



## **AGENDA**

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

**Tuesday, February 24, 2026  
9:00 a.m.**

*This meeting will be streamed live. Please see link below.*

- I. Call to Order** **Chairman Patrick Denney**
- II. Georgia Natural Resources Foundation Update** **Lyndy Rogers, Executive Director**

### **III. Board Committee Meetings**

#### **Land Committee (Tab C)**

Mark Hennessy, Chair

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

- a) Approval of granting a drainage easement to HIC Altama, LLC by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly for a storm water drainage system to resolve a hydrological dispute in Altama Plantation WMA, Glynn County.

### **IV. Board Meeting**

#### **Approval of Minutes**

- a) Minutes of the Board of Natural Resources meeting on January 30, 2026 (Tab A)

#### **EPD Director's Report**

- a) Remarks

### **DNR Commissioner's Report**

- a) Presentation of Approved List of Projects for the 2025-2026 Recreational Trails Program (Ouicia Jolly, Program Coordinator) (Tab B)
- b) State of the Department Presentation
- c) Division Updates
- d) DNR Capital Outlay Status Report (Tab B)
- e) DNR Weekly Updates sent via email

### **Report of the Land Committee**

Mark Hennessy, Chair

- a) Approval of granting a drainage easement to HIC Altama, LLC by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly for a storm water drainage system to resolve a hydrological dispute in Altama Plantation WMA, Glynn County.

### **Other Business**

## **V. Adjourn**

**The next Board of Natural Resources meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 24, 2026, in the DNR Boardroom, 2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, SE, 1252 East Tower, Atlanta, GA 30334.**

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### **Live Stream Link:**

### **Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87666619346?pwd=YdFlIjH7EofQOa3aFs2beaPiyxtXfw.1>

Meeting ID: 876 6661 9346

Passcode: 304473

**2026 COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS  
BOARD OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

	<b>Committee of the Whole</b>	
	Patrick Denney, Chair	
	Randy Dellinger, Vice Chair	
	Dan Garcia, Secretary	
<b>Administrative Committee</b>	<b>Coastal</b>	<b>Environmental Protection</b>
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
<b>Land</b>	<b>Law Enforcement</b>	<b>Legislative</b>
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
<b>State Parks &amp; Historic Sites</b>	<b>Wildlife Resources</b>	
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	

**Minutes**  
**Board of Natural Resources**  
**A.W. Jones Heritage Center**  
**610 Beachview Drive**  
**St. Simons Island, GA 31522**

**Tuesday, January 30, 2026**  
**9:00 a.m.**

**Board Members**

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

**Guests**

Spud Woodward, citizen  
Mike Worley, Georgia Wildlife Federation  
Bill Hodges, citizen  
Alice Keyes, One Hundred Miles  
Megan Desrosiers, One Hundred Miles  
Rena Peck, Georgia Rivers

**Staff Members**

Walter Rabon, Commissioner  
Thomas Barnard  
Trevor Santos  
Kate Iannuzzi  
Taylor Fisher  
Haley Chafin  
Jeff Cown  
Anna Truscynski  
Katie Bloomfield  
Doug Haymans  
Karl Burgess  
Brent Womack  
Angie Johnson  
Andre McLendon  
Carolyn Belcher  
Mike England  
James McLaughlin  
Dominic Guadagnoli  
Chris Harper  
Matt Elliott  
Tim Keyes  
Brett Albanese  
Chris Hodge  
Thom Litts  
Dewey Richardson

The January 30, 2026, meeting of the Board of Natural Resources was called to order by Chairwoman Lesley Reynolds.

Chairwoman Reynolds called on Spud Woodward, former Director of the Coastal Resources Division, for a moment of inspiration.

Chairwoman Reynolds adjourned the Board meeting to move into the Committee meetings.

Chairwoman Reynolds called the January 30, 2026, meeting of the Board of Natural Resources back to order.

Chairwoman Reynolds called for a motion to approve the minutes of the Board of Natural Resources meeting on December 2, 2025.

**A motion was made by Mr. Sinyard, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the Board of Natural Resources meeting on December 2, 2025.**

Chairwoman Reynolds called on Jeff Cown, Director of the Environmental Protection Division, for his report.

Director Cown provided a brief overview of materials included in the board packet, noting that quarterly reports were available, along with the FY25 annual reports for the Solid Waste Trust Fund and the Hazardous Waste Trust Fund. He highlighted the importance of these trust funds in supporting permitting, inspection, cleanup efforts, and grants to local governments, including examples of recent projects on the coast.

Director Cown reported on current legislative activity, including House Bill 956 related to expansion of allowable uses of the Solid Waste Trust Fund, and provided an update on the State Water Plan resolution, which passed unanimously in the House and is now advancing in the Senate.

Director Cown briefly summarized EPD's amended FY26 and FY27 budget requests and capital needs.

Director Cown recognized Dewey Richardson for 30 years of service with EPD and announced his appointment as Acting Manager of the Wetlands Unit.

Chairwoman Reynolds thanked Director Cown for his report.

Chairwoman Reynolds called on Walter Rabon, Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources, for his report.

Commissioner Rabon began by calling on Deputy Commissioner Trevor Santos to present the Board of Trustees of the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Trust Fund 2025-2026 Approved Proposal of Projects.

Deputy Commissioner Santos summarized the purpose of the program, funding source, application process, and statewide impact. He stated that not including the funds that would be voted on today, the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program has awarded more than \$142 million to support 74 conservation and outdoor recreation projects statewide. He added that grantees have committed \$237 million in matching funds, bringing a total investment of \$379 million to Georgia.

Deputy Commissioner Santos stated that on January 14, 2026, the Board of Trustees of the Outdoor Stewardship Trust Fund met and approved the slate of projects. He further stated the Department now seeks approval by the Board of Natural Resources. He reported that the proposed slate would commit \$33.2 million toward conservation land acquisition and outdoor recreation projects and requested Board approval.

