



January 30, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Board of Natural Resources

FROM: Walter Rabon, Commissioner 

SUBJECT: Requesting approval via Executive Order to demolish the Stephen C. Foster State Park Suwannee River Visitor Center, Clinch County.

Comments

The Department seeks the Board's authorization to demolish the visitor center (BLLIP #26486) at Stephen C Foster State Park.

For your review, we are enclosing:

- (1) Resolution
- (2) Executive Order

We have presented all available information pertaining to this Agreement to the Chairman, Land Committee, and to the member of the Board within whose district this particular project is located.

Discussion and Conclusion

The Suwannee River Visitor Center has been unoccupied and closed for over a decade. The structure is now extensively deteriorated and occupied by a large colony of bats. The building has been subject to repeated vandalism and structural damage, resulting in unsafe conditions that render it unfit for public use or rehabilitation. Due to these ongoing issues, the facility represents a continuing safety risk and liability to staff, visitors, and the Department.

Structures of historical significance and/or 2,000 square feet and larger require an executive order authorizing their removal. The Office of the State Archaeologist determined the visitor center is not historic, so demolition would not have a negative impact on the Georgia/National Register of Historic Places. The structure is 7,000 square feet, so an executive order is required. Subject to receiving the executive order, the Department will remove the visitor center and all debris from the site.

Recommendation

We recommend adoption of the attached Resolution.

WR: bw

Enclosures (2)

RESOLUTION

RECOMMENDING APPROVAL TO REMOVE THE SUWANNEE RIVER VISITOR CENTER AT STEPHEN C. FOSTER STATE PARK VIA EXECUTIVE ORDER FROM THE FOLLOWING NAMED PROPERTY, MORE PARTICULARLY IDENTIFIED ON THE ATTACHED "EXHIBIT A".

<u>Project</u>	<u>Location</u>
Stephan C. Foster State Park (Suwannee River Visitor Center, BLLIP #26486, 7,000 square feet)	Clinch County

WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources is responsible for the conservation and wise utilization of the State's natural resources and facilities used to manage them; and

WHEREAS, the Office of the State Archaeologist determined that removing the non-historic visitor center would not impact the Georgia/National Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, the size of the visitor center requires an Executive Order be issued for demolition since the building is 2,000 square feet or greater; and

WHEREAS, the Department will seek approval to remove said visitor center via EXECUTIVE ORDER detailed on "EXHIBIT B"; and

WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources recommends the removal of the visitor center due to significant deficiencies that compromise safety, functionality, and compliance with current standards; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Georgia Board of Natural Resources concurs in the findings of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources staff and authorizes the Commissioner to request the Governor of the State of Georgia to execute the proposed Executive Order authorizing the demolition of the visitor center and the appropriate disposal of the debris.

Adopted this 30th day of January 2026.

Respectfully submitted by:

Lesley Reynolds, Chairwoman
Georgia Board of Natural Resources

ATTEST:

