

RIGHTS OF WAY ENDANGERED SPECIES SURVEY FOR THE COASTAL REGION OF GEORGIA

The Coastal Region of consists of the following 18 counties: Long, McIntosh, Wayne, Glynn, Bacon, Pierce, Brantley, Camden, Ware, Charlton, Coffee, Atkinson, Lanier, Echols, Clinch, Liberty, Jeff Davis, Appling.

Based on the Georgia Natural Heritage Inventory records, the following plants, plant communities and animal habitats were searched for on Georgia Power Company rights of ways:

Plants:

Hairy Rattleweed - *Baptisia arachnifera* (**Federal Endangered**)
 Florida Orange Grass - *Ctenium floridanum*
 Hartwrightia - *Hartwrightia floridana*
 Swamp Forest Beaksedge - *Rhynchospora decurrens*
 Palafoxia - *Palafoxia integrifolia*
 Chapman Oak - *Quercus chapmanii*
 Odorless Bayberry - *Myrica inodora*
 Bartram's Air Plant - *Tillandsia bartrami*
 Trailing Milkweed - *Matela publiflora*
 Wild Yellow Cowpea - *Vigna luteola*
 Yellow Flytrap - *Sarracenia flava*
 Hooded Pitcher Plant - *Sarracenia minor*
 Bluff White Oak - *Quercus austrina*
 Green Fly Orchid - *Epidendrum conopseum*
 Swamp Buckthorn - *Sideroxylon thornei*

Animals:

Eastern Indigo Snake - *Drymarchon corais* (**Federal Endangered**)
 Woodstork - *Mycteria americana*, rookery (**Federal Endangered**)
 Bachman's sparrow - *Aimophila aestivalis*, nesting area
 Gopher tortoise - *Gopherus polyphemus*, den

There are 13 concerns in 5 counties: Appling County (3 gopher tortoise, 1 red-cockaded woodpecker, 1 eastern indigo snake and 1 grit beard-tongue), Jeff Davis County (1 gopher tortoise and 1 yellow fly-trap), Bacon County (1 hooded pitcherplant), Coffee County (1 Yellow fly-trap) and Brantley County (2 hairy

rattleweed and 1 hooded pitcher plant). Ten locations (9 on military lands) remain to be surveyed.

Discussion and Recommendations:

The Coastal Region counties contain a number of unique habitats that support a number of rare species of animals and plants. The deep sand long-leaf pine/wire grass communities, the south Georgia river floodplain swamps, the Okefenokee Swamp and the salt marsh- barrier islands are four of the state's most unique areas.

The upland sand ridges are the most impacted by rights of way. This is habitat for pitcherplants (wet areas), gopher tortoise, indigo snake and hairy rattleweed. All 4 benefit from rights of way maintenance. These species depend on periodic maintenance to exist in these locations. The hairy rattleweed locations have been covered by a management agreement to conserve the sites (see: Recommendations for Endangered Plants). Pitcherplants (particularly yellow trumpets and hooded pitcherplants are common enough that only major bog areas require any sort of maintenance restrictions (herbicide use). Gopher tortoise locations that can be considered colonies (a cluster of burrows rather than scattered individual burrows) are concerns; however solitary burrows are common on rights of way in the deep sand ridges in these counties.

SURVEY SUMMARY FOR THE COASTAL REGION

All the counties within the Coastal Region are summarized below. The GPC number is listed along with the common name of the plant/animal. The numbered line items refer to locations within the county; only those in bold print were considered close enough to the rights of way to field survey. Line items in regular print refer to animal species not considered in the survey or locations too far from the line to be of concern, usually 500-700 feet.

APPLING COUNTY (6 Locations required Field Surveys, 2 new records, 6 Concerns/2 at 1 loactions)

#792 – Gopher tortoise - Near Moody cemetery, under 500Kv line. Several active burrows. Some Concern(Field Note #1/28 February 2000).

#1098 – Red cockaded Woodpecker, near #792, 1 bird sighted near right of way. Major Concern (Field Note #2/28 February 2000).

NEW – Gopher tortoise – active dens. Some Concern(Field Note # 3/28 February 2000).

#551 – Bachman sparrow - It is off the line but obviously close since the line crossing is given as a reference. No Concern. (Field Note #16/1 March 2000).

#1095 – Gopher Tortoise - Near #551, east of 500Kv line. No Concern. (Field Note #4/29 February 2000).

#1031 – Grit beard tongue - Along ROW of 500Kv line, found about 50 clumps. Some Concern. (Field Note #104/23 April 2002).

#1046 – Gopher Tortoise, near #1031, close to line. Several active burrows Some Concern. (Field Note #5/29 February 2000).

NEW – Eastern Indigo Snake – entering the den of #1046 gopher tortoise on right of way. Major Concern. (Field Note #6/29 February 2000).