Deputy Commissioner Santos stated that upon approval, the slate of projects would be forwarded to the Chairs of the State Appropriations Subcommittees of the House and Senate for final approval.

Deputy Commissioner Santos responded to a question from Mr. Hennessy concerning the funding amount, stating that last year the program saw a twenty percent reduction in this trust because of a dip in collections. He stated that this year, twenty percent has been restored as well as an additional \$5 million.

Commissioner Rabon thanked Deputy Commissioner Santos for his presentation.

Commissioner Rabon stated two speakers had requested to give comments on the item. He called on Megan Desrosiers from One Hundred Miles.

Ms. Desrosiers spoke in favor of the proposed slate of projects, stating that the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program is a wonderful program that reflects the values of the people of Georgia. She further stated she particularly wanted to list support for the project located in Charlton County.

Commissioner Rabon called on Rena Peck, Georgia Rivers, for comment.

Ms. Peck spoke in favor of the proposed slate of projects, highlighting the project located in Charlton County.

Commissioner Rabon requested favorable consideration.

**A motion was made by Mr. Hufstetler, seconded by Mr. Jones, and carried unanimously that the Board approve the Board of Trustees of the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Fund 2025-2026 Approved Proposal of Projects.**

Commissioner Rabon began by thanking the Board for approval of the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Trust Fund slate of proposed projects. He noted that, as outlined by Deputy Commissioner Trevor Santos, the final step in the process will be review by the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees. He publicly thanked Deputy Commissioner Santos, Sahala Naji, and her team for the significant work completed throughout the year to bring the proposed slate forward, noting that the presentation reflected only a portion of the effort involved.

The Commissioner provided an update on legislative activity, noting that the General Assembly had returned to session and that the Department has been actively engaged at the Capitol. He highlighted DNR's participation in Keeping Georgia Wild Day at the Capitol on January 15, which brought together elected officials, conservation partners, and members of the sporting community to celebrate Georgia's natural, historic, and cultural resources. He thanked Chairwoman Reynolds, Vice Chairman Denney, and Secretary Dellinger for attending.

Commissioner Rabon also noted that on January 15, the Parks and Historic Sites Division hosted its second annual student art contest at the Capitol. He stated that more than 260 entries were received from Georgia high school students, with the top 13 artworks displayed, and described the winning entry as an exceptionally realistic wood duck.

Commissioner Rabon reported that on January 22, he presented DNR's AFY26 and FY27 budget requests to the Joint Appropriations Committee, followed by a presentation to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government on January 27. He also noted a recent meeting with the Game, Fish, and Parks Committee, during which he provided a high-level overview of the Department and its priorities. While DNR is not sponsoring legislation this session, he stated that the Department is actively monitoring several bills and encouraged Board members to reference the regularly updated legislative tracking sheet and to contact him or Deputy Commissioner Santos with questions.

Commissioner Rabon then provided an update on Winter Storm Fern, which impacted north Georgia earlier in the week. He reported that DNR operated a unified incident command with the Georgia Forestry Commission and the Department of Agriculture, with more than 200 personnel assigned to the response. He noted that quick reaction teams and chainsaw teams were deployed to assist with road debris removal and public safety needs. He stated that state parks opened warming stations throughout affected areas and that DNR supported multiple Emergency Support

Functions at the State Operations Center. He commended the professionalism and dedication of DNR personnel involved in the response.

The Commissioner highlighted recent Outdoors Beyond Barriers activities, noting that 25 game wardens partnered with the Wildlife Resources Division and Parks Division to support three hunts held at Richard B. Russell State Park, Clybel Wildlife Management Area, and a private property in Oconee County. He described the assistance provided to participants, including transportation, equipment support, and retrieval of harvested deer. He emphasized the life-changing impact of the program and referenced a letter included in Board binders that described how the program restores dignity and creates lasting memories for participants.

Commissioner Rabon reported that the 40th Game Warden Academy began on January 11 at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center in Forsyth, with 23 cadets currently enrolled. He noted the anticipated graduation date of April 17 and encouraged Board members to mark their calendars.

Commissioner Rabon provided law enforcement activity statistics, reporting that from September through December, game wardens checked more than 17,500 hunting licenses and over 4,000 fishing licenses, documented approximately 5,200 violations, responded to 18 hunting incidents including three fatalities, and conducted 34 search and rescue missions statewide. He also announced a partnership with Georgia Power to place automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in all DNR law enforcement boats and patrol vehicles, noting that all wardens have been trained in their use.

Commissioner Rabon concluded by highlighting Parks Division initiatives related to the upcoming 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. He announced the launch of the annual theme, “Monumental Moments: America’s 250,” which began with a record-breaking First Day Hikes program on January 1. He reported that 93 hikes were offered across 55 sites, with 3,102 participants logging 6,768 miles, including two Outdoors Beyond Barriers First Day Hikes.

He also announced the launch of the Parks Division’s first specialty license plate, noting that plates are now available for purchase and that the PRK001 plate would be auctioned during Weekend for Wildlife.

Commissioner Rabon then called on Chris Harper, Director of the Wildlife Resources Division, for an update.

Director Harper provided a brief updated noting the positive developments in right whale calving activity along the Georgia coast and summarized current Chronic Wasting Disease monitoring efforts, emphasizing that all confirmed cases remain localized within the established management area.

He also briefly highlighted outreach efforts, summer camp programming, and upcoming license and specialty plate initiatives.

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

Director Haymans provided a brief update on recent fisheries management actions, including seasonal closures, compliance with interstate management requirements, and public engagement related to upcoming red drum rule considerations. He also noted recent reef deployment activity and highlighted upcoming outreach and education events.

Commissioner Rabon stated that this concluded his report.

Chairwoman Reynolds called on Harley Yancey, Chair of the Land Committee, for his committee report.

