



GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

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EPD Director's Office

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CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

Suwannee River Headwaters Land and Water Protection
The Conservation Fund
(Ware and Clinch Counties)
GEFA Loan No. LC-2021-002

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has conducted a review of the above project in accordance with the State's Environmental Review Process (SERP). EPD has determined that this project is eligible for a categorical exclusion. Accordingly, no further environmental review is planned.

The proposed project consists of the acquisition of approximately 8,845 acres along the southeastern side of the Suwannee River at the headwaters from the Okefenokee Swamp for habitat and water quality protection.

This project is eligible for a categorical exclusion because it meets the following specific eligibility criteria: habitat protection/restoration and surface water protection/restoration. Furthermore: the project will not create a new or relocate an existing discharge to surface or ground waters; the project will not substantially increase the volume of discharge or loading of pollutants; the project will not provide capacity to serve a population 30% greater than the existing population; the project will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment; the action will not directly or indirectly affect cultural resources, habitats of endangered or threatened species, or environmentally important natural resource areas; and the action is cost-effective and should cause no significant public controversy.

This determination becomes effective after thirty (30) days following its distribution by EPD. This exclusion may be revoked at any time if: 1) the project is altered and no longer meets the requirements of a categorical exclusion, 2) new evidence shows that serious environmental issues exist, or 3) a local, State or Federal law is being or may be violated.

The information which supports this decision is on file with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division and is available for public review upon request. A copy of the proposed project documentation is also available for review with The Conservation Fund.