ 3,117,100	\$ 1,200,032	100%	75%	MEP/Electrical Complete, FP/FA Pending
Skidaway State Park	PHS	Campground Improvements/Reno	BONDS FY-24 (DNR-169) BONDS FY-24 (DNR-167)	\$ 3,892,261	\$ 581,235	100%	20%	Under construction
Providence Canyon State Park	PHS	Day-Use area observation tower and erosion mitigation	BONDS FY-24 (DNR-169)	\$ 169,000	\$ 10,800	15%	0%	Underway
Stephen C. Foster State Park	PHS	Cabin Replacement	FY-27 State Appropriations FY-26 State Appropriations	\$ 6,339,081	\$ 394,751	100%	0%	NTP - 3/30/2026
Stephen C. Foster State Park	PHS	Boat Basin Bulkhead	GOSP Grant BONDS FY-25 (DNR#172)	\$ 1,385,930		100%	35%	Under construction
Chattahoochee Bend State Park	PHS	Linen Facility	FY-25 CASH BONDS (DNR-178)	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 130,764	100%	30%	Building is in the dry revised conceptual floorplans reviewed.
Cloudland Canyon	PHS	Cottage Renovations 6-15 (Design)	FY-25 Park Pass	\$ 335,947		15%	0%	
Cloudland Canyon	PHS	Visitor Center Construction	FY-24 State Funds BONDS FY-23 (DNR-169)	\$ 7,352,257	\$ 2,133,049	100%	30%	Under Construction
Dams	PHS	Dam Repairs - Vogel	BONDS FY-22 (DNR-160) BOND FY-23 (DNR-163)	\$ 4,390,164	\$ 559,066	100%	20%	Under Construction
Fort Yargo State Park	PHS	Emergency repair (septic)	PHS Reserves BONDS (DNR-169)	\$ 87,300		N/A	100%	Complete
Hamburg State Park	PHS	Filtration System	BONDS FY-23 (DNR-169)	\$ 27,500	\$ -	30%	0%	Design Underway
Tallulah Gorge State Park	PHS	Lake Access Improvements	FY-24 Park Receipts FY-26 PARK PASS	\$ 1,140,759	\$ 202,343	100%	10%	Underway
Tallulah Gorge State Park	PHS	Accessible path and Overlook	BONDS FY-24 (DNR-167) FY-26 PARK PASS	\$ 159,500	\$ 19,000	10%	0%	Design Underway
Tallulah Gorge State Park	PHS	Gate Install	Private Funding	\$ 37,110	\$ -	N/A	100%	Complete
Tugaloo State Park	PHS	Comfort Station #4 Wastewater System	BONDS FY-24 (DNR-169)	\$ 9,000		40%	0%	Pricing underway
Tugaloo State Park	PHS	ADA Ramp & Rails at Cottage #13	LWCF BONDS FY-24 (DNR#164)	\$ 163,524	\$ 76,397	100%	15%	Under Construction
Victoria Bryant State Park	PHS	Highland Walk Golf Course irrigation repairs	BONDS FY-24 (DNR-169)	\$ 74,173	\$ 49,793		75%	Under Construction
Various State Park Locations	PHS	Various Park Projects (Supplemental)	FY-25 PHS Funds	\$ 3,846,233	\$ -	0%	0%	Scoping/Tracking
Various DNR - State Park Locat	PHS	Structural Assessments	FY-26 PARK PASS	\$ 36,350	\$ 36,350	100%	N/A	Complete
Various Park Sites	PHS	Category J Dam Inspections	BONDS FY-24 (DNR-169)	\$ 19,700	\$ -	0%	N/A	Scheduling
Atapaha WMA	WRD	Mobile Home	Funding TBD			0%	N/A	Scoping
Albany WMA	WRD	Paving Improvements	FY26 WRD FUNDS FUNDING	\$ 164,914	\$ -	0%	N/A	Scheduling
Ceylon WMA	WRD	Maintenance Shop and Mobile Home	WRD GRANT FUNDING			0%	N/A	Scoping
Dawson - Steve Cocke Fish Hat	WRD	Repair pond leaks	FY-26 WRD FUNDS	\$ 915,241	\$ -	N/A	0%	April Start
Fish Hatchery Improvements	WRD	Bowen's Mill Hatchery Improvements	BONDS FY-23 (DNR-164) Wildlife Endowment Funds	\$ 5,811,787	\$ 4,216,213	100%	85%	Under construction
Flat Creek PFA	WRD	Flat Creek Public Fishing Area MRR Funds	FY-26 CASH BONDS (DNR-183)	\$ 500,000	\$ 19,472	0%	80%	Under construction
Go Fish Education Center	WRD	New aquarium acrylic panels	BONDS FY-26 (DNR-178)	\$ 205,100	\$ 141,482	N/A	90%	Under Construction
Sapelo Island	WRD	Boathouse & Hoist Improvements	WRD Funds FY-25 State Appropriations	\$ 1,232,000	\$ 486,276	100%	20%	On Hold due to other priorities
Sapelo Island	WRD	McKinley House and Marsh House Renovations	BONDS FY-26 (DNR-178)	\$ 196,723	\$ -	N/A	0%	Scheduling
Altama WMA	WRD	Cabin Renovation	FY-26 WRD Funds	\$ 143,996	\$ 56,565	N/A	65%	Under construction
Altamaha WMA	WRD	Butter House (DOAS Cash-Out)	DOAS Insurance	\$ 874,200		0%	0%	Scoping
Sapelo Island	WRD	Cabretta Bridge Repair	FY-25 Parks / WRD	\$ 798,500	\$ 223,713	N/A	0%	Under construction
Sapelo Island	WRD	Ferry Design/Procurement	FY24 - WRD Timber Funds DOT BOND Dollars	\$ 6,294,000	\$ 380,471	100%	0%	Awaiting Bids
Sapelo Island	WRD	Dean's Creek Nature Trail	FY-25 WRD Funds	\$ 635,598	\$ 534,610		85%	Under construction
Sapelo Island	WRD	Sapelo Nanny Goat Pavilion	FY-25 State Appropriations	\$ 1,242,261	\$ 31,175	100%	0%	Additional Funding Req'd, working with LWCF
Sapelo Island	WRD	Long Tabby Shoreline Design	FY-26 WRD FUNDING	\$ 24,160	\$ 6,280	50%	0%	Underway
Sapelo Island	WRD	UGAMI Campus Shoreline Design	FY-26 WRD FUNDING	\$ 39,760	\$ 21,400	50%	0%	Underway

DNR CAPITAL OUTLAY STATUS REPORT - MARCH 2026

Date Updated: 3/15/2025

Project Name	Agency	Description	Funding Source	Allocated	Spent	% Spent	% Complete	Status
Sapelo Island	WRD	Visitor Center Expansion & Exhibits (Design)	WRD Grant Funding	\$ 197,500	\$ 26,471	15%	0%	Design Underway
Wildlife Resources Division	WRD	Coastal Housing/Infrastructure	BONDS FY-26 (DNR-172)	\$ 1,000,000	\$ -	0%	0%	Scoping
Burton Trout Hatchery	WRD	Raceway Covers Lighting and Gates	FY-26 CASH BONDS (DNR-178)	\$ 866,896	\$ 427,497	N/A	100%	Complete
Charlie Elliott WEC	WRD	Animal Care Facility & Open Air Pavilion	WRD	\$ 5,925,318	\$ 5,705,023	100%	97%	the expensive testing required for Pile placement.
Chattahoochee WMA	WRD	Check Station	BONDS FY-22 (DNR-160) BONDS FY-24 (DNR-169)	\$ 116,179	\$ -	0%	10%	Under Construction
McDuffie PFA	WRD	Prefabricated Bridge	FY-26 WRD FUNDING	\$ 82,777	\$ -	100%	5%	Scheduled Install 3/24/2026
McDuffie PFA	WRD	McDuffie Hurricane Helene Storm Damage	DOAS Insurance	\$ 170,785	\$ 74,535	N/A	40%	Waiting on DOAS
McDuffie PFA	WRD	Grits Mill Demolition	Funding TBD	\$ -	\$ -	0%	N/A	Scheduling
McDuffie PFA	WRD	Cabin Demo	Funding TBD	\$ -	\$ -	0%	N/A	Underway
Various DNR Locations	WRD	Shooting Range Renovations (Wilson Shoals)	DOAS Insurance	\$ 2,055,856	\$ 455,054	N/A	0%	4/1 Start Scheduling Pre-Con
Wildlife Resources Division	WRD	Facilities MRR Funds	BOND FY-24 (DNR-169)	\$ 105,157	\$ -	0%	0%	Scoping/Tracking
Wildlife Resources Division	WRD	Storage Room	BONDS FY-24 (DNR-169)	\$ 62,802	\$ -	N/A	5%	Underway
Tuckahoe Wildlife Management	WRD	Campground	BONDS FY-25 (DNR-171)	\$ 1,000,000	\$ -	100%	0%	Value Engineering
Di-Lane WMA	WRD	Improvements	BONDS FY-26 (DNR-178)	\$ 50,000	\$ -	0%	0%	Scoping
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	\$ -	100%	5%	Underway
Georgia Veterans	NGMA	Lake Blackshear Villas	BONDS FY-24 (DNR-170) AFY 24	\$ 14,448,871	\$ 8,553,607	100%	70%	Under construction
Georgia Veterans	NGMA	Lake Blackshear Conference Center Renovations	BONDS FY-24 (DNR-170) AFY 24	\$ 5,015,581	\$ -	100%	0%	April Start
Georgia Veterans	NGMA	Lake Blackshear - Pickleball Courts	LWCF Grant BONDS FY-26 (DNR#172)	\$ 480,000	\$ 21,500	100%	10%	Developing proposal
Little Ocmulgee SP	NGMA	Little Ocmulgee State Park Dam Evaluation	BOND FY-22 (DNR-160) BOND FY-23 (DNR-164)	\$ 147,229	\$ 101,680	N/A	90%	Underway
Little Ocmulgee SP	NGMA	Little Ocmulgee State Park & Lodge (CCC Annex Reno/Site Improvement)	FY-25 Funds AFY-24 Funds AFY-25	\$ 5,580,502	\$ 169,975	95%	0%	Submitting for permit, pricing
Amicalola Falls SP	NGMA	Amicalola Day Use Improvements	NGMA Funds E&C Funds	\$ 120,200	\$ 79,850	70%	0%	Design Underway
Amicalola Falls SP	NGMA	Amicalola East Ridge Trail Renovation	RTP Grant / NGMA BOND FY-24 (DNR-167)	\$ 984,178	\$ 374,111	100%	30%	Under Construction
Amicalola Falls SP	NGMA	Amicalola Falls Lodge Interior Improvements	BONDS FY-26 (DNR-176)	\$ 1,705,888	\$ 240,975	100%	5%	Start date postponed due to carpet delay
Brasstown Valley Resort	NGMA	Brasstown Resort Interior Improvements	BONDS FY-26 (DNR-176) FY-26 NGMA FUNDS	\$ 7,427,893	\$ 622,513	100%	10%	2 Floor demo and cabin 2 demo underway
Unicoi State Park	NGMA	Renovations at Unicoi State Park & Lodge (Supplemental)	AFY-24 Funds	\$ 1,217,630	\$ 853,940	0%	0%	Tracking
LED Sinclair	LED	LED Boat House (Sinclair)	FY-26 CASH BONDS (DNR-178)	\$ 595,608	\$ -	100%	15%	Design approved, beginning construction and scheduling
EPD - Macon Office	EPD	Macon Office Renovations	FY-26 CASH BONDS (DNR-178)	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 102,484	100%	10%	Under construction
DNR Region 2 HQ	V	New HQ Building	FY-26 CASH BONDS (DNR-179) FY-25 CASH BONDS (DNR-171)	\$ 14,425,780	\$ 517,112	100%	0%	Project advertised, building permit received from SFM
Various DNR Locations	DNR	ADA Transition Plan Development and Consultation	PP Rev 2016	\$ 463,846	\$ 409,126	90%	NA	In Progress
Champney WMA	CRD	Champney Boat Ramp Improvements	FY-25 CRD Funds GOSP Grant	\$ 2,352,336	\$ 2,602,357	100%	95%	Under construction
CRD HQ	CRD	MRR Funds (Bulkhead)	FY-26 CASH BONDS (DNR-178)	\$ 250,000	\$ 6,700	5%	0%	CRD Managed



COASTAL RESOURCES DIVISION

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

WALTER RABON
COMMISSIONER

DOUG HAYMANS
DIRECTOR

March 25, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Board of Natural Resources

FROM: Doug Haymans

SUBJECT: Action on proposed amendment to the Rules of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Saltwater Fishing Regulations, Rule 391-2-4

In January, you were presented with proposed amendments to the Saltwater Fishing Regulations, Rule 391-2-4-.19(2)(k) and 391-2-4-.19(4)(c)(1) and re-briefed in March with the same proposed amendments. The proposed amendment would revise Departmental procedures to approve Certified Shellfish Master Harvesters to operate for an extended period of time during the morning hours and refrigerate harvested oysters by 10:00 a.m. during an otherwise closed season.

A public notice, background, synopsis statement and strike-thru version of the rule were presented to the public for comment. Comments received will be reviewed at the April meeting. I respectfully submit the following information in support of the proposed amendment:

- Public Notice Page A-2
- Background and Synopsis Pages A-3 through 4
- Date, time and place of Board action Page A-5
- Explanation of the Public Participation Plan Page A-5
- Review of Public Comments Page A-6
- Analysis of Small Business Impacts Page A-7
- Proposed Resolution Page A-8
- Table of Contents with Exact Copy of Proposed Rule Pages A-9 through 19

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

DH/ja

Attachments



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

WALTER RABON
COMMISSIONER

DOUG HAYMANS
DIRECTOR

March 24, 2026

NOTICE OF PROPOSED REGULATION CHANGES

TO: All Interested Persons and Parties

FROM: Doug Haymans

SUBJECT: Notice of Rule Making for Saltwater Fishing Regulations for Shellfish

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to authority contained in O.C.G.A. §27-1-4, and §27-1-189, the Board of Natural Resources proposes to amend a Rule contained in the Saltwater Fishing Regulations, Rule 391-2-4-.19. The proposed amendment, when adopted, will revise requirements to participate in the harvest of molluscan shellfish during otherwise closed seasons by extending the harvest period from two (2) hours to 30 minutes before sunrise until 10:00a.m.

Written public comments will be received through Thursday, April 23, 2026. Mailed comments must be postmarked by April 23, and e-mailed comments will be accepted through close of business (4:30 pm) on April 23. Comments should be legible, concise and limited to the proposed rule.

Following this comment period, the Board of Natural Resources will consider the proposed amendment on Tuesday, April 28, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. at the George T. Bagby State Park, 330 Bagby Pkwy, Fort Gaines, GA 39851.

Mail or email comments to: Dominic Guadagnoli
Coastal Resources Division
One Conservation Way
Brunswick, GA 31520
Email: dom.guadagnoli@dnr.ga.gov

Additional information is available at www.coastalgadnr.org. Click in the “News and Public Notices”.

**BACKGROUND AND SYNOPSIS OF
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF THE
GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

**CHAPTER 391-2
COASTAL RESOURCES**

**SUBJECT 391-2-4
SALTWATER FISHING REGULATIONS**

Background:

Through the early 1900's, Georgia had a prosperous and lucrative oyster industry. Today, Georgia's oyster harvest represents a fraction of former yields although wild oyster harvest continues to be a very sustainable fishery. New techniques for oyster mariculture, or farming, in subtidal waters of creeks and rivers have recently been deployed in Georgia, demonstrating the potential for substantial economic growth in the industry.

The effort to support new oyster mariculture opportunities began with legislative policy reform in 2019 when House Bill 501 amended O.C.G.A Title 27, Chapter 4 to provide the foundation for shellfish mariculture in balance with the environment and other public uses of coastal waters and authorized the Board of Natural Resources to promulgate rules necessary to support the oyster industry.

In 2020, the Board adopted rules for oyster mariculture that incorporated the National Shellfish Sanitation Program's "Model Ordinance" (NSSP MO) by reference and established minimum seed sizes and criteria for shellfish seed importation and siting of subtidal leases. See Rule 391-2-4-.18. Subsequently, the Department produced a new Shellfish Policy Manual and an online leasing dashboard that outlines all its requirements and expectations for commercial shellfish operations.

In April 2025, the Board adopted Rule **391-2-4.19 Commercial Shellfish; Requirements for Vibrio Control**, establishing new Departmental procedures to enable Certified Shellfish Master Harvesters to harvest during an otherwise closed season. Harvest during closed season, June through September, would use strict two (2) hour time/temperature controls for the control of *Vibrio* bacteria as outlined in the Department's annual *Vibrio* Control Plan. Naturally occurring throughout estuarine waters, *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* (*Vp*) and *Vibrio vulnificus* (*Vv*) are bacteria that can cause moderate to severe gastrointestinal illness or death in those with compromised immune systems. These concerns are minimized by thoroughly cooking the shellfish; however,

consuming raw or undercooked oysters greatly increases the risk of illness from these bacteria. *Vp* and *Vv* are more prevalent during warmer months when water temperatures are highest, which is why Georgia closes the oyster harvest season, annually. However, a study conducted in 2022 by UGA and CRD demonstrated that subtidal oysters harvested within two (2) hours and before 10:00a.m. during closed season minimized the risk of producing oysters with unsafe levels of *Vibrio*. The results of this study formed the basis of the 2025 Board rule.

Following rule adoption, existing oyster farmers were certified for closed season harvest. Fortunately, no *Vibrio*-related illnesses were reported in 2025. Simultaneously, an updated study by UGA and CRD suggested subtidal oysters can also be harvested safely during the closed season over longer periods of time; specifically, 30-minutes before sunrise until 10:00a.m., while utilizing best management practices for shading and cooling. While this new study demonstrates that oysters harvested during the summer may not have unsafe levels of *Vv* or *Vp*, statistically some oysters will in fact carry elevated bacteria levels and pose a risk to consumers if eaten raw.

Following the successful 2025 closed season harvest and review of the new study, the Department finds the strict two (2) hour harvest window allowed for in the current rule can be expanded while minimizing *Vibrio* risks and associated concerns for public health.

Currently there are nine (9) leases within three (3) “mariculture zones” established exclusively for subtidal oyster farms. Closed season harvest requires additional certification by the Department and the expectation is that most farmers, if not all, farmers will meet certification criteria by 2027.

More information about the shellfish mariculture industry can be found at CoastalGaDNR.org/commercialshellfishharvest.

Purpose:

The purpose of the proposed Rule is to amend requirements for closed season shellfish mariculture by extending time of harvest from two (2) hours to 30 minutes before sunrise until 10:00a.m., while maintaining rigorous harvest controls during *Vibrio* control months. The proposed amendment is compliant with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program’s Model Ordinance, and as always, ensuring the public’s health is paramount.

Main Features:

This is an amendment to a rule adopted in 2025 that requires the Department to produce a Georgia *Vibrio* Control Plan annually and establishes the criteria for commercial shellfish harvest during an otherwise closed season. The amendment extends time/temperature control points for closed season harvest to allow harvesters additional time to harvest and land subtidal oysters before 10:00a.m.

Date, Time, and Place of Board Action:

Board Action: Tuesday, April 28, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. at the George T. Bagby State Park, 330 Bagby Pkwy, Fort Gaines, GA 39851.

Public Participation Plan
Proposed Rule Saltwater Fishing Regulations, Rule 391-2-4-.19

During the 2019 session, the Georgia General Assembly passed House Bill 501 to amend O.C.G.A. Title 27 Chapter 4 relating to the development of mariculture in Georgia for oysters, clams and other molluscan species. The Bill authorized the Board of Natural Resources to promulgate rules necessary to develop and cultivate the shellfish industry. The proposed rule amends the Saltwater Fishing Regulations to establish requirements for closed season harvest of subtidal, maricultured oysters.

Members of the Georgia Shellfish Industry were consulted during the development of this rule.

- January 30, 2026 - CRD presents proposed Rule 391-2-4-.19 to the Board of Natural Resources, Coastal Committee.
- March 24, 2026 – Board was re-briefed and Public Notice of the Proposed Rule is advertised through various print media, Gov Delivery and on CRD website. Additionally, the notice will be mailed to all persons who have requested in writing that they be placed upon a mailing list which shall be maintained by the agency for advance notice of its rule-making proceedings and who have tendered the actual cost of such mailing as from time to time estimated by the agency.
- April 23, 2026 – Public comment period closes.
- April 28, 2026 – Board consideration of public comments and final action on proposed rule.



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

WALTER RABON
COMMISSIONER

DOUG HAYMANS
DIRECTOR

April 23, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Natural Resources

FROM: Doug Haymans

SUBJECT: Public Comment Summary - proposed amendments to the Saltwater Fishing Regulations, Chapter 391-2-4

On March 24, 2026, a public notice announcing written comment period for shellfish regulation changes was posted on CoastalGaDNR.org's 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 28,303 self-nominated subscribers of the News Releases, Public Notices, Public Meetings and Recreational Fishing categories with 8,665 subscribers opening the e-mail and 207 people clicking the link to review the public notice package. A written comment period was open through April 23, 2026. As the comment period concluded after submission of this Board package, comments will be considered during the April Board meeting.



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

WALTER RABON
COMMISSIONER

DOUG HAYMANS
DIRECTOR

March 24, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Natural Resources

FROM: Doug Haymans

SUBJECT: Economic Impact of Proposed Amended Rule on Small Businesses: Rule 391-2-4, Saltwater Fishing Regulations

The Administrative Procedure Act requires that during the formation and adoption of any rules, attempts should be made to reduce the economic impact of those rules 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 proposed rule should have no negative impact on small businesses. Currently, oyster harvest is limited in Georgia to eight months per year except to those certified by the Department to harvest subtidal oysters during a closed season upon following strict harvest and refrigeration time limits. The proposed Rule provides additional time for closed season subtidal oyster harvest in the morning before 10:00 a.m. which should provide for a positive impact on the industry.

The Coastal Resources Division has determined that proposed Rule 391-2-4.19 will have no negative economic impact on small businesses.

DH/ja

A RESOLUTION

**Adopting Amendments to the
Saltwater Fishing Regulations, Chapter 391-2-4**

WHEREAS, Adoption of this proposed Rule is necessary to assure mariculture activities occur in a sustainable, compliant and timely manner; and

WHEREAS, Mariculture is managed in conformance with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s National Shellfish Sanitation Program Model Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 391-2-4-.19 amended the Saltwater Fishing Regulations to include a Georgia *Vibrio* Control Plan, Shellstock Temperature Controls, Tagging and Shading Requirements for All Shellstock, Confirmed Illness Response, Requirements and Minimum eligibility for Harvest During *Vibrio* Control Months; and

WHEREAS, Adoption of this proposed rule will have minimal to no short-term adverse economic impacts and ultimately will be beneficial to Georgia fishermen because of the extended oyster harvest times in the morning before 10:00 a.m.; and

WHEREAS, The Coastal Resources Division issued public notices, press releases and Internet postings on March 24, 2026 announcing a public comment period and all public comments were considered.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Georgia Board of Natural Resources hereby adopts amendments to Rule 391-2-4 for the development and cultivation of shellfish mariculture, as attached hereto, and incorporated herein by reference.

Adopted this 28th day of April 2026.

Respectfully submitted by:

Patrick Denney, Chairman
Georgia Board of Natural Resources

ATTEST:

Dan Garcia, Secretary
Georgia Board of Natural Resources

EXACT COPY VERSION

**RULES
OF
GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

**CHAPTER 391-2
COASTAL RESOURCES**

**SUBJECT 391-2-4
SALTWATER FISHING REGULATIONS**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

391-2-4-.19 Commercial Shellfish; Requirements for *Vibrio* Control.

(1) Purpose. The purpose of this Rule is to implement the authority of the Board of Natural Resources to promulgate rules and regulations based on current, sound principles of wildlife research and management establishing requirements for harvest of maricultured oysters from subtidal harvest areas during *Vibrio* control months, requirements for harvester tags and shading, additional harvest controls for shellfish harvested during certain months, and procedures for amending closures and harvest controls.

(2) Definitions.

(a) “Adequately iced” means the amount and application of ice is sufficient to ensure that immediate cooling begins and continues

for oysters harvested during *Vibrio* control months. If ice slurry is used and the shellfish are submerged the presence of ice in the slurry indicates adequate icing.

(b) “Adequately shaded” means measures taken to shelter shellstock from direct exposure to sunlight that may cause a significant increase in *Vibrio* growth due to an increase in temperature. Adequate shading may be accomplished by any means that effectively protects shellstock from direct sunlight and prevents excessive heat build-up in the shaded area. A gap must be maintained between the top of the shellstock and shade cover to allow for sufficient air flow.

(c) “Approved icing container” means a clean and durable receptacle fabricated from safe non-porous materials with effective drainage.

(d) “Closed season harvest record” means a document where harvesters during the *Vibrio* control months record the date, harvester name, harvest location, the time of initial harvest, the time of initial icing, the time of final harvest, quantities harvested, the time of final icing or any information as determined and approved by the Department.

(e) “Harvest” means the removal of shellstock from the water with the intention of marketing the product for consumption and not returning the shellstock to the water after husbandry practices. Harvest commences when the first shellstock not intended to be returned to the water is removed from the water, regardless of whether the shellstock is temporarily placed back into the water after culling, sorting, or other activities.

(f) “Harvester” means a person who is authorized by the Department to harvest shellfish for commercial purposes at the request of a master harvester.

(g) “Harvest area” means the designated area that has been granted to an individual to plant, grow and harvest shellfish for commercial purposes.

(h) “Harvest tag” means a durable, waterproof tag affixed by a commercial shellfish harvester to an individual container of shellstock or, if a bulk tag is used, an individual lot of shellstock, and meeting the specifications for harvester tags contained in the NSSP Model Ordinance and as required by the Department and Georgia Department of Agriculture.

(i) “Husbandry” means any activity related to the cultivation and management of shellstock prior to their harvest, including but not limited to grading, sorting, culling, tumbling, biofouling control and cleaning, but does not include processing.

(j) “Internal temperature” means the internal temperature of the meat of any shellstock as measured using a calibrated probe thermometer. The internal temperature of shellstock is, under most circumstances, reflected by the external temperature of the space surrounding the shellstock, or the external temperature of its shell. The internal temperature of shellstock may be measured by inserting a thermometer probe into the center of the container of shellfish or by measuring the external shell temperature with an infrared thermometer. Should circumstances dictate, it may be necessary for the Department, Georgia Department of Agriculture or a harvester to open the shellstock to measure its internal temperature with a thermometer probe.

(k) “Landing” means the point of time at which shellstock are put on land or a dock at the certified dealer’s facility.

(l) “Lot” means the shellstock harvested during a distinct harvest operation from a shellfish harvest area. A lot of shellstock may be identified by a single harvest tag or a single bulk harvest tag.

(m) “Master harvester” means a person who has acquired a lease with permission to grow or harvest shellfish from the state or from an owner with exclusive rights to shellfish pursuant to Code Sections 44-8-6 through 44-8-8, who has been permitted by the Department.

(n) “Mechanical refrigeration” means a mechanically refrigerated cooler which is part of a certified shellfish dealer’s facility permitted by the Georgia Department of Agriculture and which shall maintain an ambient air temperature of 45°F or below and shall be capable of achieving the time-temperature requirements of this rule.

(o) “Original dealer” means the dealer who initially received shellstock from a harvester. The original dealer may also be the master harvester, if permitted by the Georgia Department of Agriculture as a certified shellfish dealer.

(p) “Potable water” means water from a water supply that meets the requirements of the Safe Drinking Act, as administered by the US Environmental Protection Agency, and all applicable state or local requirements.

(q) “Processing” means any activity associated with the handling, shucking, freezing, packing, labeling or storing of shellfish in preparation for distribution.

(r) “Resubmergence” means the return of market-sized oysters by a harvester to their harvest area for reconditioning due to excessive time-temperature exposure from oyster husbandry activities or off-site culling or due to a recall and as prescribed by the Department and in the NSSP Model Ordinance.

(s) “Resubmergence Closed Season Logbook” means a document that clearly identifies and segregates shellstock under resubmergence and where harvesters (during the closed season harvest periods) must record the harvest area, date when oysters were removed from the site and quantities, date when oysters were returned to the harvest area for resubmergence and quantities, approximate size range, type and number of cages, reason for resubmergence (off-site culling, onsite culling e.g. exposure time was greater than two hours, anti-fouling, etc.), date oysters were taken out of resubmergence and any other information as determined and approved by the Department.

(t) “Shellstock” means live molluscan shellfish in the shell.

(u) “Subtidal” means the area of the marine shoreline that is below mean low tide and is covered with seawater at all stages of the tide.

(v) “Temperature control” means the use of adequate icing methods or mechanical refrigeration which is capable of lowering the internal temperature of oysters to 50°F then maintaining the internal

temperature of the oysters at 45°F or below, and of achieving the time-temperature requirements of this Rule.

(w) “Time of final harvest” means the time when the last oyster or clam harvested in a lot is removed from the water.

(w) “Time of initial harvest” means the time when the first oyster or clam harvested in a lot is removed from the water.

(x) “Time of final icing” means the time when the last oyster in a lot is adequately iced.

(y) “Time of initial icing” means the time when the first oyster in a lot is adequately iced.

(z) “*Vibrio* control months” means the months with heightened risk for *Vibrio* presence due to elevated air and water temperatures that require closures to harvest or more restrictive harvest controls, as determined by the Department.

(3) Georgia *Vibrio* Control Plan.

(a) The Department shall produce an annual Georgia *Vibrio* Control Plan. The plan shall prescribe the controls and requirements for eligible master harvesters to petition the Department for the harvest of maricultured oysters from subtidal harvest areas using additional harvest controls during otherwise closed seasons corresponding to *Vibrio* control months, as determined by the Department.