**A motion was made by Mr. Yancey, seconded by Mr. Shailendra, and carried unanimously that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commissioner approval via Executive Order to demolish the Red Top Mountain State Park well house Bartow County.** (Resolution attached hereto and made a part thereof)

Chairwoman Reynolds called on Charles DePriest, Chair of the Wildlife Resources Committee, for his report.

**A motion was made by Mr. DePriest, seconded by Ms. Addison, and carried unanimously that the Board approve the Proposed Amendments to Bird Island Rule 391-4-7-.03.**

Chairwoman Reynolds expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to have served as Chair and to the Board members, Commissioner Rabon and staff for their service to the Department during her tenure.

Chairwoman Reynolds called on Ray Lambert, Chair of the Nominating Committee for the committee's report.

Mr. Lambert stated the slate of officers was presented to the Board at the December meeting and he would like to move they be approved.

**A motion was made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried unanimously, that the Board elect Patrick Denney as Chairman, Randy Dellinger as Vice Chairman, and Dan Garcia as Secretary for the 2026 Board of Natural Resources Officers.**

Chairwoman Reynolds turned the Officer of Chairman over to Mr. Denney.

Chairman Denney thanked Ms. Reynolds for her service to the Board.

Chairman Denney expressed his appreciation for the Board’s support and that he looked forward to working with them throughout the next year.

Chairman Denney announced the next meeting of the Board of Natural Resources would be on Tuesday, February 24, 2026, in the DNR Board Room.

There being no further business, Chairman Denney adjourned the meeting.

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Patrick Denney, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Dan Garcia, Secretary

**Minutes  
Coastal Committee  
A.W. Jones Heritage Center  
610 Beachview Drive  
St. Simons Island, GA 31522**

**Tuesday, January 30, 2026  
9:00 a.m.**

**Committee Members**

Nancy Addison, Chair  
Randy Dellinger, Vice Chair  
Charles DePriest  
Joe Hatfield  
Mark Hennessy  
Bill Jones  
Ray Lambert  
Mike Peavy  
Paul Shailendra  
Harley Yancey  
Lesley Reynolds, Board Chair, Ex-Officio

**Board Members**

Patrick Denney  
Jeff Andrews  
Dan Garcia  
Steve Hufstetler  
Duncan Johnson  
Bodine Sinyard

The January 30, 2026, meeting of the Coastal Committee was called to order by Lesley Reynolds, Chairwoman of the Board of Natural Resources.

Chairwoman Reynolds called on Randy Dellinger, Vice Chairman of the Coastal Committee, who stated that the Committee had one briefing on the agenda. Vice Chairman Dellinger called on Dominic Guadagnoli, Program Manager, to present an update on the Shellfish Mariculture Program.

Mr. Guadagnoli provided an overview of the growth and development of the Shellfish Mariculture Program since 2020, noting significant changes to shellfish code provisions and rules adopted in recent years that established a new foundation for the program. He stated that the number of shellfish leases has nearly doubled, with nine active subtidal leases currently in place across three mariculture zones. He noted that the most recent leases were established in Glynn County in 2025 and that site marking and charting activities were underway.

Mr. Guadagnoli discussed the closed-season harvest rules adopted in 2024, which allow for summer harvest of mariculture oysters under specific time and temperature controls to manage risks associated with Vibrio bacteria. He stated that in 2025, two growers in Chatham County were permitted for summer harvest and both elected to harvest without ice, placing product into

refrigeration within two hours. He noted that average harvest times were approximately one hour and fifteen minutes.

In response to a question from Mr. Hennessy regarding refrigeration, Mr. Guadagnoli stated that the average harvest time included placement into refrigeration and that growers' operations vary based on lease location and facility capacity.

Mr. Guadagnoli provided an overview of a second *Vibrio* study conducted in coordination with industry stakeholders and University of Georgia Marine Extension. He stated that the study examined whether the two-hour harvest window could be extended. He summarized the results, noting that oysters refrigerated by 10:00 a.m. at two, three, and four hours post-harvest all tested below established *Vibrio* thresholds, while oysters refrigerated by 11:00 a.m. did not meet standards. He added that no *Vibrio*-related oyster illnesses were reported in 2025.

Mr. Guadagnoli responded to questions from Committee members regarding *Vibrio* management, including definitions, comparative practices in South Carolina, and illness reporting thresholds.

Mr. Guadagnoli requested the committee's consideration of a proposed rule change to remove the two-hour harvest limit and instead allow harvest from legal harvest time until 10:00 a.m., provided product is refrigerated by that time. He explained that legal harvest time begins 30 minutes before sunrise and that the proposed change aligns with study findings and practices in neighboring states.

In response to a question, Mr. Guadagnoli explained that the maximum harvest window would be approximately four hours and nine minutes near the summer solstice and would shorten to approximately three and eleven minutes on September 30, when water temperatures are higher.

Mr. Guadagnoli stated that law enforcement oversight would continue to be handled by the Law Enforcement Division and noted increased surveillance efforts during the previous year.

Mr. Guadagnoli concluded by providing an update on additional shellfish operations expected to come online in Glynn and McIntosh counties and noted that current growers in Chatham County are distributing product to local restaurants.

Vice Chairman Dellinger thanked Mr. Guadagnoli for the briefing and stated that there being no further business, the meeting of the Coastal Committee was concluded.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**Minutes  
Land Committee  
A.W. Jones Heritage Center  
610 Beachview Drive  
St. Simons Island, GA 31522**

**Tuesday, January 30, 2026  
9:00 a.m.**

**Committee Members**

Harley Yancey, Chair  
Duncan Johnson, Vice Chair  
Nancy Addison  
Jeff Andrews  
Randy Dellinger  
Dan Garcia  
Joe Hatfield  
Mark Hennessy  
Steve Hufstetler  
Paul Shailendra  
Lesley Reynolds, Board Chair, Ex-Officio

**Board Members**

Patrick Denney  
Charles DePriest  
Bill Jones  
Ray Lambert  
Mike Peavy  
Bodine Sinyard

The meeting of the Land Committee was called to order by Lesley Reynolds, Chairwoman of the Board of Natural Resources.