#852 – Eastern coral snake.

#1097 – Red Cockaded Woodpecker.

#75 – Hooded Pitcher Plant - this is an error, location description puts it on the Brantley-Glynn County line

#1039 – Sherman Fox Squirrel.

TETRA TECH SURVEY LOCATIONS FOR APPLING COUNTY Reported to DNR by Tetra Tech.

F-15 – Swamp Buckthorn - appears to be near #792, gopher tortoise on the HNPP report

F-14 and T-13, Swamp Buckthorn - are on the 500Kv line near the tenmile creek crossing, southeast of HNPP.

BX5 – Hooded Pitcher Plant - On 115/230Kv line

BX6 – Near Substation in Baxley

TH-5 – Grit Beard Tongue - near #1031 and #1046, may be same location as #1031.

JEFF DAVIS COUNTY (4 locations Required Field Surveys, 2 new locations, 1 minor concern, 1 undetermined.)

#163 – Georgia Milkwort - 500/230Kv line, near Appling County Line. Could not find plants. Undetermined. (Field Note 107/23 April 2002).

#766 – Hooded Pitcher Plant - 1955 record, Southwest of Hazelhurst. No plants found. No Concern. (Field Note 108/23 April 2002).

#89 – Parrot Pitcher Plant - Check ROW crossing (46Kv) in Southwest corner of the county, same location as #963 below. OPC Line. No Concern. (Field Note 109/23 April 2002).

#963 – Hooded Pitcher Plant - OPC 500/230Kv line. No Concern. (Field Note #109/23 April 2002).

NEW – Yellow Trumpets – Robust plants, OPC line. No Concern (Field Note#105/23 April 200223 April 2002).

NEW – Gopher Tortoise – fresh burrows. Minor Concern (Field Note #107/23 April 2002).

#1106 – Georgia spiny mussel.

#1127 – Pineland Barbara Buttons.

#1154 – Parrot Pitcher Plant.

#273 – Pineland Barbara Buttons.

TETRA-TECH SURVEY LOCATIONS Reported to DNR by Tetra Tech.

- T-11, Balduina - between Denton and Snipesville on Whitehead Creek on 500Kv line
- T-11 – Parrot Pitcher Plant - same location as above.
- T-2 – Hooded pitcher plant - near Appling County line (North of 115Kv, near #163)
- T-4 – Hooded pitcher Plant - Near Appling County line (South of 115Kv line)
- T-9 – Hooded Pitcher Plant - on Whitehead Creek, there are 2 populations at this location
- T-13 – Hooded Pitcher Plant - East of Moccasin Creek, OPC?

LIBERTY COUNTY (8 locations Require Field Survey After National Security is Established, all on Fort Stewart)

- #702 – Red-cockaded woodpecker - in training area (CHECK)*****
- #373 – Red Lovegrass - (CHECK)*****
- #285 – Red-cockaded woodpecker - (CHECK)*****
- #268 – Bachman sparrow - (CHECK)*****
- #409 – Gopher Tortoise - (CHECK)*****
- #1105 – Red-cockaded woodpecker - (CHECK)*****
- #832 – Red-cockaded woodpecker - (CHECK)*****
- #678 – Red-cockaded woodpecker - (CHECK)*****

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- #979 – Slender Glass lizard.
- #1153 – Florida Pine Snake.
- #1025 – Skullcap - 1953 record.

BACON COUNTY (2 Locations Required Field Surveys. 1 Minor Concern)

- #1078 – Yellow flytrap- No date on record, 3 miles south of Alma, check the 115Kv line west of highway 23. No plants found. No Concern. (Field Note # 17/1 March 2000).**
- #835 – Hooded Pitcherplant - Two miles north of Alma, check where the 69Kv line crosses highway 23. No hooded pitcherplants found but yellow trumpets were found. Minor Concern. (Field Note #7/29 Feb 2000).**
- #442 – Parrot pitcherplant - two miles from 46Kv line in northern part of the county.
- #85 – Yellow flytrap - “Seven miles north of Alma” is the location. This is the same location as #442 above.

Note: a 46Kv line goes north and west from Alma; a 115Kv line runs west and south of Alma and a 230Kv line runs east and west of Alma. There are probably many pitcher plant bogs in this county and on associated ROWs.

BRANTLEY COUNTY (5 Locations Required Field Surveys, 4 New Locations, 3 with Maintenance Concerns)

#406 – Chapman oak – Woods at Little Memorial Baptist Church, north of state 32 at Browntown. No Concern. (Field Note #18/1 March 2000).

#1012 – Florida Orange-grass – North of Needmore, east side of CORD 141, just north of the Powerline crossing. The area has been cleared by the land owner. No Concern. (Field Note #65/13 June 2001).