(b) Months that require additional temperature controls will be specified in the most recent version of the Georgia *Vibrio* Control Plan. Specifically for this plan, shellstock shall refer to Eastern Oysters (*Crassostrea virginica*) and Hard Clams (*Mercenaria* spp.), unless otherwise specified by the Department.

(4) Shellstock Temperature Controls.

(a) Harvest When Additional Temperature Controls are Not Required. Shellstock harvested during the months that do not require additional temperature controls shall be placed under mechanical refrigeration by the certified dealer within ten (10) hours from the start of harvest.

(b) Harvest When Additional Temperature Controls are Required, But Harvest is Outside of *Vibrio* Control Months. All maricultured oysters harvested during the 30 days prior to and the 30 days following the *Vibrio* control months shall be limited to five (5) hours from harvest to mechanical refrigeration.

(c) Harvest When Additional Temperature Controls are Required and Harvest is During the *Vibrio* Control Months.

(1.) Master harvesters and their harvesters may harvest oysters during the closed season/*Vibrio* control months without the use of an approved icing method, in accordance with their approved Closed Season Shellfish Operations Plan, provided that the oysters are delivered and placed into mechanical refrigeration at their certified dealer's facility before 10:00 AM on the same day. Upon receipt, the certified dealer is required to cool the oysters under mechanical refrigeration to an internal shell/meat temperature of 50°F or less within two (2) hours; or

(2.) Master harvesters and their harvesters may harvest oysters during the closed season/*Vibrio* control months provided adequate ice is used upon harvest and the oysters are placed into mechanical refrigeration at a certified dealer's facility within four (4) hours from the start of harvest. Upon receipt, the certified dealer is required to cool the oysters under mechanical refrigeration to an internal shell/meat temperature of 50°F or less within two (2) hours.

(d) Approved icing methods for all harvested oysters are:

(1.) Upon removal from the water, immediate placement of oysters into mesh bags by a harvester and placement of mesh bags between layers of wet ice into an approved icing container completely surrounded by ice; or

(2.) Upon removal from the water, immediate placement of loose oysters into an approved icing container completely surrounded by ice; or

(3.) Upon removal from the water, immediate placement of oysters into an ice and water mixture (e.g., ice slurry) at or below 45 degrees Fahrenheit and fully submerged until the temperature of the oysters is at or below 55 degrees Fahrenheit. After the oysters have been submerged and are below 55 degrees Fahrenheit, oysters must be stored in an approved icing container as prescribed in either method 1. or 2. above. The water used for the slurry must be from a potable source or from the approved growing area.

(5) Tagging Requirements for All Shellstock. All containers of commercially harvested shellstock must be tagged with a harvester

tag or, if a bulk tag is used, an individual lot of shellfish, and meeting the specifications for harvester tags as prescribed in the NSSP Model Ordinance and as required by the Department and Georgia Department of Agriculture.

(6) Shading Requirements for All Shellstock. All harvested shellstock must be adequately shaded at all times using effective coverings that shade the shellstock from direct sunlight and other contaminants, such as bird waste, onboard the vessel as well as during transport in any vessel, vehicle or conveyance from the harvest area to the original dealer. A gap must be maintained between the top of the shellstock and shade cover to allow for sufficient air flow.

(7) Confirmed Illness Response. In the event that a confirmed *Vibrio vulnificus* or *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* illness outbreak, as defined in the NSSP Model Ordinance, occurs due to the consumption of shellfish that have been commercially harvested in Georgia, the Department will follow the established protocols as defined in the most recent version of the NSSP Model Ordinance to amend shellfish growing area closures for harvest and temperature controls. Public notice of such an amendment shall be given by posting a notice at the courthouse in each coastal county and by other means as may appear feasible to inform interested persons. Such notice shall be posted at least 24 hours prior to any enforcement action taken pursuant to this rule.

(8) Requirements for Harvest During *Vibrio* Control Months.

(a) Master harvesters may annually request permission from the Department to harvest maricultured oysters from subtidal harvest areas during *Vibrio* control months. Master harvesters may be required to demonstrate their ability to meet shellstock temperature controls as described above to receive or maintain *Vibrio* control months permissions.

(b) Master harvesters must submit a Closed Season Shellfish Operations Plan to be approved by the Department prior to conducting harvesting activities during *Vibrio* control months. The plan shall include a list of trained and licensed harvesters, a resubmergence plan, husbandry plans, a routine schedule for all harvest and landing plans and all other information as required by the Department.

(c) Master harvesters that are authorized for harvest during *Vibrio* control months shall only harvest oysters that have been submerged for a minimum of 14 consecutive days prior to harvest.

(d) Resubmergence plans shall clearly identify and segregate all oysters greater than two (2) inches in the harvest area that have been put into resubmergence due to excessive time/temperature exposure. Oysters are required to remain in resubmergence for 14 consecutive days prior to harvest and must be clearly identified in a Resubmergence Closed Season Logbook.

(e) Master harvesters and their harvesters must maintain and complete a Resubmergence Closed Season Logbook for their designated harvest area. Logbooks must be maintained for a

minimum of 90 days and made immediately available to the Department or a law enforcement officer upon request.

(f) Master harvesters and their harvesters shall complete a harvest tag and closed season harvest record for each lot of shellstock from the time of initial harvest through final harvest prior to leaving the harvest area. Closed season harvest records must be maintained for a minimum of 90 days and made immediately available to the department or a law enforcement officer upon request.

(g) Master Harvesters and their harvesters will be required to use only the shellstock temperature controls described above and must ensure continuous cooling is maintained during delivery and upon receipt of the oysters by the certified dealer.

(9) Minimum Eligibility Requirements for Harvest During *Vibrio* Control Months. A master harvester meeting the following minimum requirements may petition the Department for permission to harvest maricultured oysters from subtidal harvest areas during *Vibrio* control months:

(a) The master harvester must have a minimum of six (6) months of reported harvested shellstock outside of *Vibrio* control months in accordance with the Department's control plan, and

(b) The master harvester's past compliance with the provisions in O.C.G.A. § 27-4-187 through O.C.G.A. § 27-4-204 and associated Rules and Regulations will be considered by the Department in determining eligibility.



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

WALTER RABON
COMMISSIONER

DOUG HAYMANS
DIRECTOR

April 24, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Natural Resources

FROM: Doug Haymans

SUBJECT: Public Comment Summary - proposed amendments to the Saltwater Fishing Regulations, Chapter 391-2-4 - **UPDATE**

On March 24, 2026, a public notice announcing written comment period for shellfish regulation changes was posted on CoastalGaDNR.org's 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 28,303 self-nominated subscribers of the News Releases, Public Notices, Public Meetings and Recreational Fishing categories with 8,665 subscribers opening the e-mail and 207 people clicking the link to review the public notice package. A written comment period was open through April 23, 2026.

Eight comments were received, seven were relevant to the proposed amended board rule. All seven were in support. Of the seven, three were from the public and four were industry related.

The eighth comment did not relate to extended hours for summer harvest but to historical industrial contaminants in the nearby estuary. CRD will contact the Environmental Protection Division regarding this comment.

All comments are summarized and full text included in the attachment to this memo.

Name	Date received	Letter	Support/Oppose	Date Replied and Addressed Questions	Comment
Julian Heyman	3/24/2026	n	Support with Recommendations	3/25/2026	A longer hours for mariculture harvesting oysters should be beneficial in helping Georgia commercial oyster market businesses. However, there must be penalties if restriction are not maintained. Water temperatures need to be monitored and water tested for any Vibrio bacteria during the new extended commercial hours for harvesting. This is a wonderful opportunity for Georgia business providing strict cooling and handling practices are followed.
Mitzi Michelson	3/25/2026	n	Support	3/26/2026	I am writing to convey my support of extending the hours during which shellfish - such as oysters - can be harvested so that this segment can grow and prosper. I hope this helps secure success.
David H Hobbs	3/28/2026	n	Support	3/30/2026	Hi. If the new rule change proposal for oyster harvesting hours is implemented, will incidents of illness due to Vibrio bacterial illnesses traceable to Georgia oysters be published? Are such statistics presently available? It seems reasonable to track any possible results related to public health associated with the change.
Patrick Stubbers	4/3/2026	n	Support	4/6/2026	I would like to show my support to the rule change regarding morning harvest of oysters. I have been to a few southern states that already have this style in place, and it has worked, if they are not thrown directly into an ice bath causing cold death. I believe this is a great step to getting GA closer to being current with other states in producing a great and safe oysters! Thanks for your time in this matter. Seabear Oyster Bar, Athens,GA 706-372-6101
Perry and Laura Solomon/Tybee Oyster Company	4/14/2026	yes-letter	Support	4/15/2026	Perry and I are sending this because we want to be on the record in support of this amendment to the regulation, and more importantly, that we are proud of the collaboration between the growers association, our regulators, and the team at UGA Marine Extension. Please share this with the DNR Board as well. Thank you, Laura Solomon Tybee Oyster Company / ECO Georgia Phone: 757.971.2434
Noah Brendel/Patrick Stubbers - Seabear Oyster Bar	4/16/2026	yes-letter	Support	4/16/2026	Thanks for taking the time to consider. Noah Brendel
Tyler Leslie - Shell to Shore	4/16/2026	yes-letter	Support	4/16/2026	Please see the attached letter on behalf of Shell to Shore regarding the amendments to Rule 391-2-4. Thank you for the opportunity to provide our input on this matter!
Alice Keyes - One Hundred Miles	4/23/2026	yes-letter	Support with Recommendations	4/24/2026	Please accept the attached comments regarding CRDs proposed saltwater fishing regulations. Thank you for the opportunity to review and offer this feedback.



April 13, 2026

Dear Mr. Guadagnoli and Members of the Board of Natural Resources,

On behalf of Tybee Oyster Company, I am writing to express our strong support for the proposed amendment to Rule 391-2-4 to expand allowable summer harvest hours for maricultured oysters. As a family-owned oyster farm operating in coastal Georgia, we have experienced firsthand the careful balance required between protecting public health, maintaining product quality, and sustaining a viable working waterfront. The proposed adjustment to allow harvest beginning 30 minutes before sunrise until 10:00 a.m. reflects a thoughtful, science-based approach to that balance.

We are especially proud of the collaborative process that led to this proposed rule. The partnership between Georgia's shellfish growers, the University of Georgia Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant, and the Department of Natural Resources reflects the very best of how policy should be developed—through science, shared learning, and open communication. This level of coordination builds trust and ensures that both public health and industry realities are fully considered. Research demonstrates that, when proper handling and cooling protocols are followed, oysters harvested can be safely brought to market while minimizing *Vibrio* risk. This is consistent with best practices already used successfully in other shellfish-producing states.

From an operational perspective, the current two-hour window presents significant logistical challenges. Expanding the harvest window will allow growers to operate more safely and efficiently on the water, improve working conditions for crews, and better align harvest practices with the realities of tides, weather, and farm management. These are not minor adjustments; they directly impact the ability of small farms to operate responsibly and sustainably.

From an economic standpoint, this rule change represents an important step in supporting Georgia's emerging shellfish aquaculture industry. Since the passage of enabling legislation in 2019, growers have made meaningful investments in infrastructure, workforce development, and coastal stewardship. Providing reasonable access to harvest during the summer months strengthens the viability of these businesses without compromising consumer safety.

It is also important to recognize that maricultured oysters are distinct from wild harvest. Farmed oysters are handled individually, subject to strict oversight, and produced under controlled conditions that allow for consistent application of time-to-temperature protocols. This level of accountability supports the safe expansion of harvest opportunities under the proposed rule.

Georgia has the opportunity to continue building a responsible, science-driven aquaculture sector that contributes to local economies, supports working waterfronts, and enhances coastal ecosystems. This proposed amendment is a meaningful step in that direction.

We appreciate the leadership of the Coastal Resources Division in advancing research, engaging stakeholders, and developing policies that reflect both rigor and practicality. We respectfully encourage the Board to adopt the proposed amendment.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued support of Georgia's coastal communities.

Sincerely,

Two handwritten signatures in blue ink. The first signature is a cursive 'L' followed by a horizontal line. The second signature is a cursive 'P' followed by a horizontal line.

Laura and Perry Solomon, Owners Tybee Oyster Company

laura@tybeeoyster.com 757 971 2434



RE: Proposed Amendment to Rule 391-2-4, Public Input on Proposed Shellfish Harvest Rule Change

Dear Mr. Dominic Guadagnoli,

We would like to show my support for the rule change to Rule 391-2-4. It is the opinion of Seabear Oyster Bar that harvesting oysters in the summer is not only beneficial for the ecology of our coastlines but furthermore the sustainability of an industry that needs our help. We have purchased over 2 million oysters in the 12 years we have been operating here in Athens, GA and out of that 2 million oysters only a tiny fraction have been GA oysters. We want this to change dramatically, as much as we like to support oyster farmers all over the U.S, we would really like to support our own farmers here in the peach state. We see no reason why our neighboring states can harvest successfully in the summer while our farmers sit with idle hands and empty checking accounts. Why not support an industry that was once the lynchpin of the state, why not provide more jobs for counties like McIntosh county (one of the poorest on the eastern seaboard), why not promote a fishery that is not only highly sustainable, but also profitable for farmers, distributors, restaurants, and ultimately the state. I doubt the folks in the capital building in ATL would rather us spend our money in FL, AL, SC, NC as opposed to GA. Everything about this change of the rule is positive, I honestly can't see one downside to this rule changing. Thanks for your time in the matter and I look forward to watching this closely as I have an obvious vested interest in this rule changing.

With Hope for Change,

Noah Brendel & Patrick Stubbers



Tyler Leslie

Executive Director
director@shelltoshore.com
2032060137

RE: Proposed Amendment to Rule 391-2-4, Public Input on Proposed Shellfish Harvest Rule Change

Dear Mr. Dominic Guadagnoli,

We would like to show our support for the rule change to Rule 391-2-4. An amendment to this rule would provide positive economic benefits to the growing Georgia shellfish aquaculture industry and the adjacent restaurant industry, while still ensuring the healthy and safe consumption of oysters. Additionally, we believe that this rule change will yield significant ecological benefits to the Georgia coastline via a larger number of opportunities to recycle oyster shells. With a larger window of harvesting, we expect that more oysters will be grown, harvested, sold, consumed, and thus produce a larger available resource of recycled oyster shells that Shell to Shore can then deploy to increase our state's coastal resiliency. Increased economic opportunity within Georgia's shellfish aquacultural practices will have a direct ecological benefit on our coasts through our recycling and restoration work. Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide a comment on the proposed amendment to Rule 391-2-4.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tyler Leslie', written in a cursive style.

Tyler Leslie
Executive Director

April 23, 2026

Sent via electronic mail to: dom.guadagnoli@dnr.ga.gov

Mr. Dominic Guadagnoli
Coastal Resources Division
Department of Natural Resources
Coastal Resources Division
One Conservation Way
Brunswick, Georgia 31520



*RE: Comments on proposed amendments to Georgia's Saltwater Fishing Regulations,
Rule 391-2-4-.19*

Dear Mr. Guadagnoli,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments to the Coastal Resources Division (CRD) regarding updates to the saltwater fishing regulations, rule 391-2-4-.19. Please accept these comments on behalf of the members of One Hundred Miles (OHM), a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting and preserving Georgia's 100-mile coast through education, advocacy, and community engagement.

CRD's efforts to restore oyster habitat and expand mariculture in coastal Georgia can be beneficial to the State, local businesses, and residents. However, because of the legacy of contamination in Glynn County marshlands, **OHM encourages CRD to implement extra precautions and test any seafood harvested in estuaries with tidal connectivity to Brunswick's superfund sites because of the known presence of dangerous toxicants in our marshlands.**

Glynn County is home to lush marshes, accessible barrier islands, and culturally rich communities. But many of the chemical and paper industries that once bolstered economic growth have left a legacy of pollution in the environment and in residents of Glynn County. Many industries that have closed are now listed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) as superfund sites, contaminated locations that pose significant risks to human health and the environment due to hazardous waste. Two of the superfund sites in Glynn County include hundreds of acres of contaminated marshlands. The former Hercules plant is now a superfund site composed of over 200 acres of contaminated public marshlands,¹ and the former Honeywell/LCP chloro-alkali processing plant is a superfund site with over 600 acres of contaminated public marshlands.²

In 2025, Emory University published a peer-reviewed journal article documenting that contaminants left-over from Glynn County's closed industrial sites are not only in the environment, but also in residents' blood.³ The study revealed of the 100 volunteers tested,

¹ U.S. EPA Superfund Site Home Page for Terry Creek Dredge Spoil Areas/Hercules Outfall Brunswick, GA
<https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csinfo.cfm?id=0404439>

² U.S. EPA Superfund Site Home Page for LCP Chemicals Georgia Brunswick, GA
<https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csinfo.cfm?id=0401634>

³ Scovronick, Noah, B. Lappe, M. Pearson, et al. "Assessment of human exposure to uncommon industrial toxicants in Glynn County, Georgia, Environmental Pollution, Volume 375, 2025, -

40% of the study participants have higher concentrations than 95% of Americans of a polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) known as Aroclor 1268, that is associated with the former Honeywell/LCP plant. Twenty percent of study participants had higher concentrations than 95% of Americans of a now-banned insecticide known as toxaphene created at the former Hercules facility in Brunswick.

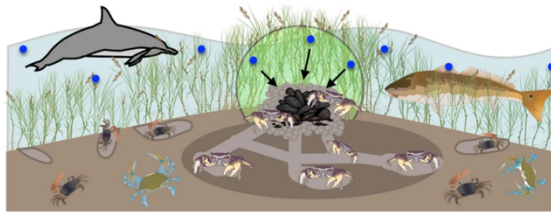
In 2021, a study conducted by the Department of Environmental Engineering Sciences at the University of Florida investigated the role that mussels play in distributing sediment-bound PCBs to surrounding marsh animals and into the local food chain on Blythe Island in Glynn County.⁴ One of the significant findings from this study was that the presence of mussels in marshlands polluted with PCBs increased PCB concentrations in nearby marsh crabs and into the surrounding environment:

“The pronounced difference in sediment PCB between mussel and non-mussel enclosures supports our hypothesis that mussels rapidly elevate PCB concentrations via their filtration of PCB-enriched particulates from the tidewater and deposition of this material to the marsh surface (Fig. 4a,b). These findings... highlight that suspension-feeding bivalves may generate ‘hotspots’ of PCB bioavailability in coastal sediments where tidal flow velocities are low enough to enable the settling of their PCB-enriched biodeposits.”⁵ (See figure 4 excerpt from the University of Florida study).

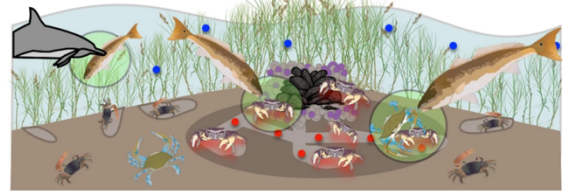
Figure 4

From: [Mussels drive polychlorinated biphenyl \(PCB\) biomagnification in a coastal food web](#)

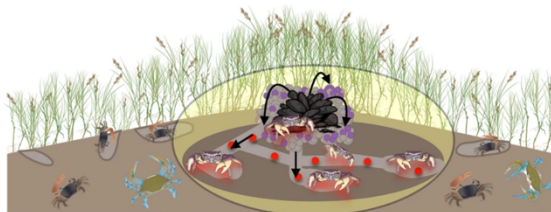
a. Mussels filter feed on PCB-laced particulates from tide waters, a trophic interaction.



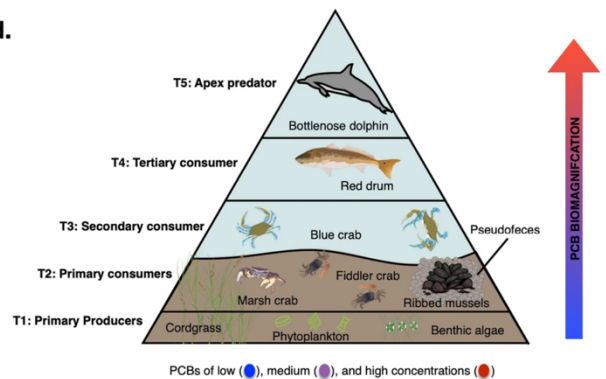
c. Marsh predators consume PCB-enriched marsh crabs, a trophic interaction, thereby driving PCB biomagnification in this coastal food web.



b. Mussels deposit PCB-laced pseudofeces on the marsh surface and burrowing marsh crabs mix them downward, accumulating PCBs from sediments via epidermal/gill absorption, a non-trophic interaction.



d.



<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envpol.2025.126240>

⁴ Prince, K.D., Crotty, S.M., Cetta, A. *et al.* "Mussels drive polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) biomagnification in a coastal food web." *Sci Rep* **11**, 9180 (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-021-88684-9> or <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-021-88684-9>

⁵ *Ibid.* (page 6)

While the University of Florida research did not measure PCB concentrations in the tissue of the studied mussels, other investigations have. Tissue samples collected by the U.S. EPA have demonstrated elevated levels of PCBs and other contaminants in fish and shellfish in Glynn County estuaries.⁶ Currently, the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has a DO NOT EAT consumption advisory for clams, mussels, and oysters throughout the Turtle River estuary and the St. Simons Sound⁷ due to the presence of these toxicants, which may be easily spread to other estuaries and tidal creeks in the vicinity.

Please accept this information as evidence that dangerous toxicants in Georgia marshes and waterways remain long after the plants discharging polluted wastewater have closed. **As CRD invests in restoration of oyster habitat and enhances opportunities for oyster harvest, we encourage the State to also invest in expanding monitoring and sampling of seafood tissue and surrounding sediments to ensure all harvested animals are safe for consumption.** Specifically, we recommend that CRD work closely with the Georgia EPD and DNR-affiliated toxicologists to test Glynn County fish and shellfish for PCBs, mercury, and lead.

Thank you for your consideration. Contact me at any time if I can be of assistance or if you have any questions – 912.230.6494 or alice@onehundredmiles.org.

Sincerely,

Alice M. Keyes

Alice M. Keyes
Senior Conservation Strategist
One Hundred Miles

⁶ Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Development for Fish Consumption Guidelines due to PCBs in Gibson Creek, Terry Creek, Purvis Creek, and the Turtle River System, Georgia and Commercial Fishing Ban due to PCBs in Purvis Creek (HUC 03070203) U.S. EPA Region 4 (2001)
https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://epd.georgia.gov/document/publication/epa-turtle-river-pcbs-fcg-and-cfb-tmdl-report-2001/download&ved=2ahUKEwjUlvKS1YSUAxWL_8kDHRnfMoAQFnoECBqQAQ&usq=AOvVaw1FAD86SynULYBcua8royUj

⁷ Georgia DNR Guidelines for Eating Fish in Georgia Waters (2023)
<https://epd.georgia.gov/https%3A/epd.georgia.gov/assessment/fish-consumption-guidelines>

 **GEORGIA**
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WALTER RABON, COMMISSIONER

April 28, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Board of Natural Resources

FROM: Walter Rabon, Commissioner



SUBJECT: Acquisition (donation) of 129± acres Bo Ginn National Fish Hatchery from the National Park Service, Magnolia Springs State Park, Jenkins County.

Comments

The Department is seeking approval to acquire by donation this 129± tract as an addition to the Magnolia Springs State Park

<u>Owner</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Total</u>
The National Park Service	129±	Donation

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

The Department seeks approval from the Board to acquire by donation the Bo Ginn Hatchery Tract as an addition to the Magnolia Springs State Park. It will improve management and access for the public to the State Park.

Recommendation

We recommend adoption of the attached Resolution.

WR:bw

Enclosures (2)

SUMMARY STATEMENT

PROJECT: Magnolia Springs State Park

TRACT: Bo Ginn National Fish Hatchery Tract

LOCATION: Jenkins County

THIS ACQUISITION: 129± acres

SOURCE OF FUNDING: Donation
*As a condition of receiving the donation, an affidavit will be recorded against the property stating that it may not be disposed of in any manner or used for purposes inconsistent with the program it was acquired for without the prior approval of the National Park Service.

HISTORY OF NEGOTIATION: The Department applied for transfer of the property on October 2, 2024. After review the National Park Service approved our application.

NOMINATION: State Parks and Historic Sites Division

KNOWN RIGHTS OUTSTANDING: None

VENDOR RESERVES: None

BENEFITS OF ACQUISITION: The acquisition opens the tract for public recreation such as hiking. Completing transfer of this property will also protect a civil war archeological site and the area around Magnolia Spring.

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 increase 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 -	\$2,450
FY 2027 -	\$84,700
FY 2028 -	\$7,200
FY 2029 -	\$7,200
FY 2030 -	\$7,200

Total 5-Year Operating Budget Estimate = \$108,750.00

APPRAISAL SUMMARIES:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>APPRAISALS</u>	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
7/15/2025	Mellette Forestry	126±	\$190,000

COORDINATION: State Parks and Historic Sites Division

RESOLUTION

RECOMMENDING ACQUISITION BY DONATION OF THE FOLLOWING NAMED PROPERTY, MORE PARTICULARLY IDENTIFIED AS THE 129 ACRES BO GINN NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY 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:

<u>Project</u>	<u>Property Owner</u>
Magnolia Springs State Park	National Park Service

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 by donation 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, as a condition of receiving the donation, an affidavit will be recorded against the property stating that it may not be disposed of in any manner or used for purposes inconsistent with the program it was acquired for without the prior approval of the National Park Service; 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 donation and develop the subject property, for conservation and/or related purposes generally in accordance with applicable laws, policies, and procedures.

Adopted this 28th day of April 2026.

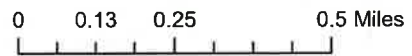
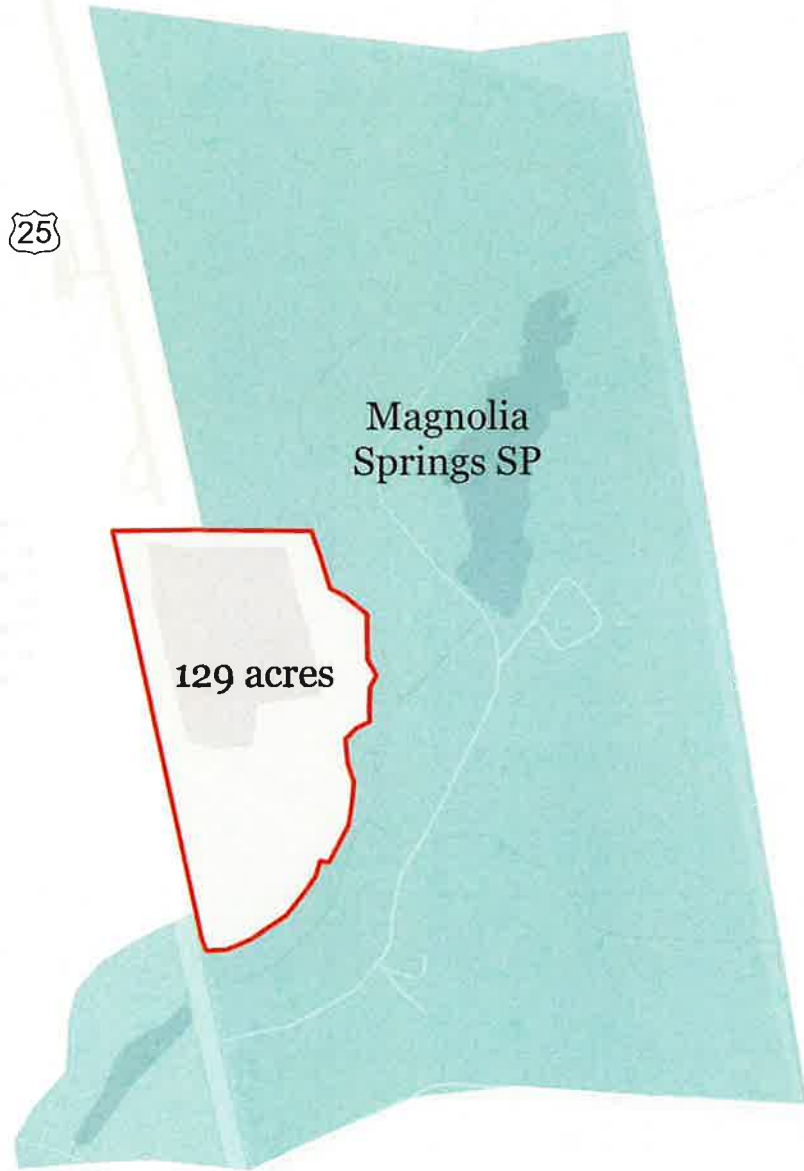
Respectfully submitted by:

Patrick Denney, Chairman
Georgia Board of Natural Resources

ATTEST:

Dan Garcia, Secretary
Georgia Board of Natural Resources

Potential Acquisition Bo Ginn Hatchery Jenkins County



April 28, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Board of Natural Resources

FROM: Walter Rabon, Commissioner



SUBJECT: Request for approval of reversionary deed language of approximately 13,843.5± acres conveyed by donation by the Georgia Department of Transportation (DOT), in Bleckley, Lee, Long, Jeff Davis, Madison, Montgomery, Murray, Putnam, Screven, Taylor, and Upson County.

Comments

The Department request approval of adding reversionary deed language of approximately 13,843.5+ acres conveyed by donation by the Georgia Department of Transportation (DOT), in Bleckley, Lee, Long, Jeff Davis, Madison, Montgomery, Murray, Putnam, Screven, Taylor, and Upson County.

<u>Owner</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Georgia Department of Transportation	13,843.5±

For your review, we are enclosing:

- (1) Summary
- (2) Four Resolutions

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

Discussion and Conclusion

Since 2021, the Department has worked with DOT to acquire approximately 13,843.5 acres of property across eleven counties from the DOT for conservation and public recreation purposes. We have previously received approval from the Board to accept the donation of these properties but were not aware of the need to include reversion language at that time.