Chairwoman Reynolds called on Harley Yancey, Chairman of the Land Committee, who stated that the Committee had one action item for consideration.

Chairman Yancey called on Brent Womack, Chief of Real Estate, to present the item. Mr. Womack requested approval, via executive order, to demolish the Red Top Mountain State Park well house located in Bartow County. He stated that the approximately 80-square-foot structure is in significant disrepair, noting that an exterior wall has begun separating from the studs, there is a hole in the ceiling, and the door is missing entirely. He added that the structure is no longer needed.

Mr. Womack explained that structures of historical significance, those 2,000 square feet or larger, or those 50 years old or older require an executive order for removal. He stated that the Office of the State Archaeologist determined the well house is not historic and that demolition would not negatively impact the Georgia National Register of Historic Places. However, because

the structure is more than 50 years old, an executive order is required. He noted that upon receipt of the executive order, the Department would remove the structure and all debris from the site.

Mr. Womack requested favorable consideration.

Chairman Yancey asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, he entertained a motion.

**A motion was made by Mr. Hennessy, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval via Executive Order to demolish the Red Top Mountain State Park well house, Bartow County.**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**Minutes  
Wildlife Resources Committee  
A.W. Jones Heritage Center  
610 Beachview Drive  
St. Simons Island, GA 31522**

**Tuesday, January 30, 2026  
9:00 a.m.**

**Committee Members**

Charles DePriest, Chair  
Steve Hufstetler, Vice Chair  
Jeff Andrews  
Dan Garcia  
Joe Hatfield  
Mark Hennessy  
Duncan Johnson  
Mike Peavy  
Bodine Sinyard  
Lesley Reynolds, Board Chair, Ex-Officio

**Board Members**

Nancy Addison  
Patrick Denney  
Randy Dellinger  
Bill Jones  
Ray Lambert  
Paul Shailendra  
Harley Yancey

The meeting of the Wildlife Resources Committee was called to order by Lesley Reynolds, Chairwoman of the Board of Natural Resources.

Chairwoman Reynolds called on Charles DePriest, Chairman of the Wildlife Resources Committee, who stated that the Committee had one action item on the agenda. Chairman DePriest called on Tim Keyes, WCS Program Manager, to present the item.

Mr. Keyes provided an overview of the proposed amendment to the Bird Island Rule, noting that he had previously briefed the Committee on the proposal at the October meeting. He stated that the Bird Island Rule was originally adopted in 1998 to protect critical nesting habitat for seabirds and shorebirds along Georgia's coast. He explained that these habitats are limited, highly dynamic, and extremely vulnerable to disturbance, particularly during nesting season.

Mr. Keyes explained that the existing rule identified five sites that were critical at the time of adoption but that changes to the coastal landscape, including erosion and the creation of dredge spoil islands, have necessitated updates to the rule. He outlined the proposed amendments, which include removing a site that no longer exists, adding newly created dredge spoil islands and a natural sandbar that have become important nesting and foraging areas, clarifying authority to

close the intertidal zone during nesting season, renaming a site to reduce confusion, and clarifying that pets are prohibited on bird islands year-round.

Mr. Keyes reviewed the public input received on the proposed amendments, stating that a public meeting was held in Brunswick and that written comments were accepted through the end of November. He reported that all comments received were supportive of the proposed changes. He noted that commenters included federal and state conservation partners, nonprofit organizations, and members of the public.

Mr. Keyes discussed education, enforcement, and monitoring efforts associated with the proposed rule changes. He stated that the Law Enforcement Division supports the amendments and that staff will work with partners to provide public outreach and ensure areas are clearly marked during closure periods

Mr. Keyes requested a favorable consideration.

Chairman DePriest recognized Megan Desrosiers of One Hundred Miles who provided brief remarks in support of the proposed rule amendment. Ms. Desrosiers spoke in favor of the Bird Island Rule update, highlighting the ecological importance of Georgia's coast for shorebirds and seabirds, the role of protected habitats in supporting wildlife and ecotourism, and the need for continued evaluation and adaptive management of coastal protections.

Chairman DePriest then called for a motion.

**A motion was made by Mr. Garcia, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board approve the Proposed Amendments to Bird Island Rules 391-4-7-.03.**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

