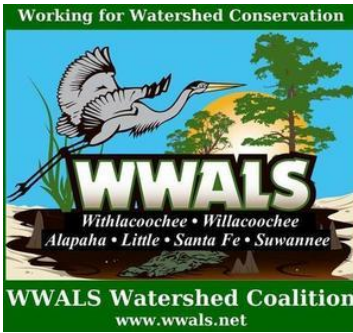


December 6, 2023



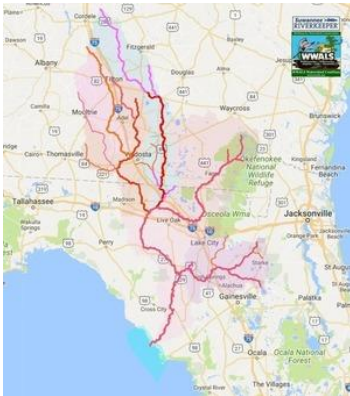
To: Ouitia Jolly
Recreational Trails Program
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive S.E., Suite 1370
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
(404) 463-1779
Ouitia.Jolly@dnr.ga.gov



Re: WWALS Water Trail Brochures and Signs in Educational RTP

Ms. Jolly,

WWALS Watershed Coalition, Inc. (WWALS) would like to apply for an educational Recreational Trails Program grant. WWALS is a [501\(c\)\(3\) nonprofit charity](#), Tax ID Number 46-2656118. Here is a rough sketch of the application.



PO Box 88, Hahira, GA 31632
850-290-2350
wwalswatershed@gmail.com
www.wwals.net

WWALS is an IRS 501(c)(3) nonprofit charity est. June 2012.

WWALS advocates for conservation and stewardship of the surface waters and groundwater of the Suwannee River Basin and Estuary, in south Georgia and north Florida, among them the Withlacoochee, Willacoochee, Alapaha, Little, Santa Fe, and Suwannee River watersheds, through education, awareness, environmental monitoring, and citizen activities.

	What	Quantity	Cost	Subtotal
	Total Project Cost:	100%		\$6,218.00
	RTP Funds Requested:	80%		\$4,974.40
	Cash Match:	20%		\$1,243.60
<i>At-Water Signs</i>	WLRWT	6	\$61	\$366
	ARWT	4	\$61	\$244
	SRWT	3	\$61	\$183
	Spares	9	\$61	\$549
<i>Road Signs</i>	WLRWT	4	\$300	\$1,200
	ARWT	1	\$300	\$300
	SRWT	3	\$300	\$900
<i>Rack Cards</i>	WLRWT	5,000	\$0.0492	\$492.07
	ARWT	5,000	\$0.0492	\$492.00
	Design:		\$1,000	\$1,000

We acknowledge that this is a reimbursement grant, that it requires a 20% cash match, and that the grant term is one year from the date of the grant agreement, by which time the project must be completed. In addition to the cash match, we will provide volunteer hours designing, preparing, and distributing cards and signs, planting signs at the water, holding educational events (paddle outings, cleanups, webinars, etc.). The cards and signs contain URLs and QRcodes leading people to our more extensive online educational materials, with text, tables, pictures, and interactive maps: <http://wwals.net/water-trails/> These online materials list, describe, and often picture numerous points of interest such as relics or sites of old bridges (rail and road) and fords, obstacles such as deadfalls or power lines, beaches, waterfalls, geology, plants, and animals.



Alapaha River Water Trail (ARWT)

All the ARWT public access points are listed here:

<http://wwals.net/maps/alapaha-water-trail/arwt-map/arwt-access/>



ARWT Brochures

Thanks to DNR for funding printing the third edition of the revised Alapaha River Water Trail (ARWT) Z-fold brochures. See the small images on the left, and larger online here:

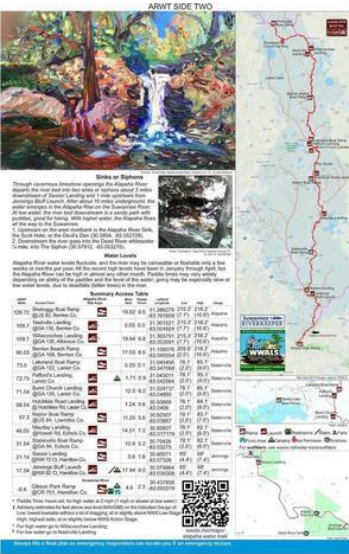
<http://wwals.net/pictures/2019-10-17--wt-brochure-proofs/#ARWT-Front>



In addition to safety and etiquette information, these brochures contain eloquent descriptions, pictures, and a painting of what paddlers can see along these rivers, encouraging conservation of the environment. They recommend becoming certified for water quality testing, and they have the WWALS motto about stewardship and conservation, plus a URL and a QRcode leading viewers to web pages and online maps.

ARWT Rack Cards

This time we propose to make rack cards, which are the same format as folded-up z-fold brochures, but only one sheet, front and back, with basic information and QR codes leading to our online information. These are less expensive, and are for distribution at welcome centers and rest stops.



ARWT Road Signs

Lowndes County made and planted road signs for the ARWT at Naylor Boat Ramp. We paid the Georgia Department of Transportation to make and plant signs at each of the nine other Georgia ARWT access points.

Unfortunately, some of them are missing, specifically at Mayday Landing on Howell Road in Echols County. So that's one set of ARWT road signs needed.

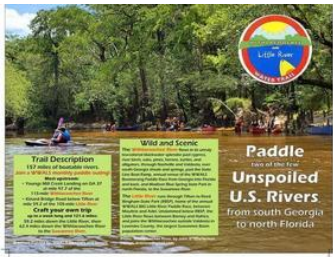
These road signs are designed according to criteria provided by Georgia River Network for Georgia Water Trails, with three signs per post. The top sign has the water trail name and icons for the type of access (canoe, kayak, and for boat ramps also power boats). The middle sign has the access point name and the county name. The third sign is a directional arrow. Each access point gets two pairs of these signposts, differing only in the direction of the arrow.



ARWT Signs at the Water

We have pioneered a set of two metal signs on a single post at the water; see below under WLRWT Signs at the Water. On the ARWT, these signs are missing and presumed stolen at Lakeland Boat Ramp at GA 122 in Lanier County, and in Echols County Mayday Landing at Howell Road and Statenville Boat Ramp at GA 94. Plus we want to place signs at Banks Lake Boat Ramp. So that is 4 sets of ARWT at-water signs needed.





Withlacoochee and Little River Water Trail (WLRWT)

All the WLRWT access points are listed here:

<http://wwals.net/maps/withlacoochee-river-water-trail/wrwt-map/wrwt-access/>

WLRWT Brochures

Thanks to DNR for funding the first edition of Z-fold brochures for the Withlacoochee and Little River Water Trail (WLRWT). Small images of these WLRWT brochure proofs are visible on the left, and larger online here:

<http://wwals.net/pictures/2019-10-17--wt-brochure-proofs/#WLRWT-Front>

WLRWT Rack Cards

This time we proposed to make rack cards for welcome centers and the like.

WLRWT Road Signs

We thank Lowndes County for agreeing to make and plant road signs in that county. These WLRWT road signs are the same format as for the ARWT, except of course they say at the top Withlacoochee and Little River Water Trail.

However, the county has not made signs for Folsom Bridge Landing at GA 122 on the Little River, nor on the Withlacoochee River for Hagan Bridge Landing at GA 122, or Franklinville Landing at Franklinville Road.

In addition, the road signs have been stolen from Knights Ferry Boat Ramp on the Withlacoochee River. So that's 4 sets of WLRWT road signs needed.

WLRWT Signs at the Water

Thanks to DNR for funding the first sets of WLRWT at-water signs, which we printed and planted signs at the water for all 19 WLRWT access points in Georgia. Each location gets a pair of metal signs, each 12x18 inches. They have information about safety, etiquette, environment, and maps of the entire water trail and nearby, and how long it will take to get to the next access point. They also list points of interest upstream and down, with miles to get there, including environmental and safety concerns such as rapids and deadfalls, beaches good for lunch breaks, bridges or historical sites of bridges and ferries, etc. They have sponsoring organization logos, including a DNR logo.