Recently DOT realized they need to include reversionary language be added to the deeds of the properties. Since DOT will be conveying these properties at less than fair market value to another public entity and federal funds were used to acquire, these properties will remain in public ownership under 23CFR710.409, therefore DOT is required to retain a reversionary interest. The addition of this language will ensure compliance with applicable federal requirements.

The Department recommends approval to add reversionary language and to seek authorization from the State Properties Commission.

B-1

Recommendation

We recommend adoption of the attached Resolution.

MW:bw

Enclosures (1)

RESOLUTION

RECOMMENDING APPROVAL TO ADD REVERSIONARY DEED LANGUAGE TO THE FOLLOWING NAMED PROPERTIES, MORE PARTICULARLY IDENTIFIED ON THE ATTACHED "EXHIBIT A", FOR CONSERVATION AND RELATED PURPOSES.

Properties To Add Reversionary Language:

<u>Project</u>	<u>Property Owner</u>
Ocmulgee WMA	Georgia Department of Transportation
Neyami Savanna Natural Area	1,127+ acres, Bleckley County
Townsend WMA	142+ acres, Lee County
Bullard Creek	6,960+ acres, Long County
Watson Mill Bridge State Park	491+ acres, Jeff Davis County
Bullard Creek WMA	96+ acres, Madison County
Bullard Creek WMA	1,007+ acres, Montgomery County
Conasauga River WMA	2.5+ acres, Montgomery County
Cedar Creek WMA	98+ acres, Murray County
Dixon Bay WMA	1,538+ acres, Putnam County
Black Creek	333+ acres, Screven County
Big Lazer WMA	685+ acres, Taylor County
	1,364+ acres, Upson County

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 properties and found their conservation and related values are indeed of statewide significance and that the development and management of these properties would contribute greatly to meeting the conservation needs of Georgia's natural resources and thus recommends the continued conservation of the subject properties; and

WHEREAS, the subject properties were previously conveyed, or are scheduled to be conveyed to the Department by the Georgia Department of Transportation (DOT), and the DOT has requested that reversionary language be added to the deeds to comply with applicable federal grant requirements; 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 add reversionary language to the deeds for the properties acquired from the Georgia Department of Transportation and manage the subject property for conservation and/or related purposes generally in accordance with applicable laws, policies, and procedures.

Adopted this 28th day of April, 2026.

Respectfully submitted by:

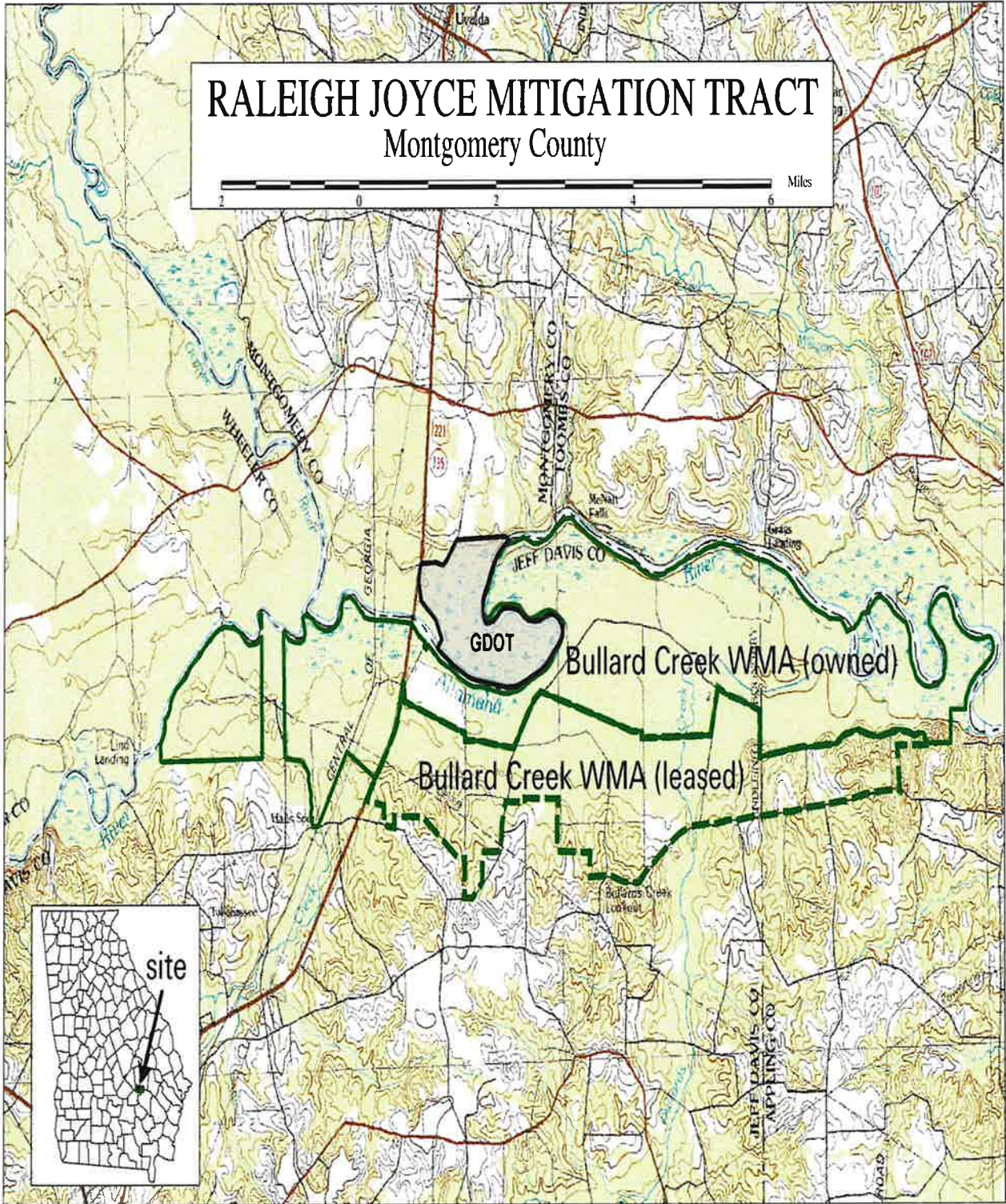
Patrick Denney, Chairman
Georgia Board of Natural Resources

ATTEST:

Dan Garcia, Secretary
Georgia Board of Natural Resources

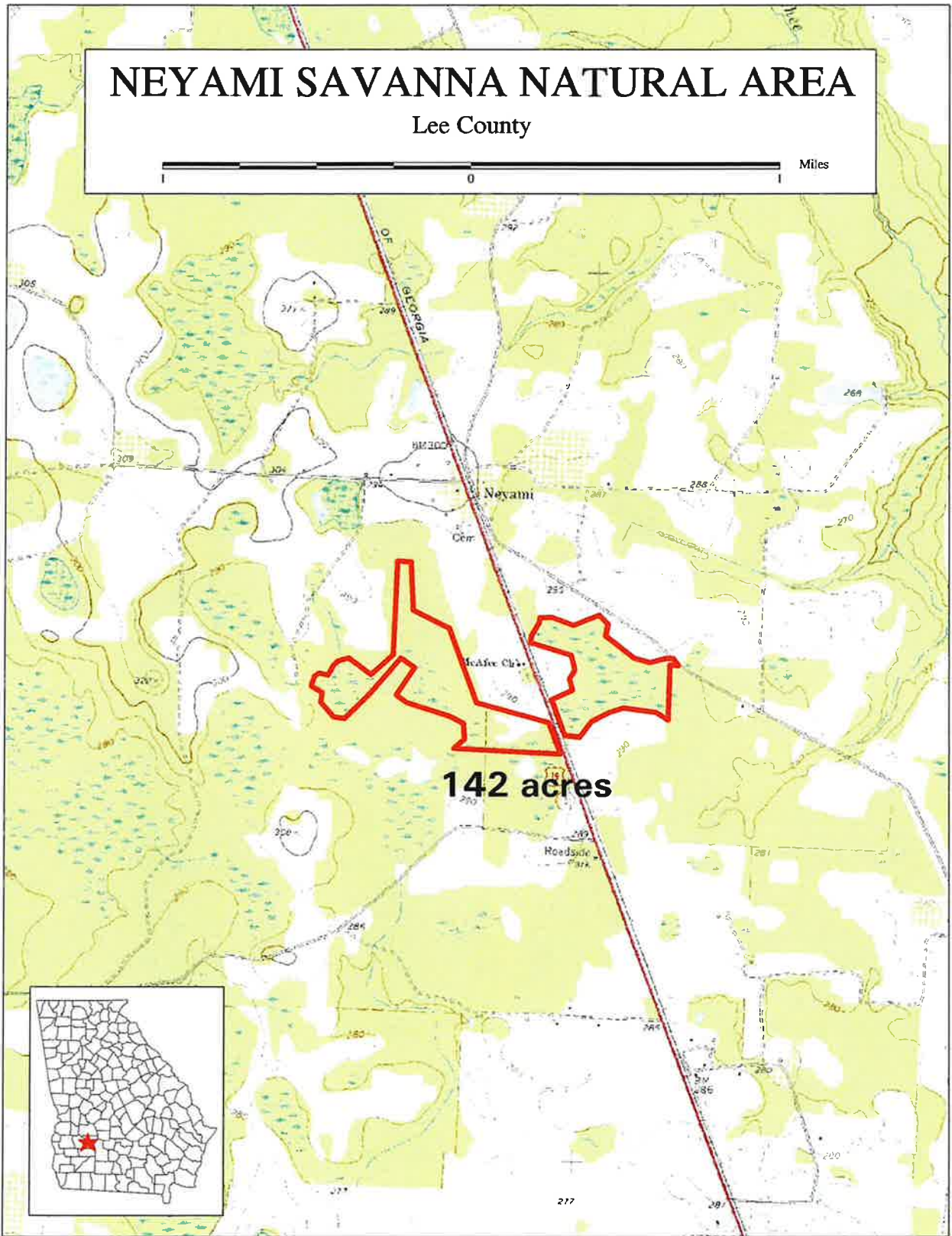
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Montgomery County

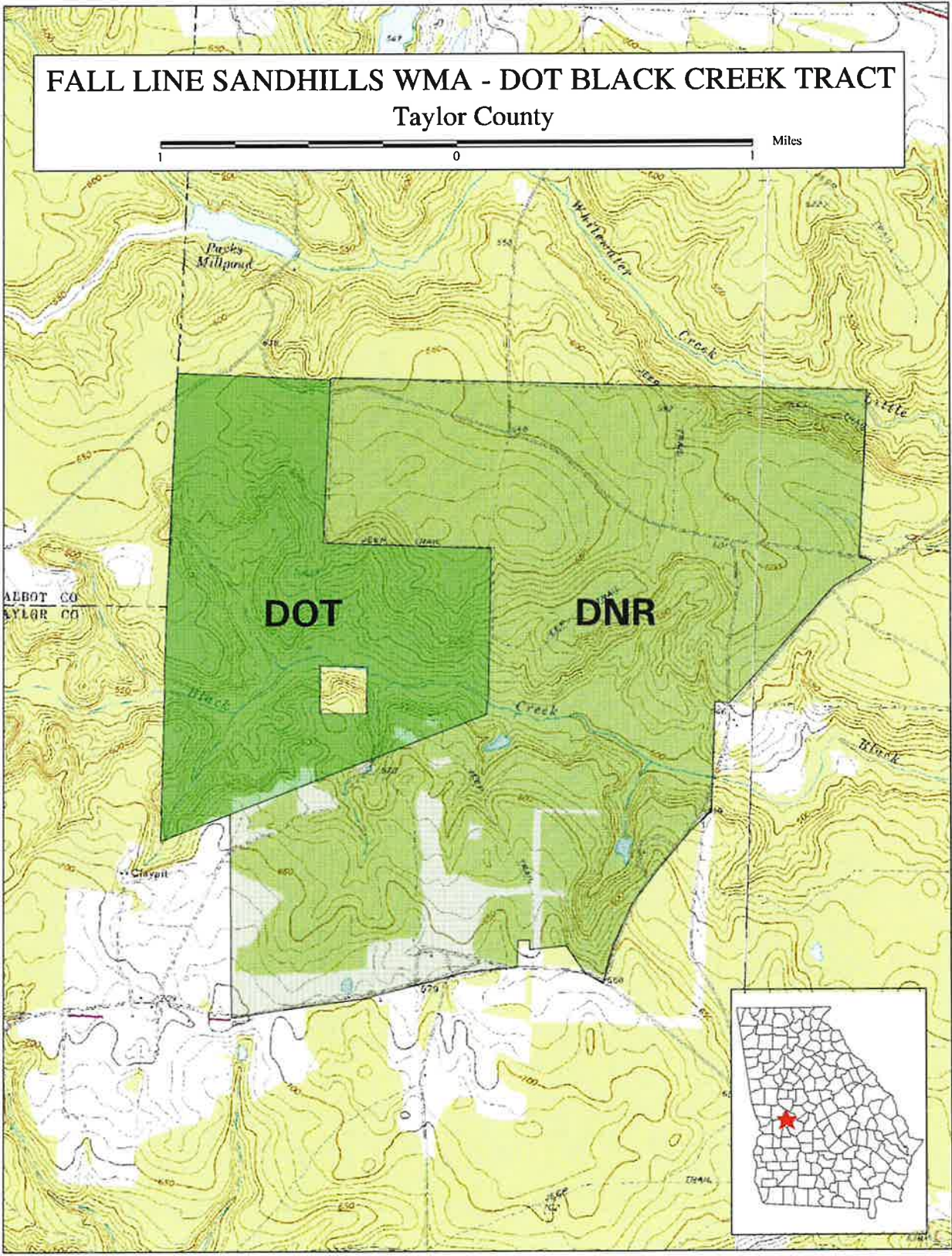


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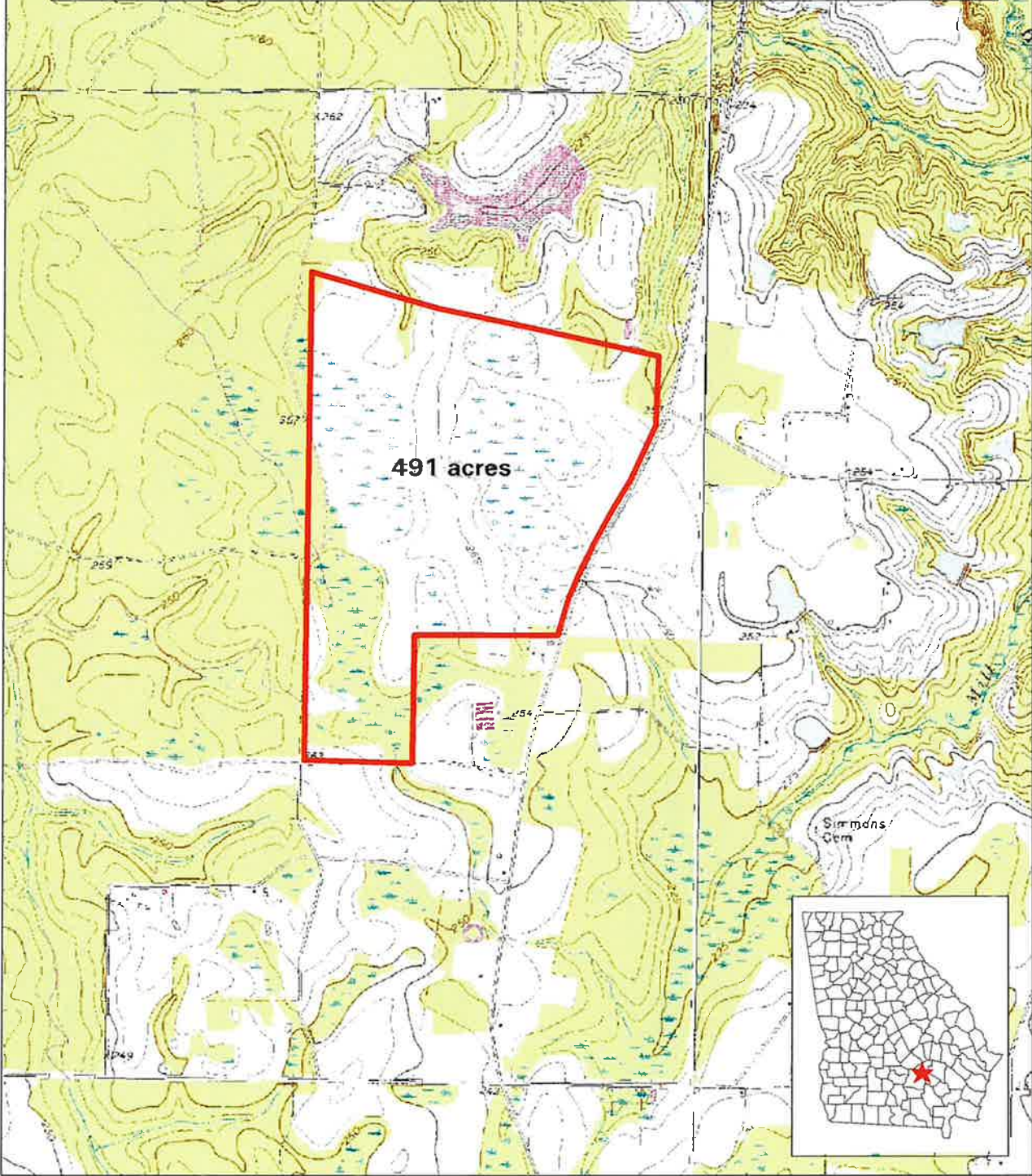


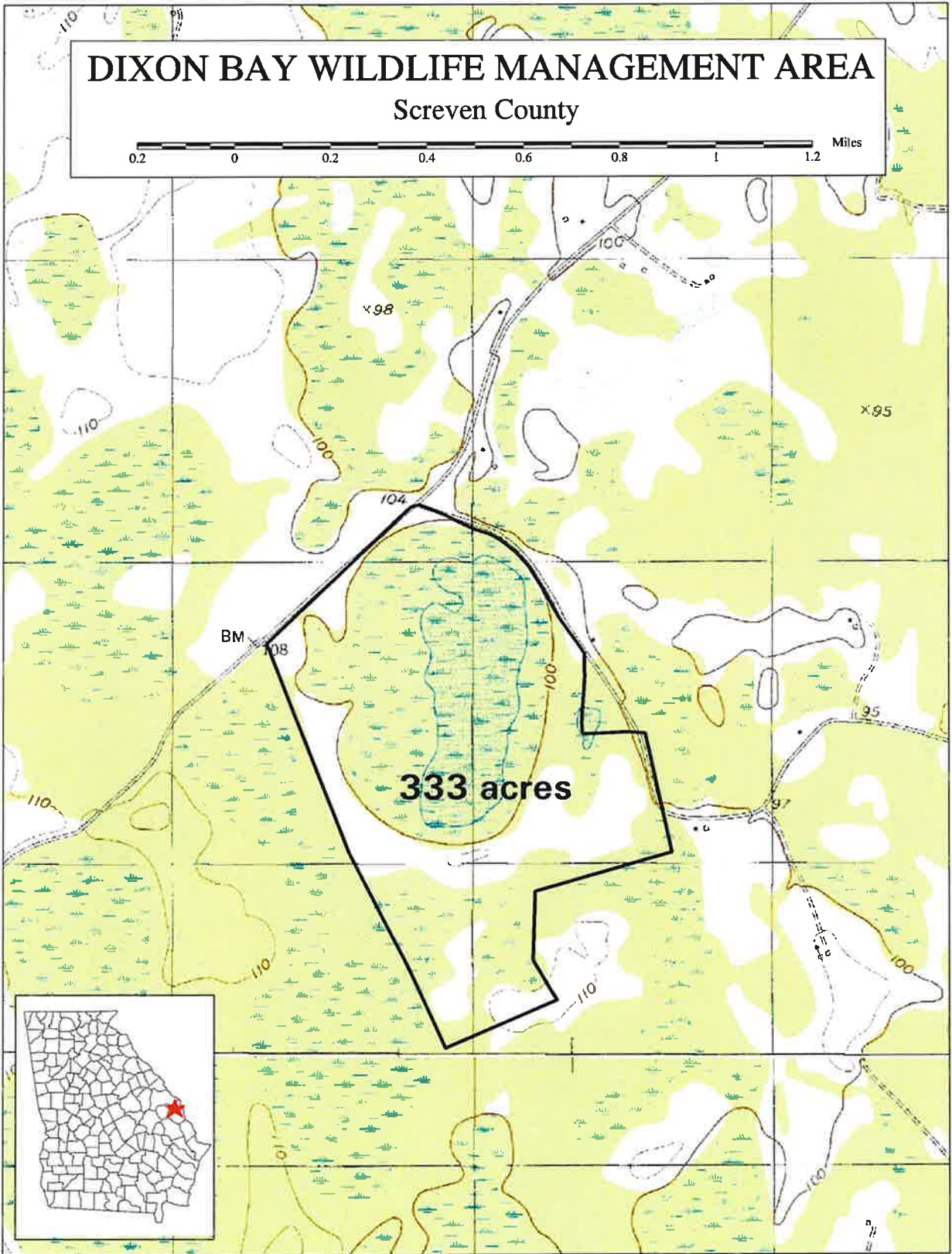
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Taylor County



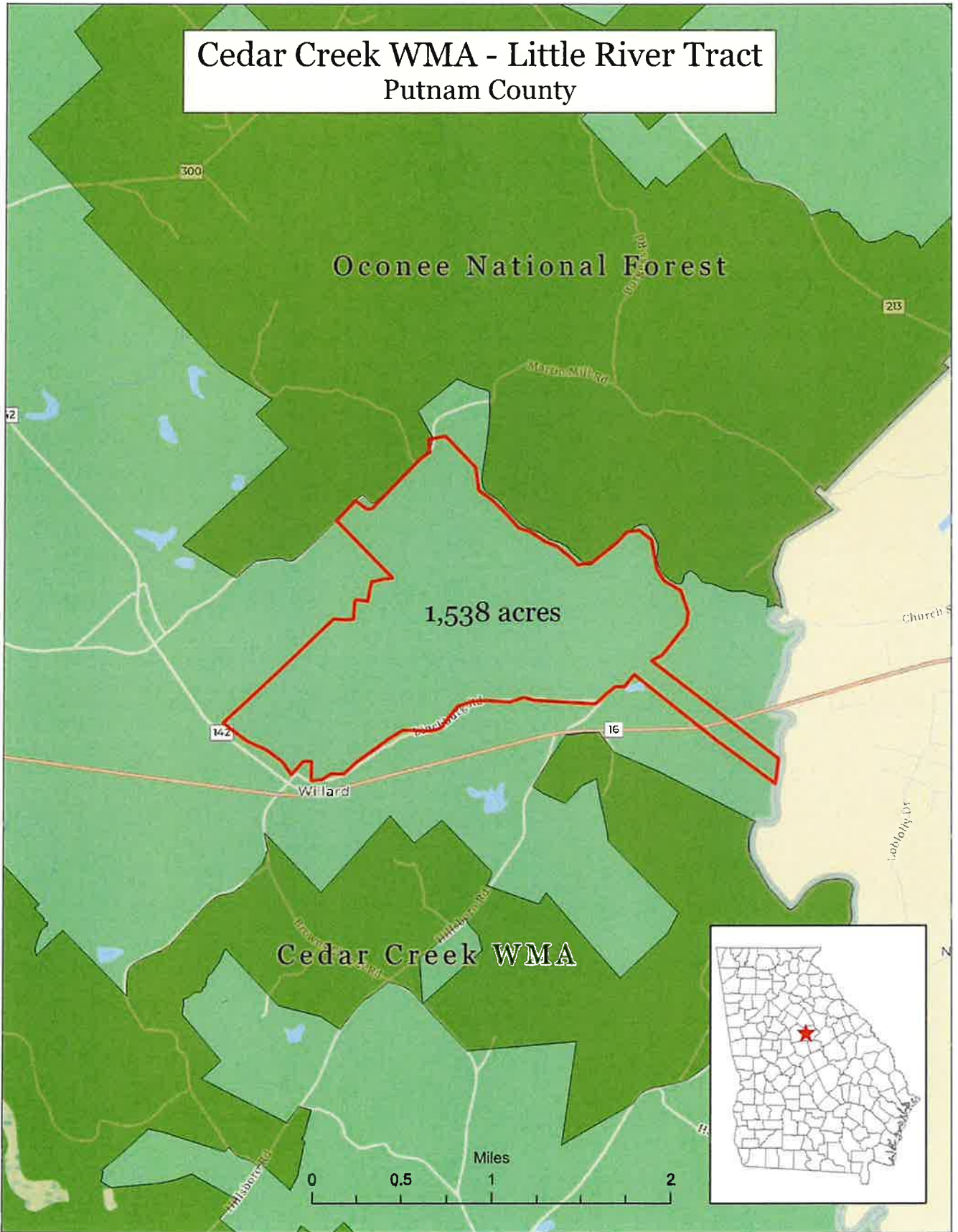
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Jeff Davis County



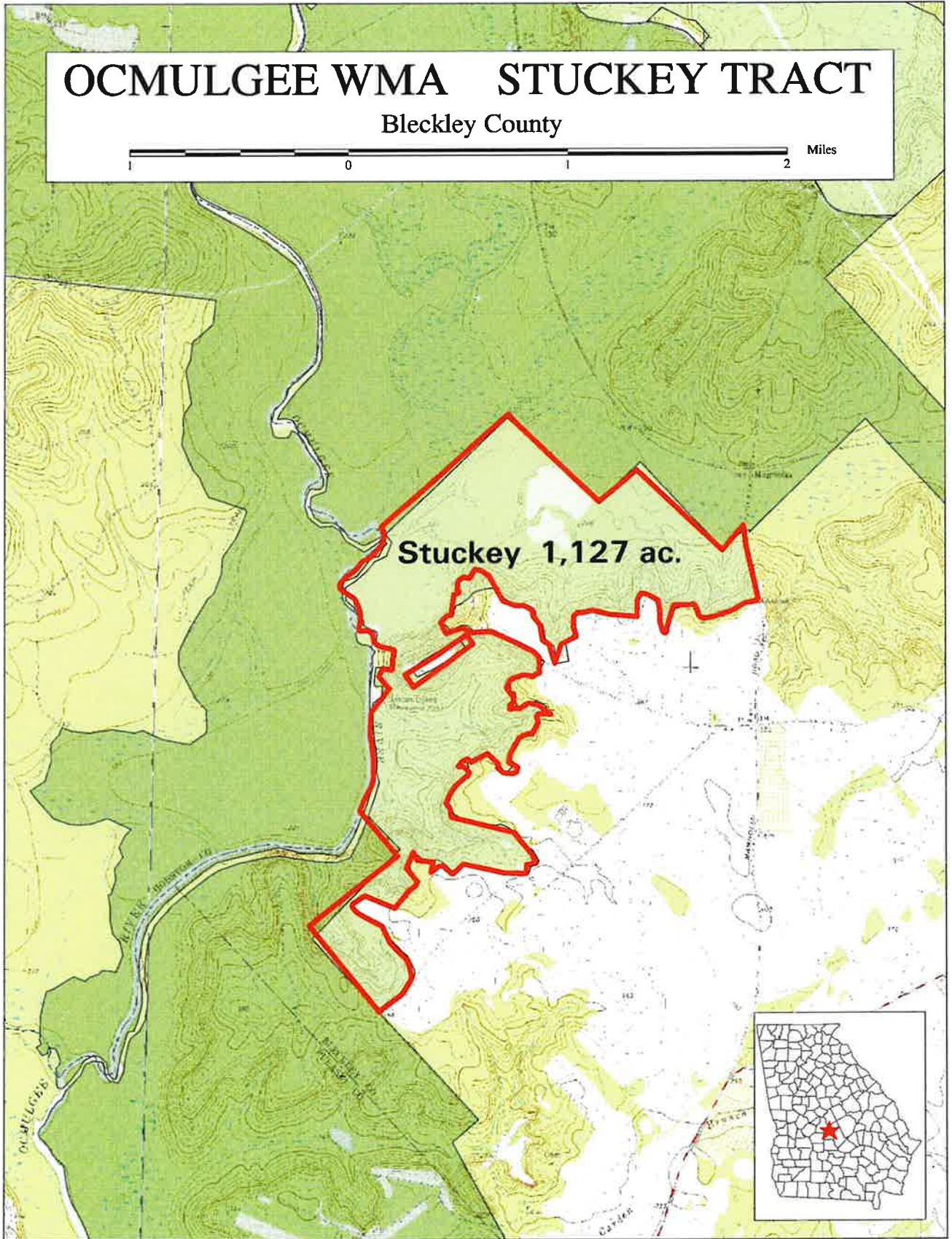


Cedar Creek WMA - Little River Tract
Putnam County



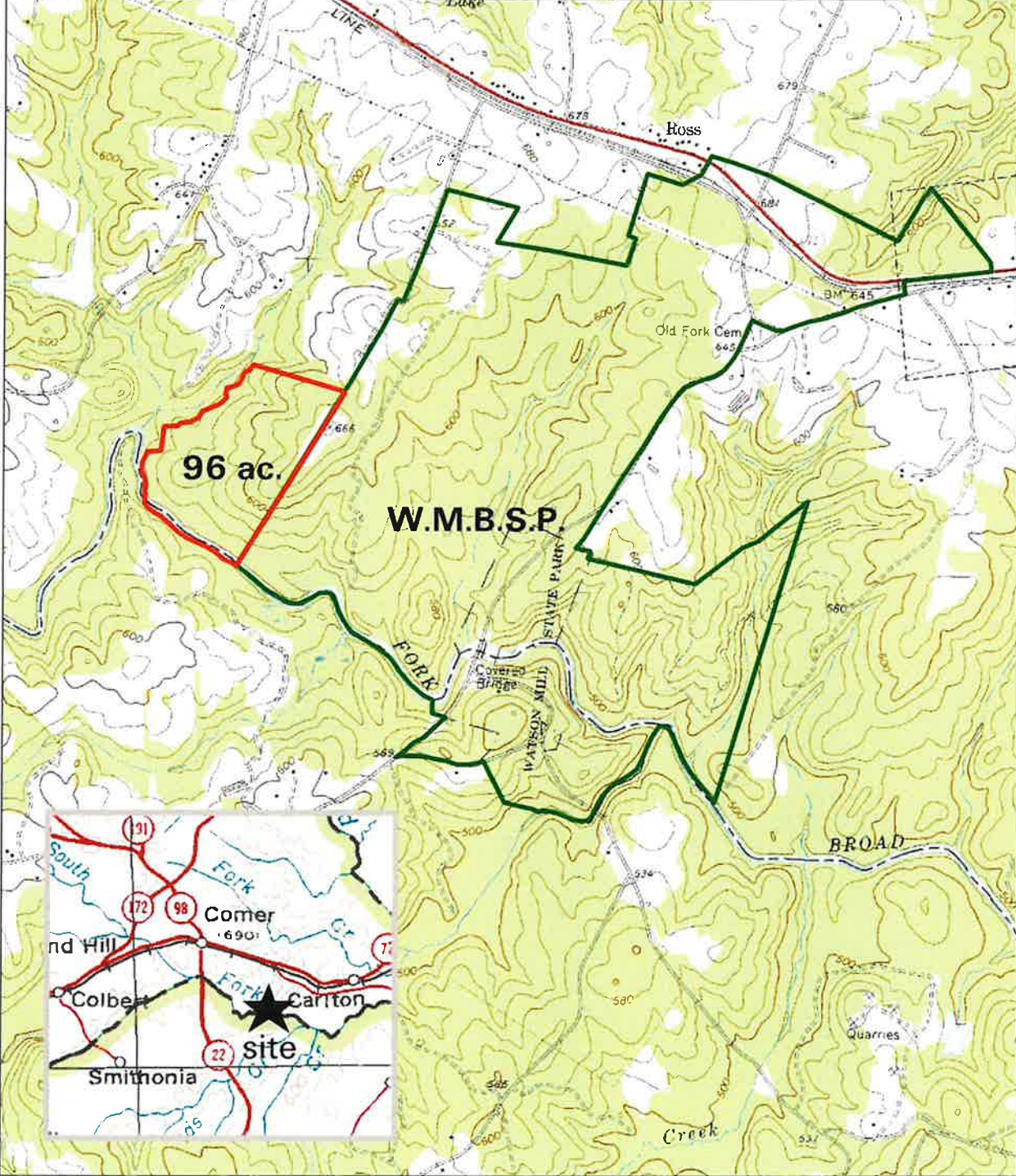
OCMULGEE WMA STUCKEY TRACT

Bleckley County



WATSON MILL BRIDGE STATE PARK

Georgia Department of Transportation Tract - Madison County





WALTER RABON
COMMISSIONER

CHRIS HARPER
DIRECTOR

April 9, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Board of Natural Resources

FROM: Chris Harper

SUBJECT: **Action on Proposed Amendments to Hunting Regulations, Subject 391-4-2, Pertaining to Migratory Bird Regulations**

Enclosed for your review and favorable consideration are the proposed migratory bird hunting seasons. For your convenience, a one-page summary of migratory bird season dates is included (page A2).