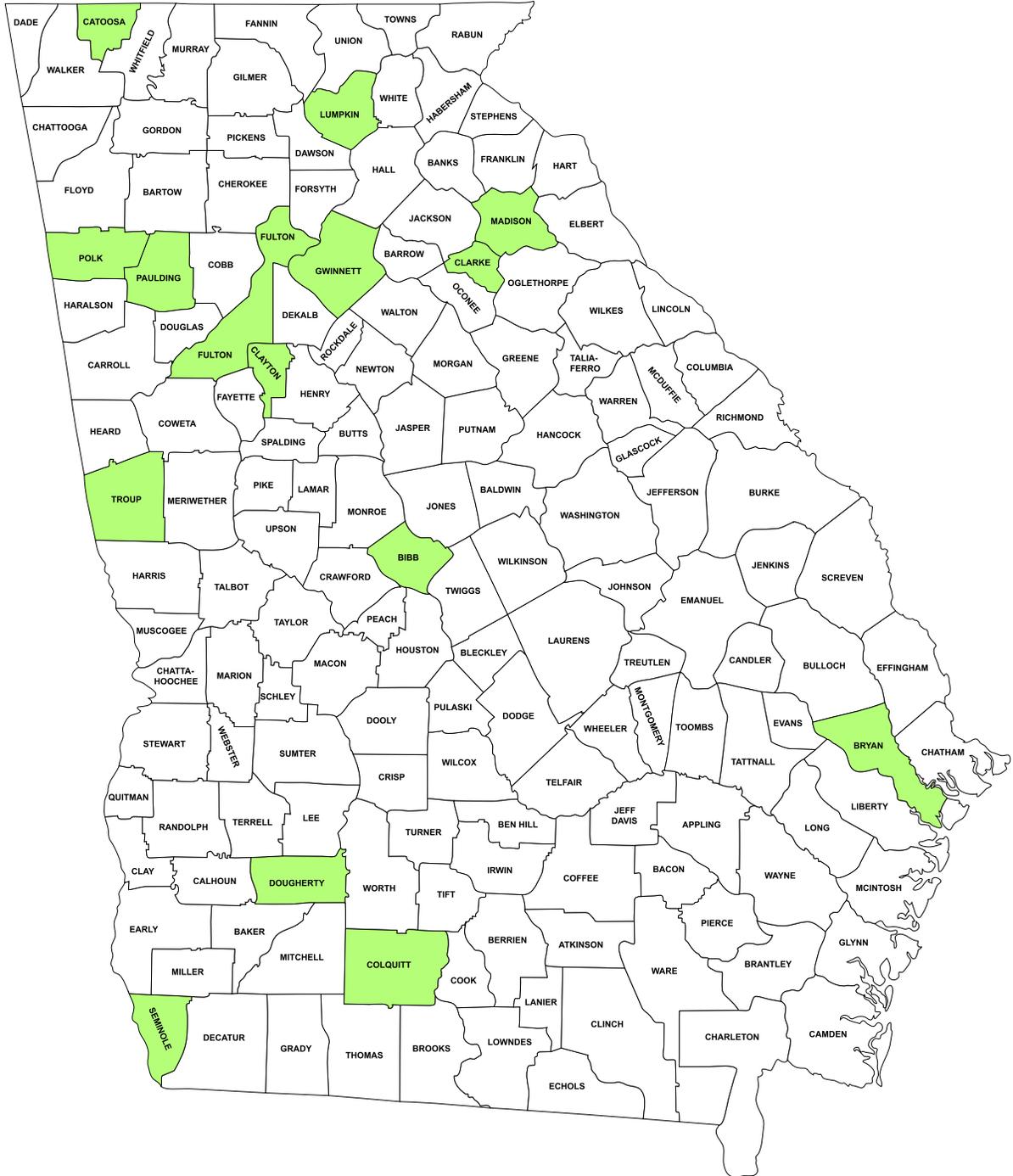
**Recreational Trails Program  
2025-2026 Funding Cycle**

<b>Applicant Name</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Funding Requested</b>
Athens-Clarke County Government	Southeast Clark Park Trail Accessibility Improvements	Clarke	\$200,000.00
Bryan County	Green Creek Trail Extension	Bryan	\$180,000.00
City of Albany	Albany Riverfront Trail Improvement	Dougherty	\$160,000.00
City of Cedartown	Big Spring Heritage Trail	Polk	\$200,000.00
City of Milton	Birmingham Park Restroom Installation and Trail Improvements	Fulton	\$200,000.00
City of Morrow	Barton Memorial Park Trail	Clayton	\$200,000.00
City of Moultrie	Eastside Trail	Colquitt	\$200,000.00
City of Peachtree Corners	Tech Park Lake Trail Phase II	Gwinnett	\$200,000.00
City of Ringgold	Slabtown Park and South Chickamauga Blueway Phase I	Catoosa	\$200,000.00
City of South Fulton	Cedar Grove Park Trail- Phase I	Fulton	\$200,000.00
City of Union City	Longino Drive Trail	Fulton	\$200,000.00
Development Authority of Seminole County and Donalville	Access to Adventure: Trails at McFadden Nature Center	Seminole	\$160,118.00
Lumpkin County Board of Commissioners	Rock House Road Park to Lake Zwerner Reservoir Trail Connectivity	Lumpkin	\$78,600.00
Macon Bibb County	Ocmulgee-Heritage Trail Connector Over the River	Bibb	\$165,000.00
Madison County Board of Commissioners	Recreation Trail System at Diamond Hill Park	Madison	\$160,000.00
Paulding County Board of Commissioners	Richland Creek Reservoir Trails Project	Paulding	\$200,000.00
Troup County Board of Commissioners	Pyne Road Park Accessible Trails and Trailhead	Troup	\$200,000.00