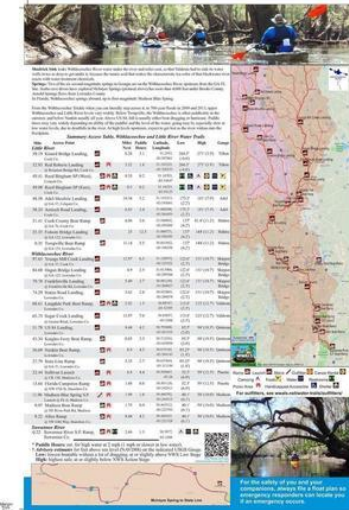
Unfortunately, several of these at-water signs have been shot up or stolen, specifically from Folsom Bridge Landing at GA 122 and Troupville Boat Ramp at GA 133 on the Little River, and from the Withlacoochee River at Hagan Bridge Landing at GA 122, Knights Ferry Boat Ramp, and Clyattville-Nankin Boat Ramp. And we want to place a set at Sugar Creek. So that's 6 sets of WLRWT at-water signs needed.

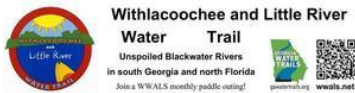
Small images of the Troupville Boat Ramp signs may be seen on the left and larger online here:

<http://www.wwals.net/pictures/2019-10-31--wwals-gosp-trouville-river-camp/#Water-Trail-Signs>

Suwannee River Water Trail (SRWT)

We plan to put signs at three sites on the Suwannee River in Georgia: Stephen C. Foster State Park Boat Ramp, Griffis Fish Camp Landing, and Fargo Boat Ramp. While we have extensive online SRWT materials, these will be the first physical signs on the Suwannee River, both at-water and road signs. We do not plan to make SRWT rack cards, because most of the Suwannee River is covered by Florida's Suwannee River Wilderness Trail.





Withlacoochee and Little River Water Trail
Unspoiled Blackwater Rivers in south Georgia and north Florida
Join a WWALS monthly paddle outing!

Safety

The Withlacoochee River is one of the few undammed left in this country. Rowing is a specialty here because of the 11.5 mile per hour current, river banks, rocks, and trees through Georgia and Florida. The trail is a series of white water rapids and scenic springs in Georgia, Madison Spring and Arnold Springs, with rapids in the Little River and Little River Spring, with rapids in the Little River and Little River Spring, with rapids in the Little River and Little River Spring.

Etiquette

1. Carry out all trash with you.
2. Camp only where there are no fire permits.
3. Do not cut or damage living trees.
4. Take only pictures or videos, leave no trace.
5. Control pets or leave them at home.
6. Respect wildlife.
7. Respect waterfront property.
8. Check trespass on private property.
9. Minimize impacts to shore.
10. Be courteous to other water trail users.

Checklist

- Water and food
- Sunscreen & bug repellent
- Warm & extra clothes
- Whistle, whistle, whistle
- Personal flotation device
- First aid kit & medicines
- Repair kit
- Paddle
- PFDs
- Phone, battery, extra, charged

WWALS Watershed Coalition, Inc. (WWALS)
is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that promotes the conservation and development of the Withlacoochee, Middle, and Lower River basins. Our members include individuals, businesses, and organizations. We are currently accepting donations and are seeking new members.

WWALS is the WATERKEEPER Alliance
Member of the Suwannee River Waterkeeper Alliance.

Educational events

The Troupville Boat Ramp metal signs <https://wwals.net/?p=54875> and the Langdale Park Boat Ramp signs <https://www.walb.com/2023/10/19/valdosta-stores-reopen-3-days-after-sewage-leak/> have appeared on WALB TV. Our water trail signs are also seen by all the participants in our numerous river cleanups, as well as the annual Mayor and Chairman’s Paddle that involves Troupville Boat Ramp, with Lowndes County Chairman Bill Slaughter and Valdosta Mayor Scott James Matheson. <https://wwals.net/?p=61317>

On paddle outings we frequently note geology such as fossils and at rapids; one of our board members and outings leaders is a Practicing Geologist. We often encounter interesting biology, such as floating marsh pennywort or haunts of specific animals. Many of these things get added to our online water trail maps afterwards, and some of them go directly onto at-water signs.