Under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is the primary authority for regulating migratory birds. The USFWS annually establishes a framework (opening and closing dates, maximum season length, and maximum bag limits) within which the states must set their migratory bird hunting seasons. These frameworks are developed with the input of state wildlife agencies and are informed using biological population, harvest, and habitat parameters.

Our proposed waterfowl hunting seasons maximize hunting opportunity within the approved federal frameworks. We plan to request Board adoption of the enclosed proposals at its meeting on April 28, 2026.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me. Thank you.

CH/klj

Attachments

PROPOSED 2026-2027 MIGRATORY BIRD SEASONS

Species	Proposed Season
Canada Goose	September 5-27 October 10-25 November 21-29 December 12 - January 31
Common (Wilson's) Snipe	November 15 - February 28
Coots, Ducks, and Gallinules (including mergansers and sea ducks)	November 21-29 December 12 - January 31
Falconry	September 5-27 October 10-25 November 14-15 November 21 – December 6 December 12 - January 31
Marsh Hens (Clapper, King, Virginia, and Sora Rails)	September 11-14 September 26 - November 30
Mourning Dove	September 5 – October 11 November 21-29 December 19 – January 31
Snow & White-fronted Geese	October 10-25 November 21-29 December 12 - January 31
Teal (Early season)	September 12-20
Woodcock	December 5 – January 17
Youth, Active Military, & Veterans Days	November 14-15

(STRIKETHROUGH VERSION)

**RULES
OF
GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

**CHAPTER 391-4
WILDLIFE RESOURCES DIVISION**

**SUBJECT 391-4-2
HUNTING REGULATIONS**

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391-4-2-.50	Mergansers
391-4-2-.53	Sea Ducks (Scoters, Eiders, Long-tailed Ducks)

Rule 391-4-2-.43. Canada Geese, Snow Geese, White-fronted Geese and Brant

(1) The open seasons for hunting Canada Geese are the first Saturday in September and 22 days thereafter; the second Saturday in October and 15 days thereafter; the Saturday preceding Thanksgiving Day and 8 days thereafter; and from December 12 through January 31 ~~the first Saturday after December 5 and 50 days thereafter.~~

(2) Snow Geese (including Blue Geese) and White-Fronted Geese may be taken during open seasons for hunting Canada Geese except during September.

(2) The daily bag limits on Canada Geese and White-Fronted Geese combined are five (5) per day. The daily bag limit on Snow Geese is five (5).

(3) The season is closed on Atlantic Brant.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 27-1-4, 27-3-15(d).

Rule 391-4-2-.45. Coots

(1) The open seasons for hunting coots are the Saturday preceding Thanksgiving Day and 8 days thereafter and from December 12 through January 31 ~~the first Saturday after December 5 and 50 days thereafter.~~

(2) The daily bag limit is fifteen (15).

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 27-1-4, 27-3-15(d).

Rule 391-4-2-.47. Ducks

(1) The open seasons for hunting ducks are the Saturday preceding Thanksgiving Day and 8 days thereafter and from December 12 through January 31 ~~the first Saturday after December 5 and 50 days thereafter.~~

(2) The department is authorized to annually determine and publish daily or seasonal bag and possession limits for ducks compliant with the federal frameworks established by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

(3) The season is closed on harlequin ducks.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 27-1-4, 27-3-15

~~(d).~~

Rule 391-4-2-.49. Gallinules (Common Moorhen)

(1) The open seasons for hunting gallinules are the Saturday preceding Thanksgiving Day and 8 days thereafter and from December 12 through January 31 ~~the first Saturday after December 5 and 50 days thereafter.~~

(2) The daily bag limit on gallinules is fifteen (15).

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 27-1-4, 27-3-15(d).

Rule 391-4-2-.50. Mergansers

(1) The open seasons for hunting mergansers are the Saturday preceding Thanksgiving Day and 8 days thereafter and from December 12 through January 31 ~~the first Saturday after December 5 and 50 days thereafter.~~

(2) In addition to the limits applying to other ducks during the regular duck season, the daily bag limit on mergansers is five (5).

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 27-1-4, 27-3-15(d).

Rule 391-4-2-.53. Sea Ducks (Scoters, Eiders, Long-tailed Ducks)

(1) The open seasons for hunting scoters, eiders, and long-tailed ducks are the Saturday preceding Thanksgiving Day and 8 days thereafter and from December 12 through January 31 ~~the first Saturday after December 5 and 50 days thereafter.~~

(2) The daily bag limit on sea ducks is four (4) and applies to the six (6) duck daily bag limit. This limit cannot include more than three (3) scoters daily; nor more than three (3) eiders daily of which no more than one (1) may be a hen; and no more than three (3) long-tailed ducks daily.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 27-1-4, 27-3-15(d).

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391-4-2-.43 Canada Geese, Snow Geese, White-fronted Geese and Brant.

(1) The open seasons for hunting Canada Geese are the first Saturday in September and 22 days thereafter; the second Saturday in October and 15 days thereafter; the Saturday preceding Thanksgiving Day and 8 days thereafter; and, from December 12 through January 31.

(2) Snow Geese (including Blue Geese) and White-Fronted Geese may be taken during open seasons for hunting Canada Geese except during September.

(2) The daily bag limits on Canada Geese and White-Fronted Geese combined are five (5) per day. The daily bag limit on Snow Geese is five (5).

(3) The season is closed on Atlantic Brant.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 27-1-4, 27-3-15.

391-4-2-.45 Coots.

(1) The open seasons for hunting coots are the Saturday preceding Thanksgiving Day and 8 days thereafter and from December 12 through January 31.

(2) The daily bag limit is fifteen (15).

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 27-1-4, 27-3-15.

391-4-2-.47 Ducks.

(1) The open seasons for hunting ducks are the Saturday preceding Thanksgiving Day and 8 days thereafter and from December 12 through January 31.

(2) The department is authorized to annually determine and publish daily or seasonal bag and possession limits for ducks compliant with the federal frameworks established by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

(3) The season is closed on harlequin ducks.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 27-1-4, 27-3-15.

391-4-2-.49 Gallinules (Common Moorhen).

(1) The open seasons for hunting gallinules are the Saturday preceding Thanksgiving Day and 8 days thereafter and from December 12 through January 31.

(2) The daily bag limit on gallinules is fifteen (15).

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 27-1-4, 27-3-15.

391-4-2-.50 Mergansers.

(1) The open seasons for hunting mergansers are the Saturday preceding Thanksgiving Day and 8 days thereafter and from December 12 through January 31.

(2) In addition to the limits applying to other ducks during the regular duck season, the daily bag limit on mergansers is five (5).

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 27-1-4, 27-3-15.

391-4-2-.53 Sea Ducks (Scoters, Eiders, Long-tailed Ducks).

(1) The open seasons for hunting scoters, eiders, and long-tailed ducks are the Saturday preceding Thanksgiving Day and 8 days thereafter and from December 12 through January 31.

(2) The daily bag limit on sea ducks is four (4) and applies to the six (6) duck daily bag limit. This limit cannot include more than three (3) scoters daily; nor more than three (3) eiders daily of which no more than one (1) may be a hen; and no more than three (3) long-tailed ducks daily.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 27-1-4, 27-3-15.



WALTER RABON
COMMISSIONER

CHRIS HARPER
DIRECTOR

April 9, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Board of Natural Resources

FROM: Chris Harper

SUBJECT: **Briefing on Proposed Amendments to Subject 391-4-2, Hunting Regulations**

As you may recall, complete hunting regulation proposals are developed on a 2-year cycle. However, we occasionally present proposed regulations for time-sensitive housekeeping changes, including legislative changes that affect regulations. Our wildlife resources, customers, and the Department remain well served by this approach.

Hunting regulation proposals being presented for your consideration include explicit prohibition of the use of drones to locate wildlife and feral hogs on department managed/owned lands, clarify rules related to quota hunts, fox and bobcat hunting, and night hunting restrictions for WMAs, and set hunting regulations for the newly acquired Upatoi Ravines Natural Area in Talbot County. These proposals will be given widespread distribution to the public. This briefing requires no Board action at this time. We plan to present these proposals and any public comments received to the Board for consideration at the June 23, 2026 meeting.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or need more information about these proposals in advance of our meeting.

CH/klj

Attachment



WALTER RABON
COMMISSIONER

CHRIS HARPER
DIRECTOR

April 9, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Board of Natural Resources

FROM: Chris Harper

SUBJECT: **Proposed Rules – Economic Impact**

The Administrative Procedure Act requires that in the formation and adoption of any rules which will have an economic impact on the businesses in the State, attempts be made to reduce the economic impact of the rule on small businesses. These rules apply to businesses that are independently owned and operated, are not dominant in the field and employ 100 employees or less. The Wildlife Resources Division has determined that the proposed changes will have no negative economic impact on small businesses.

CH/klj

WALTER RABON
COMMISSIONER

CHRIS HARPER
DIRECTOR

April 29, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: INTERESTED PERSONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

FROM: Chris Harper

SUBJECT: **NOTICE AND SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED RULE MAKING**

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to authority contained in the Game and Fish Code (Official Code of Georgia Annotated, Secs. 12-3-9, 27-1-4, 27-3-4, 27-3-12, and 27-3-24), the Board of Natural Resources proposes to amend Department of Natural Resources rules governing the hunting of game animals, game birds, and feral hogs. The proposed rules (copy attached hereto), if adopted, will amend Subject 391-4-2, Hunting Regulations.

SYNOPSIS AND MAIN FEATURES

The purpose of hunting regulations is to manage Georgia's game birds and game animals according to sound principles of wildlife management and to meet public objectives for use of these renewable natural resources. Changes to the existing rules clarify issues related to hunting on WMAs, specifically to prohibit the use of drones to locate game and hogs, clarify rules related to quota hunts, fox and bobcat hunting, and night hunting restrictions for WMAs, and set hunting regulations for the newly acquired Upatoi Natural Area.

This notice and synopsis of the proposed rule, together with an exact copy of proposed rule, is being mailed to all persons who have requested in writing that they be placed on the mailing list and have tendered the actual cost of such mailing. Copies of all these documents are also available by electronic mail and are available for review on the Division web page (www.gohuntgeorgia.com). Please contact Marissa Mooneyham at (706) 557-3350 or marissa.mooneyham@dnr.ga.gov to request a copy.

The public may submit comments on these proposed amendments electronically by email through the Division website, by telephone (706-557-3350) or by submitting written statements, before close of business on May 31, 2026. Written statements should be mailed to the attention of Dr. Tina Johannsen at:

Department of Natural Resources
Wildlife Resources Division
Game Management Section
2067 U.S. Highway 278, S.E.
Social Circle, Georgia 30025

The Board of Natural Resources will consider the proposed amendments and related comments received on June 23, 2026, at 9:00 A.M. F.D. Roosevelt State Park, 2970 Georgia Highway 190, Pine Mountain, GA 31822. Please bring this notice to the attention of interested acquaintances.

CH/klj

Attachment: Proposed Amendments

**Public Participation Plan for
Proposed Hunting Regulations Changes to Subject 391-4-2
(Hunting on Wildlife Management Areas)**

Amendments to Subject 391-4-2, Hunting Regulations, are being considered. These amendments clarify issues related to hunting on WMAs – prohibit the use of drones to locate game and hogs, clarify rules related to quota hunts, fox and bobcat hunting, and night hunting restrictions for WMAs, and set hunting regulations for the newly acquired Upatoi Natural Area in Talbot County. Public input is an important component of the decision-making process. The plan for receiving and considering public input includes publicly noticing the proposed amendments and the acceptance and consideration of written, verbal, and electronic comments.

WRD staff will brief the Board of Natural Resources on the proposed amendments in draft form. The proposed amendments will be publicly noticed as required under the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), O.C.G.A. §50-13-4, will be forwarded to legislative counsel, and mailed to all persons who have requested in writing that they be placed on the mailing list and have tendered the actual cost of such mailing. All interested persons will be given an opportunity to submit written comments to WRD by mail or electronically. Following the public notice, the Board of Natural Resources will consider the proposed amendments and related comments received at its meeting on June 23, 2026, at 9:00 A.M. F.D. Roosevelt State Park, 2970 Georgia Highway 190, Pine Mountain, GA 31822.

**Schedule for Public Participation for
Proposed Hunting Regulations Changes to Subject 391-4-2**

Description of Action	Action Date
Present proposed amendments to Board's Wildlife Resources' Committee	04/28/2026
APA notice distributed, posted on website and provided to legislative counsel	04/30/2026
Deadline for submitting comments on proposed amendments	05/31/2026
Final approval of amendments by Board of Natural Resources	06/23/2026

SUBJECT	PROPOSAL	CURRENT REGULATION	NEW OR AMENDED LANGUAGE	JUSTIFICATION
391-4-2-.60	General Regulations on Wildlife Management Areas			
Use of drones	Explicitly prohibit the use of drones to pursue game or hogs	Not addressed	Unmanned aircraft systems may not be used to pursue wildlife or feral hogs on public lands	House-keeping change - O.C.G.A. 27-3-12 prohibits the use of "electronic communications equipment" to pursue "any wild animal, game bird, or game animal". This excludes feral hogs. Interest in locating hogs via drones has increased dramatically, and recent state legislation allows pursuit of hogs on private land with drones.
391-4-2-.66	Big Game Regulations on Wildlife Management Areas			
Quota hunts	Prohibit deer archery and dog training during drawn quota hunts for quail and rabbits	Not addressed	During small game quota hunts, hunting big game and training dogs is prohibited	House-keeping change - Archery deer hunting and some dog training activities are generally compatible with and therefore allowed during small game seasons. However, during quota quail and rabbit hunts, the volume of hunting parties with dogs increases the potential for conflicts with other users, who have ample alternative days to hunt. This change is also consistent with the existing prohibition on hunting other species during deer/bear quota hunts.
391-4-2-.67	Small Game Regulations on Wildlife Management Areas			
Quail hunting	Clarify quail season opening date	Not addressed	Non-quota quail hunting opens on the third Saturday in November.	House-keeping change - recently the statewide quail opener was moved to the 2nd Saturday in November from "the Saturday closest to November 11". Not opening sooner on WMAs will help maintain the timing and quality of existing quota hunts and available general hunts.

SUBJECT	PROPOSAL	CURRENT REGULATION	NEW OR AMENDED LANGUAGE	JUSTIFICATION
Incidental take of coyotes and hogs	Clarify restrictions on taking coyotes and hogs at night and with centerfire rifles		Coyotes but not hogs can be taken at night when hunting raccoons, possum, foxes, or bobcats.	House-keeping change - removes redundancy in Sections (7) and (10) to clarify that hunting hogs at night is prohibited and predators including coyotes may only be taken with a rifle at night if said rifle is not centerfire.
391-4-2-.72	Provisional Regulations for Recently Acquired Wildlife Management Areas			
Upatoi Ravines Natural Area - Talbot Co.	Set hunting seasons and bag limits for new public land		Deer, turkey, and small game hunting.	This 9,000 acre property was recently acquired to protect rare plant communities and critical riparian areas along Upatoi Creek. Regulations are proposed for big and small game on the area.

(STRIKETHROUGH VERSION)

**RULES
OF
GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

**CHAPTER 391-4
WILDLIFE RESOURCES DIVISION**

**SUBJECT 391-4-2
HUNTING REGULATIONS**

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391-4-2-.67	Small Game Regulations on Wildlife Management Areas
391-4-2-.72	Provisional Regulations for Recently Acquired Wildlife Management Areas

Rule 391-4-2-.60. General Regulations on Wildlife Management Areas

- (1) It is unlawful for any person to place bait or any wildlife food on a Wildlife Management Area (WMA).
- (2) It is unlawful for any person to consume or use alcoholic beverages on any WMA except in houses or at campsites on these areas; provided, however, that this provision does not apply to national forest lands.
- (3) The use of paintballs, paintball guns and related activities is prohibited on WMAs except on WMAs located on national forest lands.
- (4) Dogs entering WMAs must be kept on a leash or otherwise confined except when hunting or while training dogs during designated seasons and on designated areas. Dog owners are responsible for their dogs and any damage the dogs may do to wildlife not being legally hunted.
- (5) Except for Public Fishing Areas, fishing on WMAs is allowed in accordance with statewide seasons and limits, unless otherwise indicated or posted at the WMA check station.
- (6) U.S. Forest Service regulations shall apply on all WMAs located on National Forest lands.
- (7) It is unlawful for any person to unreasonably disturb or annoy others through abrasive, insulting or threatening words or actions, or physically harm or threaten any other person, or disobey any lawful order of a law enforcement official or act in a manner resulting in a breach of the peace.
- (8) Camping, pre-season scouting, hiking, picnicking, horse riding, canoeing, and other recreational uses are allowed year-round unless otherwise indicated or posted at the WMA check station or at a specific recreation site. The department may close specific sites as needed for management purposes by posting at the site.
- (9) It is unlawful for any unauthorized person to close or restrict access to roads, trails or other access features using motor vehicles, signage, or other methods. Roads, trails and other access features may be closed at the discretion of the department.
- (10) It is unlawful to shoot from a motor vehicle except that disabled hunters on a designated handicapped access road or hunters who have been issued a department Special Use Permit as specified in said permit may shoot from a vehicle provided such vehicle is stationary and not under power.
- (11) It shall be unlawful for any person to possess a loaded firearm in designated camping areas except as provided in O.C.G.A. § 16-11-126.

(12) O.C.G.A. § 27-3-1.1 prohibits loaded long guns being carried in a motor vehicle on WMAs except for provisions stated in (10) above. Handguns may be loaded only as provided in O.C.G.A. § 16-11-126. A firearm shall be considered loaded if a shell is in the chamber or magazine except that muzzle-loading firearms are considered loaded only if a cap is on the nipple or powder is present on the frizzen pan. Crossbows must be un-cocked while being transported in a vehicle on a WMA.

(13) Suppressed firearms may be used for hunting on WMAs.

(14) Buckshot may be used to hunt deer and bear when hunting seasons for those species are open on a WMA, unless otherwise specified in 391-4-2-.70, and during such seasons, feral hogs and coyotes may be taken incidentally.

(15) The use of centerfire rifles to hunt at night is prohibited on WMAs, state parks, voluntary public access areas, and federal lands unless otherwise specified in 391-4-2-.73.

(16) The use of unmanned aircraft systems as defined in O.C.G.A. § 6-1-4 to hunt wildlife, wild animals, or feral hogs on lands owned or managed by the department is prohibited.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 12-3-9, 27-1-4, 27-3-4, 27-3-12.

Rule 391-4-2-.66. Big Game Regulations on Wildlife Management Areas

(1) Two (2) deer may be killed during any one bonus deer hunt.

However, on bonus hunts when antler restrictions are in effect, no more than one (1) of the two (2) deer allowed may be an antlered buck.

(2) On bonus deer hunts, hunters should not record deer on the harvest record nor enter it in the Georgia Game Check harvest reporting system, but deliver the deer on the date of kill to the Wildlife Resources Division check station on the area where department personnel will provide a single-use tag. On all other deer hunts, the hunter's deer harvest record must be completed and the harvest must be reported pursuant to Rule 391-4-2-.03.

(3) All deer hunts are either sex unless otherwise specified in 391-4-2-.70.

(4) A hunter shall harvest no more than 1 gobbler per season on any single wildlife management area, department-managed property, the Oconee National Forest outside of wildlife management areas or the

Chattahoochee National Forest outside of wildlife management areas, unless otherwise specified in 391-4-2-.70.

(5) Turkeys harvested on WMAs must be recorded on the hunter's harvest record and reported pursuant to Rule 391-4-2-.03.

(6) The head and hide of all bears killed during open seasons must be presented at the check station on same date as killed on hunt dates when the check station is staffed. If the check station is unstaffed, the hunter shall report the harvest pursuant to 391-4-2-.03.

(7) Sign in is required for all big game hunts unless otherwise specified in Rule 391-4-2-.70.

(8) Man-drives are prohibited during deer hunts. A man-drive is defined as an organized hunting technique involving three (3) or more hunters using a coordinated effort to drive animals from cover to another hunter for the purpose of shooting.

(9) During any quail or rabbit quota hunt, big game hunting and dog training are prohibited unless otherwise specified in Rule 391-4-2-.70.

Authority: O.C.G.A. § 27-1-4.

Rule 391-4-2-.67. Small Game Regulations on Wildlife Management Areas

(1) During small game hunts, hunters may hunt any small game in season subject to state seasons, regulations and bag limits except as may otherwise be provided in Rule 391-4-2-.70 and:

(a) The daily bag limit on fox squirrels is 1 per hunter.

(b) The daily bag limit on bobwhite quail is 3 per hunter, unless otherwise specified in Rule 391-4-2-.70.

(c) During a quota hunt for any species, only drawn hunters and their party members may hunt.

(d) Non-quota quail hunting opens on the third Saturday in November.

(2) Sign-in is not required for small game hunting (including migratory birds) unless otherwise provided in Rule 391-4-2-.70.

(3) Small game and furbearer hunting are not allowed during big game quota hunts unless otherwise provided in Rule 391-4-2-.70.

(4) Small game hunters hunting on dates concurrent with deer and bear primitive weapons or firearm hunts must wear fluorescent orange or pink as specified in Rule 391-4-2-.04, except for dove hunters hunting on managed dove fields, furbearer hunters hunting at night, and waterfowl hunters hunting on managed waterfowl impoundments or other water bodies.

- (5) Only waterfowl hunting can take place on managed impoundments during waterfowl hunting dates. Waterfowl on all other WMA locations may be taken any day of the waterfowl seasons whenever the area is open for small game hunting unless otherwise specified.
- (6) On quota waterfowl hunts, hunters must hunt from assigned areas. Shooting hours begin in accordance with applicable federal regulations and end at 12:00 noon except that on the last Saturday of the season, hunters may shoot until sunset.
- (7) No night hunting is allowed on any WMA except for raccoon, fox, opossum, or bobcat on open dates. Coyotes ~~and feral hogs~~ may be taken at night, with small game weapons, while hunting raccoon, fox, opossum, or bobcat. Centerfire weapons may not be used for hunting at night on WMAs.
- (8) Raccoon, opossum, fox and bobcat may be hunted within statewide seasons during small game and furbearer dates, unless otherwise specified.
- (9) Permitted alligator hunters may hunt during day or night on open small game and big game dates unless otherwise specified in Rule 391-4-2-.70.
- (10) Coyotes and feral hogs may be taken during all hunts but weapon types are restricted to only those weapons allowed for the game species in season. ~~Coyotes and feral hogs may be taken during small game season with any weapon legal for small game except that centerfire rifles may not be used, unless otherwise specified in Rule 391-4-2-.70.~~
- (11) Special coyote season:
- (a) May 16-May 31 on department managed WMAs unless otherwise specified in 391-4-2-.70. Not open on State Parks, Voluntary Public Access Areas, or federal lands unless otherwise specified in Rule 391-4-2-.70.
- (b) Hunters may use any weapon legal for small or big game unless otherwise specified in 391-4-2-.70.
- (c) Hunters and any person accompanying a hunter afield shall wear a total of at least 500 visible square inches of daylight fluorescent orange or daylight fluorescent pink material as an outer garment above the waistline.
- (d) Night hunting is prohibited.
- (e) Feral hogs may not be taken unless otherwise specified in 391-4-2-.70.

(f) Dogs may not be used to hunt hogs unless otherwise specified in 391-4-2-.70. Where allowed, hunting dogs must be marked with the hunter's name and a valid telephone number.

(g) Hogs must be killed immediately upon capture.

(12) Unless otherwise specified in 391-4-2-.70, small game may be taken on WMAs by permitted falconers at any time during the state falconry season pursuant to O.C.G.A. 27-3-15 except during any quota big game or small game hunts for which the falconer has not been drawn.

(13) Centerfire rifles may be used for fox and bobcat during daylight hours from December 1 through the last day of February only if a non-quota big game season is open on the area, unless otherwise specified in Rule 391-4-2-.70.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 27-1-4, 27-3-24.

Rule 391-4-2-.72. Provisional Regulations for Recently Acquired Wildlife Management Areas

(1) Rules 391-4-2-.60 through 391-4-2-.68 apply to the wildlife management areas (WMA), herein, except as otherwise prescribed by the department.

(2) For the wildlife management areas herein, the department is authorized to prescribe hunt types, weapons restrictions, bag limits, antler restrictions, and any other special limitations, and to annually publish the same.

(3) Upatoi Ravines Natural Area

(a) Antlered bucks may be taken only if they have a minimum of 4 antler points 1 inch or longer on one side of the antlers or a minimum outside antler spread of fifteen (15) inches.

(b) Deer of either sex may be taken with archery equipment from the second Saturday in September through the last date of the statewide primitive weapons season.

(c) Firearms hunting for deer of either sex shall be limited to a quota of 75 hunters for each hunt:

(i) for 3 days beginning on the third Friday in November; and

(ii) for 3 days beginning on the second Friday in December.

(4) Small game may be hunted during statewide seasons except that hunting bobcat, fox, fox squirrels, and quail is prohibited.

(5) Turkey hunting shall be limited to a quota of 5 hunters for each hunt:

(a) for 7 days beginning on the third Saturday of April; and

(b) for 7 days beginning on the first Saturday of May.

(6) Special regulations:

(1) No May coyote season.

(2) Horses and all-terrain vehicles may not be used.

(3) Camping is prohibited.

Cochrans Creek WMA

~~(a) Deer may be hunted during the following dates as prescribed by the department:~~

~~1. From the 2nd Saturday in September through 29 days thereafter.~~

~~2. From the 1st Thursday after October 20 through 4 days thereafter.~~

~~3. From the 1st Wednesday after October 31 through 4 days thereafter.~~

~~4. From the 1st Thursday after Thanksgiving through 3 days thereafter.~~

~~5. From the 1st Monday after December 5 through the 2nd Sunday in January.~~

~~(b) Small game may be hunted during state small game seasons except during firearms deer hunts.~~

~~(c) Turkey may be hunted from the 1st Saturday after April 2 through May 15.~~

(4) Featherfield WMA

~~(a) Deer may be hunted during the state deer seasons using archery only.~~

~~(b) Dove may be hunted the first, second, and third Saturdays in September and thereafter any day during the state dove seasons.~~

~~(c) Small game, except bobwhite quail, may be hunted during state small game seasons.~~

~~(d) Turkey may be hunted during the first two Saturdays and Sundays after April 2.~~

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 27-1-4, 27-3-15.

