



SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

December 4, 2019

VIRGINIA H. JOHNS
Chair
Alachua, Florida

HUGH THOMAS
Executive Director

Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Board of Trustees and Staff of the
Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program
c/o Taylor Brown
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, SE
Suite 1370 East Tower
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Subject: Letter of Support for the Development of the Troupville River Camp

Dear Ms. Brown and Trustees:

The Suwannee River Water Management District (District) is excited to provide this letter of support for the development of the Troupville River Camp. This project will increase tourism and recreational opportunities for local communities in our area.

Although we live in Florida, the District views the Withlacoochee River as a shared resource with Valdosta, Lowndes County, and the State of Georgia, because the river crosses all political boundaries.

The District partnered with the Department of Environmental Protection and the Florida Division of State Parks to implement the Suwannee River Wilderness Trail from White Springs to the Town of Suwannee. The District built five river camps along the Suwannee River from White Springs to Branford. The river camps consist of five sleeping platforms, picnic pavilion, restrooms with showers, tent camping area, and a campground host site.

The river camps focused on camping opportunities to protect the environmental impact of the riverbank; providing additional recreation opportunities and created additional economic benefits to the rural communities.

The District would be most happy to share our river camp experiences, research, and designs with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hugh Thomas", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Hugh Thomas
Executive Director