Troupville Boat Ramp
Lowndes County, Georgia
19664 Valdosta Hwy,
Valdosta, GA 31602
on Georgia 133 off I-75 exit 18
Lowndes County Emergency Management: 229-671-2799

Downstream:
Water Levels on the Little GA 132 USGS Gauge 0274306:
EIP 11.7 (Normal) below, you may walk a lot
EIP 11.7 (High) above, you may get lost in the floodplain

Upstream:
Further past US 84
• 2000 feet to the CNX Railroad bridge
• 2000 feet to the Spauldine Bridge on Blue Springs Road

We have received a grant from Hamilton County, Florida, to do similar at-water signs on the Withlacoochee, Alapaha, and Suwannee Rivers in Florida. Of course, any DNR funds will only be used in Georgia, not Florida.

Troupville River Camp

As you know, back in 2019 WWALS applied to the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program (GOSP) for a grant to purchase the land between the Troupville Boat Ramp and the Little River Confluence with the Withlacoochee River, and to build a Troupville River Camp, with air-conditioned bathrooms with hot and cold running water, and five elevated and screened sleeping platforms with electricity. <http://wwals.net/?p=50591> In December 2022, Lowndes County purchased that land. A new economic development and well-being organization called One Valdosta-Lowndes is working on rounding up the remaining funds for ongoing maintenance, in anticipation of another GOSP grant application. That project will be at the center of the Withlacoochee and Little River Water Trail, with all these WLRWT signs leading to and from it.

Downstream:
Water Levels on the Little GA 132 USGS Gauge 0274306:
EIP 11.7 (Normal) below, you may walk a lot
EIP 11.7 (High) above, you may get lost in the floodplain

Upstream:
Further past US 84
• 2000 feet to the CNX Railroad bridge
• 2000 feet to the Spauldine Bridge on Blue Springs Road

Downstream Take Care!
11.14 miles, 2.5 hours down to EIP 11.7 Landing, which is a steep climb up a highly eroded bank.

Outlook:
Class (beginner) rapids above US 84 at low water. Middle-class rapids are easy to paddle, especially at low water.

Supporting This Boat Ramp:
VLPRA

I look forward to receiving the application form for the educational RTP grant.

For the rivers and the aquifer,
John S. Quarterman, Suwannee Riverkeeper
/s
WWALS Watershed Coalition, Inc.
229-242-0102
contact@suwanneeriverkeeper.org
www.suwanneeriverkeeper.org



Attachment: IRS letter granting nonprofit 501(c)3 status.

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
P. O. BOX 2508
CINCINNATI, OH 45201

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Date: JUN 03 2014

WWALS WATERSHED COALITION INC
3338 COUNTRY CLUB RD L336
VALDOSTA, GA 31602

Employer Identification Number:
46-2656118
DLN:
403330146
Contact Person:
CUSTOMER SERVICE ID# 31954
Contact Telephone Number:
(877) 829-5500
Accounting Period Ending:
December 31
Public Charity Status:
170(b)(1)(A)(vi)
Form 990 Required:
Yes
Effective Date of Exemption:
June 8, 2012
Contribution Deductibility:
Yes
Addendum Applies:
No

Dear Applicant:

We are pleased to inform you that upon review of your application for tax exempt status we have determined that you are exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to you are deductible under section 170 of the Code. You are also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under section 2055, 2106 or 2522 of the Code. Because this letter could help resolve any questions regarding your exempt status, you should keep it in your permanent records.

Organizations exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Code are further classified as either public charities or private foundations. We determined that you are a public charity under the Code section(s) listed in the heading of this letter.

Please see enclosed Publication 4221-PC, Compliance Guide for 501(c)(3) Public Charities, for some helpful information about your responsibilities as an exempt organization.

Sincerely,



Director, Exempt Organizations

Enclosure: Publication 4221-PC

Letter 947