(EXACT COPY)

**RULES
OF
GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

**CHAPTER 391-4
WILDLIFE RESOURCES DIVISION**

**SUBJECT 391-4-2
HUNTING REGULATIONS**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

391-4-2-.60	General Regulations on Wildlife Management Areas
391-4-2-.66	Big Game Regulations on Wildlife Management Areas
391-4-2-.67	Small Game Regulations on Wildlife Management Areas
391-4-2-.72	Provisional Regulations for Recently Acquired Wildlife Management Areas

Rule 391-4-2-.60. General Regulations on Wildlife Management Areas

- (1) It is unlawful for any person to place bait or any wildlife food on a Wildlife Management Area (WMA).
- (2) It is unlawful for any person to consume or use alcoholic beverages on any WMA except in houses or at campsites on these areas; provided, however, that this provision does not apply to national forest lands.
- (3) The use of paintballs, paintball guns and related activities is prohibited on WMAs except on WMAs located on national forest lands.
- (4) Dogs entering WMAs must be kept on a leash or otherwise confined except when hunting or while training dogs during designated seasons and on designated areas. Dog owners are responsible for their dogs and any damage the dogs may do to wildlife not being legally hunted.
- (5) Except for Public Fishing Areas, fishing on WMAs is allowed in accordance with statewide seasons and limits, unless otherwise indicated or posted at the WMA check station.
- (6) U.S. Forest Service regulations shall apply on all WMAs located on National Forest lands.
- (7) It is unlawful for any person to unreasonably disturb or annoy others through abrasive, insulting or threatening words or actions, or physically harm or threaten any other person, or disobey any lawful order of a law enforcement official or act in a manner resulting in a breach of the peace.
- (8) Camping, pre-season scouting, hiking, picnicking, horse riding, canoeing, and other recreational uses are allowed year-round unless otherwise indicated or posted at the WMA check station or at a specific recreation site. The department may close specific sites as needed for management purposes by posting at the site.
- (9) It is unlawful for any unauthorized person to close or restrict access to roads, trails or other access features using motor vehicles, signage, or other methods. Roads, trails and other access features may be closed at the discretion of the department.
- (10) It is unlawful to shoot from a motor vehicle except that disabled hunters on a designated handicapped access road or hunters who have been issued a department Special Use Permit as specified in said permit may shoot from a vehicle provided such vehicle is stationary and not under power.
- (11) It shall be unlawful for any person to possess a loaded firearm in designated camping areas except as provided in O.C.G.A. § 16-11-126.

(12) O.C.G.A. § 27-3-1.1 prohibits loaded long guns being carried in a motor vehicle on WMAs except for provisions stated in (10) above. Handguns may be loaded only as provided in O.C.G.A. § 16-11-126. A firearm shall be considered loaded if a shell is in the chamber or magazine except that muzzle-loading firearms are considered loaded only if a cap is on the nipple or powder is present on the frizzen pan. Crossbows must be un-cocked while being transported in a vehicle on a WMA.

(13) Suppressed firearms may be used for hunting on WMAs.

(14) Buckshot may be used to hunt deer and bear when hunting seasons for those species are open on a WMA, unless otherwise specified in 391-4-2-.70, and during such seasons, feral hogs and coyotes may be taken incidentally.

(15) The use of centerfire rifles to hunt at night is prohibited on WMAs, state parks, voluntary public access areas, and federal lands unless otherwise specified in 391-4-2-.73.

(16) The use of unmanned aircraft systems as defined in O.C.G.A § 6-1-4 to hunt wildlife, wild animals, or feral hogs on lands owned or managed by the department is prohibited.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 12-3-9, 27-1-4, 27-3-4, 27-3-12.

Rule 391-4-2-.66. Big Game Regulations on Wildlife Management Areas

(1) Two (2) deer may be killed during any one bonus deer hunt.

However, on bonus hunts when antler restrictions are in effect, no more than one (1) of the two (2) deer allowed may be an antlered buck.

(2) On bonus deer hunts, hunters should not record deer on the harvest record nor enter it in the Georgia Game Check harvest reporting system, but deliver the deer on the date of kill to the Wildlife Resources Division check station on the area where department personnel will provide a single-use tag. On all other deer hunts, the hunter's deer harvest record must be completed and the harvest must be reported pursuant to Rule 391-4-2-.03.

(3) All deer hunts are either sex unless otherwise specified in 391-4-2-.70.

(4) A hunter shall harvest no more than 1 gobbler per season on any single wildlife management area, department-managed property, the Oconee National Forest outside of wildlife management areas or the

Chattahoochee National Forest outside of wildlife management areas, unless otherwise specified in 391-4-2-.70.

(5) Turkeys harvested on WMAs must be recorded on the hunter's harvest record and reported pursuant to Rule 391-4-2-.03.

(6) The head and hide of all bears killed during open seasons must be presented at the check station on same date as killed on hunt dates when the check station is staffed. If the check station is unstaffed, the hunter shall report the harvest pursuant to 391-4-2-.03.

(7) Sign in is required for all big game hunts unless otherwise specified in Rule 391-4-2-.70.

(8) Man-drives are prohibited during deer hunts. A man-drive is defined as an organized hunting technique involving three (3) or more hunters using a coordinated effort to drive animals from cover to another hunter for the purpose of shooting.

(9) During any quail or rabbit quota hunt, big game hunting and dog training are prohibited unless otherwise specified in Rule 391-4-2-.70.

Authority: O.C.G.A. § 27-1-4.

Rule 391-4-2-.67. Small Game Regulations on Wildlife Management Areas

(1) During small game hunts, hunters may hunt any small game in season subject to state seasons, regulations and bag limits except as may otherwise be provided in Rule 391-4-2-.70 and:

(a) The daily bag limit on fox squirrels is 1 per hunter.

(b) The daily bag limit on bobwhite quail is 3 per hunter, unless otherwise specified in Rule 391-4-2-.70.

(c) During a quota hunt for any species, only drawn hunters and their party members may hunt.

(d) Non-quota quail hunting opens on the third Saturday in November.

(2) Sign-in is not required for small game hunting (including migratory birds) unless otherwise provided in Rule 391-4-2-.70.

(3) Small game and furbearer hunting are not allowed during big game quota hunts unless otherwise provided in Rule 391-4-2-.70.

(4) Small game hunters hunting on dates concurrent with deer and bear primitive weapons or firearm hunts must wear fluorescent orange or pink as specified in Rule 391-4-2-.04, except for dove hunters hunting on managed dove fields, furbearer hunters hunting at night, and waterfowl hunters hunting on managed waterfowl impoundments or other water bodies.

- (5) Only waterfowl hunting can take place on managed impoundments during waterfowl hunting dates. Waterfowl on all other WMA locations may be taken any day of the waterfowl seasons whenever the area is open for small game hunting unless otherwise specified.
- (6) On quota waterfowl hunts, hunters must hunt from assigned areas. Shooting hours begin in accordance with applicable federal regulations and end at 12:00 noon except that on the last Saturday of the season, hunters may shoot until sunset.
- (7) No night hunting is allowed on any WMA except for raccoon, fox, opossum, or bobcat on open dates. Coyotes ~~and feral hogs~~ may be taken at night, with small game weapons, while hunting raccoon, fox, opossum, or bobcat. Centerfire weapons may not be used for hunting at night on WMAs.
- (8) Raccoon, opossum, fox and bobcat may be hunted within statewide seasons during small game and furbearer dates, unless otherwise specified.
- (9) Permitted alligator hunters may hunt during day or night on open small game and big game dates unless otherwise specified in Rule 391-4-2-.70.
- (10) Coyotes and feral hogs may be taken during all hunts but weapon types are restricted to only those weapons allowed for the game species in season.
- (11) Special coyote season:
- (a) May 16-May 31 on department managed WMAs unless otherwise specified in 391-4-2-.70. Not open on State Parks, Voluntary Public Access Areas, or federal lands unless otherwise specified in Rule 391-4-2-.70.
- (b) Hunters may use any weapon legal for small or big game unless otherwise specified in 391-4-2-.70.
- (c) Hunters and any person accompanying a hunter afield shall wear a total of at least 500 visible square inches of daylight fluorescent orange or daylight fluorescent pink material as an outer garment above the waistline.
- (d) Night hunting is prohibited.
- (e) Feral hogs may not be taken unless otherwise specified in 391-4-2-.70.
- (f) Dogs may not be used to hunt hogs unless otherwise specified in 391-4-2-.70. Where allowed, hunting dogs must be marked with the hunter's name and a valid telephone number.

- (g) Hogs must be killed immediately upon capture.
- (12) Unless otherwise specified in 391-4-2-.70, small game may be taken on WMAs by permitted falconers at any time during the state falconry season pursuant to O.C.G.A. 27-3-15 except during any quota big game or small game hunts for which the falconer has not been drawn.
- (13) Centerfire rifles may be used for fox and bobcat during daylight hours from December 1 through the last day of February only if a non-quota big game season is open on the area, unless otherwise specified in Rule 391-4-2-.70.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 27-1-4, 27-3-24.

Rule 391-4-2-.72. Provisional Regulations for Recently Acquired Wildlife Management Areas

- (1) Rules 391-4-2-.60 through 391-4-2-.68 apply to the wildlife management areas (WMA), herein, except as otherwise prescribed by the department.
- (2) For the wildlife management areas herein, the department is authorized to prescribe hunt types, weapons restrictions, bag limits, antler restrictions, and any other special limitations, and to annually publish the same.
- (3) Upatoi Ravines Natural Area
 - (a) Antlered bucks may be taken only if they have a minimum of 4 antler points 1 inch or longer on one side of the antlers or a minimum outside antler spread of fifteen (15) inches.
 - (b) Deer of either sex may be taken with archery equipment from the second Saturday in September through the last date of the statewide primitive weapons season.
 - (c) Firearms hunting for deer of either sex shall be limited to a quota of 75 hunters for each hunt:
 - (i) for 3 days beginning on the third Friday in November; and
 - (ii) for 3 days beginning on the second Friday in December.
 - (4) Small game may be hunted during statewide seasons except that hunting bobcat, fox, fox squirrels, and quail is prohibited.
 - (5) Turkey hunting shall be limited to a quota of 5 hunters for each hunt:
 - (a) for 7 days beginning on the third Saturday of April; and
 - (b) for 7 days beginning on the first Saturday of May.
 - (6) Special regulations:
 - (1) No May coyote season.
 - (2) Horses and all-terrain vehicles may not be used.

Subject 391-4-2

Hunting Regulations

(3) Camping is prohibited.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 27-1-4, 27-3-15.



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

Land Protection Branch
Permitting and Compliance
Quarterly Report

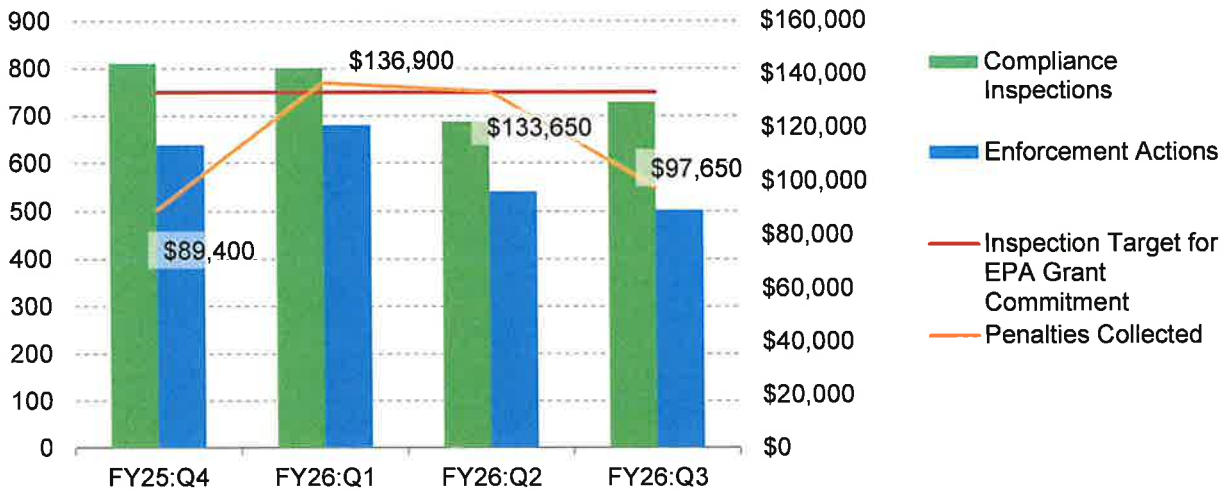
State Fiscal Year 2026
Third Quarter
January 1, 2026 – March 31, 2026



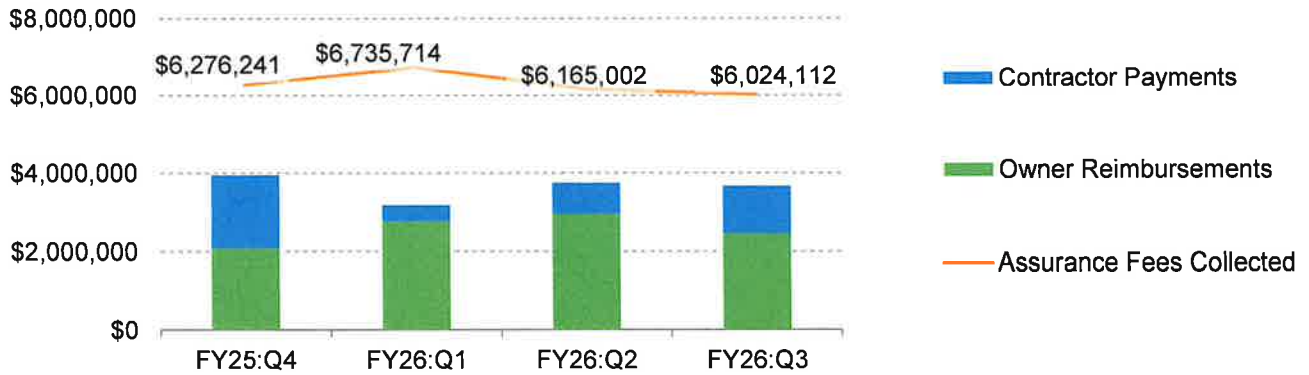
Underground Storage Tank (UST) Corrective Action



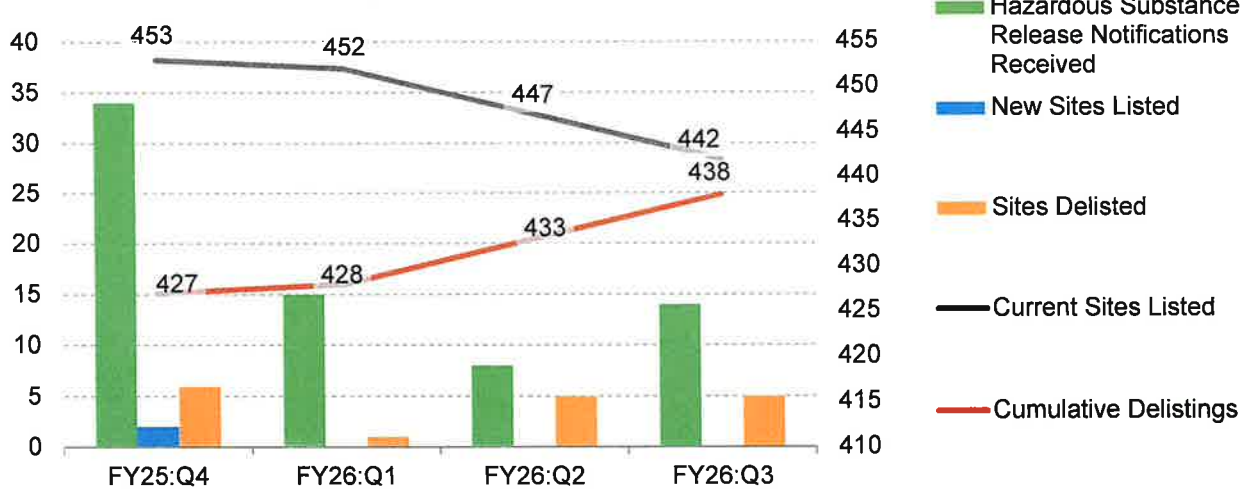
UST Compliance



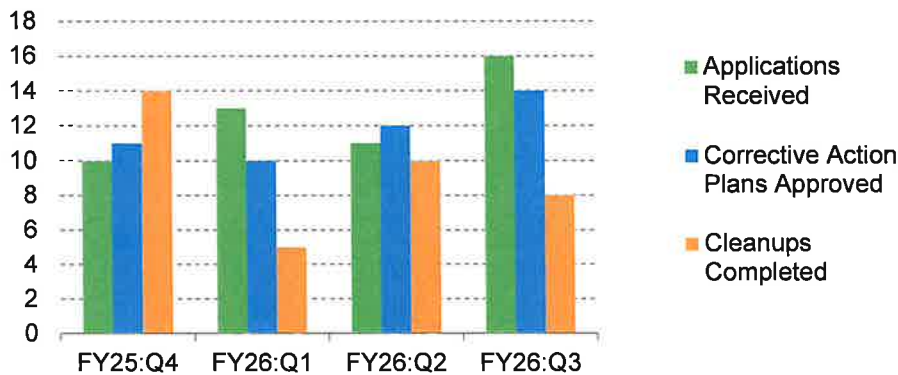
UST Fees and Payments



Hazardous Site Inventory (HSI)

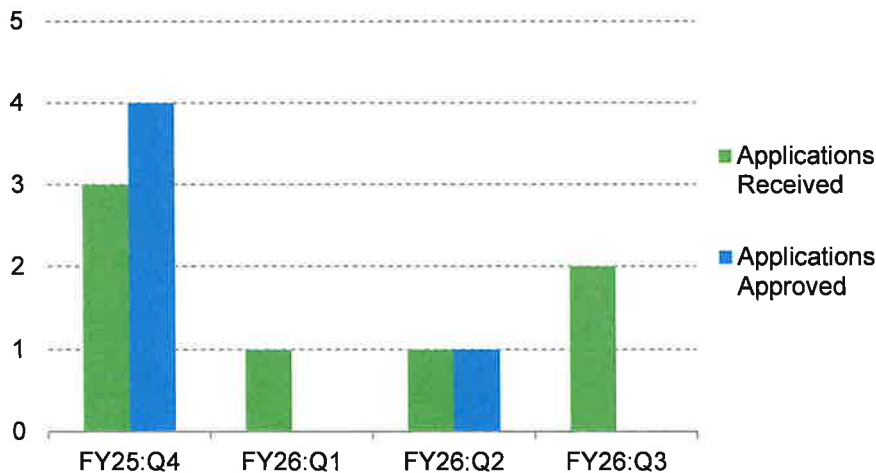


Brownfields



By the end of the third quarter of state fiscal year 2026, the Brownfields Program received **1,540** applications and **808** properties had certified compliance with reduction standards and received a final limitation of liability.

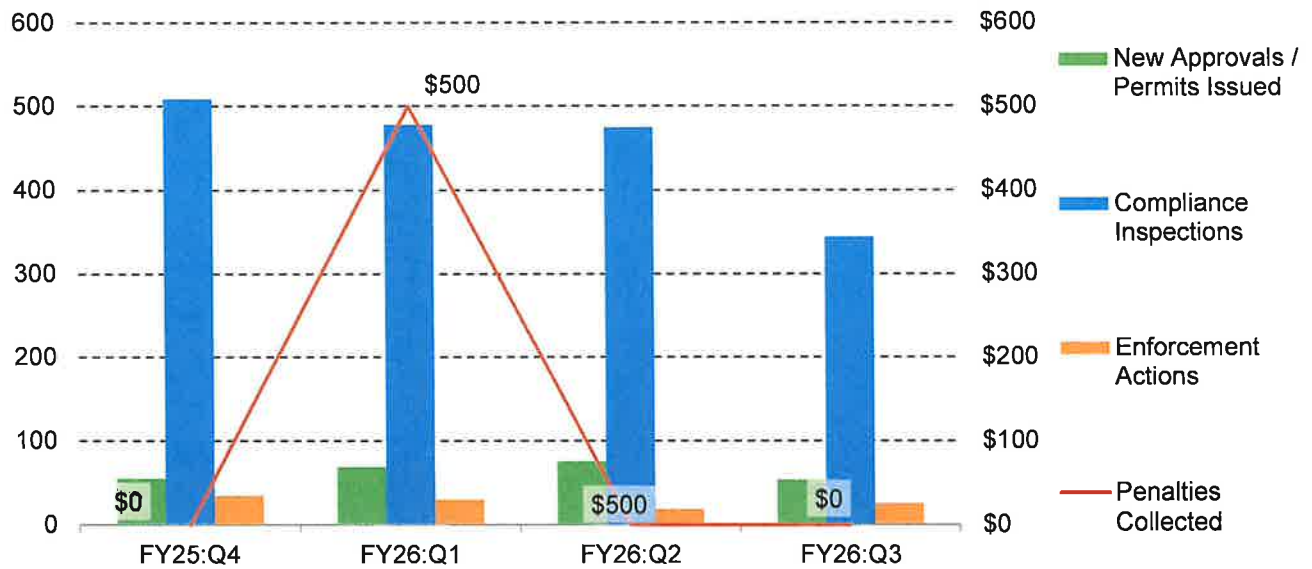
Voluntary Remediation



By the end of the third quarter of state fiscal year 2026, the Voluntary Remediation Program received **194** applications and approved **185**. **Seven** applications were under review, **one** was incomplete, and **11** were withdrawn (this figure includes applications withdrawn after approval). **One** site was remediated and removed from the HSI.

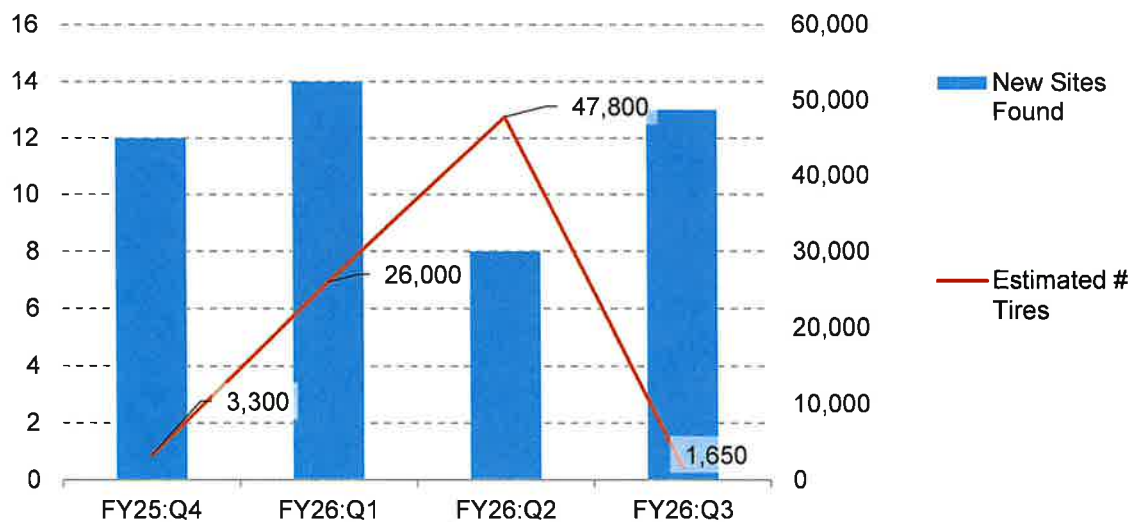
Note: Numbers for these three programs may differ from previous reports due to receipt of updated data.

Tire Permitting and Compliance

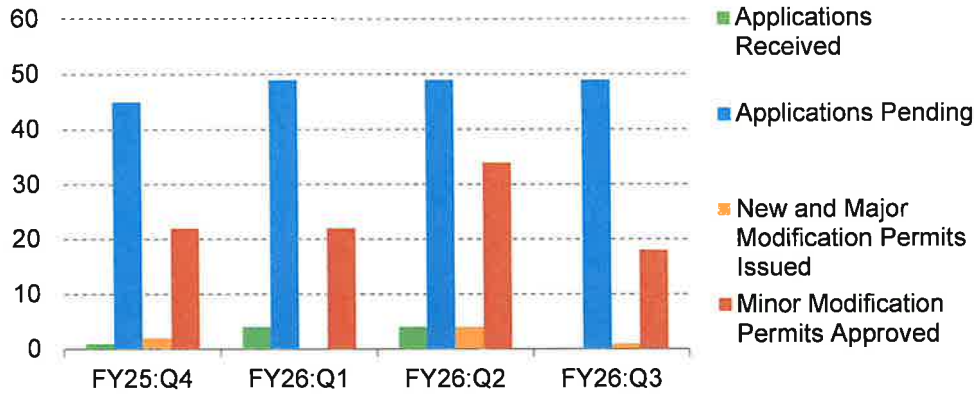


By the end of the third quarter of state fiscal year 2026, there were **6,610** registered scrap tire generators, **711** registered used tire dealers, **199** permitted tire carriers, **52** approved or permitted tire sorting operations, and **14** permitted scrap tire processors in Georgia. There were also **nine** sorters, **44** carriers, and **32** processors outside of Georgia approved by the program to accept scrap tires generated in Georgia.

Tire Dumps

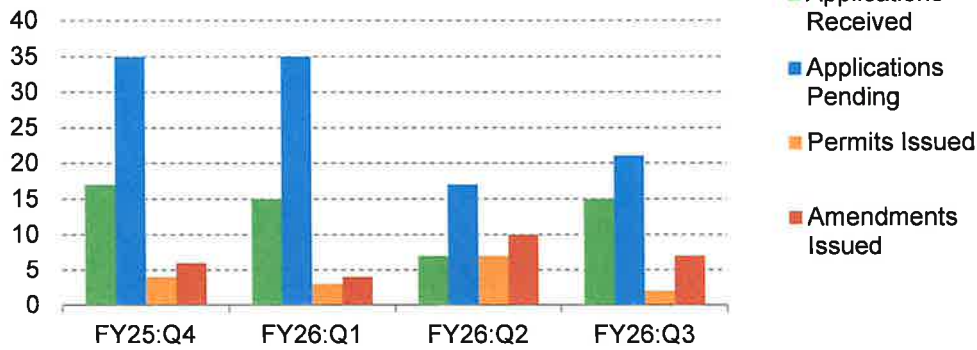


Solid Waste Permitting



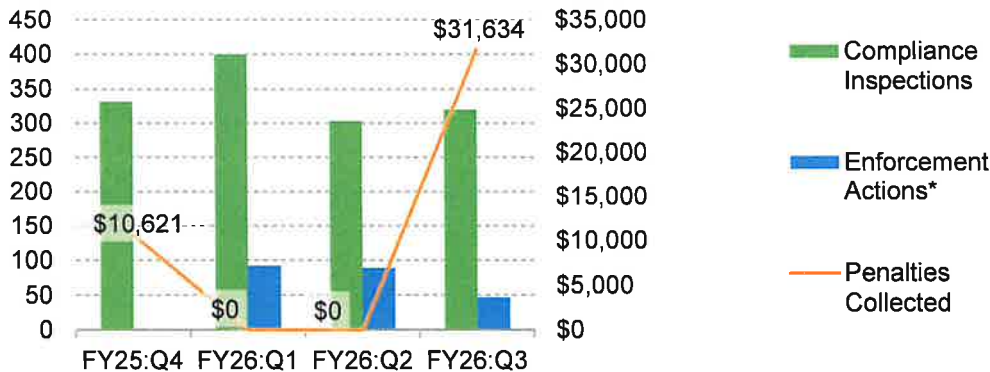
By the end of the third quarter of state fiscal year 2026, there were **195** permitted solid waste facilities in operation, **31** solid waste facilities in the closure process, and **316** closed landfills in Georgia.

Surface Mining Permitting



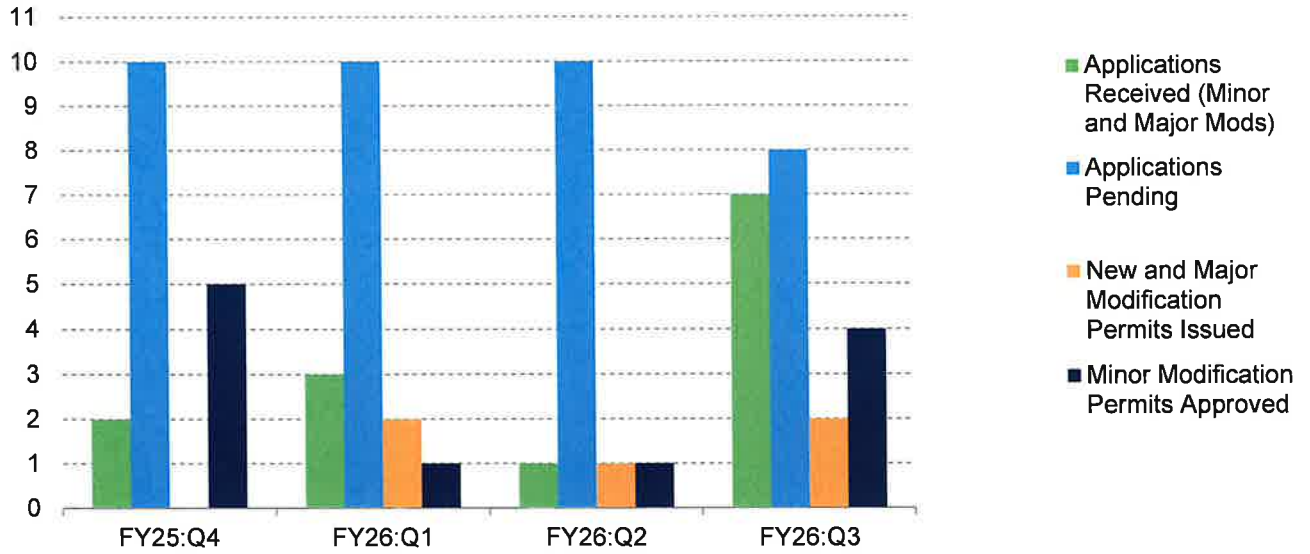
By the end of the third quarter of state fiscal year 2026, there were **772** permitted surface mines in Georgia.

