

April 26, 2019

Environmental Protection Division  
 Watershed Protection Branch  
 Nonpoint Source Program  
 Suite 1462 East, 2 Martin Luther King, Jr., Dr.,  
 Atlanta, GA 30334

[EPDComments@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:EPDComments@dnr.ga.gov)



**Re: NPS Plan**



To Whom it May Concern:

WWALS Watershed Coalition, Inc. (WWALS), also known as Suwannee Riverkeeper, submits the following comments on the Revisions to Georgia's Statewide Nonpoint Source Management Plan.

**Thanks, congratulations, and compliments**

Thank you for holding the public meeting in Dawson on March 29, 2019. Both the presentations and the discussions were most informative. For future reference, please note that a majority of the attendees were from the Suwannee River Basin, and that Tifton or Valdosta would be much more centrally located for meetings related to that Basin.

Congratulations on the success story about Piscola Creek no longer being impaired for dissolved oxygen. Since Piscola Creek is in the Suwannee River Basin, and we have been following that project for some years, we are very happy to see it successfully concluded. <http://wwals.net/?p=1578>

I would also like to applaud the active planning document with the tracking tables.

**Water trails and conservation lands**

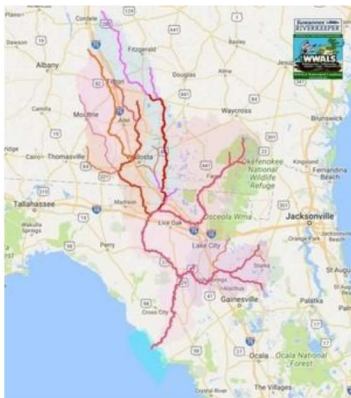
May I recommend explicitly discussing water trails in relation to Long Term Goals 1 and 2:

*Long Term Goal 1:* Identify high-value conservation lands, particularly those lands that if put into conservation would have the greatest impact on mitigating nonpoint source pollution.

*Long Term Goal 2:* Support the creation of a network of linked landscape-scale green spaces throughout Georgia focused on ecosystem connectivity around waterbodies.

As you are no doubt aware, Georgia River Network coordinates a statewide set of Georgia Water Trails. <https://garivers.org/explore-georgia-water-trails/>

These Water Trails encourage people who care about our waters to paddle on them, which in turn leads to involvement in cleanups, water quality testing, and detection of



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WWALS Watershed Coalition advocates for conservation and stewardship of the Withlacoochee, Willacoochee, Alapaha, Little, and Suwannee River watersheds in south Georgia and north Florida through education, awareness, environmental monitoring, and citizen activities.

