




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:

Project

Magnolia Springs State Park

Property Owner

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

