

APPENDIX D

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT

OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PROTECTED SPECIES CORRESPONDENCE



United States Department of the Interior

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

247 South Milledge Avenue
Athens, Georgia 30605

West Georgia Sub Office
P.O. Box 52560
Ft. Benning, Georgia 31995-2560

Coastal Sub Office
4270 Norwich Street
Brunswick, Georgia 31520

August 13, 2001

Eric Dohner
Tetra Tech, inc.
1960 Eagle Valley Court
Lawrenceville, GA 30043

RE: FWS Log No. NG-01-340-GEN

Dear Mr. Dohner:

Thank you for your letter of July 24, 2001, formally requesting species lists for the preparation of a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EIS will address the full range of management activities performed by the Corps of Engineers to operate and maintain Lake Sidney Lanier, Georgia. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is providing the following comments in accordance with Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA), as amended, (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat 401, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.).

Enclosed are species lists for Dawson, Forsyth, Gwinnett, Hall, and Lumpkin Counties in Georgia. This information may also be viewed via the Internet at <http://www.fws.gov/r4gafo/>. If the project area provides habitat that could be used by any of these species, we recommend that qualified personnel conduct surveys. We recommend that the results of any on-site inspection be forwarded to our office.

Our county list contains federal and state-listed species. However, we recommend that you contact the Department of Natural Resources' Heritage Program for the most current information regarding state-listed species. Also, please consider including in the draft EIS information on sensitive natural resource areas such as surrounding wetland areas, wildlife management areas (e.g., Dawson Forest Wildlife Management Area), national recreation areas (e.g., Chattahoochee River National Recreational Area) and the Buford State Fish Hatchery.

We appreciate your concern for the conservation of natural resources. If you have questions are need additional information, please contact Kim Jefferson at (706) 613-9493 ext. 22.

Sincerely,

Deborah Harris

for
Sandra S. Tucker
Field Supervisor



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LISTED SPECIES IN DAWSON COUNTY

FEDERAL ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES¹

Animals

Bald eagle (T,SE)	<u>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</u>	Inland waterways and estuarine areas in Georgia Shallow riffle habitat, with large gravel, cobble, and small boulder substrates. Usually found in medium and large cool water creeks or small rivers (15-30 m wide) with moderate or high gradients and rocky bottoms.
Etowah darter (E,ST)	<u>Etheostoma etowahae</u>	
Cherokee darter (T,ST)	<u>Etheostoma scotti</u>	Shallow water (0.1-0.5 m) in small to medium warm water creeks (1-15 m wide) with predominantly rocky bottoms. Usually found in sections with reduced current, typically runs above and below riffles and at ecotones of riffles and backwaters.

SPECIES OF MANAGEMENT CONCERN¹: The Fish and Wildlife Service is evaluating population trends and threats to the following Species of Management Concern. Please contact us at 247 S. Milledge Ave., Athens, GA, 706-613-9493, if you locate these species during site surveys or have other information on the species' distributions in Georgia.

Animals

Southern Appalachian eastern woodrat	<u>Neotoma floridana haematorea</u>	Rockslides, cliffs, and caves
Bluestripe shiner (ST)	<u>Cyprinella callitaeia</u>	Brownwater streams
Holiday darter (ST)	<u>Etheostoma brevirostrum</u>	Rocky streams

Plants

Hairy blueberry	<u>Vaccinium hirsutum</u>
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STATE ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES¹: The following species, as well as the Federally protected species indicted above (SE, ST, SR), are protected by the State of Georgia. For information on State listed species, contact the GA Department of Natural Resources, GA Natural Heritage Program, 2117 US HWY 278 SE, Social Circle, GA 30279 (706-557-3032).

Animals

Peregrine falcon (SE)	<u>Falco peregrinus</u>	<u>F. p. anatum</u> nests on cliffs, high hills, or tall buildings; <u>F. p. tundrius</u> primarily seen in Georgia migrating along the coast
Frecklebelly madtom (SE)	<u>Noturus munitus</u>	Rivers with moderate to swift current over substrates ranging from coarse gravel to boulders, submerged trees, and brush.