Solid Waste and Surface Mining Compliance



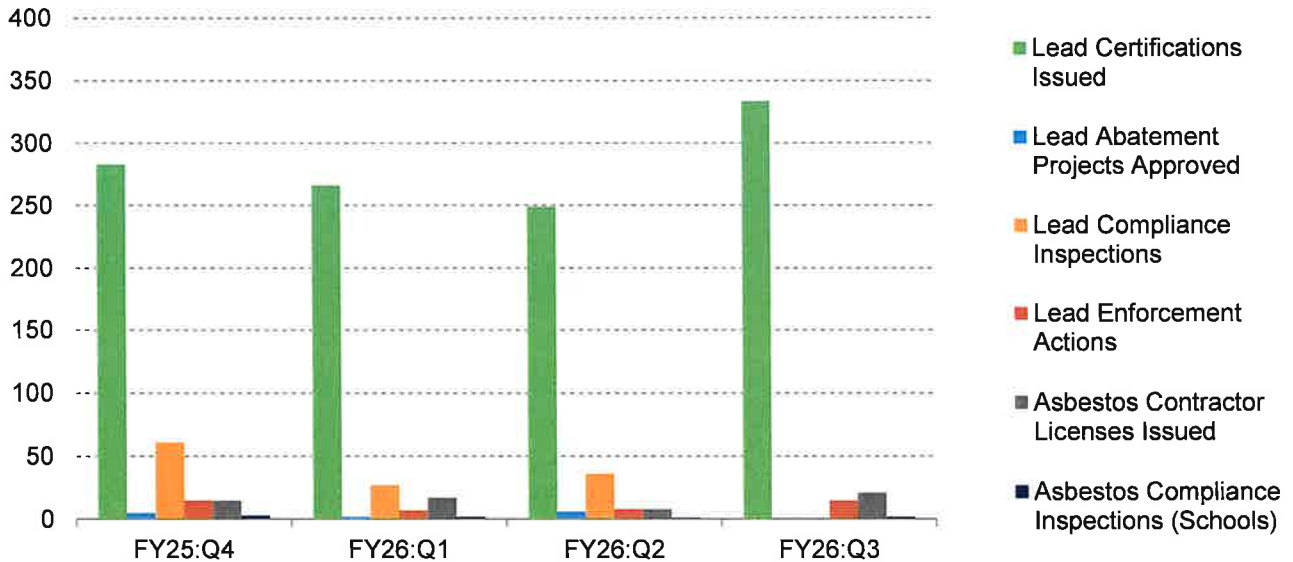
*Includes noncompliance letters, violation notices, and consent orders.

Recovered Materials Permitting*



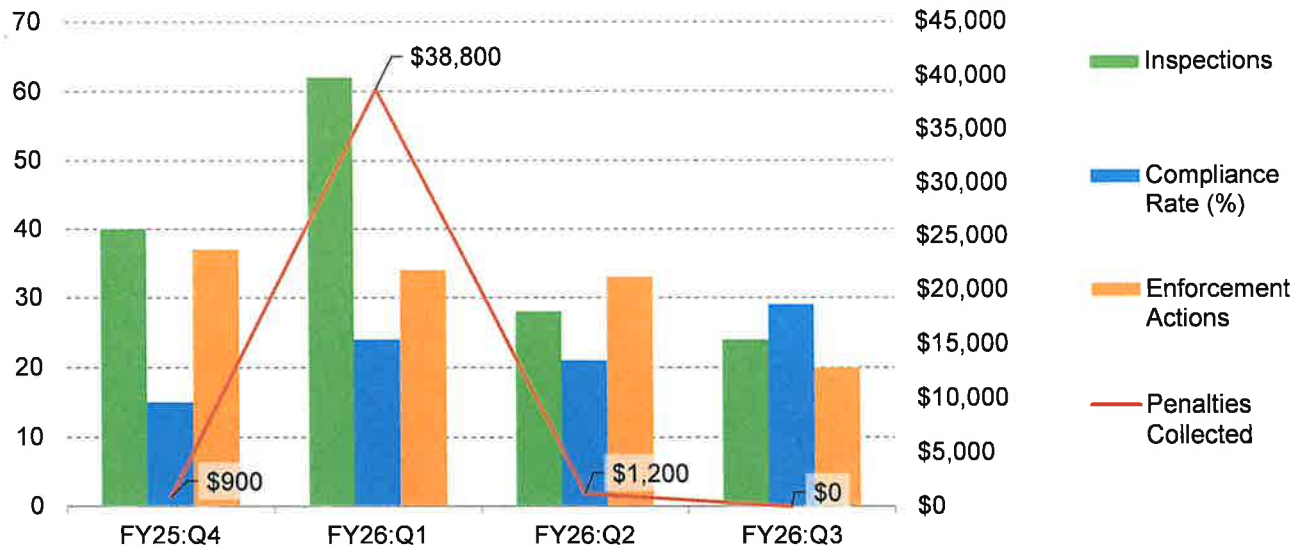
*Includes permit-by-rule facilities.

Lead-Based Paint and Asbestos

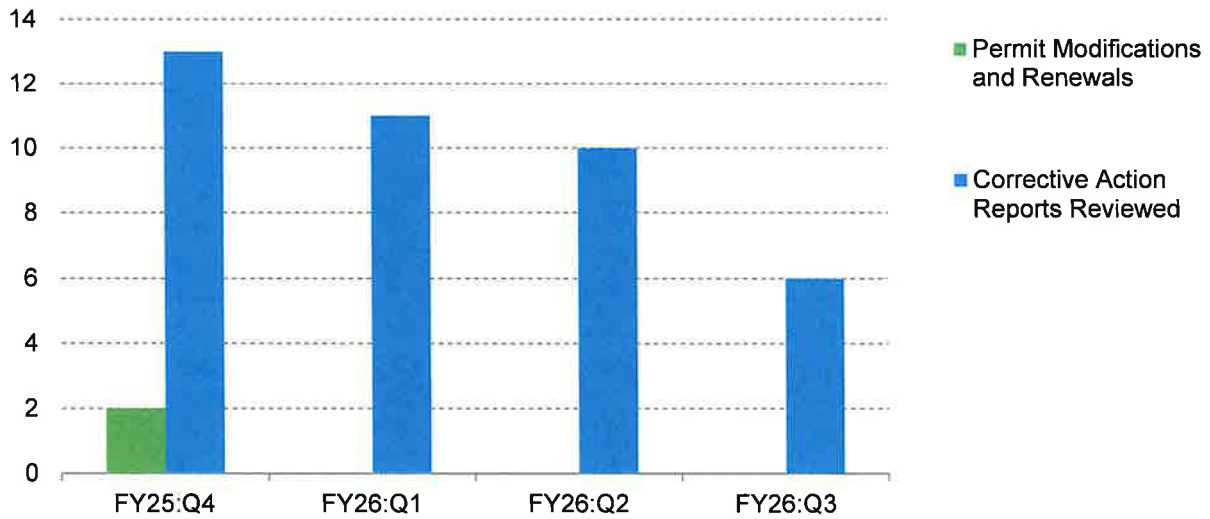


EPD receives approximately 500 asbestos project notifications per quarter. However, due to reductions in funding, EPD only performs asbestos inspections at schools. U.S. EPA handles all other inspections and enforcement.

Hazardous Waste Compliance and Enforcement



Hazardous Waste Permitting and Corrective Action





GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

Air Protection Branch Quarterly Report

State Fiscal Year 2026
Third Quarter

January 1, 2026 - March 31, 2026



Cloudland Canyon

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:

- Exceedances of the 2006 24-hour PM_{2.5} standard (35 µg/m³) occurred at:
 - Macon (54.5 µg/m³), Augusta (48.5 µg/m³), General Coffee (40.6 µg/m³), and Valdosta (35.8 µg/m³) on January 13;
 - Macon (36.1 µg/m³) and General Coffee (36.6 µg/m³) on January 14;
 - Columbus Baker (56.0 µg/m³) and General Coffee (45.5 µg/m³) on February 9;
 - General Coffee (100.6 µg/m³) on February 10;
 - Albany (74.4 µg/m³) and General Coffee (37.6 µg/m³) on February 13;
 - Albany (42.9 µg/m³) and Columbus Baker (65.6 µg/m³) on February 14;
 - United Avenue (60.2 µg/m³) on February 19;
 - Albany (80.4 µg/m³) on March 14;
 - Albany (44.4 µg/m³), Columbus Baker (45.1 µg/m³), and Macon Allied (43.8 µg/m³) on March 20;
 - Augusta (39.1 µg/m³) and Macon Allied (47.0 µg/m³) on March 21; and
 - Savannah (36.4 µg/m³) on March 22.
- In February, EPA officially approved five Canadian wildfire exceptional event demonstrations and two prescribed exceptional event demonstrations for Macon lowering the 2022-2024 annual PM_{2.5} design value from 9.4 to 9.0 micrograms per cubic meter, thereby demonstrating attainment with the 2024 annual PM_{2.5} standard. The two prescribed fire exceptional event demonstrations that were approved by EPA were the first regulatorily significant prescribed fire exceptional event demonstrations ever approved in the country. In March, EPA officially approved Canadian wildfire exceptional event demonstrations for Atlanta and concurred on the exclusion of our roadside monitor for comparison to the annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS, allowing Atlanta to meet the annual PM_{2.5} standard.

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.

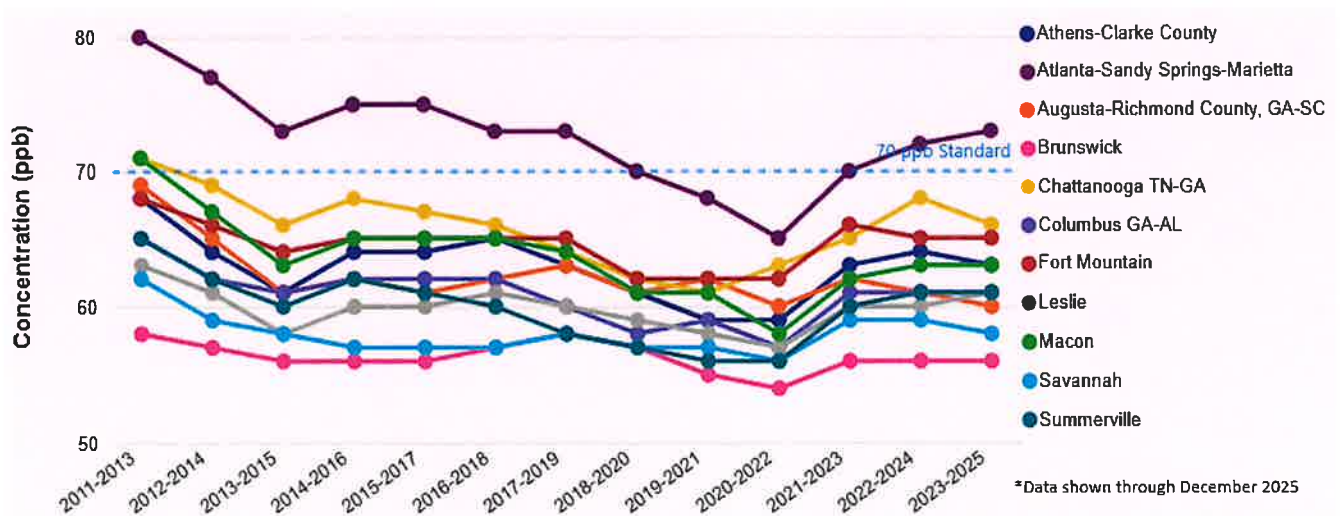
Ozone (O₃)

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.

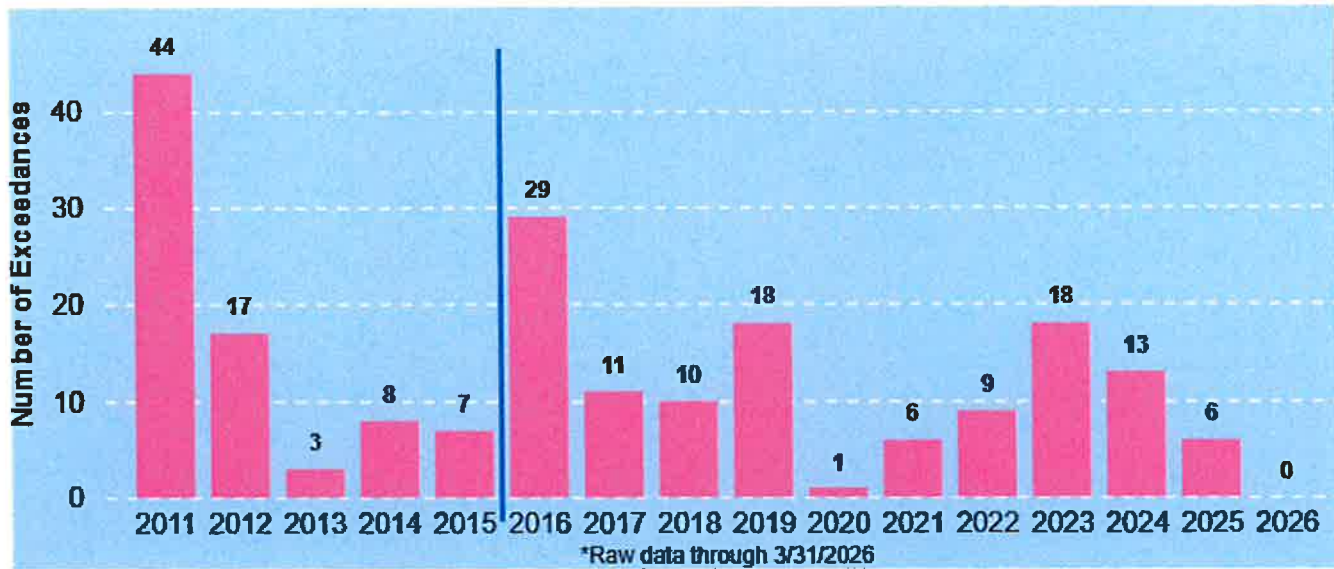
The current ozone standard or NAAQS is 70 ppb. An exceedance of the ozone standard occurs when the measured daily maximum 8-hour average ozone concentration is above the ozone NAAQS. If the exceedances occur frequently enough, the design value (i.e., 3-year average of 4th highest ozone concentrations 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 most recent ozone design value in Atlanta (based on 2022-2024 data) exceeded the 70 ppb standard, triggering the evaluation and implementation of 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

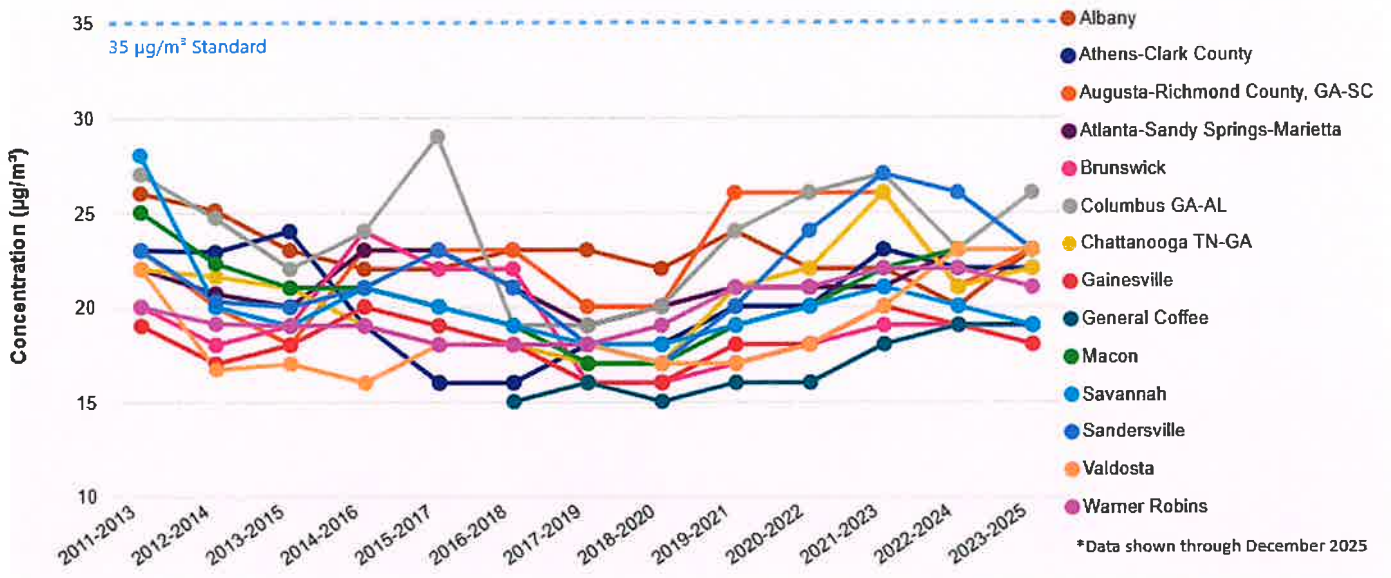


Fine Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5})

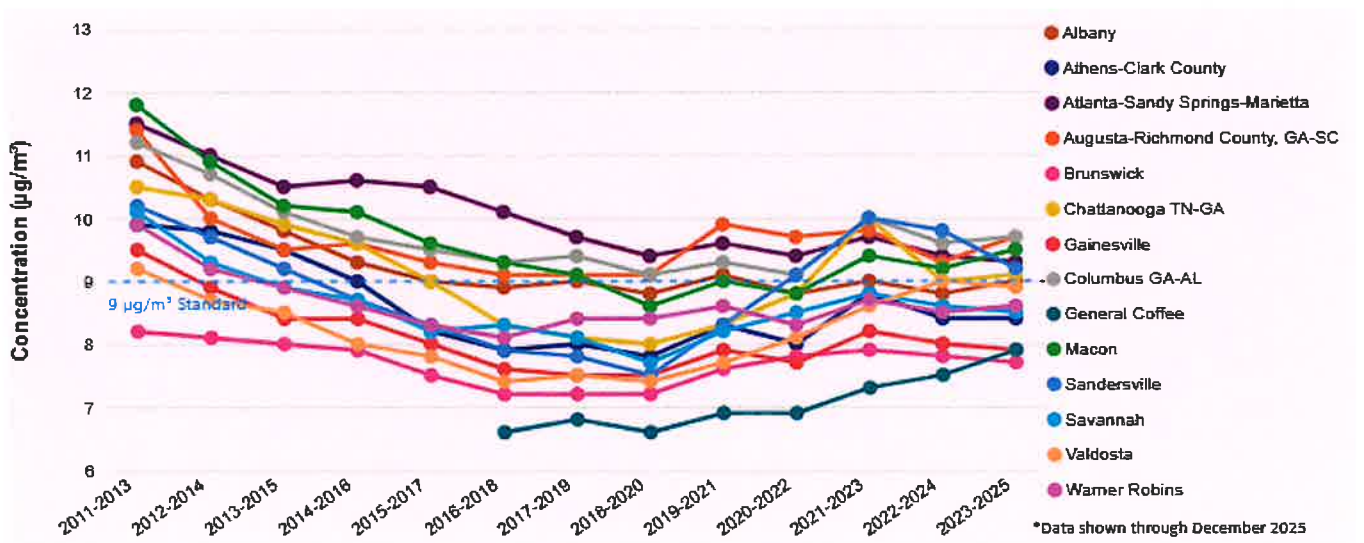
PM_{2.5} are very small inhalable particles. PM_{2.5} can be emitted directly from a source or formed in the atmosphere as a result of complex reactions of chemicals such as sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides. EPA has set both a 24-hour standard and an annual standard for PM_{2.5}. PM_{2.5} can get deep into your lungs, aggravating asthma and decreasing lung function. In May 2024, EPA lowered the annual PM_{2.5} standard from 12.0 µg/m³ to 9.0 µg/m³.

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} (µg/m³) 3-Year Averages of 98th Percentile of 24-Hour Averages for Each Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)

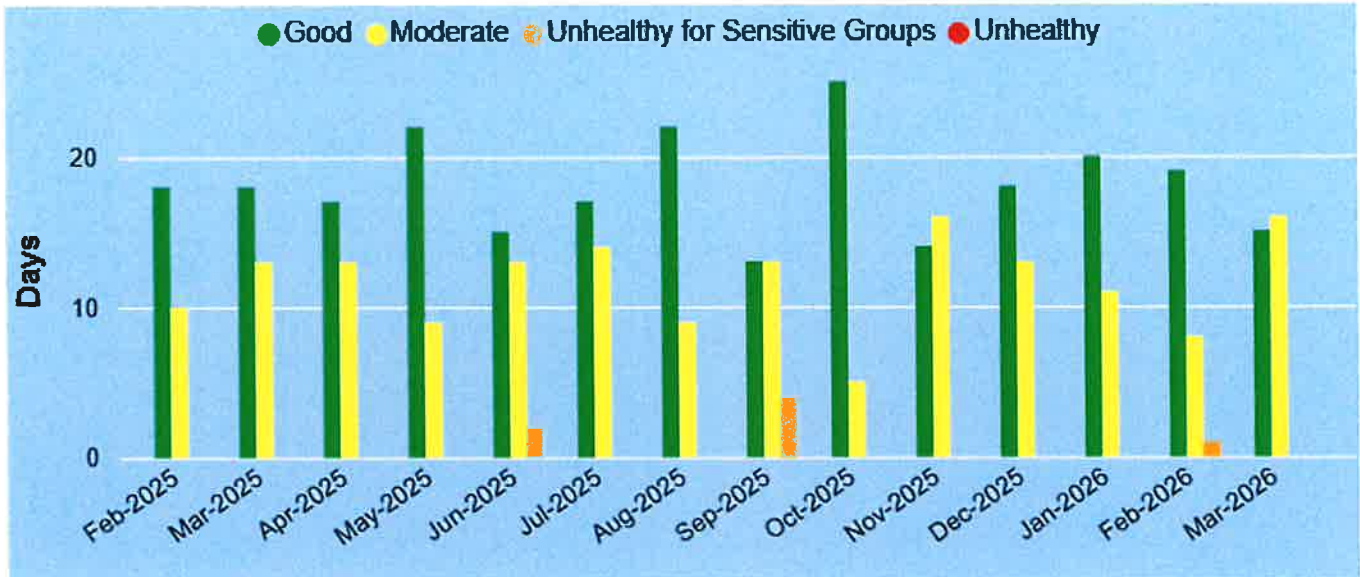


PM_{2.5} (µg/m³), 3-Year Averages of Highest Annual Averages for each Metropolitan Statistical Area



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

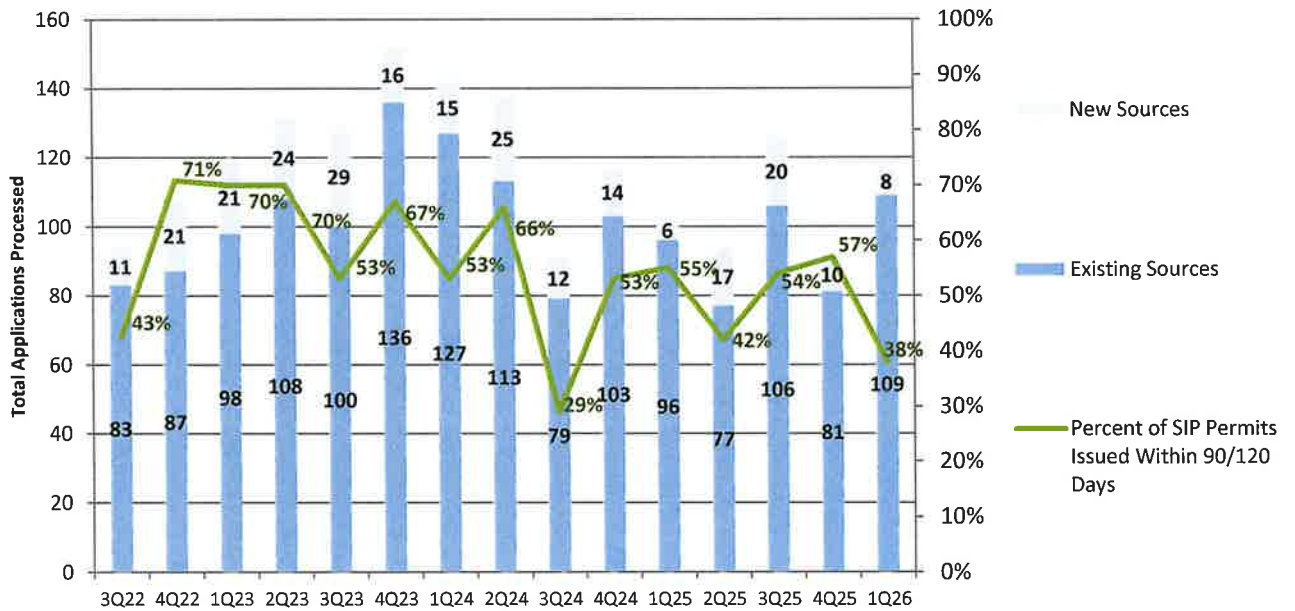
Permitting and Licensing

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.

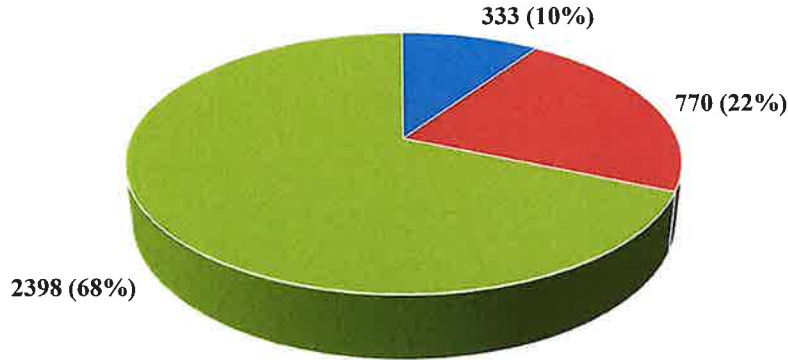
On March 31, 2022, the Air Protection Branch expanded the public’s opportunity to comment on draft operating permits in response to a change in EPA requirements. This may increase the processing times for some permit applications.

Stationary Source Permit Applications



Active Permits in Georgia (FY2026)

■ Title V Permits ■ Synthetic Minor (SM) Permits ■ Minor Permits / Permit by Rule



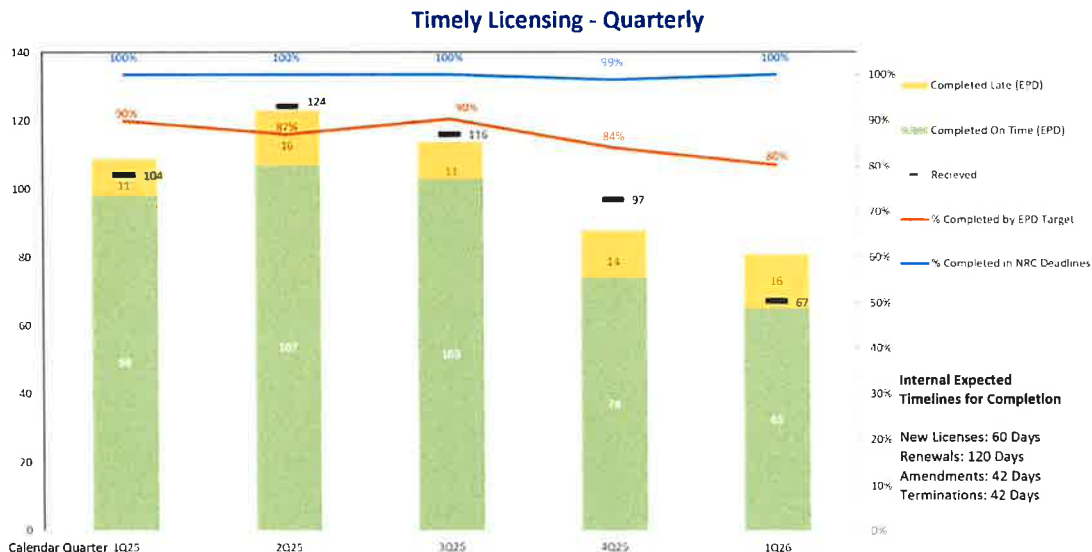
Expedited Permit Program - APB offers an expedited permit application processing program to companies that want permits delivered quickly. Fees are assessed for program participation.

SFY 2026 total-to-date:

- 29 applications accepted
- \$440,000 in expedited fees collected
- Open applications: 11

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.

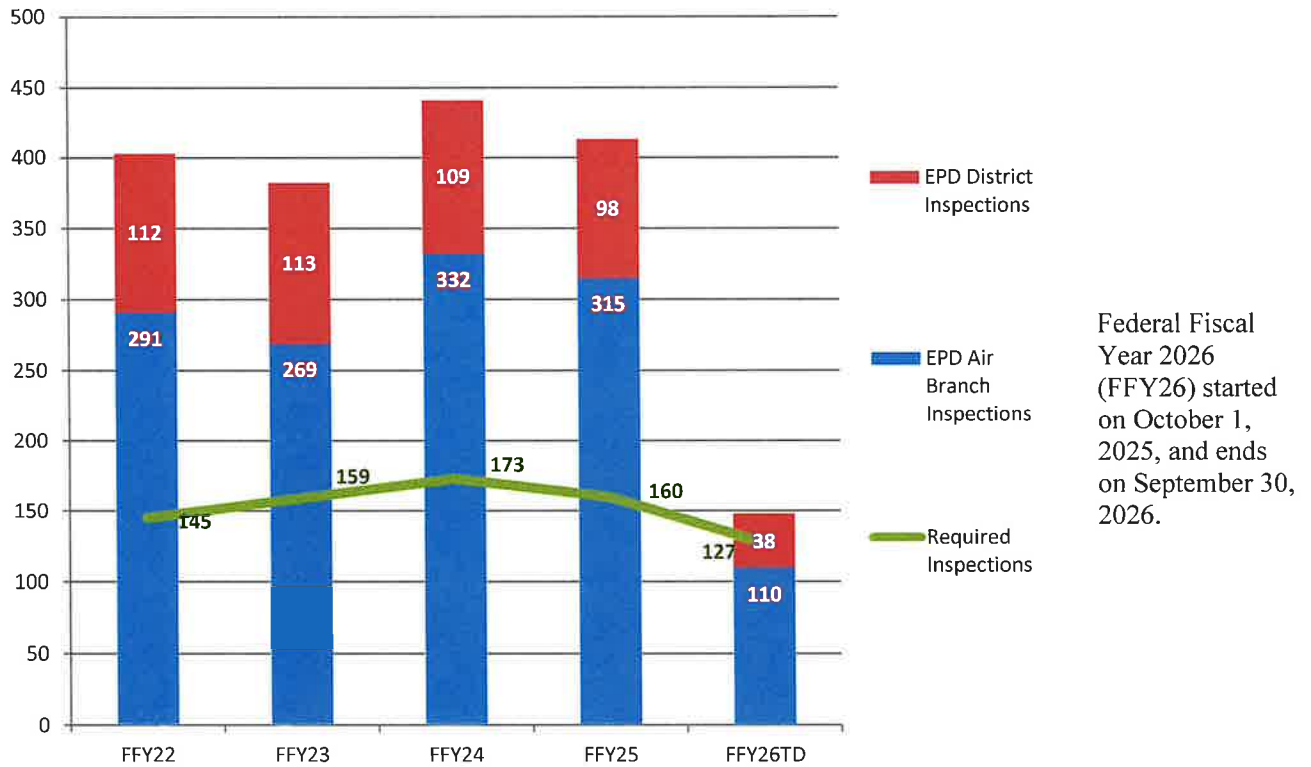


Compliance Assurance and Assistance

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 stack test reviews. A stack 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.

