

#### **8.40 Bartram's air-plant**

This plant is epiphytic in bay swamps, freshwater tidal swamps; beech-magnolia bluff forests. Habitat for this species is present on the project site. Populations of this plant were identified on the project site.

#### **8.41 Diverse-leaf crownbeard**

Habitat for this species consists of sandy peat in fire-maintained savannahs or in open stands of slash pine-palmetto flatwoods where wiregrass dominates. Habitat for this species is present on the project site. This species was not identified on site.

#### **8.42 Black Bear**

Most of the South Georgia bear habitat is slash pine (*Pinus elliotii*) flatwoods, lowland mixed hardwoods, cypress/gum wetlands, and emergent freshwater prairie. The core of the range is a contiguous area of protected public lands totaling 666,107 acres including Dixon Memorial State Forest (and WMA) and Okefenokee NWR in Georgia, and Osceola National Forest and John Bethea State Forest in Florida. Most of the perimeter of the core area is industrial forest land which is managed with intensive pine site preparation and short timber rotations. Most (97%) of the diet of the South Georgia population bears was of plant origin, with the top 3 food items being black gum, saw palmetto, and acorns. Home ranges of adult female bears were in areas with disproportionately high loblolly bay (*Gordonia lasianthus*) and gum-bay-cypress (*Taxodium* spp.) vegetation associations (Dobey et al. 2005). Although Dobey et al.'s (2005) analyses did not rank pine associations highly, 57% of the summer diet of bears was comprised of food items found almost exclusively in pine (i.e., huckleberry, blueberry, bitter gallberry) or bears to have access to all life requisites, they need to be located within the home range of the bear. The mean annual home-range size for females in the South Georgia population was 13,813 acres and they expanded their home ranges during years of poor black gum production (Dobey et al. 2005). The expansion was most apparent between autumn 1998 and 1999 when the average home-range size for females increased from 3,583 acres to 19,373 acres and included a larger proportion of upland areas open to hunting (Dobey et al. 2005). Male home-range size was 84,708 acres (Dobey et al. 2005). Black bear was identified on the Loncala tract (Alternate 2). The proposed project is not likely to have an effect on black bear.