Total Funding Requested for all Recommended Projects \$3,103,718.00

# 2025-2026 Recreational Trails Program

## Trail Projects Invited to Second-Level Application



DNR CAPITAL OUTLAY STATUS REPORT - JANUARY 2026

Date Updated: 1/15/2025

SITE	DIVISION	PROJECT	FUND SOURCE	BUDGET	EXPENSES TO DATE	DESIGN STATUS	PHYSICAL COMPLETION	COMMENTS
Fort McAllister	PHS	Campground Dock	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%	5%	Scheduling
Franklin D. Roosevelt State Park	PHS	Dowdell's Knob Gate	FY-25 Park Pass	\$ 63,939		N/A	0%	Sourcing new vendor
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	BONDS FY-24 (DNR-164)	\$ 183,700		20%	0%	Design Underway
Franklin D. Roosevelt State Park	PHS	Liberty Bell Pool Upgrades	Fy-25 Park Pass	\$ 111,600	\$ 65,065	100%	0%	Contractor verifying if work can be completed by
Franklin D. Roosevelt State Park	PHS	Visitor Center Roof Replacement & Window Replacement	FY-24 Park Receipts	\$ 534,284	\$ 395,020	N/A	100%	Completed
George L Smith State Park	PHS	Underground drainage piping for Cabins 9-10	BONDS FY-24 (DNR-167) BONDS FY-23 (DNR-164) FY-25 State Appropriations BONDS FY-24 (DNR-167)	\$ 54,766	\$ -	100%	5%	Starting 1/26/2026
George L Smith State Park	PHS	Campground Renovations		\$ 4,712,441	\$ 1,473,243	100%	85%	Under construction
George L Smith State Park	PHS	Mill House Repairs	BONDS FY-26 (DNR-178)	\$ 21,582			25%	Under Construction
George L Smith State Park	PHS	Yurt Village	FY-25 State Appropriations BONDS FY-24 (DNR-167)	\$ 1,388,578	\$ 48,082	100%	0%	Approx. Feb Start
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%	Scoping/Pricing
George T. Bagby State Park	PHS	Kitchen Renovation	FY25 Amended Funds	\$ 300,000	\$ 27,564	100%	0%	Obtaining Proposal
George T Bagby State Park	PHS	Ranger House	BONDS FY-24 (DNR-169)	\$ 61,218	\$ -	N/A	0%	Starting Mid-Feb.
Hamburg State Park	PHS	Ground Water Well	BONDS FY-24 (DNR-169)	\$ 27,500	\$ -	20%	0%	Engineering Underway
Indian Springs State Park	PHS	Yurt Village	AFY-23 Funds FY-24 E&C Funds FY-24 Amended Funds	\$ 2,975,992	\$ 1,427,017	100%	75%	Under construction
Jack Hill State Park	PHS	Fishing Pier/ADA Improvements	FY-25 State Appropriations BONDS FY-24 (DNR-164)	\$ 322,880	\$ 180,891	100%	35%	
Sylvania Welcome Center	PHS	New Campground	BONDS FY-24 (DNR-169)	\$ 107,500	\$ -	10%	0%	Design Underway
SAM Shortline	PHS	Site Improvements	DOT Grant	\$ 234,500	\$ 92,647	80%	0%	Design Underway
Sapelo Island	PHS	Reynolds Mansion Improvements (MEP)	FY-23 PARK RECEIPTS FY-26 CASH BONDS (DNR-179)	\$ 3,117,100	\$ 1,155,714	100%	75%	MEP/Electrical Complete, FP/FA Pending
Sapelo Island	PHS	Gangway Replacement	DOAS Insurance	\$ 114,567	\$ 2,396	90%	0%	Feb Start
Seminole State Park	PHS	Campground Renovation	FY20 Park Receipts FY-24 Park Receipts BONDS FY-24 (DNR-169)	\$ 2,762,150	\$ 2,643,837	100%	100%	Complete
Skidaway State Park	PHS	Campground Improvements/Reno	BONDS FY-24 (DNR-169) FY-25 State Appropriations	\$ 1,622,000	\$ 85,410	100%	0%	Pricing, Feb Start
PHS Campgrounds	PHS	Campground Renovations (SCF Contingency)	BONDS FY-24 (DNR-169)	\$ 60,076	\$ -	n/a	n/a	Tracking
Providence Canyon State Park	PHS	Day-Use area observation tower and erosion mitigation	BONDS FY-24 (DNR-169)	\$ 169,000		5%	0%	Underway
Stephen C. Foster State Park	PHS	Cabin Replacement	FY-25 State Appropriations FY-26 State Appropriations	\$ 6,000,000	\$ 391,716	100%	0%	Bids January 21
Stephen C. Foster State Park	PHS	Boat Basin Bulkhead	GOSP Grant BONDS FY-25 (DNR#172)	\$ 1,385,930		100%	0%	End of Jan Start
Black Rock State Park	PHS	Replace Waterline	BONDS FY-24 (DNR-169)	\$ 113,233	\$ -	N/A	5%	Underway
Bobby Brown State Park	PHS	Removal of underground storage tank	BONDS FY-24 (DNR-169)	\$ 22,660		N/A	100%	Complete
Chattahoochee Bend State Park	PHS	Linen Facility	FY-25 CASH BONDS (DNR-178)	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 130,764	100%	15%	Work to resume week of the 19th. PCO received to install A&A in new cabins.
Cloudland Canyon	PHS	Cottage Renovations 6-15 (Design)	FY-25 Park Pass	\$ 335,947		5%	0%	Design Underway
Cloudland Canyon	PHS	Visitor Center Construction	FY-25 State Appropriations FY-24 State Funds	\$ 7,178,390	\$ 1,238,124	100%	20%	Under Construction
Dams	PHS	Dam Repairs - Vogel	BONDS FY-22 (DNR-160) BOND FY-23 (DNR-163)	\$ 4,390,164	\$ 156,666	100%	10%	Siphon to be installed week of 1-12-2026
Fort Yargo State Park	PHS	Emergency repair (septic)	PHS Reserves BONDS (DNR-169)	\$ 87,300		N/A	75%	Pump Replaced, Waiting on in-line grinder
Hard Labor Creek State Park	PHS	Cabin #8 Retaining Wall	BONDS FY-24 (DNR-169)	\$ 61,679	\$ -	N/A	5%	Scheduling
Tallulah Gorge State Park	PHS	Lake Access Improvements	FY-24 Park Receipts	\$ 399,500	\$ 202,343	100%	0%	GPC/FERC Review Underway, WOP inplace
Tallulah Gorge State Park	PHS	Accessible path and Overlook	BONDS FY-24 (DNR-167)	\$ 19,000	\$ 19,000	0%	0%	Awaiting RTP Approval to fund design
Tallulah Gorge State Park	PHS	Pedestrian Trail (Pass-Thru)	FY-26 CASH BONDS (DNR-181)	\$ 1,300,000	\$ -	0%	0%	Design Underway (Friends N GA)
Tallulah Gorge State Park	PHS	Gate Install	Private Funding	\$ 37,110	\$ -	N/A	15%	Jan/Feb Install
Tugaloo State Park	PHS	Comfort Station #4 Wastewater System	BONDS FY-24 (DNR-169)	\$ 9,000		40%	0%	Design & permitting underway
Tugaloo State Park	PHS	ADA Ramp & Rails at Cottage #13	LWCF BONDS FY-24 (DNR#164)	\$ 163,524	\$ -	100%	0%	Scheduling
Victoria Bryant State Park	PHS	Highland Walk Golf Course irrigation repairs	BONDS FY-24 (DNR-169)	\$ 74,173			20%	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	5%	N/A	PHS Effort
Various Park Sites	PHS	Structural Assessments	BONDS FY-24 (DNR-169)	\$ 29,860	\$ -	N/A	N/A	Complete
Various Park Sites	PHS	Catenory I Dam Inspections	BONDS FY-24 (DNR-169)	\$ 19,700	\$ -	0%	N/A	Scheduling
Dawson - Steve Cocke Fish Hat	WRD	Repair pond leaks	FY-26 WRD FUNDS BONDS FY-23 (DNR-164) FY-23 E&C Funds	\$ 915,241	\$ -	N/A	0%	April Start
Fish Hatchery Improvements	WRD	Bowen's Mill Hatchery Improvements	Wildlife Endowment Funds	\$ 5,811,787	\$ 3,879,160	100%	75%	Under construction
Flat Creek PFA	WRD	Flat Creek Public Fishing Area MRR Funds	FY-26 CASH BONDS (DNR-183)	\$ 500,000	\$ -	0%	10%	Construction began 1/11/2026
Go Fish Education Center	WRD	New aquarium acrylic panels	BONDS FY-26 (DNR-178)	\$ 200,000	\$ 114,464	N/A	70%	Under Construction