Plants

Golden seal (SE)	<u>Hydrastis canadensis</u>	Rich woods and cove forests in the mountains
Piedmont barren strawberry (ST)	<u>Waldsteinia lobata</u>	Rocky acidic woods along streams with mountain laurel; rarely in drier upland oak-hickory-pine woods
Eastern turkeybeard (SR)	<u>Xerophyllum asphodeloides</u>	Dry oak-hickory forests with a strong pine component due to past fire.

¹ Key to notations: E = endangered, T = threatened, and R = rare. The SE, ST, and SR indicate species also listed by the State of Georgia as endangered, threatened, and rare, respectively.



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LISTED SPECIES IN GWINNETT COUNTY

FEDERAL ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES¹

Animals

Bald eagle (T,SE)	<u><i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i></u>	Inland waterways and estuarine areas in Georgia
Red-cockaded woodpecker (E,SE)	<u><i>Picoides borealis</i></u>	Nest in mature pine with low understory vegetation (<1.5m); forage in pine and pine hardwood stands ≥ 30 years of age, preferably ≥ 10 " dbh

Plants

Little amphianthus (T,ST)	<u><i>Amphianthus pusillus</i></u>	Shallow pools on granite outcrops, where water collects after a rain. Pools are less than 1 foot deep and rock rimmed.
Black-spored quillwort (E,SE)	<u><i>Isoetes melanospora</i></u>	Shallow pools on granite outcrops, where water collects after a rain. Pools are less than 1 foot deep and rock rimmed.
Michaux's sumac (E,SE)	<u><i>Rhus michauxii</i></u>	Sandy or rocky open woods, usually on ridges with a disturbance history (periodic fire, prior agricultural use, maintained right-of-ways); the known population of this species in Gwinnett County has been extirpated

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Animals

Bluestripe shiner (ST)	<u><i>Cyprinella callitaenia</i></u>	Brownwater streams
Northern pine snake	<u><i>Pituophis m. melanoleucus</i></u>	

Plants

Alexander rock aster	<u><i>Aster avivus</i></u>	Granite outcrops and upland-sandhill-acid seeps
Small-headed pipewort	<u><i>Eriocaulon kornickianum</i></u>	

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Plants

Golden seal (SE)	<u><i>Hydrastis canadensis</i></u>	Rich woods and cove forests in the mountains
Bay star-vine (ST)	<u><i>Schisandra glabra</i></u>	Twining on subcanopy and understory trees/shrubs in rich alluvial woods
Granite rock stonecrop (ST)	<u><i>Sedum pusillum</i></u>	Granite outcrops among mosses in partial shade under red cedar trees
Piedmont barren strawberry (ST)	<u><i>Waldsteinia lobata</i></u>	Rocky acidic woods along streams with mountain laurel; rarely in drier upland oak-hickory-pine woods

¹ Key to notations: E = endangered, T = threatened, and R = rare. The SE, ST, and SR indicate species also listed by the State of Georgia as endangered, threatened, and rare, respectively.



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LISTED SPECIES IN HALL COUNTY

FEDERAL ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES¹

Animals

Bald eagle (T,SE)

Red-cockaded woodpecker (E,SE)

Haliaeetus leucocephalus

Picoides borealis

Inland waterways and estuarine areas in Georgia
Nest in mature pine with low understory vegetation
(<1.5m); forage in pine and pine hardwood stands ≥ 30
years of age, preferably ≥ 10 " dbh

SPECIES OF MANAGEMENT CONCERN¹: The Fish and Wildlife Service is evaluating population trends and threats to the following Species of Management Concern. Please contact us at 247 S. Milledge Ave., Athens, GA, 706-613-9493, if you locate these species during site surveys or have other information on the species' distributions in Georgia.

