

16 State of Georgia to ensure the values and functions of the Okefenokee Swamp, including
17 its status as a popular and historic tourist attraction, are not impaired and to fulfill the
18 responsibilities of each generation as public trustees of the Okefenokee Swamp for
19 succeeding generations; and

20 (2) Trail Ridge is a key element in the formation and continued existence of the
21 Okefenokee Swamp. It shapes the hydrology of the area and controls drainage of the
22 swamp to the Atlantic Ocean. Trail Ridge contains heavy mineral sands, resulting in two
23 major surface mining proposals in the past 25 years. The people of Georgia as well as
24 state and national leaders overwhelmingly rejected the first proposal. Surface mining on
25 Trail Ridge risks adverse impacts to the wetlands, water quality and quantity, wildlife
26 habitat, air quality, and wilderness values of the Okefenokee Swamp. As a danger to the
27 future of the Okefenokee Swamp, Trail Ridge mining impacts the cultural heritage of
28 indigenous peoples of the area, as well as the historic heritage of the people and
29 communities whose existence has been shaped by the swamp.

30

SECTION 3.

31 Part 3 of Article 2 of Chapter 4 of Title 12 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
32 relating to surface mining, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

33 "12-4-85.

34 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'Trail Ridge' means that elevated, geological
35 feature bounded on the west by the Okefenokee Swamp and its watershed; on the east by
36 an elevation of 100 feet above mean sea level; on the south by the triple divide of the
37 Soldiers Camp Island, Boone Creek, and Barbar Branch watersheds; and on the north by
38 the triple divide of the Upper Buffalo Creek, Big Creek, and Okefenokee Swamp
39 watersheds.