DNR CAPITAL OUTLAY STATUS REPORT - JANUARY 2026

Date Updated: 1/15/2025

Oesabaw Island	WRD	Main House Renovation	FY-25 (DNR-171) WRD Funds	\$ 6,581,015	\$ 6,343,024	100%	85%	Under construction
Sapelo Island	WRD	Boathouse & Hoist Improvements	FY-25 State Appropriations	\$ 1,232,000	\$ 486,276	100%	20%	On Hold due to other priorities
Altama WMA	WRD	Cabin Renovation	FY-26 WRD Funds	\$ 105,223	\$ -	N/A	0%	Scheduling
Altamaha WMA	WRD	Butler House (DOAS Cash-Out)	DOAS Insurance	\$ 874,200	\$ -	0%	0%	Scoping
Sapelo Island	WRD	Cabretta Bridge Repair	FY-25 Parks / WRD WRD Funds	\$ 297,000	\$ 223,713	N/A	60%	On Hold
Sapelo Island	WRD	Ferry Design/Procurement	FY24 - WRD Timber Funds DOT BOND Dollars FY-26 CASH BONDS (DNR-177)	\$ 6,294,000	\$ 366,398	100%	0%	Awaiting Bids
Sapelo Island	WRD	Dean's Creek Nature Trail	FY-25 WRD Funds	\$ 614,598	\$ 421,561		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	\$ -		15%	Underway
Sapelo Island	WRD	UGAMI Campus Shoreline Design	FY-26 WRD FUNDING	\$ 39,760	\$ -		15%	Underway
Sapelo Island	WRD	Visitor Center Expansion & Exhibits (Design)	WRD Grant Funding BONDS FY-26 (DNR-172) WRD Funds	\$ 197,500	\$ -	5%	0%	Design Underway
Wildlife Resources Division	WRD	Coastal Housing/Infrastructure	FY-26 CASH BONDS (DNR-178)	\$ 1,000,000	\$ -	0%	0%	Scoping
Burton Trout Hatchery	WRD	Raceway Covers Lighting and Gates	WRD WRD Funds GOSP Funds	\$ 828,741	\$ 427,497	N/A	55%	Under Construction
Charlie Elliott WEC	WRD	Animal Care Facility & Open Air Pavilion	BONDS FY-22 (DNR-160) BONDS FY-24 (DNR-169)	\$ 5,925,318	\$ 5,199,544	100%	97%	Revised Pile Design being developed
Elbert County Boat Ramp	WRD	Elbert County Boat Ramp and Parking Improvements	FY-26 WRD FUNDING	\$ 350,854	\$ 180,675	n/a	90%	Waiting on Temperature to improve
McDuffie PFA	WRD	Prefabricated Bridge	FY-26 WRD FUNDING	\$ 82,777	\$ -	100%	5%	Scheduling
McDuffie PFA	WRD	McDuffie Hurricane Helene Storm Damage	DOAS Insurance BONDS FY-22 (DNR-160) FY22 Amended Funds BOND FY-24 (DNR-169) FY-25 State Appropriations	\$ 170,785	\$ 74,535	N/A	40%	Waiting on DOAS
Various DNR Locations	WRD	Shooting Range Renovations (Wilson Shoals)	FY-25 State Appropriations	\$ 1,110,669	\$ 455,054	0%	0%	4/1 Start
Wildlife Resources Division	WRD	Facilities MRR Funds	BONDS FY-24 (DNR-169)	\$ 105,157	\$ -	0%	0%	Scoping/Tracking
Wildlife Resources Division	WRD	Social Circle Site Improvements	BONDS FY-25 (DNR-171) WRD FUNDS	\$ 268,856	\$ 107,938	100%	75%	Under Construction
Tuckahoe Wildlife Management	WRD	Campground	BONDS FY-25 (DNR-171)	\$ 1,000,000	\$ -	100%	0%	Evaluating Pricing/Scope
Di-Lane WMA	WRD	Improvements	BONDS FY-26 (DNR-178)	\$ 50,000	\$ -	0%	0%	Scoping
Georgia Veterans	NGMA	Lake Blackshear Villas	BONDS FY-24 (DNR-170) AFY 24	\$ 14,448,871	\$ 7,284,603	100%	60%	Under construction
Georgia Veterans	NGMA	Lake Blackshear Conference Center Renovations	BONDS FY-24 (DNR-170) AFY 24	\$ 5,015,581	\$ -	100%	0%	Obtaining Proposals
Georgia Veterans	NGMA	Lake Blackshear - Pickleball Courts	FY25 Amended Funds LWCF Grant BONDS FY-26 (DNR#172)	\$ 480,000	\$ 21,500	100%	0%	Awaiting LWCF Approval
Little Ocmulgee SP	NGMA	Little Ocmulgee State Park Dam Evaluation	BOND FY-22 (DNR-160) BOND FY-23 (DNR-164)	\$ 147,229	\$ 93,330	N/A	90%	Underway
Little Ocmulgee SP	NGMA	Little Ocmulgee State Park & Lodge (CCC Annex Reno/Site Improvement)	AFY-23 Funds AFY-24 Funds FY-25 Funds AFY-25 Funds AFY-26 Funds	\$ 5,580,502	\$ 68,650	50%	0%	Design Underway, prime aiming for permitting EO Feb.
Amicalola Falls SP	NGMA	Amicalola Day Use Improvements	NGMA Funds E&C Funds	\$ 120,200	\$ 79,850	65%	0%	Design Underway
Amicalola Falls SP	NGMA	Amicalola East Ridge Trail Renovation	RTP Grant / NGMA BOND FY-24 (DNR-167)	\$ 984,178	\$ 223,436	100%	25%	Under Construction
Amicalola Falls SP	NGMA	Amicalola Falls Lodge Interior Improvements	BONDS FY-26 (DNR-176)	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 184,525	100%	0%	Pricing Underway
Brasstown Valley Resort	NGMA	Brasstown Resort Interior Improvements	BONDS FY-26 (DNR-176)	\$ 6,000,000	\$ 200,400	100%	0%	Revising Scope-Possible Start 2-16-2026
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%	5%	Design approved, beginning construction and scheduling
LED Allatoona	LED	LED Boat House Allatoona	FY-25 CASH BONDS (DNR-171) FY-26 CASH BONDS (DNR-178)	\$ 647,951	\$ 129,024	N/A	75%	Installed waiting on removal and demo of old boat house.
Champney WMA	CRD	Champney Boat Ramp Improvements	FY-25 CRD Funds GOSP Grant	\$ 2,352,336	\$ 2,280,331	100%	80%	Under construction
CRD HQ	CRD	MRR Funds (Bulkhead)	FY-26 CASH BONDS (DNR-178)	\$ 250,000	\$ 6,700	5%	0%	Scoping
Various DNR Locations	DNR	ADA Transition Plan Development and Consultation	PP Rev 2016	\$ 463,846	\$ 409,126	90%	NA	In Progress
DNR Region 2 HQ	V	New HQ Building	FY-26 CASH BONDS (DNR-179) FY-25 CASH BONDS (DNR-171)	\$ 14,425,780	\$ 306,236	75%	0%	Bid. Submission for SFM review planned on 1/19.