Animals

Bluestripe shiner (ST)

Cyprinella callitaenia

Brownwater streams

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Plants

Golden seal (SE)

Indian olive (ST)

Hydrastis canadensis

Nestronia umbellula

Rich woods and cove forests in the mountains
Dry open upland forests of mixed hardwood and pine

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LISTED SPECIES IN FORSYTH COUNTY

FEDERAL ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES¹

Animals

Bald eagle (T,SE)

Red-cockaded woodpecker (E,SE)

Haliaeetus leucocephalus

Picoides borealis

Inland waterways and estuarine areas in Georgia
Nest in mature pine with low understory vegetation (<1.5m); forage in pine and pine hardwood stands ≥ 30 years of age, preferably ≥ 10 " dbh

CANDIDATE SPECIES: Candidate species are under consideration for listing under the Endangered Species Act. Identification of candidate taxa can assist environmental planning efforts by providing advance notice of potential listings, allowing resource managers to alleviate threats and thereby possibly remove the need to list taxa as endangered or threatened.

Plants

White fringeless orchid (ST)

Platanthera integrilabia

Red maple-blackgum swamps; also on sandy damp stream margins; or on seepy, rocky, thinly vegetated slopes

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Animals

Bachman's sparrow (SR)

Bluestripe shiner (ST)

Frecklebelly madtom (SE)

Aimophila aestivalis

Cyprinella callitaenia

Noturus munitus

Abandoned fields with scattered shrubs, pines, or oaks
Brownwater streams
Rivers with moderate to swift current over substrates ranging from coarse gravel to boulders, submerged trees, and brush.

Plants

Piedmont barren strawberry (ST)

Waldsteinia lobata

Rocky acidic woods along streams with mountain laurel; rarely in drier upland oak-hickory-pine woods

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LISTED SPECIES IN LUMPKIN COUNTY

FEDERAL ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES¹

Animals

Bald eagle (T,SE)	<u>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</u>	Inland waterways and estuarine areas in Georgia Shallow riffle habitat, with large gravel, cobble, and small boulder substrates. Usually found in medium and large cool water creeks or small rivers (15-30 m wide) with moderate or high gradients and rocky bottoms.
Etowah darter (E,ST)	<u>Etheostoma etowahae</u>	
Cherokee darter (T,ST)	<u>Etheostoma scotti</u>	Shallow water (0.1-0.5 m) in small to medium warm water creeks (1-15 m wide) with predominantly rocky bottoms. Usually found in sections with reduced current, typically runs above and below riffles and at ecotones of riffles and backwaters.

SPECIES OF MANAGEMENT CONCERN¹: The Fish and Wildlife Service is evaluating population trends and threats to the following Species of Management Concern. Please contact us at 247 S. Milledge Ave., Athens, GA, 706-613-9493, if you locate these species during site surveys or have other information on the species' distributions in Georgia.

Animals

Southern Appalachian eastern woodrat	<u>Neotoma floridana haematorcia</u>	Rockslides, cliffs, and caves
Appalachian Bewick's wren (SR)	<u>Thryomanes bewickii altus</u>	Dense undergrowth, overgrown fields, thickets, and brush in open or semi-open habitat; feed primarily on insects
Bluestripe shiner (ST)	<u>Cyprinella callisania</u>	Brownwater streams
Holiday darter (ST)	<u>Etheostoma brevirostrum</u>	Rocky streams

Plants

Manhart sedge (ST)	<u>Carex manhartii</u>	Middle elevation (2000-4000') in slightly acidic to circumneutral soils supporting cove hardwoods of basswood, yellow buckeye, and silverbell
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Animals

Peregrine falcon (SE)	<u>Falco peregrinus</u>	<u>F. p. anatum</u> nests on cliffs, high hills, or tall buildings; <u>F. p. tundrius</u> primarily seen in Georgia migrating along the coast
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Plants

Eastern turkeybeard (SR)	<u>Xerophyllum asphodeloides</u>	Dry oak-hickory forests with a strong pine component due to past fire.
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Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Wildlife Resources Division

LONICE C. BARRETT, COMMISSIONER
DAVID WALLER, DIVISION DIRECTOR

Georgia Natural Heritage Program
2117 U.S. Hwy. 278 S.E., Social Circle, Georgia 30025-4714
(770) 918-6411, (706) 557-3032

August 3, 2001

Eric T. Dohner
Principal Scientist
Tetra Tech, Inc.
1960 Eagle Valley Court
Lawrenceville, GA 30043

Subject: Known or Potential Occurrences of Special Concern Plant and Animal Species on or near Lake Sidney Lanier, Dawson, Forsyth, Gwinnett, and Hall Counties, Georgia

Dear Mr. Dohner:

Your request of July 24, 2001 was forwarded to our office. Enclosed are six maps showing the location of special concern species found within one mile of Lake Sidney Lanier and an index of the maps. Also provided are lists that should aid in assessing the potential for rare species occurrences within the area of concern. Although lists of plant and animal species potentially occurring in Forsyth and Hall counties have not been generated, provided are the lists of plant and animal species potentially occurring in Dawson and Gwinnett counties.