#1016 – Hairy Rattleweed – CORD 141, .3 mile from Needmore, pine field adjacent to the powerline. No plants found. No Concern. (Field Note #63/13 June 2001).

#1007 – Hairy Rattleweed – On State 32, one and one half mile east of Junction with state 301, check old railroad bed, occurs along state 32 margin. No Concern. (Field Note # 66/13 June 2001)

#596 – Hairy Rattleweed - .8 miles east of Hortense on state 32, Just west of #1007 above. No plants found. No Concern. (Field Note #68/13 June 2001).

New – Hooded Pitcher Plant – Margin of right of way. No Concern. (Field Note #114/24 April 2002).

New – Hairy Rattleweed – 75 Plants. Major Concern. (Field Note #64/13 June 2001).

New - Hooded Pitcher Plant – Minor Concern. (Field Note #67/13 June 2001).

New – Hairy Rattleweed – Okeefenokey EMC line. Major Concern, depending on who has maintenance responsibility. (Field Note #69/13 June 2001).

#1055 – Chapman’s oak – South of Needmore, south of state 32 and west of highway.

#220 – Odorless Bayberry – along highway 121, north of Hoboken on 69Kv line, North of Big Branch.

#787 – Hooded Pitcher Plant.

#469 – Wood Stork.

- #191 – Florida Milk Pea.
- #136 – Bartram Air Plant.

Charlton County (0 to check)

- #971 – *Hartwrightia floridana* – On US301, 2 miles North of Folkston, Just north of 110Kv crossing.
- #172 – Round tail Muskrat.
- #580 – Striped Newt.

A 115Kv line and two 500Kv lines in the northeast corner of the county are the only lines in the county.

Camden County: (1 Location Required Field Survey, 1 Location to be checked on Military Reservation, 1 Location to check with Wildlife Resources)

#131 – Bartram air Plant – Waverly along State 110, abundant on all trees, appears to be near 46Kv line. Location not found. No Concern. (Field Note #70/13 June 2001).

#142 – Red Love Grass – on Kings Bay Submarine Base, on Petrel Boulevard, check with base persons. (Check after the war)***

#499 – Wood Stork – 2 miles north from Junction Kings Bay and state highway 40, on Gum Branch, Call one of Mike Harris's folks to see if the site is active. ***

- #437 – Hooded Pitcher Plant
- #990 – Quill-leaf airplant.
- #696 – Manatee.
- #856 – Fox Squirrel.
- #814 – Ball Moss.
- #1105 – Sturgeon.
- #410 – Manatee.
- #957 – Round-tailed muskrat.

Glynn County (1 Location Required Field Survey. No Maintenance Concern)

#677 – *Palafoxia* – East side of Post Road (state 615), North of Junction with State 32, atop road band, edge of longleaf pine – turkey oak community. No Concern. (Field Note #117/25 April 2002).

#1144 – Pineland Purple Foxglove – Vicinity of Brunswick (?), Poor location, east of highway 341, NW of Sterling.

#1146 – Flag - In Sterling, near 115Kv line, North side of highway 99, near junction with highway 34.

#1148 – Bluff White Oak – Near 115Kv line on Wayne-Glynn county line, visual observation indicated that the site is well off the line and the distance between the line and location have been planted in pine.

#721 – Manatee.

#410 – Manatee.

#1105 – Manatee.

#1107 – Manatee.

#561 – Manatee.

#545 – Eastern Coral Snake.

#875 – Island Glass Lizard.

#545 – Hooded Pitcher Plant.

All records to check are along the 115Kv line alongside highway 341 from Brunswick to Wayne county line.

Long County (5 Locations Required Field Surveys. No Maintenance Concerns.

#1044 – Bachman’s sparrow- Located on CORD 46, after junction CORD 113, head north, in stand after passing houses (?). No Concern. (Field Note #77/14 June 2001).

#154 – Bluff White Oak – Altamaha River Floodplain, south of US301, .4 mile southwest of CORD 60. No Concern. (Field Note #80/14 June 2001).

#632 – Green Fly Orchid- Floodplain of Altamaha River, along US301, .4 mile SW of CORD 60, same location as #154. No Concern. (Field Note #80/14 June 2001).

Gopherr tortoise – SW of Ludowici (?), 100 yards NW of US301, check ROW for Burrows. No Concern. (Field Note #78/14 June 2001).

#318 – Trailing Milkvine – 4.4 miles NNE of Altamaha River, near #128. No Concern. (Field Note #79/14 June 2001).

#683 – Black Swamp Snake.

#684 – Feay Pink Tassles.

#336 – Rainbow Snake.

#497 – Fox Squirrel.

#1117 – Swallow-tail Kite.

#528 – Black Swamp Snake.

#672 – Eastern Coral Snake.