February 24, 2026

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Members, Board of Natural Resources

FROM: Walter Rabon, Commissioner



SUBJECT: Approval of granting a drainage easement to HIC Altama, LLC by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly for a storm water drainage system to resolve a hydrological dispute at Altama Plantation WMA, Glynn County.

**Comments**

The Department requests a non-exclusive drainage easement be granted to HIC Altama, LLC.

For your review, we are enclosing:

- (1) Resolution
- (2) General Location Map

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

**Discussion and Conclusion**

HIC Altama, LLC contends the Altama Plantation WMA (WMA) altered the historical hydrology of the WMA by impeding the natural flow of water from their property, impounded water on, and caused flooding. DNR denies that its action altered the historical hydrology of the WMA. In good faith effort to resolve these disputes both parties have agreed to enter into a settlement agreement. As part of the settlement agreement, HIC Altama LLC is requesting a non-exclusive drainage easement within the Altama Plantation Wildlife Management Area to support the construction and long-term operation of necessary stormwater management facilities serving the adjacent property. The Wildlife Resources Division has reviewed the proposed easement and supports its issuance due to the limited scope of the work, the minimal anticipated impact on the WMA, and the inclusion of measures to avoid and minimize impacts to wildlife, including gopher tortoises. This request requires that a non-exclusive drainage easement be issued by the State Properties Commission (SPC) and be granted by the General Assembly (GA).

Since the non-exclusive drainage easement is part of the overall settlement of this matter, the Department recommends it be granted at no cost.

**Recommendation**

We recommend adoption of the attached Resolution.

WR:bw

Enclosures (1)

**RESOLUTION**

GRANTING OF A NON-EXCLUSIVE DRAINAGE EASEMENT BY THE STATE PROPERTIES COMMISSION AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO HIC ALTAMA, LLC AT ALTAMA PLANTATION WMA. SUBJECT PROPERTY MORE ACCURATELY DEFINED IN ATTACHED "EXHIBIT A".

Property To Be Licensed and Easement To Be Granted:

<b><u>Project</u></b>	<b><u>Licensee/Grantee</u></b>
<b>Altama Plantation WMA</b>	<b>HIC Altama, LLC (Glynn County)</b>

WHEREAS, HIC Altama, LLC request a non-exclusive drainage easement to improve water drainage around the Altama Plantation WMA; and

WHEREAS, on the favorable action of the Board of Natural Resources, the State Properties Commission is empowered to issue a revocable license agreement and seek legislative approval to grant a non-exclusive drainage easement to HIC Altama, LLC; and

WHEREAS, the non-exclusive drainage easement is a part of a settlement between HIC Altama and the Department, therefore, the Department recommends it be issued at no cost; and

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

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

Adopted this 24<sup>th</sup> day of February 2026.

Respectfully submitted by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patrick Denney, Chairman  
Georgia Board of Natural Resources

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dan Garcia, Secretary  
Georgia Board of Natural Resources

EXHIBIT A

Altama WMA  
Drainage Easement  
Glynn County

