



# The Okefenokee UNESCO Bid

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In 2022 the refuge and OSP launched a unique public-private partnership to seek UNESCO World Heritage Site status and deliver on a 40-year quest to be awarded this international designation. In 2023 our efforts accelerated with the announcement by the National Park Service that it will formally nominate the site, which could yield a final decision in 2026.

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If inscribed, Okefenokee NWR would be the first site entirely managed by the National Wildlife Refuge System, the first natural site of its kind to be recognized as a World Heritage Site, and the first World Heritage Site in the state of Georgia. World Heritage status would further the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service vision to protect the Okefenokee and its vast ecological resources for years to come