Please keep in mind the limitations of our database. The data collected by the Georgia Natural Heritage Program comes from a variety of sources, including museum and herbarium records, literature, and reports from individuals and organizations, as well as field surveys by our staff biologists. In most cases the information is not the result of a recent on-site survey by our staff. Many areas of Georgia have never been surveyed thoroughly. Therefore, the Georgia Natural Heritage Program can only occasionally provide definitive information on the presence or absence of rare species on a given site. Our files are updated constantly as new information is received. **Thus, information provided by our program represents the existing data in our files at the time of the request and should not be considered a final statement on the species or area under consideration.**

If you know the location of populations of special concern species that are not in our database, please fill out the appropriate data collection form and send it to our office. Forms can be obtained through our web site (<http://www.dnr.state.ga.us/dnr/wild/natural.html>) or by contacting our office. If I can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Greg Krakow
Data Manager

enclosures

UR 8201

cc: David Waller, GDNR, Director, Wildlife Resources Division
Mike Harris, GDNR, Nongame Wildlife & Natural Heritage Section

**Buford Dam USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle:**

According to our records, within a one mile radius of Lake Sidney Lanier, there are occurrences of the following:

Aster georgianus (Georgia Aster) less than 0.1 mi. from lake (map 1)

Melanthium woodii (Ozark Bunchflower) less than 0.1 mi. from lake - historical record (map 2)

Flowery Branch USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle:

According to our records, within a one mile radius of Lake Sidney Lanier, there are occurrences of the following:

Nestronia umbellula (Indian Olive) extirpated by lake - historical record (map 3)

Melanthium woodii (Ozark Bunchflower) approx. 0.2 mi. from lake - historical record (map 4)

Gainesville USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle:

According to our records, within a one mile radius of Lake Sidney Lanier, there are occurrences of the following:

Nestronia umbellula (Indian Olive) approx. 0.3 mi. from lake - historical record (map 5)

Spiraea alba var. *latifolia* (Broadleaf White Spirea) approx. 0.1 mi. from lake - historical record (map 5)

Murrayville USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle:

According to our records, within a one mile radius of Lake Sidney Lanier, there are occurrences of the following:

Aster georgianus (Georgia Aster) less than 0.1 mi. from lake - historical record (map 6)

Aster georgianus (Georgia Aster) less than 0.1 mi. from lake - historical record (map 6)

Stachys latidens (Broad-toothed Hedge-nettle) less than 0.1 mi. from lake - historical record (map 6)

There are no special concern species records in our database within one mile of Lake Sidney Lanier on the following quadrangles: Coal Mountain, Chestatee, Clermont, and Lula.

GEORGIA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM DATABASE

Georgia rare species and natural community occurrence information is now available on our web site at

www.dnr.state.ga.us/dnr/wild/natural.html

It is presented as both a web page (HTML) and a GIS file (ESRI Shape File). The HTML format can be used directly from your browser. The Shape File can be downloaded and used with any program that supports ESRI Shape Files. The database file associated with this Shape File can be brought into a spreadsheet, database, or word processor and queried by county, quad, and quarter quad.

Locations are at the precision of one quarter (1/4) of a USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle map (quarter quad). Quarter quads are named using the USGS map name with a suffix (NW, SW, NE, and SE).

This information is for known locations only. To obtain lists of rare species potentially occurring in a given county, please contact our office. Also, you will still need to contact our office for more precise locations of rare species in the vicinity of projects you are working with.

Please continue to keep in mind that many areas of the state have not been surveyed for rare species (see full disclaimer on our web page).