

Georgia's Wetland Forests Are Worth \$67.3 Billion

- Worth could increase up to \$2.8 billion by investing in conservation
- Wetland Forest Gem: Okefenokee Swamp, a 438,000 acre swamp that straddles the Georgia-Florida line
- Georgia has 4.4 million acres of wetland forest, including 492 named swamps and 5,647 named streams in the state¹

Protection From Extreme Events: Georgia's Wetland Forests Provide \$20.1 Billion

- Value in protection from extreme events and water flow regulation could increase up to \$740 million by investing in conservation
- Two flood events amassing over a billion dollars in damages since 1980²
- Between 1851 and 2004, 20 hurricanes and 3 major hurricanes (categories 3-5) made landfall on the Georgia coastline³

Aesthetics, Tourism, and Recreation: Georgia's Wetland Forests Provide \$16.9 Billion

- Value in aesthetics and recreation could increase up to \$860 million by investing in conservation
- Georgia had 60 million visitors in 2011, which contributed \$61.1 billion in visitor spending and supported 439,000 tourism jobs⁴⁻⁶
- Over 40% of Georgia residents participated in wildlife-related recreation, spending \$4.6 billion in 2011⁷

Water Supply and Waste Treatment: Georgia's Wetland Forests Provide \$15.5 Billion

- Value in water supply and waste treatment could increase up to \$640 million by investing in conservation
- More than sixty percent of Georgia residents rely on public sewer systems. Many public facilities rely on natural infrastructure to reduce costs of waste and water treatment⁸
- Nearly twenty percent of Georgia residents rely on private water sources like wells. Residents rely on forests to naturally filter pollutants from their water supply⁸

Food and Pollination: Georgia's Wetland Forests Provide \$9.8 Billion

- Value in food and pollination could increase up to \$390 million by investing in conservation
- Georgia wetland forests provide habitat for pollinators of agricultural crops
- Nearly a million residents in Georgia hunt or fish⁷
- In 2016, hunters purchased over 300,000 deer hunting licenses⁹
- In 2016, hunters harvested over 200,000 ducks and geese within Georgia¹⁰