Randy Dellinger, Secretary
Georgia Board of Natural Resources

EXHIBIT A

Suwannee River Visitor Center
Proposed Demolition
Clinch County

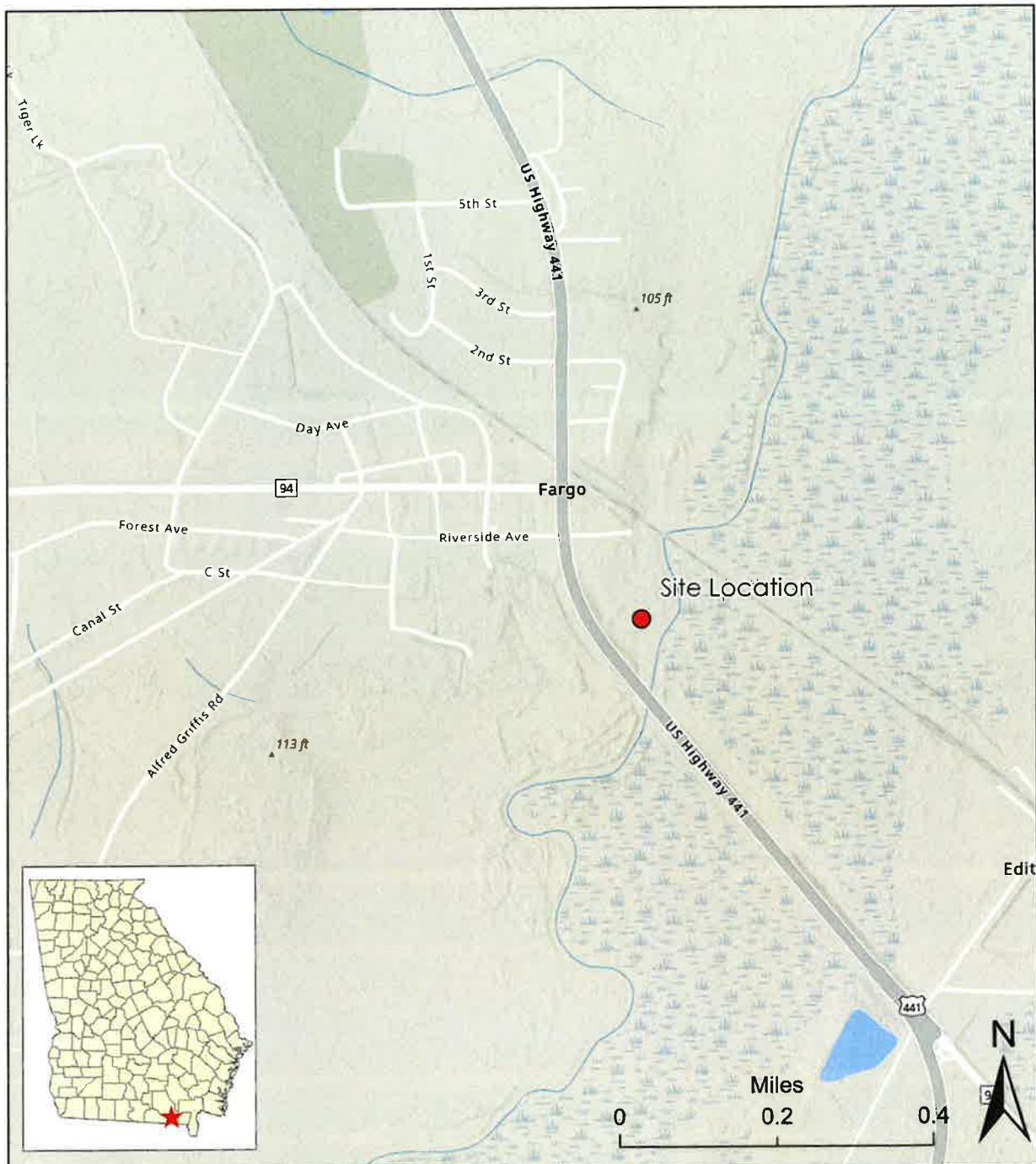


EXHIBIT B

EXECUTIVE ORDER

BY THE GOVERNOR:

WHEREAS: the Department of Natural Resources operates the facility in Clinch County known as Stephen C. Foster State Park for recreation and conservation purposes; and

WHEREAS: said property contains a structure known as the Suwannee River Visitor Center (BLLIP #26486) totaling 7,000 square feet; and

WHEREAS: the Office of the State Archaeologist determined the structure is not historic and would not impact the Georgia/National Register of Historic Places if removed; and

WHEREAS: the Department's staff agree that the structure is no longer needed for Department operations, is in poor condition, and beyond reasonable repair; and

WHEREAS: the Board of Natural Resources approved the removal of the structure on January 30, 2026; and

WHEREAS: the structure has been declared to have no value to the Department.

NOW, THEREFORE, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME AS GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA BY VIRTUE OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE OFFICIAL CODE OF GEORGIA, ANNOTATED 50-16-61, IT IS HEREBY

ORDERED: That the Department of Natural Resources is hereby authorized and directed to provide for the demolition and disposal of the aforesaid structure under terms and conditions which are in the best interest of the State of Georgia.

This _____ day of _____ 2026.

Brian Kemp
Governor

ATTEST:

Executive Secretary