Sampling for striped newt adults/larvae at the same 10 wetland sites using the same dipnet and minnow trap survey methods as detailed above for the frosted flatwoods salamander was performed during February-March 2019. Dipnet and minnow trap surveys of 12 isolated wetlands on-site did not document the striped newt. Naturally-functioning longleaf pine–wiregrass sandhills, the preferred habitat for transformed examples of this newt, are lacking on-site.

Due to the profound habitat changes and perturbations from commercial forestry practices (see section 8.1 Frosted Flatwoods Salamander above) it is unlikely that the species persists on the site, if in fact it was ever present. The proposed project is not likely to have an effect on the striped newt.

8.3 Gopher frog

Gopher frog tadpoles were sampled at the same 10 wetland sites using the same dipnet and minnow trap survey methods as detailed above for the frosted flatwoods salamander (also during February-March 2019).

In December, this species was documented from a site on the Keystone Tract, finding an adult female gopher frog in a juvenile gopher tortoise burrow. Gopher frog was recorded during gopher tortoise burrow scoping surveys (conducted spring 2019). Single-opening funnel traps made of aluminum screening were placed at active gopher tortoise burrows in an effort to capture gopher frogs that emerge during the night (traps were set at a minimum of 6 active burrows, for 2 consecutive nights, at all tortoise colonies on-site that contained 8 or more tortoise burrows).

The gopher frog, state-listed as Rare by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, was documented on the site, including observations for the Adirondack, Keystone, and Loncala tracts. A total of six gopher frogs were observed, including three adults seen in gopher tortoise burrows during indigo snake surveys or gopher tortoise surveys and three adults observed in tortoise burrows while scoping burrows with the burrow camera. Two frogs were captured and voucher photographs were taken of these specimens. Dates and specific location information for these records are provided in the Herpetological Report in Appendix D.

Dipnet and minnow trap surveys of 12 isolated wetlands conducted on-site during February-March 2019 did not document egg masses or tadpoles of the gopher frog. An isolated wetland surveyed in March 2019 (A-04; 30.525379°N, 82.09925° W), dry when revisited on 23 April 2019, is a potential breeding pond for the gopher frog. A small cypress pond, converted in part into a borrow pit and located offsite and just south of the Keystone Tract (30.51613°N, 82.11790°W), may be a breeding site used by gopher frogs.

Prior to construction, all gopher tortoise burrows will be camera scoped to determine the occupancy status of the burrow. Occupied burrows will be trapped and captured gopher frog along with gopher tortoise will be relocated to an area identified in coordination with Georgia DNR.

8.4 Red-cockaded woodpecker

Red-cockaded woodpecker are residents of the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge and identified by a resource agency as possibly using the proposed project site for foraging. Suitable habitat consists of well-drained, sandy areas dominated by old-growth, longleaf pine communities with sparse midstory vegetation and dense diverse herbaceous groundcover. Pine trees must be of sufficient size and spatial distribution to be inhabited by red-cockaded woodpeckers. Due to the site's current use as a commercial forestry operation, this habitat does not exist within the review area. No red-cockaded woodpeckers, cavity trees, or sign were observed during field reconnaissance nor during any of the field work.