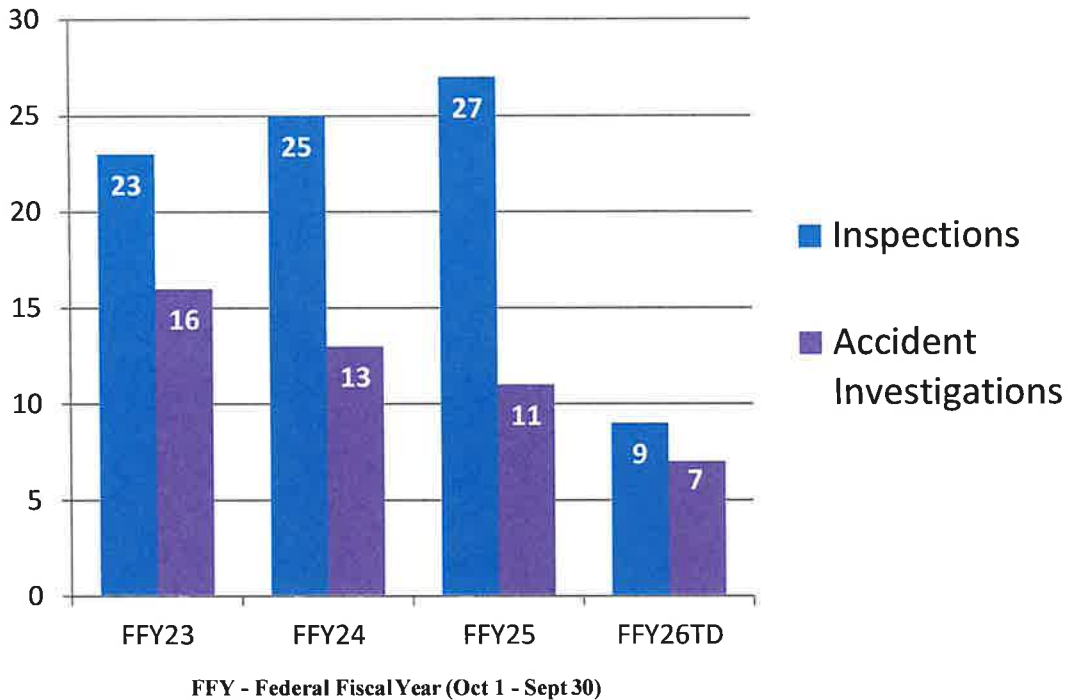
Stationary Source Compliance Inspection Summary

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.



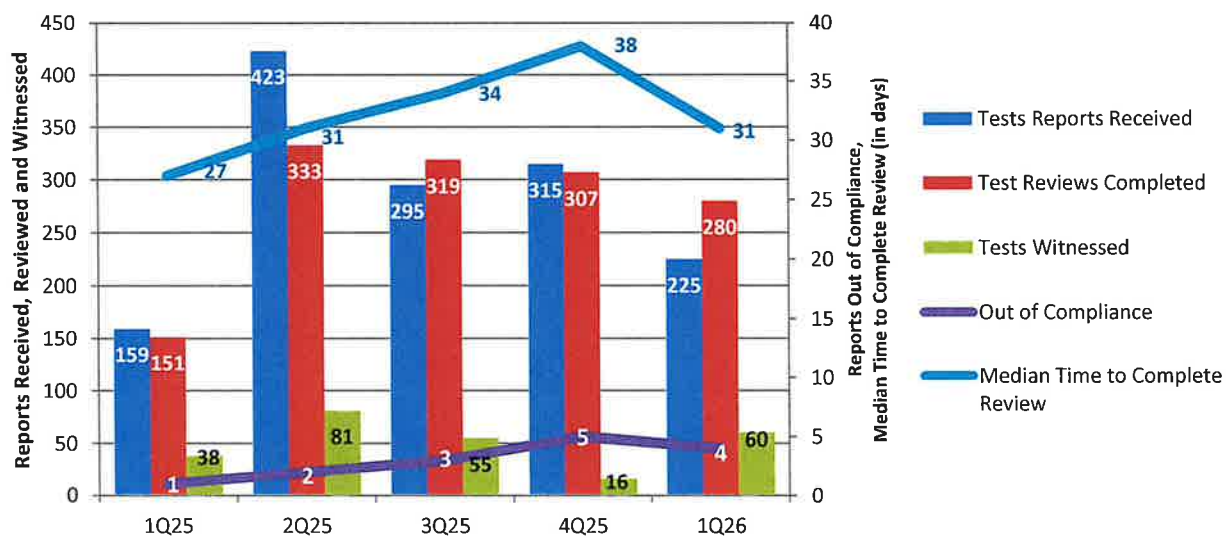
Risk Management Activities

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.



Industrial Source Monitoring

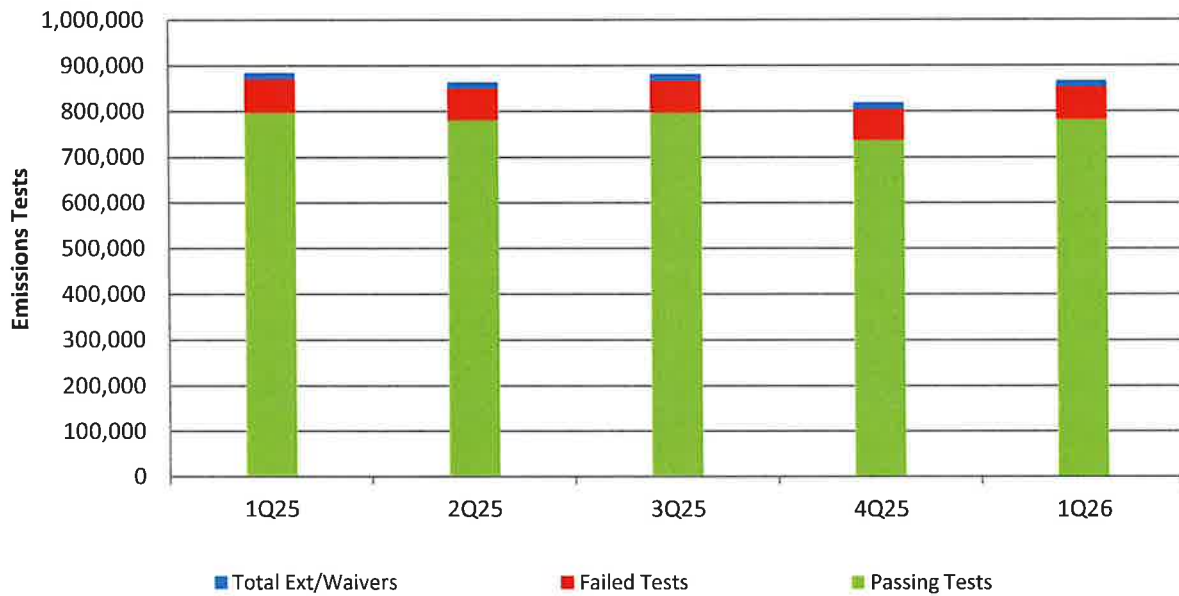
Some sources are required to conduct stack tests either one-time or on a periodic basis. Tests are conducted by a company, or a testing firm, contracted by the company and the test reports are reviewed by the Industrial Source Monitoring Unit (ISMU). ISMU also conducts on-site audits of some stack tests.



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.

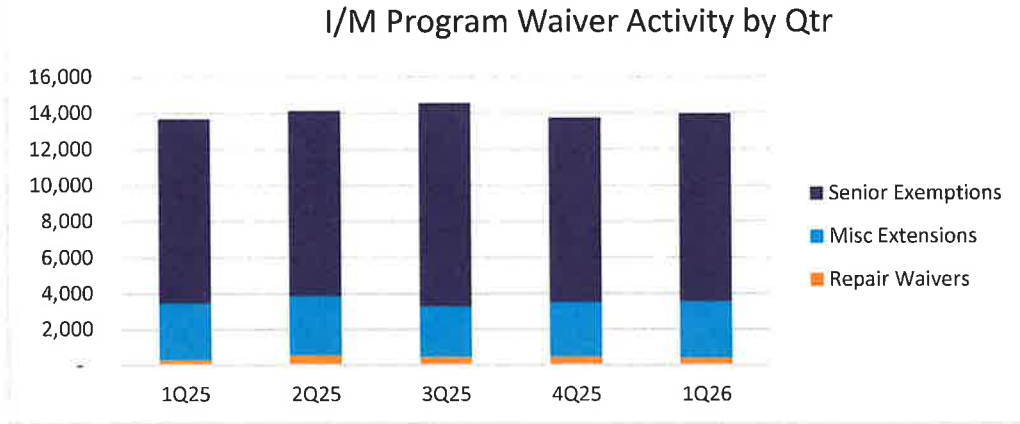
Vehicle Emissions Tests by Qtr and Waivers/Extensions/Exemptions issued



Types of Vehicle Emissions Waivers and Extensions Issued

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

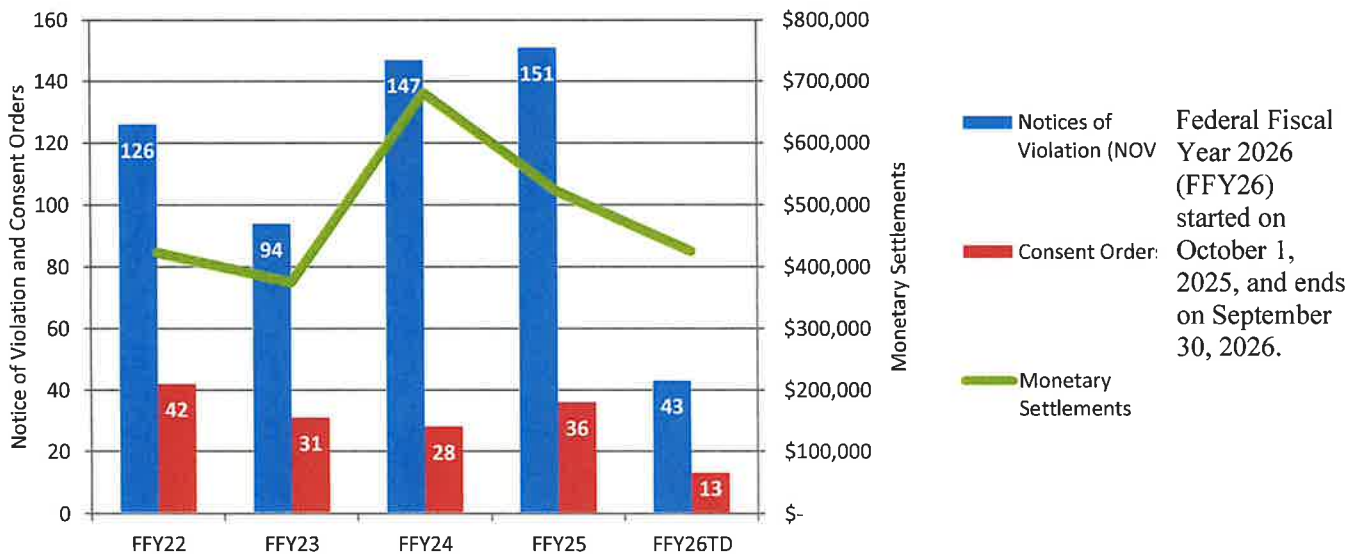
- A repair waiver can be issued if the cost of emissions-related repairs meets or exceeds \$1,053 and the vehicle shows improvement in all areas it failed on the first test and still passes all the areas it passed on the first test.
- A senior exemption can be issued if the motorist is 65 years old or 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.

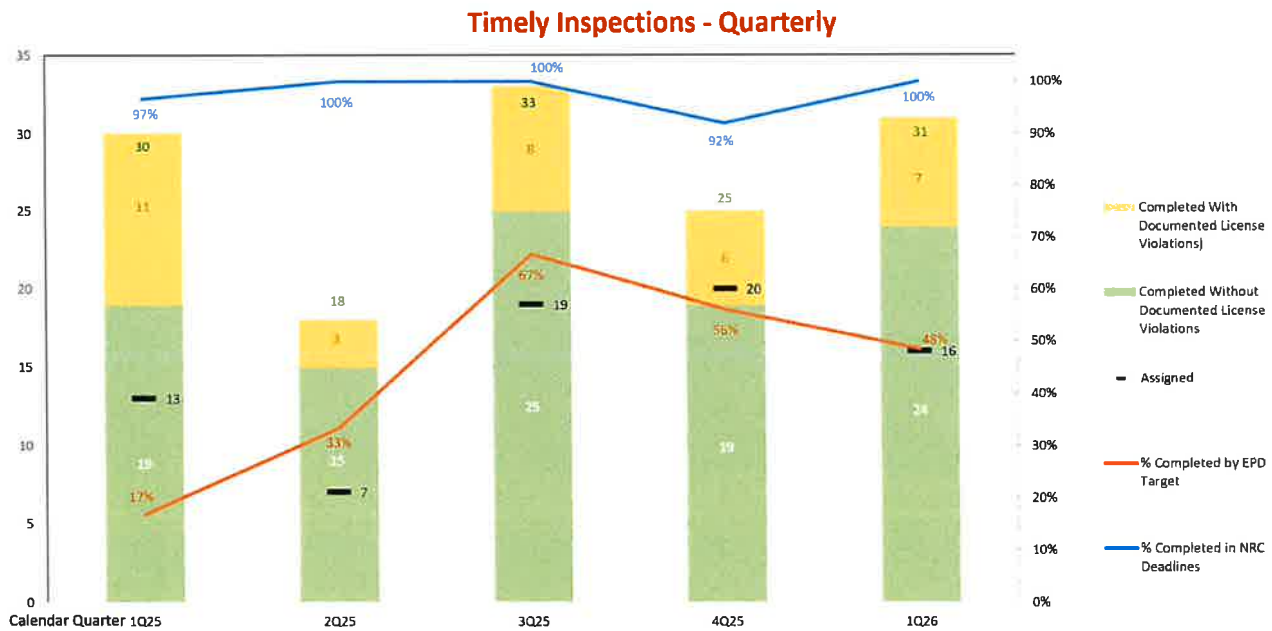


Vehicle Emissions Program Enforcement Summary

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 710 stations and 2,000 inspectors in the program.

Status of Radioactive Materials Inspections

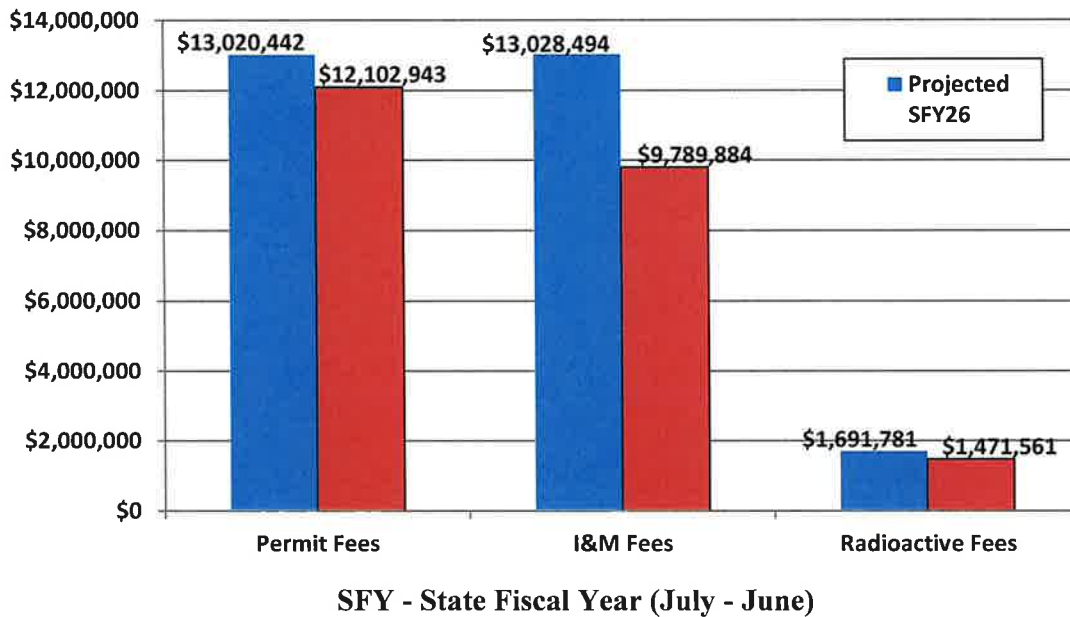
The federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) defines the inspection frequency based on the level of hazard posed by the radioactive materials used. Violations tend to be administrative in nature (such as missing paperwork) or instances when licensees use inappropriate techniques and procedures while 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 \$1.44 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.



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

Watershed Protection Branch
Permitting and Compliance
Quarterly Report

State Fiscal Year 2026
Third Quarter
January 1 – March 31, 2026



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

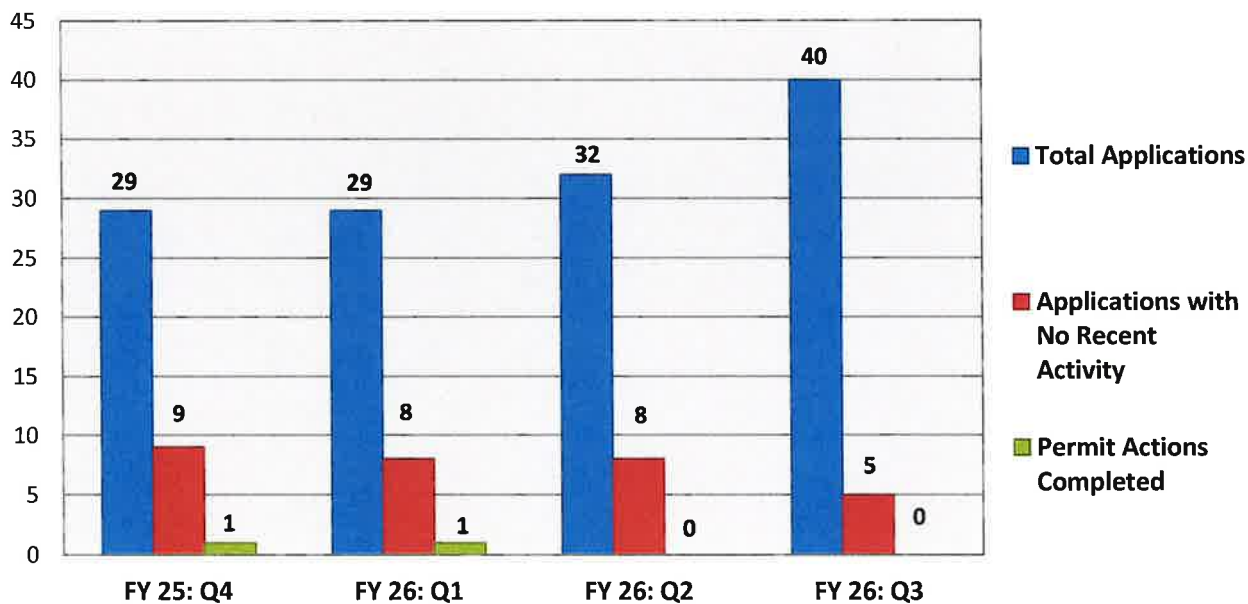
This report summarizes the Watershed Protection Branch’s programmatic activities for the Third Quarter of State Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26), which covers the period of January 1 - March 31, 2026.

Surface Water Withdrawal Permitting Activities

During the Third Quarter of FY26, no (0) surface water withdrawal permits were issued.

Application Type	# of Applications Processed
New Permits	0
Renewal Permits	0
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.



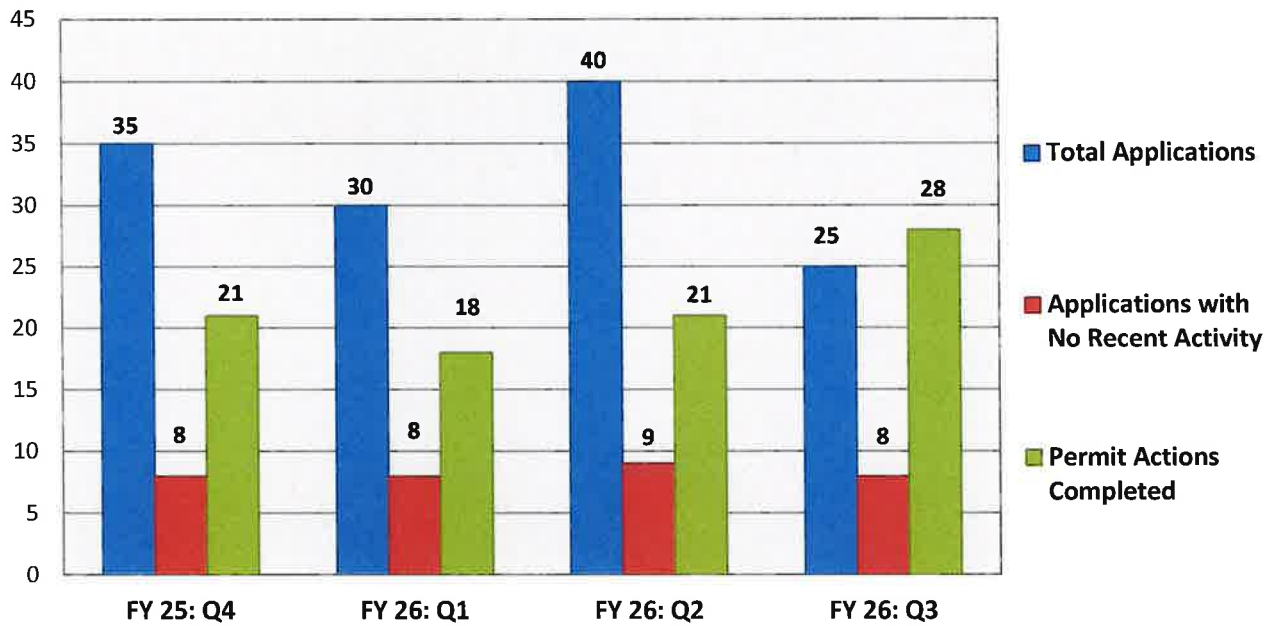
Note: The total number of permit actions completed during each quarter includes permits issued, permits revoked, permits rescinded, and applications that have been retracted.

Groundwater Withdrawal Permitting Activities

During the Third Quarter of FY26, twenty-seven (27) groundwater withdrawal permits were issued.

Application Type	# of Applications Processed
New Permits	1
Renewal Permits	17
Amended (Modified) Permits	9

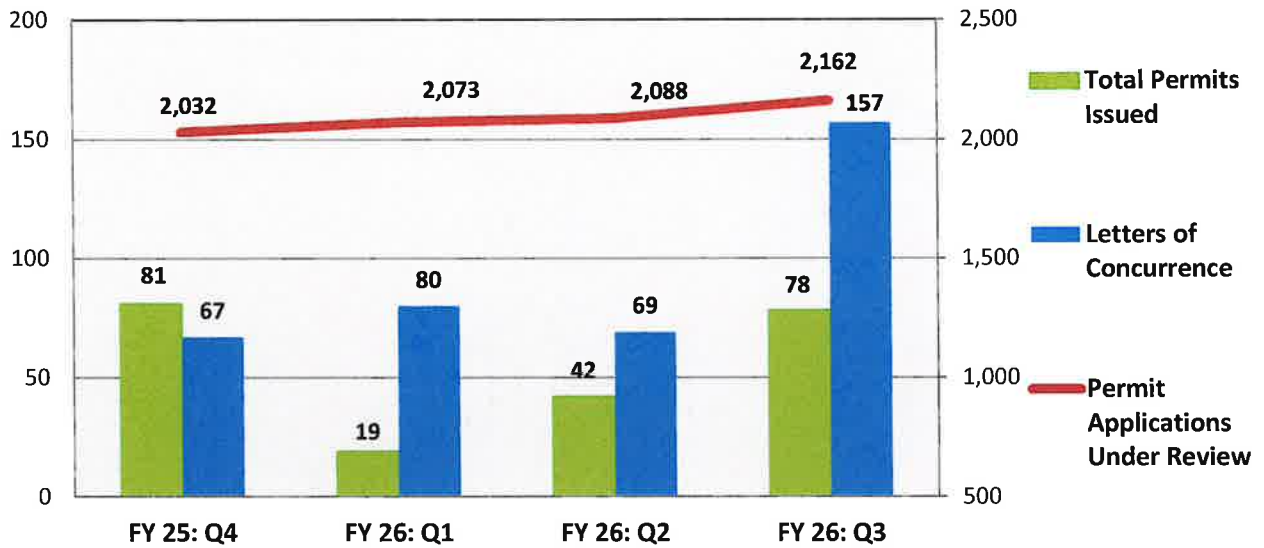
The following graph provides information about groundwater withdrawal permit applications and permitting actions completed within the prior 12-month period.



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 March 31, 2026, there are approximately 26,980 farm water withdrawal permits. During the Third Quarter of FY26, 38 new and 40 revised farm water withdrawal permits were issued, 0 farm water withdrawal permits were relinquished, and 157 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.



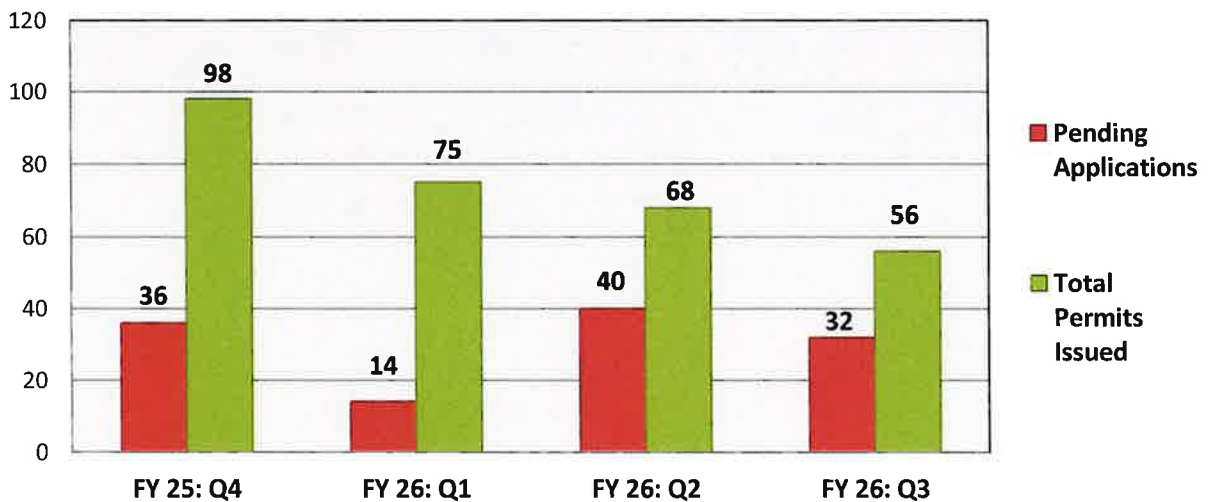
Note: A Letter of Concurrence gives an applicant permission to install a proposed water withdrawal system for agricultural water use.

Public Water System Permitting Activities

During the Third Quarter of FY26, fifty-six (56) drinking water permits were issued.

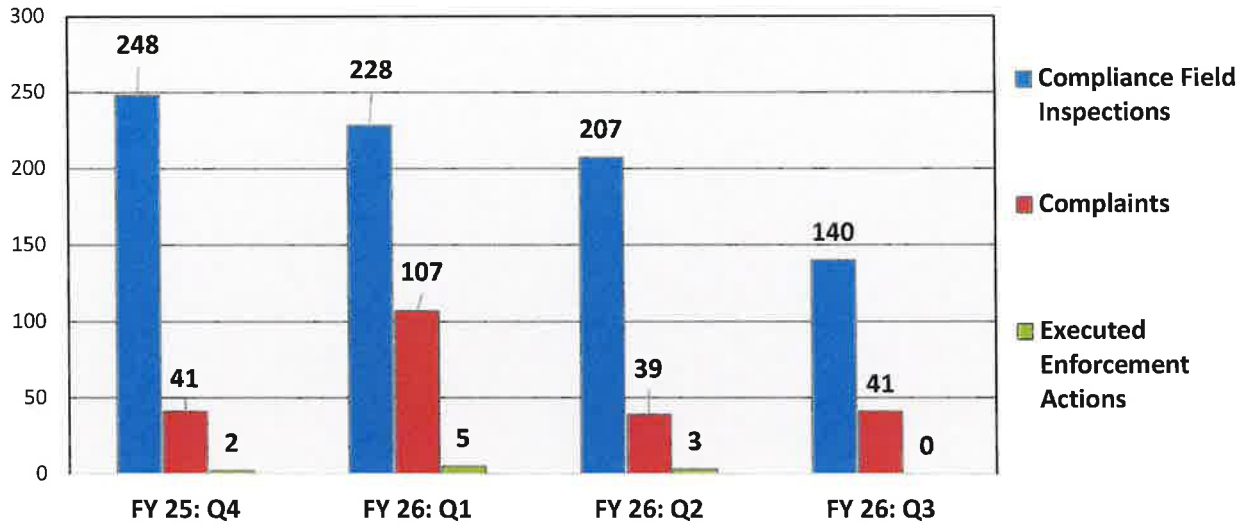
Application Type	# of Applications Processed
New Permits	4
Renewal Permits	30
Amended (Modified) Permits	22

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

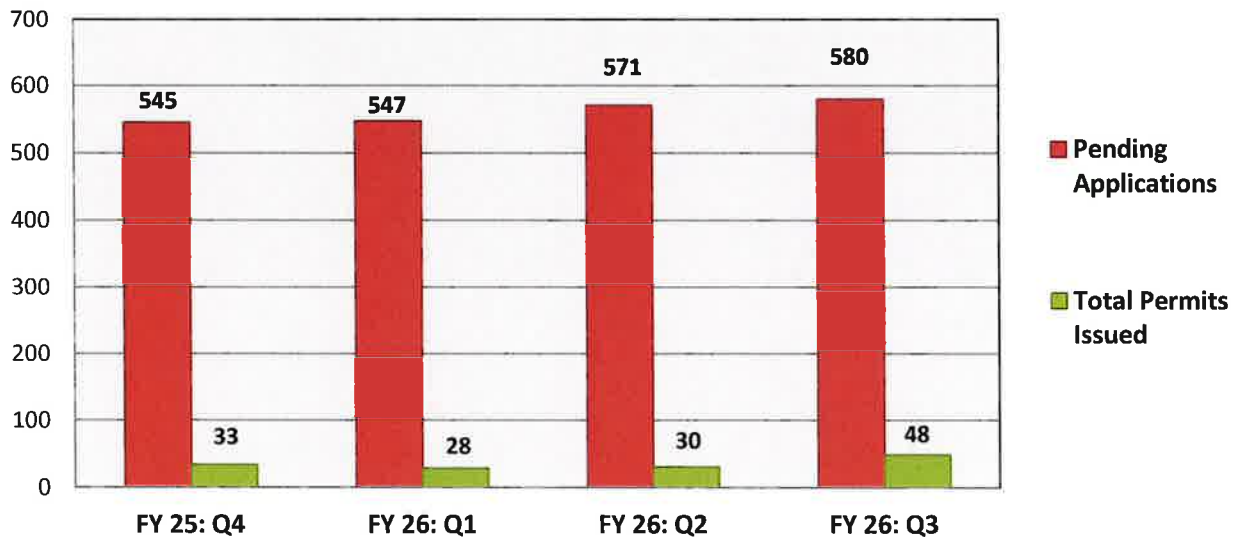
The following graph identifies the number and types of safe drinking water compliance activities conducted by the Branch and District Offices during the prior 12-month period.



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.

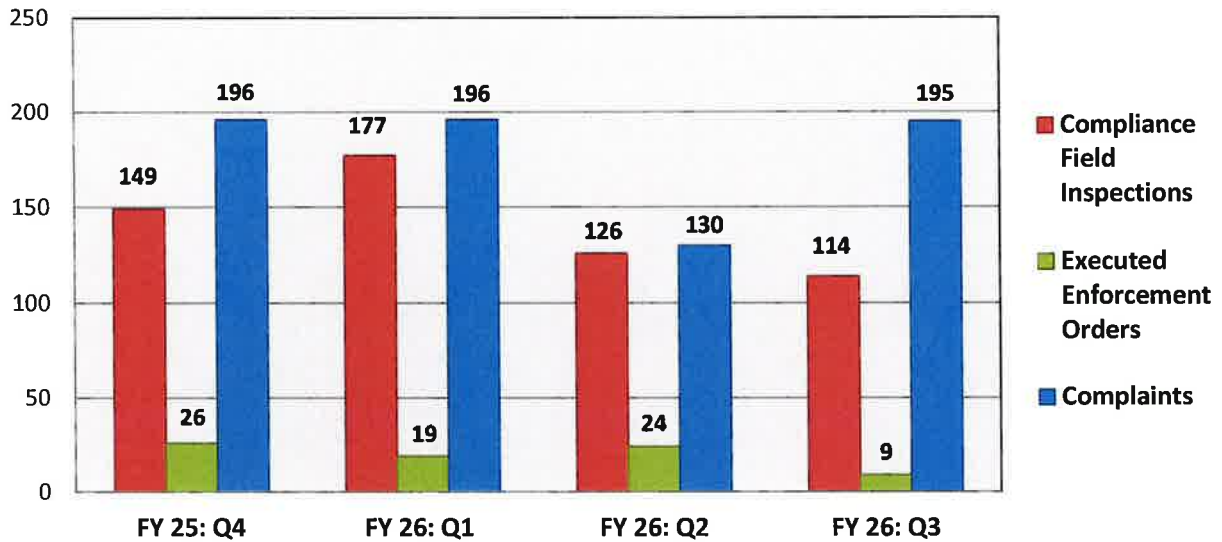
Wastewater Regulatory Program Activities

During the Third Quarter of FY26, the Wastewater Regulatory Program issued 48 permits. They included 27 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits, 0 general permits (with 7 Notices of Coverage), 7 Land Application System (LAS) permits, 4 pretreatment permits, and 10 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.



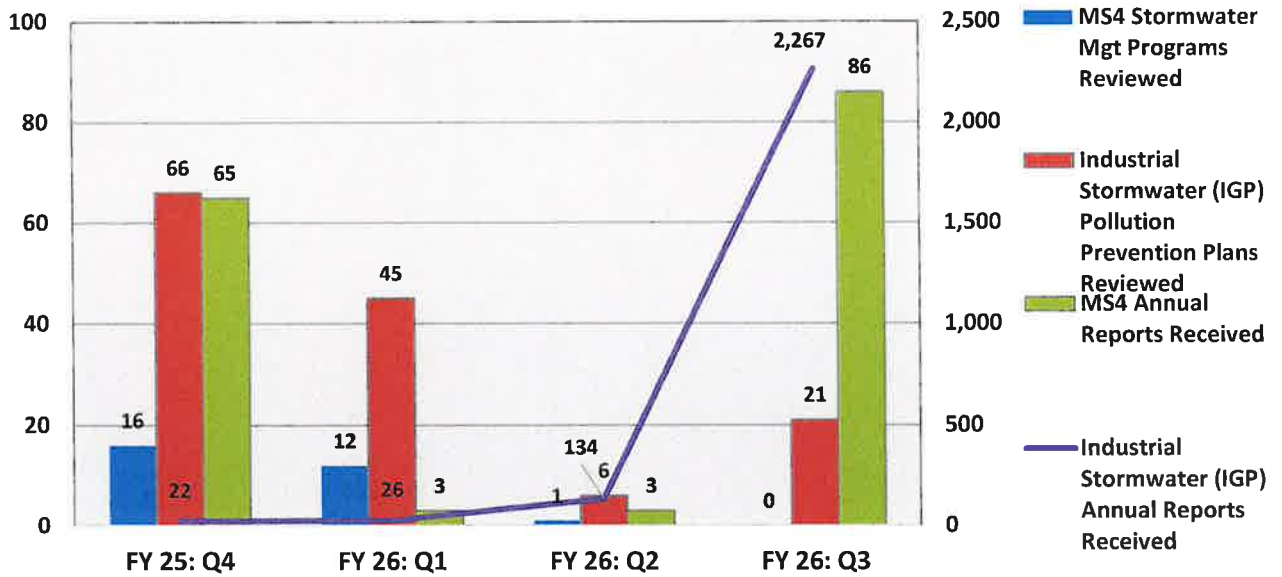
Note: Numbers of Compliance Field Inspections in previous quarters have been updated to include inspection activities that were conducted in that quarter but entered in the tracking system at a later date.

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 stormwaters permits, and the number of Notices of Intent (NOIs) received under those permits during the Third Quarter of FY26.

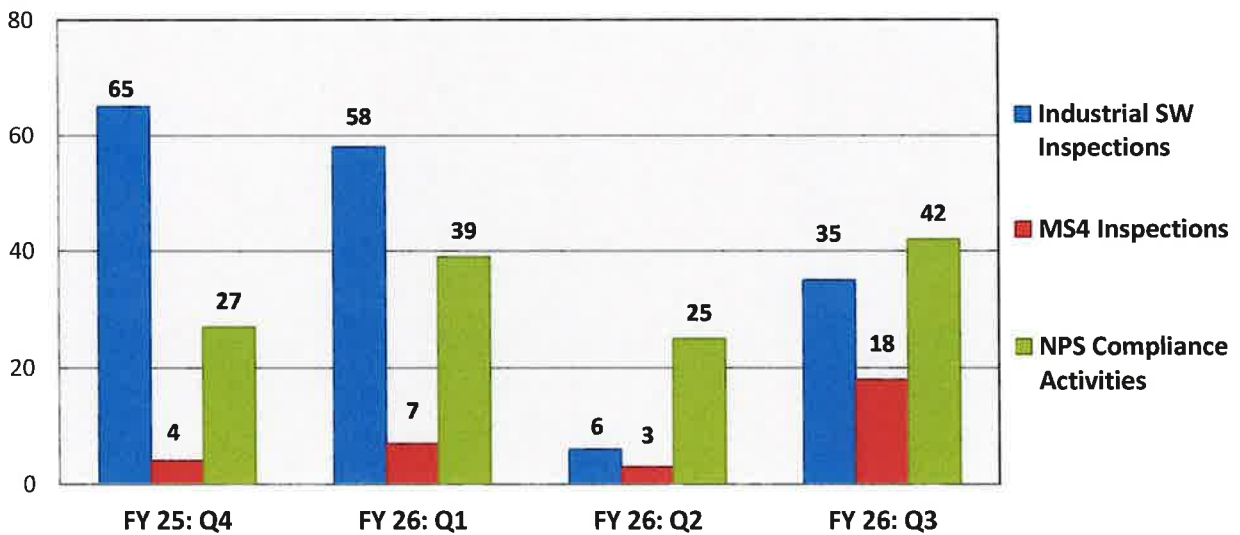
Category	# of Permits	# of NOIs Submitted
Construction	3	1,473
Industrial	1	291
Municipal	60	0

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.



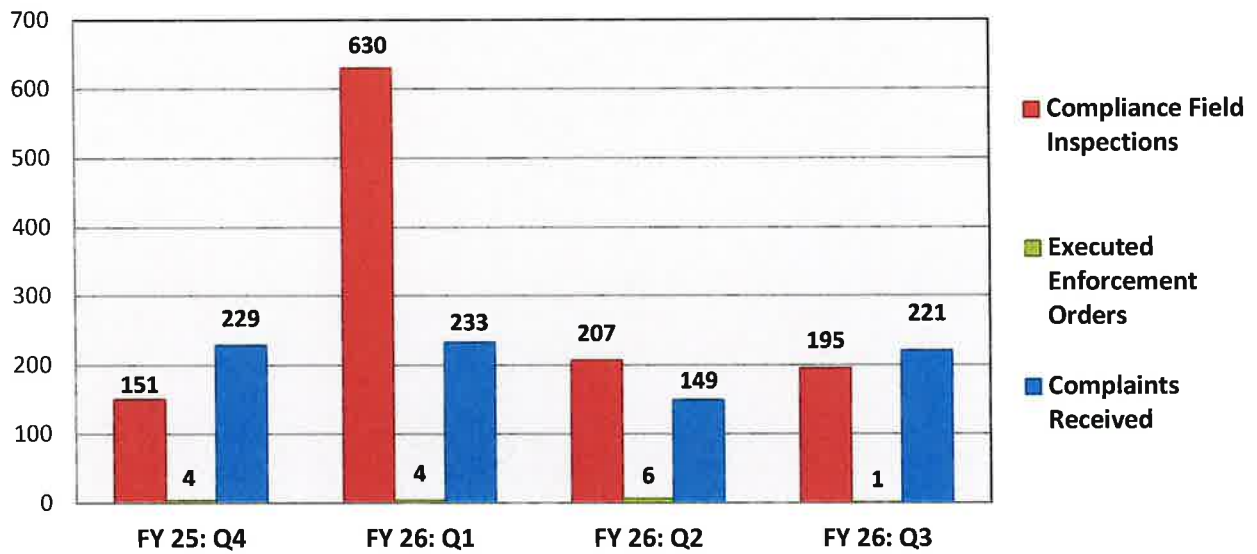
Stormwater Inspection and Compliance Activities

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).

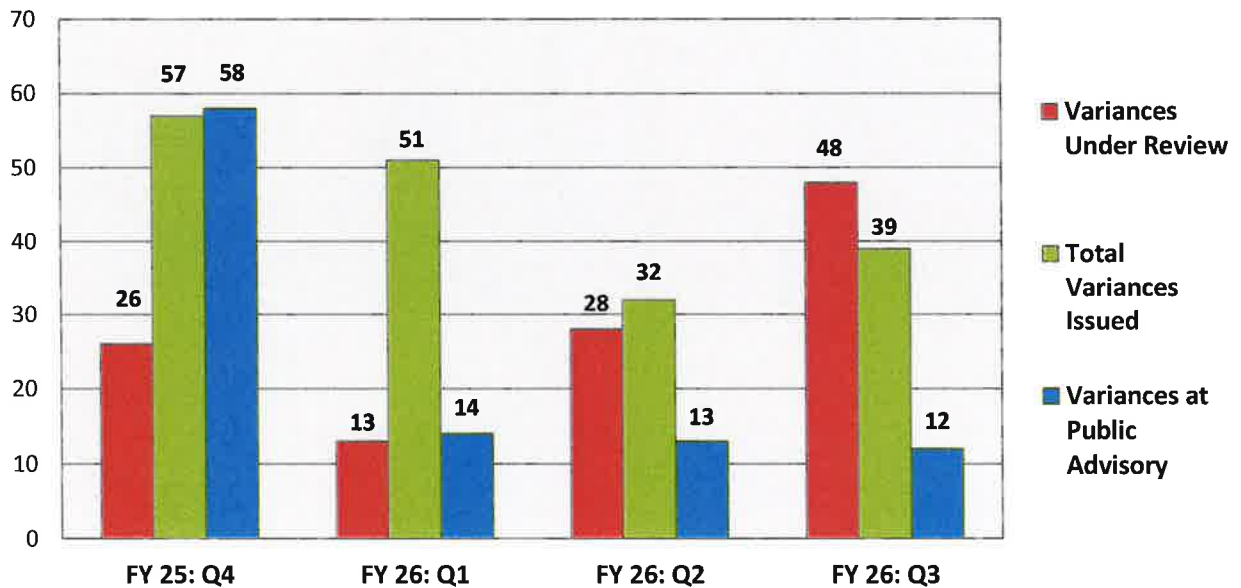
The following graph provides information about the stormwater and erosion and sedimentation control compliance activities conducted by the Branch and EPD District Offices during the prior 12-month period.



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

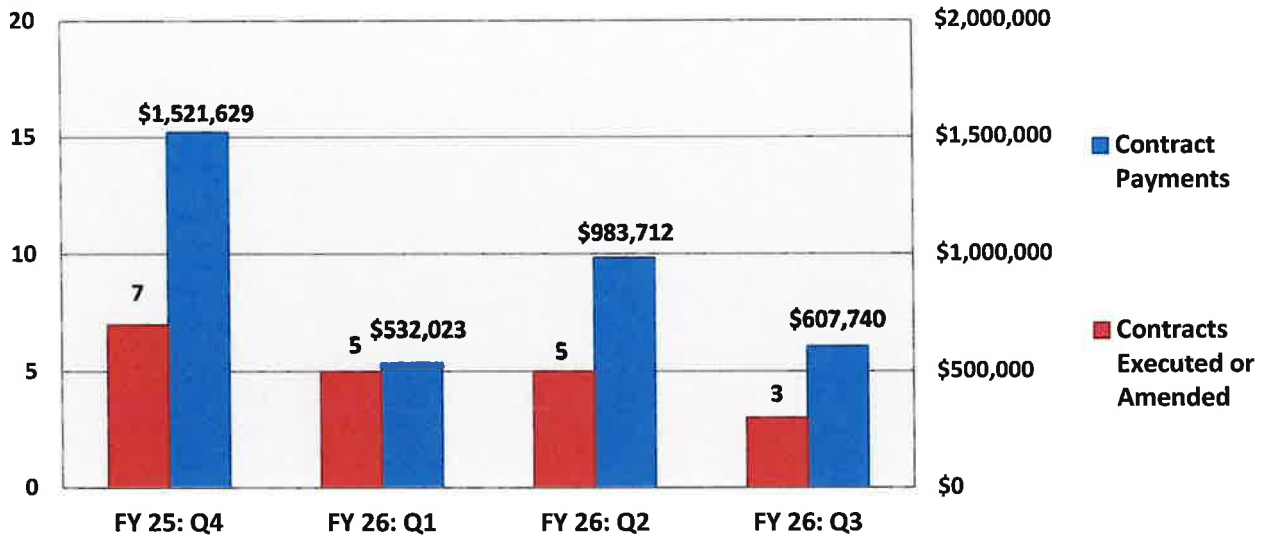
The following graph provides information about buffer variance applications reviewed or processed during the prior 12-month period.



As of March 31, 2026, sixty (60) buffer variance applications are pending.

Nonpoint Source Grants Contracting Activities

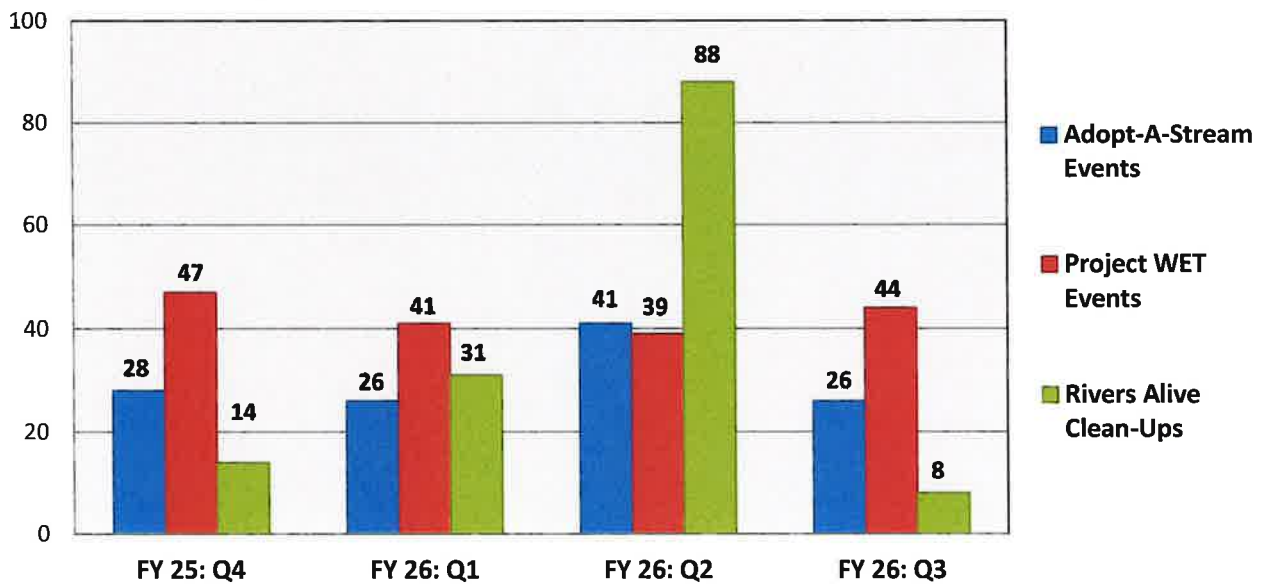
The following graph provides information about the contracting activities of the Nonpoint Source Program during the prior 12-month period.



As of March 31, 2026, there are forty (40) active nonpoint source grant projects state-wide.

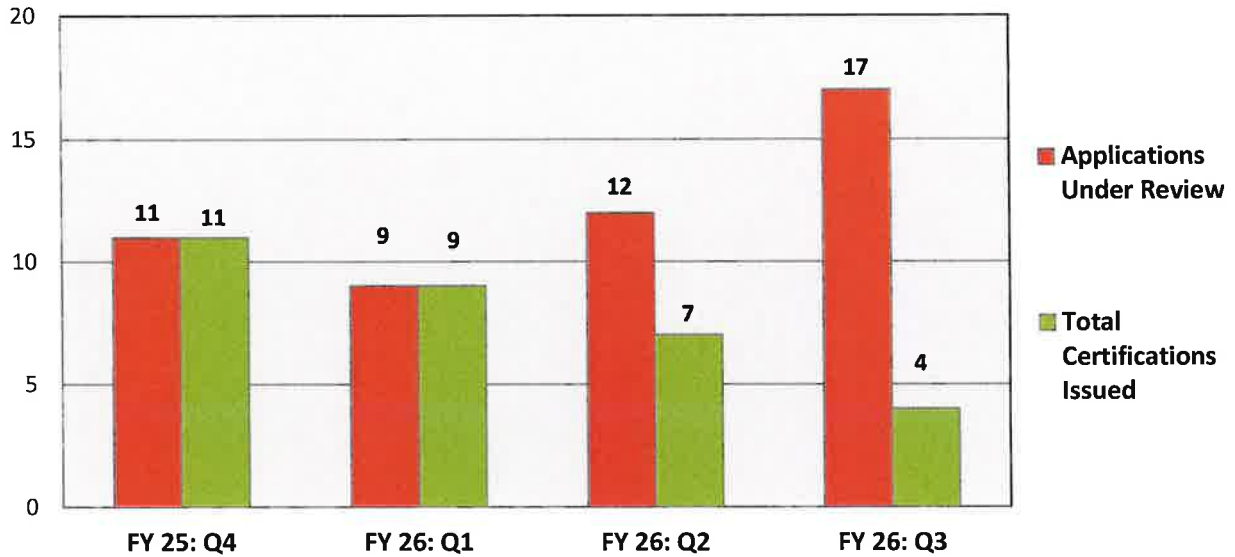
Nonpoint Source Outreach Activities

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.

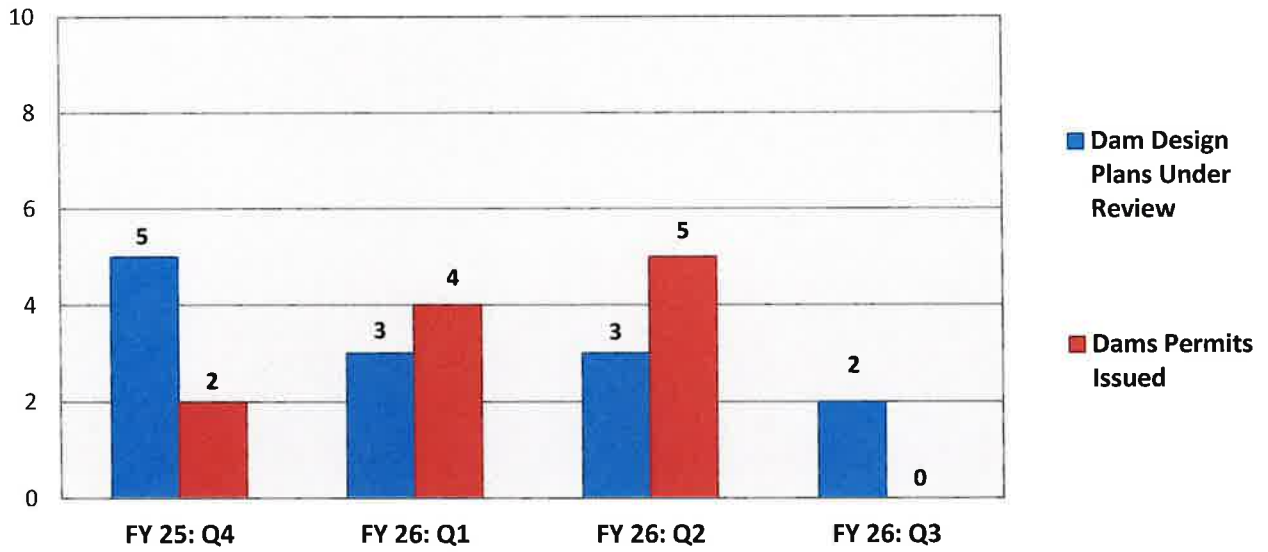


Safe Dams Program Activities

There are currently 507 Category I Dams in Georgia (305 are permitted). During the Third Quarter of FY26, no (0) safe dams permit applications were approved.

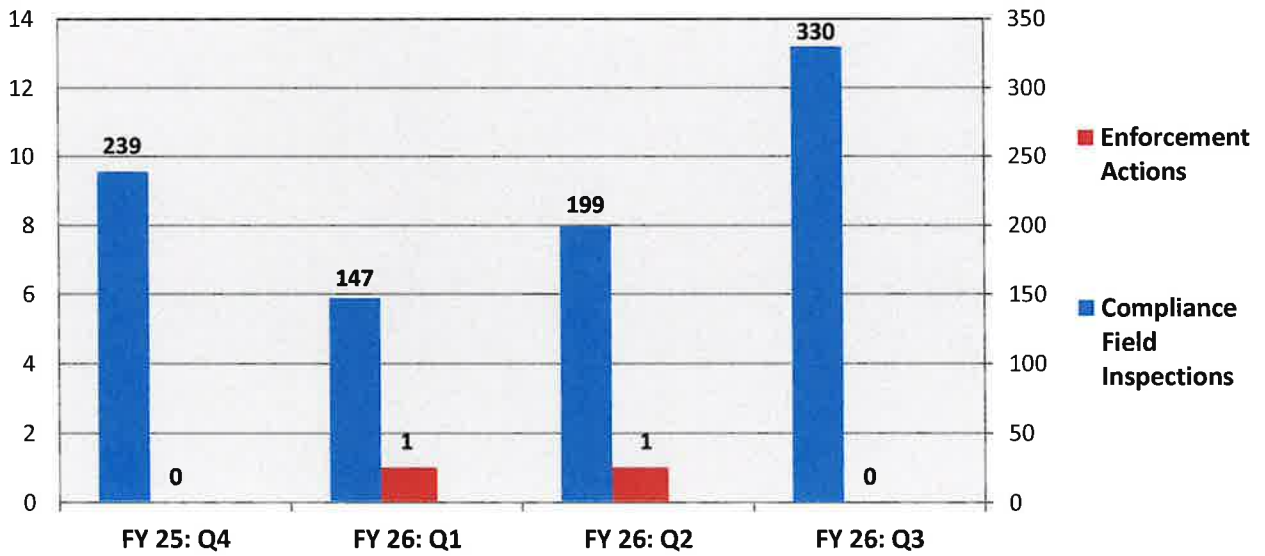
Category	Total
Dams To Be Studied	303
Dams To Be Studied (State Owned)	33
Category I Classification Letters Issued This Quarter	0
Category I Dams Total	507
Category I Dams Permitted	305
Category I Dams Not Permitted	202
Category I Dams Not Permitted (State Owned)	137
Applications Under Review (for New Permits)	2
Applications Approved This Quarter	0

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



Safe Dams Compliance Activities

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



**2026 COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
BOARD OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

	Committee of the Whole	
	Patrick Denney, Chair	
	Randy Dellinger, Vice Chair	
	Dan Garcia, Secretary	
Administrative Committee	Coastal	Environmental Protection
Patrick Denney, Chair	Nancy Addison, Chair	Ray Lambert, Chair
Randy Dellinger, Vice Chair	Harley Yancey, Vice Chair	Duncan Johnson, Vice Chair
Dan Garcia, Secretary	Randy Dellinger	Nancy Addison
	Charles DePriest	Jeff Andrews
	Joe Hatfield	Dan Garcia
	Mark Hennessy	Penn Hodge
	Penn Hodge	Steve Hufstetler
	Bill Jones	Bill Jones
	Ray Lambert	Brent Layton
	Brent Layton	Lesley Reynolds
	Mike Peavy	Paul Shailendra
	Paul Shailendra	Bodine Sinyard
Land	Law Enforcement	Legislative
Mark Hennessy, Chair	Jeff Andrews, Chair	Paul Shailendra, Chair
Penn Hodge, Vice Chair	Mike Peavy, Vice Chair	Brent Layton, Vice Chair
Nancy Addison	Randy Dellinger	Nancy Addison
Jeff Andrews	Charles DePriest	Jeff Andrews
Randy Dellinger	Dan Garcia	Charles DePriest
Dan Garcia	Joe Hatfield	Joe Hatfield
Joe Hatfield	Mark Hennessy	Mark Hennessy
Steve Hufstetler	Steve Hufstetler	Penn Hodge
Duncan Johnson	Duncan Johnson	Steve Hufstetler
Lesley Reynolds	Lesley Reynolds	Bill Jones
Paul Shailendra	Bodine Sinyard	Ray Lambert
Harley Yancey	Harley Yancey	Mike Peavy
State Parks & Historic Sites	Wildlife Resources	
Harley Yancey, Chair	Steve Hufstetler, Chair	
Bodine Sinyard, Vice Chair	Joe Hatfield, Vice Chair	
Nancy Addison	Jeff Andrews	
Randy Dellinger	Charles DePriest	
Charles DePriest	Dan Garcia	
Dan Garcia	Mark Hennessy	
Mark Hennessy	Penn Hodge	
Duncan Johnson	Duncan Johnson	
Bill Jones	Brent Layton	
Ray Lambert	Mike Peavy	
Brent Layton	Lesley Reynolds	
Mike Peavy	Bodine Sinyard	